



“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for October, 2020



Goodbye to Drew

Our “News To Make You Furious” column goes into the Vault



Business or Politics? YES!

Here’s why we loudly say ‘yes’ to both



Our Halloween Treats

Fun for a covid-crimped holiday

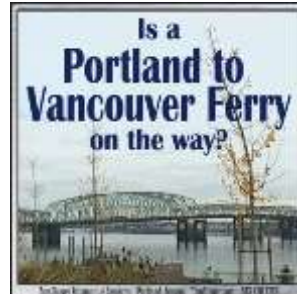
Our Popcorn Shorts



A Giant Spider invades Sellwood Community House on Thursday



The Diabolical Ironclad Beetle... just like it sounds



Is a Portland to Vancouver Ferry on the way?



Oregon’s last coal plant closes... 20 years early!

Our Monthly Columns

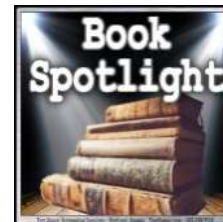
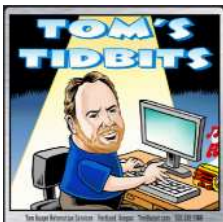
Tom’s Tidbits- Who are the Domestic Enemies?

Shop Talk- Reviewing our Covid precautions

Drew’s Kitchen- Drew closes the Kitchen

Health Notes- 50 lies you believe about your body

Book Spotlight- Breakups, protests, and not reading at all



Tom's Tidbits

Who are domestic enemies? The ones that want to steal your vote



Greetings!

With just days until Election Day, instead of either preaching to the choir or trying to convince the unconvinced, I want to think about something that's not about Donald Trump specifically. It seems even the mythical 'both sides' should agree on it, but they don't... the fundamental bedrock principle of The Vote is under threat. An American political party is actively, openly, and *successfully* depriving Americans of their Right To Vote. Let that sink in...

An American political party is openly stealing the *Right To Vote* from real Americans.
By the tens of thousands. By the millions.

Of course, US voter suppression is nothing new. One ruthlessly effective example is the suppression of the Black vote under Jim Crow, but people have been barred from the polls through violence, threats, and lies since our founding. Gerrymandering is just another kind of vote theft, but it's gleefully practiced by every politician in power and is almost seen as traditional politics. But while 'both sides' play hardball, what started years ago in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Wisconsin, and Kansas has grown to the point that it's not traditional politics at all anymore. Unless it's a return to that Jim Crow tradition.

Today's Vote thieves are Republican, not necessarily Trumpian. He's reaping the benefits, but these *Republican* efforts were going on long before Trump. Republican policies designed to serve the Rich and White don't poll well in an increasingly Poor and Not-White country, which they've known well before the Republican Autopsy of 2013 spelled it out. But rather than adapting they've chosen to respond to an ever-narrowing slice of the populace.

Now they just can't appeal to enough people to win. Paul Weyrich is one of the Republicans who occasionally says the quiet part out loud... *"I don't want everybody to vote. Elections are not won by a majority of the people. They never have been from the beginning of our country and they are not now. As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down."*

Wielding the fiction of voter fraud, something that affects .0003 percent of the vote in the real world, Republicans have targeted thousands, hundreds of thousands, MILLIONS of people to scrub even the possibility of their vote. And for the Republicans who may think stealing Democrats' votes is OK... these weren't the votes of 'Democrats'. They were the votes of *Americans*. The Vote Thieves scrubbed huge swaths of voting rolls with no way to know how any of these people planned to vote, just suspicions. They knew that huge numbers of 'their' people would lose their rights as well, but hey... collateral damage be damned.



All Federal employees take an oath to support and defend the Constitution “against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” It appears in the oaths of Representatives and Senators, members of the military, and most police organizations. (Interestingly, a President’s oath doesn’t have the same wording because their oath is written in the Constitution.) To me, few things fit “domestic enemy” better than any group trying to steal your vote, or the vote of any American.

Yet here it is.

I know the election is less than a week away. I want nothing more than to see the Mango Mussolini removed. But amid all the abominations that came along with Trump, not all of them are because of him. No matter who wins, that’s something that can’t get lost in January.

Make a great day,



Digging Deeper...

[Texas Supreme Court rules in favor of limiting ballot drop box locations](#), Tal Axelrod in The Hill, Oct 27, 2020

[Timeline: Voter suppression in the US from the Civil War to today](#), Terrance Smith on ABC News, Aug 2020

[How Democrats Suppress The Vote](#), Eitan Hersh on FiveThirtyEight, Nov 2015

[An “Epidemic” of Voter Suppression](#) (in Wisconsin), Bruce Murphy in Urban Milwaukee, Nov 2016

[Crist and GOP Officials Accuse Republicans of Voter Suppression](#), Gavin Aronsen on Mother Jones, Nov 2012

[Let People Vote: Our Fight for Your Right to Vote During 2020](#), Dale Ho, ACLU, Oct 2020

[“I Do Solemnly Swear That I will...”](#), Jeff Neal on FedSmith, Jan 2017

[Report: Trump commission did not find widespread voter fraud](#), Marina Villeneuve, AP, Aug 2018

[Turzai's voter ID remark draws criticism](#), Laura Olson in Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau, Jun 2012

[What You Need to Read in the RNC Election-Autopsy Report](#), Garance Franke-Ruta in The Atlantic, Mar 2013

[A Voting-Rights Debate Reveals Why Democrats Keep Losing](#), David Graham in The Atlantic, Apr 2019

[Trump 2016 campaign 'targeted 3.5m black Americans to deter them from voting'](#), Dan Sabbagh in The Guardian, Sep 2020

[Kris Kobach's Voting Sham Gets Exposed in Court](#), NYTimes Editorial Board, Mar 2018

[Unsealed Documents Show That Kris Kobach Is Dead Set on Suppressing the Right to Vote](#), ACLU, Oct 2017

[How the Case for Voter Fraud Was Tested — and Utterly Failed](#), Jessica Huseman on ProPublica, Jun 2018

[The lawsuit challenging Georgia's entire elections system, explained](#), PR Lockhart on VOX, May 2019

[U.S. House investigation targets Kemp and Georgia voting problems](#), Mark Niese in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Mar 2020

