



# “Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for June, 2021

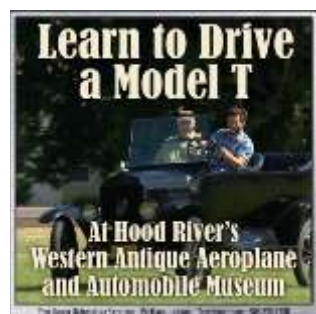
## Covid is Fading Away

Here's how our Covid protocols are changing

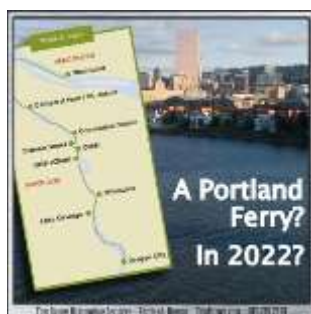


## The Eviction and Foreclosure Meltdown Isn't Bad for Everyone

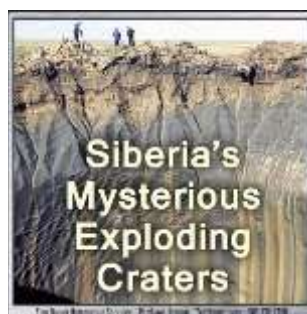
So much more than an empty insult



Learn to drive a Model T at Hood River's biggest little museum



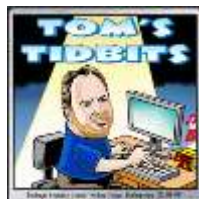
Ferry service could be coming to Portland as soon as next year



Siberia's mysterious (and unexplained) exploding craters



Maps guaranteed to redraw your mind



As we celebrate independence, what still unites us?



Will this heat melt my tires?



Your source for cartoons, puzzles, memes, jokes, and more



Global warming goes too far, setting science straight, and the Trolley problem



Just say "no" to unknown injections from strangers in parks



"Don't Label Me" by Irshad Manji



Slow-Cooker Pork Carnitas

# Tom's Tidbits

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## As we celebrate independence, what still unites us?



Greetings,

The desire to be left alone can be a value that binds people together. That's a little ironic, but it's worked in America (very imperfectly) for 245 years. Today it seems freedom and independence from government have devolved into freedom and independence from each other, and it can be hard to feel the bonds of common citizenship. Each year the divisions seem to grow. While independence is *one* value to respect, I'd like to offer a couple other values that could unify us as Americans. They shouldn't be controversial... they're things we *say* we already believe.

Virtually all Americans at least profess respect for our Declaration of Independence, but even the few who don't know one of its most famous ideas: Governments "derive their just powers from the consent of the people" and are "instituted among men" to secure "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for the citizens. That, in writing, is what the American government was built to do. This fundamental assumption should unite EVERY American.

Of course it doesn't. Too tragically many people have diminished "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" to a poetic slogan. They see it as an unrealistic and naïve aspiration for any government; certainly not an achievable one for our own. But it unified us as a country 245 years ago despite our desire for individual independence, and it may be what's missing today.

What does "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" need to mean to be more than flowery gibberish? Can it mean anything at all in today's real world? Actually, it can settle some of the most divisive issues we face.

"Life" means more than simple existence, it means a Life of health and dignity. It means Single Payer; access to Health Care when you're sick without the added worry of bankruptcy. It means clean air (a right denied to 40% of Americans), clean water (a distant memory in Flint, Michigan), and safe food (increasingly a luxury). It means shelter, a right not secured for over 500,000 of our fellow Americans every night and endangered for millions more.

"Liberty" applies to our Justice system, from police to courts to prisons. The idea that "Liberty" only comes with 'equal justice under law' is one of the most basic elements of a free society... there is no Liberty without Justice. Yet actual people now yield liberty to 'corporate people'. Racial bias is rampant in criminal courts and economic bias rules in civil ones. Civil Asset Forfeiture almost demands abuse by the police who use it. For-profit prisons incentivize police to find cell occupants instead of criminals. None of us have Liberty if fellow citizens fear their 'protectors', so the increasing militarization of police and the bloodbath of police shootings threatens us all.

No one is guaranteed happiness, but the "Pursuit of Happiness" is different. Among other things it means education, but in today's world education is mocked and ridiculed. It's derided as 'indoctrination' by people who don't, or consciously refuse to, understand its importance. For those who still appreciate it, education is fast becoming a luxury instead of a right. Funding schools with property taxes has resulted in a spiral of bad schools for poor neighborhoods and good schools for rich ones. The exploding cost of higher education has turned it into a set of economic shackles that prevents home ownership, starting a family, business investment, or any of the options the education was supposed to improve.

In this time of division and strife, precious few things remain to unite us. If Americans are divided, if Americans are fighting, if Americans can't see the common humanity in each other, then it may be time to go back to our founding principles to find what Americans are supposed to be. In today's world it may not heal the wounds, but it might give a hint where healing lies.

Make a great day,

## **Digging Deeper...**

[Survey: U.S. admires, but hasn't read, Constitution](#), Sharon Fitzgerald in Daily Progress, May 2019

[Four in 10 Americans breathe unsafe air — and these 8 cities are the worst](#), Nicole Lyn Pesce on MarketWatch, Apr 2019

[The Flint Water Crisis: 7 Years Later](#), by Christina Tuser in WWDmag, Apr 2021

[Food safety falls short in the U.S., consumer group says](#), Maggie Fox on NBCNews, Jan 2019

[The State of Homelessness in America](#), National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2016



## **Covid is Fading Away**

Our Covid policies are changing to adapt

Covid has been a long, ugly, sad road so far, but it may finally be ending. The graphs are trending the right way, people are eager to get back to their lives, the economy is ready to re-start, and summer's here... it looks like the US is coming out of our Covid lockdown! Some people are past ready to ditch their masks (for good reasons and bad) but others are still a little hesitant about loosening up in a world that still has an unpredictable pathogen in it. Businesses have to decide how to safely reopen and how to accommodate peoples' concerns across the spectrum.

As an 'essential business' open since the start of the pandemic, we had to make deep changes in our business to make it safer and easier for you to deal with us. We're eager to see some of them go away but we found others were actually improvements. Here's an update on what we're changing back... and what we're keeping.

### **Masks Are No Longer Required In Our Office**

**Effective June 30, masking and social distancing requirements are ended for Oregon businesses.**

Effective immediately, you won't be required to wear a mask in our office. If you'd still prefer to have one we have free masks waiting.

### **We're Ending 'Will Wait' Appointments And Closing Our Waiting Room**

When Covid closed our Waiting Room we had to pause 'will wait' appointments as well. This was awkward for a while, but we found it actually improved the service we were able to provide and it's one of the Covid changes we plan to keep. Going forward, we will no longer offer 'will wait' appointments (except minor services like bulb changes or