[The Uncounted: America's Ghost Voters](#), Greg Palast, GregPalast.com

[Midterms 2018: Brian Kemp Is the Martin Shkreli of Voter Suppression](#), Eric Lach on The New Yorker, Nov 2018

[U.S. House report: Kemp mocked allegations of voter suppression](#), Robin Bravender on Georgia Recorder, Feb 2020

[Here's a History of Rick Scott's Attacks on Basic Democracy and Voting Rights](#), Jerry Iannelli in Miami New Times, Feb 2019

[Rick Scott has made enemies over voting rights during the last eight years](#), Steve Bousquet in Tampa Bay Times, Apr 2018

[Case Studies in Voter Suppression: Profiling Voter Suppressors](#), Danielle Root and Aadam Barclay in Center for American Progress, Nov 2018

[Republicans' Massive Voter Purge Designed to Steal 2020 Election](#), Interview with Greg Palast, Between the Lines, Jul 2020

[Is America a democracy? If so, why does it deny millions](#) [Is America a democracy?](#) The Guardian, Nov 2019



Goodbye, Drew!

Our Service Advisor Drew Pearson is heading into the sunset!

There's pretty high personnel turnover at most repair shops, but not so much at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services. In an industry where job length is measured in months our folks usually stay for years... lots of them. But even the longtimers eventually move on and Service Advisor Drew Pearson is finally calling it quits. October 28 was his last day at the shop, and he and Marsha will be packing their RV and driving off into the sunset. We've created a special gift for him to say goodbye and here's the good news... you can have one too!

Drew was our longest-serving Service Advisor other than Ken himself. His background included some high-pressure positions in the financial world, printing, and other industries before he came here. Drew's 15 years with us were a stellar example of [what we look for in all our Service Advisors](#)... he was a consummate multi-tasker who juggled the parts, labor, and human needs of 10-20 clients on a daily basis without breaking a sweat. Drew's calm demeanor and genuine warmth made his clients feel confident and reassured even when getting the worst vehicle news. As longtime RV enthusiasts, Drew and Marsha have been looking forward to hitting the road together for quite a while. From their base in Lake Oswego, they plan to take a long, up-close look at our beautiful Oregon and the pretty-nice rest of the country beyond.

Aside from his value behind the front desk, Drew brought another benefit to the Tom Dwyer clientele. He truly enjoys cooking and was the driving force behind the [Drew's Kitchen column in our monthly newsletter](#). His contributions over the years allowed us to get him something unique as a retirement gift, and it's a gift we'll be passing on to you. We collected some of his best recipes into an actual Drew's Kitchen Recipe Book which we printed and gave to him. We'll have copies for you at the shop as soon as they come in, so plan to take one with you on your next visit.

We'll certainly miss Drew and we know his clients will too. We wish he and Marsha all the best in this next phase of their lives, and we're grateful for the mark he made in our lives and company.

Good luck, Drew!



Drew then and now





Business or Politics?

People ask! Here's why we loudly say "YES" to both.

It's common wisdom for a company to stay far away from politics, but we certainly don't. Three years ago on [Quora.com](https://www.quora.com) (a Q&A forum we follow and highly recommend) someone posed the question "[I work in financial services. Can I legally refuse service to Democrats?](#)" We took the opportunity to reply with the motivations for our own political outspokenness, and our response may have grown more relevant since. If you've wondered why we talk about politicians and voting almost as much as tires and brakes, we hope this might give you some insight... ..

Should Business and Politics Mix?

Posted on Quora.com March 22, 2017 by tomDwyer

When a client recently asked about our "#NotNormal-RESIST!" bumper stickers, we told her they "were in protest of the new administrations irregular behavior". It didn't sit well. "Politics has no place in your business", she said. "I'm never coming back here again, and I'm telling my friends to do the same". Maybe she was right... keeping politics out of business is basic business advice; after all, why give any person any reason NOT to come to your business? Profit is critical in business but some things are just as important as profit. Staying quiet about those higher priorities can border on criminal, especially in today's world or to protect a dollar. Here's Tom to explain why he puts his company's neck on the political chopping block time and again, and why he's not likely to stop...

Greetings,

Here's a little secret... I was a registered Republican for 20 years before my political awakening. When I started my business 36 years ago I was politically clueless... I didn't even know the difference between the major parties! After a cursory investigation it seemed [Republicans were the party of business](#) and a little business networking seemed to make sense. It was a different time then. I never changed my registration because I was politically inert and was too busy trying to survive in business to care about politics, but around 1998 a co-worker helped direct my available bandwidth to some sources of real news and reporting. That set me on a path to enlightenment and the understanding that my interests would be best served if I woke up.

Reagan understood that people that are ill-educated, poor and over-worked seldom cause political ripples. He famously stated the reason he opposed free education: "why would I want to pay to educate people who would oppose my policies?" The decline in availability and quality of free public education, the "dumbing down of America" brings with it many slow insidious side effects and has led to the decline of Democracy. Civics and History are critical tools in the fight for political self-determination, but it seems we are no longer citizens and have become just people-that-live-in-America. "Citizens" should not be just passive residents in a society; the role of "citizen" obligates us to participate in creating the society we want.

I'm not a Republican OR a Democrat and I think my beliefs are widely shared by the people of (if not the leadership of) both parties. Both of the major parties have lost their way. The two party system is broken; The Republican leaders have fallen off the right side of the political landscape and the Democrats are no longer the opposition party. They have become Republican-lite and with very few exceptions mirror the Republicans subservience to the Corporate donors that now rule our failing country.

[We are no longer “#1!, #1!, #1!” unless you are referring to poverty, hunger, infant mortality, bloated military, crumbling infrastructure or any of the other sad realities that we now lead in.](#) I believe that government should work for the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy alike. I want a society that cares for its members and protects the commons, and I believe in the basic principles of accountability, freedom, and rule of law that people have died for for more than two centuries. I believe that corporations should not have the rights of people and that they have far too much control over our society. I think we do better as a country when everyone plays by the same rules.

With all the years I've put into Tom Dwyer Automotive Services it would have been impossible to keep my views out of the office even if I tried. For example, like every business we're asked to sponsor many worthy causes. We obviously can't support them all, so I choose what I think are important issues like [single-payer health care](#) or [climate change](#). You'd get bored if our [newsletter](#) was about cars month after month so we try to bring you information on topics like [police militarization](#) or the [federal budget](#). When our company chose to advertise [we picked a fledgling Progressive station](#) as an alternative to the Rush Limbaughs of the world, and instead of driving clients away the response was very positive.

Business has always been tied to politics... the titles “Merchant Prince” and “Robber Baron” have a long history. The [British East India Company](#) played quite a role in our country's earliest days, and “What's good for GM” was once assumed to be good for the country. [Standard Oil at home](#), [United Fruit in Central America](#), and [Halliburton in the Middle East](#) are three notorious names in global politics. [Fossil fuel companies lobby for laws](#) to continue profits even as the planet melts down while [ALEC now puts lobbyists in the position of actually writing bills](#). The closely held [religious views of Hobby Lobby and Chick-fil-A influenced recent decisions](#) at the Supreme Court. BIG businesses have never shied away from politics even when they were being quiet about it, but for SMALL business silence has always been the rule.

That's been changing for a while. [Local Chambers of Commerce](#) never go beyond local politics and the [NFIB seems to use small business as a fig leaf](#) to advance big business agendas, but the evisceration of Main Street and the Middle Class have forced small businesses into politics for self-defense, if nothing else. Groups like the [Main Street Alliance](#) and [National Small Business Association](#) give small companies a way to bind together on issues bigger than their own industry or business district. Increasingly, small businesses aren't waiting to bind together but are taking stands on their own. Individual small business voiced concerns throughout the Obama administration, and Trump's recent [travel ban prompted thousands of small businesses to close in protest](#). More and more businesses are putting up signs, or making donations, or hosting events that resonate with their own ideas of politics.

And customers seem to like it. The sterile, bland, and impersonal service at large companies comes from searching for a common denominator between ever-larger swaths of the population. Smaller companies serve their smaller niches more responsively, and so have more room to add distinct personality to their businesses. This gives their customer an advantage. Rather than patronizing some Big Gray Company with an obscure agenda the customer may not agree with, they know what the company stands for and can choose to support them... or not. Politics in business is a two-way street; a company can speak out but they'll have to stand by it when their customers vote with their dollars.

I think politics does play a role in business but not a primary one. I don't push or preach politics and many clients don't even notice or care, and that's as it should be. No company should offer products, services, or employment based on a political stance. Our shop isn't a political indoctrination facility for our employees

or our clients; we don't hire people based on their t-shirts or decide which cars to service based on their bumper stickers. If Rush Limbaugh lived in Portland we'd proudly give his vehicle the same care and attention we gave Thom Hartmann when he lived here.

Yes, politics is important and I don't shy away from it, but I run a business. I will never forget that our most important goal is our core mission statement: To deliver our clients impeccable, professional service beyond the rest of the industry while taking the best possible care of the people that make Tom Dwyer Automotive Services possible. I started working for myself in 1981 after my last-ever employer asked me to perform unnecessary work on a customer's vehicle. After pushing back unsuccessfully the wheels on my tool box went into action and I've never looked back.

Take care and make a great day,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a cursive "om".

Digging Deeper...

[The Politics of Small Business](#), National Small Business Association, Jun 2012

[Why Businesses Should Think Twice About Getting Involved in Political Issues](#), by Carol Roth, Entrepreneur.com, Apr 2015

[Should Companies Take a Political Stand?](#) by Simon Collins on BoF, Apr 2016

[Getting Political Can Cost Your Business Dearly If You're Not Cautious](#) by Jayson DeMers in Forbes, Feb 2017

[STUDY: The Public Wants Its Brands to Get MORE Political](#) by Patrick Coffee in AdWeek, Nov 2014

[Corporate Political Activism: Why Corporations Are Taking Political Stands More Than Ever](#) by Daniel Korschun on the Drexel University News Blog, Jun 2016

[Boycott Of Trump-Friendly Businesses May Be Having An Effect](#) by CBS-SFBayArea, Feb 2017

[Tech Companies Unite Against Trump Immigration ban](#) by Elizabeth Weise in Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, Feb 2017

[Yemeni Small Business Owners In New York Stage Protest Against Trump Travel Ban](#) by Susan Adams on Forbes.com, Feb 2017

[Businesses Must Make a Stand on Important Social Issues](#) by Peter Gasca on Entrepreneur.com, Apr 2016

[More Companies Taking Stands On Political Issues](#) by Frank Witsil in the Detroit Free Press, Jan 2017

[Mix Business With Politics? It's OK With Most Folks, But Consider These 5 Things](#) by Kent Hoover on BizJournals.com, Oct 2014

[Here Are The Most Polarizing Political Decisions That Companies Made Last Year](#) by Maxwell Tani in Business Insider, Jan 2016

[Companies Are Speaking Out On Social Issues And Getting Results](#) by Sarah Halzack and Drew Harwell in the Washington Post, Jul 2015

[VIDEO: Should Companies Take A Stance On Political Issues?](#) FOX Business, Nov 2014

[Should Small Business Owners Preach Politics?](#) by Hank Gilman on Forbes, Nov 2015



All our Halloween treats!

People ask! Here's why we loudly say "YES" to both.

"They" say there's been strange goings-on at the old Dwyer Place lately, that old gray building down by the crumbly bridge. Course, "they" say it's a mighty strange place from the get-go... lots of cars going by all the time, makin' scary noises and stuff. But the thing is, see, that once those cars roll through the big, dark doors in front of Dwyer's, they never come out the same. Sure, the cars'll look just fine, but you can bet they won't be makin' those scary noises no more! And the people who bring the cars? Well, you never, EVER hear 'em complain. Why, folks 'round these parts say

it gets even stranger this time of the year, so settle in to see all our Halloween treats but beware... you may have to stay the night! BWAHH HAAA HAAA HAA HA!



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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Drew's Kitchen... of FEAR!

Drew's Kitchen is closing this month, but it's back from the dead long enough for Halloween! People don't know about the dusty, secret door in the back of the Kitchen, the one that leads to... Drew's Dungeon. It's where Drew cooks up his scariest concoctions, the ones that are only unveiled on Halloween. Click here for Drew's [Halloween Meat Hand](#), [Spider Cookies](#), [Flayed Face Cheese Ball](#), [Ultimate Eyeballs](#), and [Tentacle Pot Pie](#).



Two-Sentence Terrors

If you love ghost stories but can just never remember them, then we're here to help. Here's a whole library of spine-chillers that are just two sentences long; some even less...

I woke up to hear knocking on glass. At first, I thought it was the window until I heard it come from the mirror again.

The last thing I saw was my alarm clock flashing 12:07 before she pushed her long rotting nails through my chest, her other hand muffling my screams. I sat bolt upright, relieved it was only a dream, but as I saw my alarm clock read 12:06, I heard my closet door creak open.

Growing up with cats and dogs, I got used to the sounds of scratching at my door while I slept. Now that I live alone, it is much more unsettling.

In all of the time that I've lived alone in this house, I swear to God I've closed more doors than I've opened.

A girl heard her mom yell her name from downstairs, so she got up and started to head down. As she got to the stairs, her mom pulled her into her room and said "I heard that, too."

She asked why I was breathing so heavily. I wasn't.

My wife woke me up last night to tell me there was an intruder in our house. She was murdered by an intruder 2 years ago.

I awoke to the sound of the baby monitor crackling with a voice comforting my firstborn child. As I adjusted to a new position, my arm brushed against my wife, sleeping next to me.



I always thought my cat had a staring problem – she always seemed fixated on my face. Until one day, when I realized that she was always looking just behind me.

There's nothing like the laughter of a baby. Unless it's 1 a.m. and you're home alone.

I was having a pleasant dream when what sounded like hammering woke me. After that, I could barely hear the muffled sound of dirt covering the coffin over my own screams.

"I can't sleep," she whispered, crawling into bed with me. I woke up cold, clutching the dress she was buried in.

After working a hard day I came home to see my girlfriend cradling our child. I didn't know which was more frightening, seeing my dead girlfriend and stillborn child, or knowing that someone broke into my apartment to place them there.

I begin tucking him into bed and he tells me, "Daddy, check for monsters under my bed." I look underneath for his amusement and see him, another him, under the bed, staring back at me quivering and whispering, "Daddy, there's somebody on my bed."



You get home, tired after a long day's work and ready for a relaxing night alone. You reach for the light switch, but another hand is already there.

I can't move, breathe, speak or hear and it's so dark all the time. If I knew it would be this lonely, I would have been cremated instead.

She went upstairs to check on her sleeping toddler. The window was open and the bed was empty.

Don't be scared of the monsters, just look for them. Look to your left, to your right, under your bed, behind your dresser, in your closet but never look up, she hates being seen.

My daughter won't stop crying and screaming in the middle of the night. I visit her grave and ask her to stop, but it doesn't help.

After working a hard day, I came home to see my girlfriend cradling our child. I didn't know which was more frightening, seeing my dead girlfriend and stillborn child, or knowing that someone broke into my apartment to place them there.

There was a picture in my phone of me sleeping. I live alone.

They celebrated the first successful cryogenic freezing. He had no way of letting them know he was still conscious.

She wondered why she was casting two shadows. After all, there was only a single lightbulb.

The grinning face stared at me from the darkness beyond my bedroom window. I live on the 14th floor.

I just saw my reflection blink.

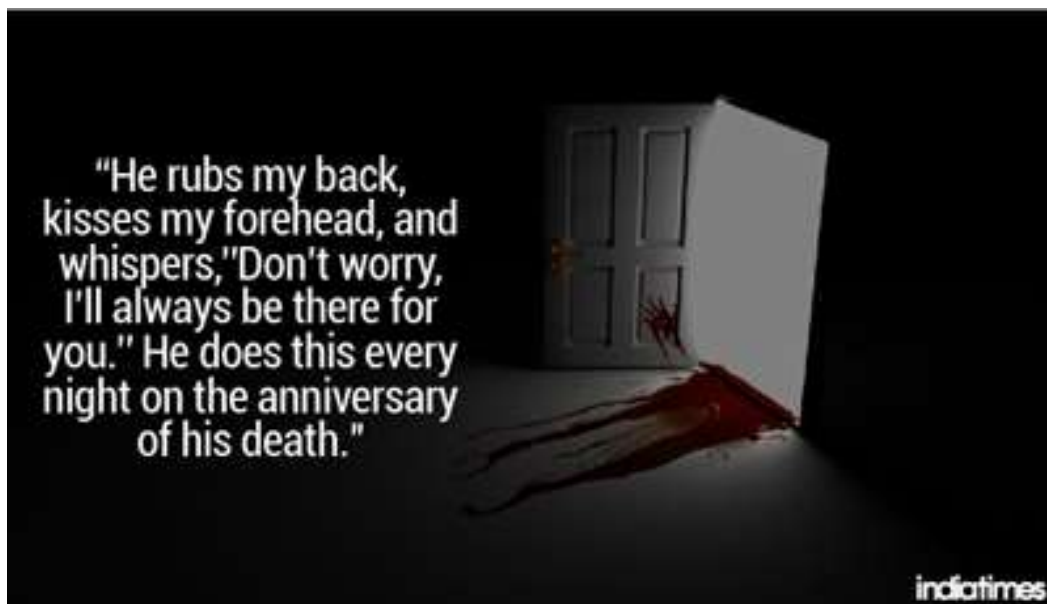
They delivered the mannequins in bubble wrap. From the main room I begin to hear popping.

I kiss my wife and daughter goodnight before I go to sleep. When I wake up, I'm in a padded room and the nurses tell me it was just a dream.

The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock at the door.

After working a hard day I came home to see my girlfriend cradling our child. I didn't know which was more frightening, seeing my dead girlfriend and stillborn child, or knowing that someone broke into my apartment to place them there.

My sister says that mommy killed her. Mommy says that I don't have a sister.





The Funny Page

Knock knock, who's there? The Funny Page!

Just like Covid, the Funny Page isn't going away, in fact it may even be getting stronger (which, hopefully, is a good thing in the case of the Funny Page!) Dig in to our monthly contributions from Keith Tucker, Jen Rombach, the InterTubes, and even a couple in-house originals. Have fun!

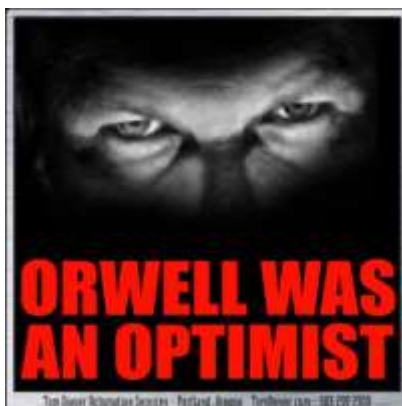
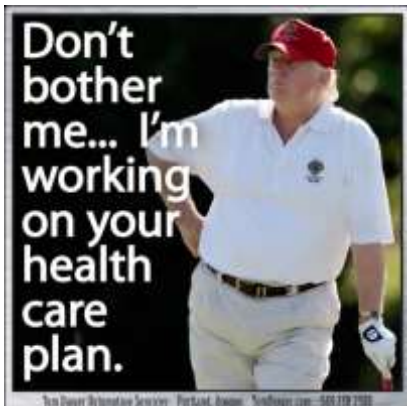
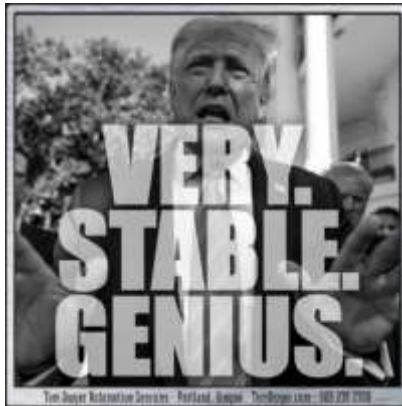


"WHAT NOW?!!!"

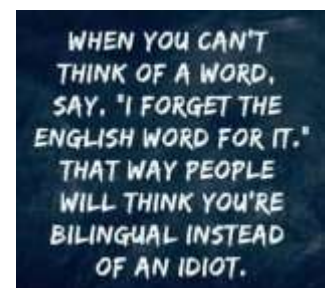
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You can download this and other Keith Tucker creations [at his website](#) or [through CartoonStock.com](#)

We laugh that we may not cry, and the past month has given us much to laugh about. These memes aren't doing anyone any good staying here... share them with your friends! And don't forget, [our whole meme library is available here.](#)



Proofreading this book couldn't have been that hard





More or Less
A play-with-words puzzle!
by Jen Rombach

THEME:
OLD STORIES

THEME WORDS:

THEME LETTERS (+/-)
O
L
D
S
T
O
R
I
E
S

START LIST:

| | |
|--------|--------|
| BANS | MAT |
| BEAT | STAIRS |
| CASTE | STROLL |
| COURSE | TWITCH |
| GERM | WOOS |

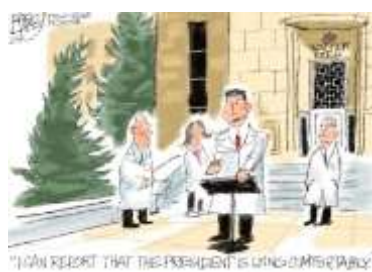
CAPTION: [] [] [] [] [] [] []

DIRECTIONS: Solve for the new **THEME WORDS** by either adding (+/-) each letter from the column of **THEME LETTERS** to a word from the **START LIST**.

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go next to the letter used.
- THEME LETTERS (+/-)** may go anywhere in the word (beginning / middle / end) to form the new **THEME WORD**.
- Each **THEME LETTER** and each word from the **START LIST** will only be used once. * (multiples of a same letter within the **THEME LETTERS** each have their own word and only one place in the puzzle.)
- Anagram the boxed letters of the solved **THEME WORDS** to find the related caption that will match up the picture to the **THEME**....more or less!

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Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" for August



I'd like to help Lindsey, but I am afraid if I gave you money, you wouldn't have the incentive to work. Trust me, this is for your own good.



Just picked up my social distance support animal.



More-Or-Less Solution

THEME: OLD STORIES
THEME WORDS:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | C | U | R | S | E | |
| L | C | A | S | T | L | E |
| D | W | O | O | D | S | |
| S | I | R | O | L | L | |
| T | W | I | T | C | H | |
| O | M | O | A | T | | |
| R | G | E | M | | | |
| I | S | T | A | R | S | |
| E | B | E | A | N | S | |
| S | B | E | A | S | T | |

LEGENDS

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Shop Talk

Carwash Coupon Season



Comment of the Month-

Client Jaqueline R. wrote-

"Always love the gem and rock displays- everytime! One time we picked up Swiss Army knives from the airport as a little gift. You gave them out... I still have mine!!"

Few things are as boring as an auto shop waiting room, but it doesn't have to be that way. Tom is always on the lookout for little things we can give out to make our clients' days a little brighter. Sometimes it's little pocketknives, sometimes it's crystals or stones, but you'll always find free Bumper Stickers and our books are always free for checkout. Here's a headsup... keep an eye out in November when you'll be able to pick up a free copy of Drew's Kitchen, the recipe book created by departing Service Advisor Drew Pearson. There's always something new!



Reviewing our Covid Policies

As Coronavirus reaches new levels in the US, we thought it was a good time to review the precautions and processes we're using to keep you and our staff safe...

**WE ARE AN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS.
WE ARE STILL OPEN.
MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN OUR BUSINESS.**

We are reducing our hours slightly during this crisis, so our new TEMPORARY hours are:

8a-6p Mon-Fri and 10a-1p on Sat.

Oregon's current Covid policy states:

Masks are required statewide for people age 5 and older in:

- All workplaces, indoor public spaces, public and private colleges and universities, and indoor and outdoor markets.
- Outdoor public spaces when physical distancing of at least six feet is not possible.

- People with a disability or medical condition may request accommodation from the business if they cannot wear one.

Face shield update, effective 10/19:

Oregon Health Authority now recommends wearing a face covering/mask instead of a face shield (except in limited situations when a face shield by itself is appropriate, like talking to someone who is Deaf or hard of hearing and needs to read lips to communicate.)

We have implemented the strictest cleaning protocols.

In the office

- You'll see our Service Advisors using **hand sanitizer before dealing with each client.**
- Your **keys are sanitized** before they're returned to you.
- We **clean office hot spots** like door knobs, handles, bathrooms, common surfaces, the PIN pad, and the sales counter throughout the day with alcohol sanitizer.
- We have **HEPA air filtration systems** in the lobby to reduce airborne viruses.
- We have **hand sanitizer available in our lobby** for your convenience. Clients can refill their own small hand sanitizer pumps from our supply at no charge.
- Unfortunately, Covid has meant the **TEMPORARY closure of our waiting room** and **TEMPORARY suspension of our Courtesy Shuttle.** We can still arrange rides through Lyft... ask your Service Advisor if you need one.



In the shop

- Technicians normally wipe down their individual work areas and use surgical gloves while working, but they've added **alcohol sanitization of their areas and of common equipment.**
- **To protect our Technicians,** we sanitize each vehicle before service. Technicians use hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment while working on your vehicle.
- **To protect you,** we sanitize your vehicle after service. Our Post-Service-Check now includes a sanitizer wipe down of your steering wheel, shift lever, door handles, controls, and all surfaces that may have been touched during your vehicle service.

You have non-contact options for pickup and dropoff

- **You have many options** for pickup, dropoff, and scheduling, including curbside service.
- Most tasks, including scheduling, service review, and payment can be handled over the phone at **503-230-2300** or online at **TomDwyer.com.** We are ALWAYS available by phone for ANY question or concern you have.
- We **encourage you to use our after-hours key drop for curbside service during regular hours.** When you arrive, take an envelope from the Key Drop box (just to the right of the office door), put your keys in, sign the envelope, and call your Service Advisor from outside the

shop. Your Service Advisor will give you instructions from there. If you think you'll want to use this option, **please tell your Service Advisor when you schedule** so we'll be expecting you.

- We are offering **pickup and dropoff at your home or business**. If you can be flexible with your appointment scheduling we can pick up your vehicle at your home or work, bring it here for service, and return it to you when it's finished. If you think you'll want to use this option, **please tell your Service Advisor when you schedule** so we can arrange staff appropriately.
- We offer **6-months or 12-months-same-as-cash** (OAC) if you can't pay right now.

We will cater to your individual needs.

If there's something we haven't thought of that's keeping you from having your vehicle serviced during this difficult time, then **PLEASE tell our Service Advisors!** They will be happy to accommodate you if at all possible.

Small businesses of all kinds need your help.

Over 30 years ago, we started Tom Dwyer Automotive Services in one of the worst financial crises since the Great Depression. That was a walk in the park compared to the crisis we're facing now. As an essential service we're both burdened and privileged to be open during this time. We'll ask your patience and flexibility as we work through difficulties with scheduling, parts availability, and other issues. THANK YOU in advance! We know your help will keep us here for you now and after this crisis, but many other independent businesses are struggling, even dying. In a time when our families' safety is on the line the health of businesses must take second place, but please, if you can, reach out to the small companies limping through this time. A burger bought from a restaurant still serving drive-through or a book bought from a bookstore restricted to mail order can make an unbelievable difference. Almost everyone knows at least one small business owner, so please make a special effort to reach out and support them if you can.

PLEASE call with any questions, suggestions, or concerns!

We're trying to follow best practices but if you think we could be even better, we welcome your ideas! Please send them to charles@tomdwyer.com.

Though it may seem like the realities of Coronavirus are driving us apart, we're all in this together and we WILL get through this. Protecting yourself is the best way to protect the ones you love. From all of us at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, during this Coronavirus crisis and always, if there's anything we can do for you... please let us help. Let us continue to serve you in a time when service has become an all-but-forgotten practice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a cursive 'om'.

Current Special Offers

30% Off Labor continues through November!



30% Off Labor continues through November!

We thought this would be a couple-weeks-long offer, but as the threat from Covid-19 continues so too does our 30%-Off-Labor Covid Discount. It's an amazing offer we couldn't afford to make in normal times, but right now it will help stretch your money and keep our company healthy for the long term. Act now for your greatest savings, because as the economy eventually improves we'll slowly reduce the discount back to more sustainable levels.

...and we're making 30% Off Labor EVEN SWEETER!

We got to thinking... since the purpose of this offer was to make auto maintenance more realistic during Covid, having a \$200 minimum purchase made it inaccessible to the many folks who are just scraping by. We can't just remove the cap and still stay in business, but we CAN do something if you just need a minor service... we've added a 10% LABOR CHARGE DISCOUNT FOR PURCHASES UNDER \$200. Stay safe!

Offer expires 11/15/20
\$200 minimum purchase required
10% Labor Discount for purchases under \$200
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 some 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

Drew closes the Kitchen



After over 15 years as a Service Advisor, Drew Pearson is retiring from Tom Dwyer Automotive Services. We'll miss his smile, hard work, dedication, and style, but mostly we'll miss his Kitchen. We think we have someone lined up to take over as Head Chef, but you'll have to wait until next month to know for sure. In the meantime you can read all about Drew's drive into the sunset in this month's Feature article. However, as of today, Drew's Kitchen is officially closed. You know the saying... "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here!" If you're not ready to go home yet you can catch the rest of this month's newsletter here, but check back in next month to see if the Kitchen is serving again!

Health Notes

50 lies you believe about your own body



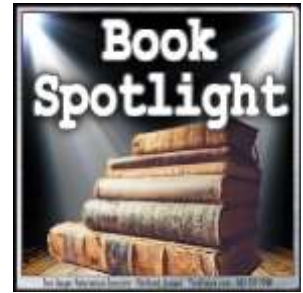
They say that Common Sense is neither common nor sensical, and the things we believe about our bodies prove it. For instance, everyone 'knows' you're supposed to wait 30 minutes after eating before you swim, but there's no medical reason to do it... this advice may have had more to do with your Mom not wanting to go back out to the pool right after lunch than it did with your drowning. [ScienceSensei put together 50 such myths](#), along with some very interesting thoughts on where they came from. Here are some of our favorites...

From the listicle [“50 Misleading Anatomical Facts”](#) by Joe Burgett on Science Sensei

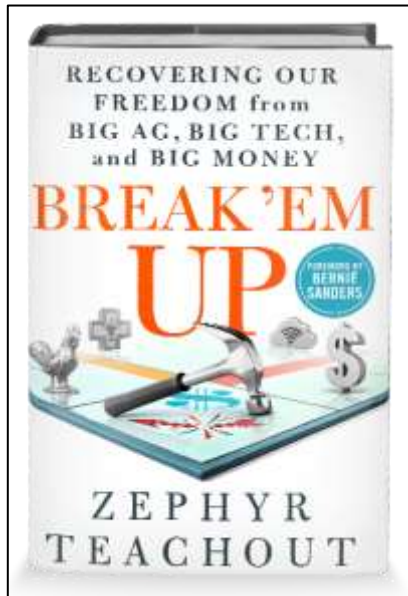
- Myth 50. Your Appendix Does Not Do Anything
- Myth 49. You Should Not Sleep With A Concussion
- Myth 43. Alpha, Beta, And Other Personality Types
- Myth 42. Brain Cells Don't Regenerate
- Myth 38. You Need To Drink At Least 8 Glasses Of Water A Day
- Myth 37. You Should Take Antibiotics For A Cold Or Virus
- Myth 33. Only Some People Are Lactose Intolerant
- Myth 32. Most Of Your Body Heat Escapes Through Your Head
- Myth 31. You'll Catch A Cold If You Go Out In The Cold Or In The Rain
- Myth 30. You Only Use 10% Of Your Brain
- Myth 29. People Are Left-Brained Or Right-Brained
- Myth 27. You Should Use Pee To Neutralize The Pain From A Jellyfish Sting
- Myth 24. Some People Are Double-Jointed
- Myth 22. Upchucking Is A Definite Sign Of The Flu
- Myth 21. Healthy Teeth Are Always White
- Myth 20. Six-Pack Abs Mean You're In The Best Shape Possible
- Myth 19. You Should Never Wake A Sleepwalker
- Myth 14. Hot Water Removes Germs During Handwashing
- Myth 13. Eating Less Helps You Lose Weight
- Myth 11. Taking More Vitamins Makes You Healthier
- Myth 10. Sugar Causes Diabetes
- Myth 9. You Only Have Five Senses
- Myth 8. All Fingerprints Are Unique
- Myth 7. A Strong Immune System Fights Colds
- Myth 6. Thin People Have A Quicker Metabolism
- Myth 1. C'mon... you'll have to click to find out!

Book Spotlight

Breakups, protests, and not reading at all



We're growing! Up till now, Book Spotlight has focused on one book per month. Simple. But you deserve more so from now on we're giving you more... expect at least two books per month, and possibly more depending on how bulging our shelves are!



"Break 'em UP"

by Zephyr Teachout

from the publisher- "Every facet of American life is being overtaken by big platform monopolists like Facebook, Google, and Bayer (which has merged with the former agricultural giant Monsanto), resulting in a greater concentration of wealth and power than we've seen since the Gilded Age. They are evolving into political entities that often have more influence than the actual government, bending state and federal legislatures to their will and even creating arbitration courts that circumvent the US justice system. How can we recover our freedom from these giants? Anti-corruption scholar and activist Zephyr Teachout has the answer: Break 'Em Up.

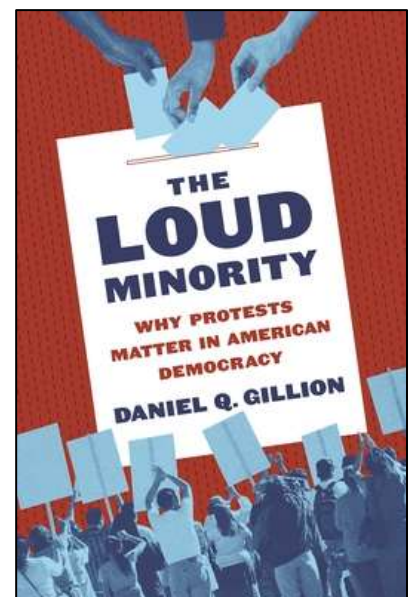
This book is a clarion call for liberals and leftists looking to find a common cause. Teachout makes a compelling case that monopolies are the root cause of many of the issues that today's progressives care about; they drive economic inequality, harm the planet, limit the political power of average citizens, and historically-disenfranchised groups bear the brunt of their shameful and irresponsible business practices. In order to build a better future, we must eradicate monopolies from the private sector and create new safeguards that prevent new ones from seizing power.

Through her expert analysis of monopolies in several sectors and their impact on courts, journalism, inequality, and politics, Teachout offers a concrete path toward thwarting these enemies of working Americans and reclaiming our democracy before it's too late."

"The LOUD Minority"

by Daniel Gillion

from the publisher- "The "silent majority"--a phrase coined by Richard Nixon in 1969 in response to Vietnam War protests and later used by Donald Trump as a campaign slogan--refers to the supposed wedge that exists between protestors in the street and the voters at home. The Loud Minority upends this view by demonstrating that voters are



in fact directly informed and influenced by protest activism. Consequently, as protests grow in America, every facet of the electoral process is touched by this loud minority, benefitting the political party perceived to be the most supportive of the protestors' messaging.

Relying on historical evidence, statistical data, and detailed interviews that consider protest activity since the 1960s, Daniel Gillion shows that electoral districts with protest activity are more likely to see increased voter turnout at the polls. Surprisingly, protest activities are also moneymaking endeavors for electoral politics, as voters donate more to political candidates who share the ideological leanings of activists. Finally, protests are a signal of political problems, encouraging experienced political challengers to run for office and hurting incumbents' chances of winning reelection. The silent majority may not speak with protest actions themselves, but clearly gesture for social change with their vote."

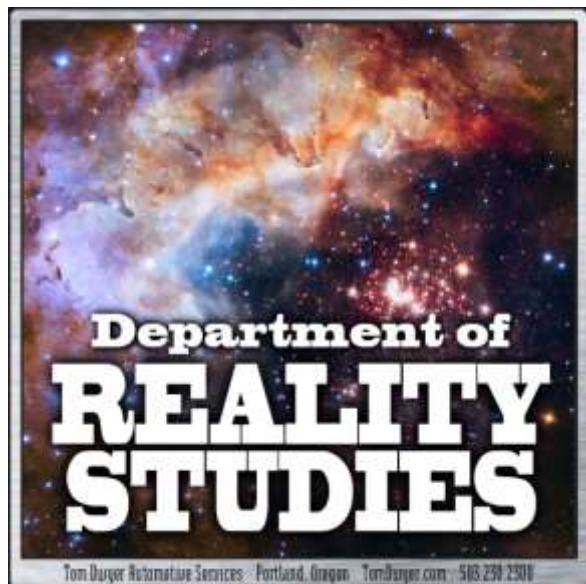


[Tsundoku: The art of buying books and never reading them](#)

Do you have a habit of picking up books that you never quite get around to reading?

If this sounds like you, you might be unwittingly engaging in tsundoku - a Japanese term used to describe a person who owns a lot of unread literature. Prof Andrew Gerstle teaches pre-modern

Japanese texts at the University of London. He explained to the BBC the term might be older than you think - it can be found in print as early as 1879, meaning it was likely in use before that. The word "doku" can be used as a verb to mean "reading". According to Prof Gerstle, the "tsun" in "tsundoku" originates in "tsumu" - a word meaning "to pile up". So when put together, "tsundoku" has the meaning of buying reading material and piling it up...



The Department of Reality Studies

Checking in on October's Reality

"My ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." Do you believe that? We don't.

Basic science, even basic consensual reality, seems under attack these days. Science and education are increasingly something for the 'elite'; something to be distrusted by honest folk. Scientists aren't trusted on public health, environmental science, or even cosmology, not because they've been proven wrong but because they've been proven so ruthlessly right. Objective reality is inconvenient for those who would like their whims to create reality instead. But

society has always and only existed in the real world and modern society isn't possible without science. Pretending otherwise can, and will, get us all killed.

The way to promote understanding and appreciation of science isn't to tell people they should care... it's to show them why it's so exciting. From the unimaginable expanse of the multiverse to the tiniest living beings and the quarks and leptons they're made of, science is an adventure. The "Department of Reality Studies" may do little to affect the appreciation of science for many people one way or another, but we'll enjoy sharing our own excitement with you so we hope you'll check back frequently to see some glimpses of Reality that may not have made your radar. Let's go!

Reality in October 2020...

[NASA's OSIRIS-REx Sample Return Mission \(asteroid Bennu\)](#)

Selected in 2011 as NASA's next New Frontiers mission. OSIRIS-REx launched in Sept. 2016 on a 7-year voyage to return a pristine sample of asteroid Bennu. It made contact with Bennu and collected a sample this week.

[We may have spotted a parallel universe going backwards in time-](#)

Strange particles observed by an experiment in Antarctica could be evidence of an alternative reality where everything is upside down.

[Watch Atoms of Gold on FeO Move Under an Electron Microscope-](#) Video

[Some Planets May Be Better for Life Than Earth: Researchers Identify 24 Superhabitable Exoplanets-](#)

Researchers have identified two dozen planets outside our solar system that may have conditions more suitable for life than our own. Some of these orbit stars that may be better than even our sun. A study details characteristics of potential "superhabitable" planets, that include those that are older, a little larger, slightly warmer and possibly wetter than Earth. Life could also more easily thrive on planets that circle more slowly changing stars with longer lifespans than our sun.

[A glowing zebrafish wins the 2020 Nikon Small World photography contest-](#)

The annual competition brings some of Earth's smallest marvels to light

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!



A Giant Spider is coming to Sellwood Community House... bring the kids!



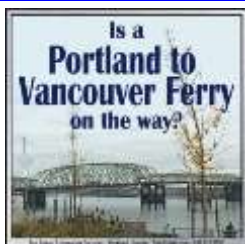
Sellwood- The Sellwood Community House is doing their part to save Halloween in CovidWorld. Their ["Trick or Treat" all week](#) is going on now through Friday, but it's possible their finale for Thursday's Spider Day could use some rethink... they're bringing in a giant spider for a "Petting Zoo" with the kids. You may have seen this monstrosity rampaging through Monster March or OMSI, but this is a chance to see it (or to avoid seeing it) up-close. Natasha, the only [Arachno Giganticus](#) in captivity, will be at SCH from 3-5p on 10/29. Bring the kids to get their spooky spider rings, and to find out exactly what could go wrong when a 10' tall armored and venomous engine of death romps with YOUR child!

The diabolical ironclad beetle can survive getting run over by a car. Here's how.



from ScienceNews- "The diabolical ironclad beetle is like a tiny tank on six legs. This insect's rugged exoskeleton is so tough that the beetle can survive getting run over by cars, and many would-be predators don't stand a chance of cracking one open. *Phloeodes diabolicus* is basically nature's jawbreaker. Analyses of microscope images, 3-D printed models and computer simulations of the beetle's armor have now revealed the secrets to its strength. Tightly interlocked and impact-absorbing structures that connect pieces of the beetle's exoskeleton help it survive enormous crushing forces. Those features could inspire new, sturdier designs for things such as body armor, buildings, bridges and vehicles..."

Is a Portland/Vancouver Ferry on the way?



KATU2.com- The group pursuing a possible commuter ferry between the Portland metro and Vancouver is shedding more light on how it would run along the Willamette and Columbia rivers. The Friends of Frog Ferry planning team just finished its feasibility study and finance plan. The ferry would run from Vancouver to Oregon City with 9 total stops. The study looked at the route and the kind of vessel that would be necessary. It also estimates that 3,000 people a day would take the ferry..." [KATU story continues here](#)

[Friends of Frog Ferry's website is here.](#)

Oregon's last coal plant closes... 20 YEARS EARLY!



from The East Oregonian- "Since 1980, the Boardman Coal Plant has produced reliable energy capable of powering 500,000 homes. But keeping the lights on has come at a cost. The plant can burn up to 8,000 tons of coal a day, making it the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. That production — both of energy and emissions — will come to an end in just a few months. The PGE-owned facility, the last coal plant operating in Oregon, will close by the end of 2020. About a third of the electricity used in Oregon will still be created by out-of-state coal, but Boardman's closure will mark the end of an energy era..."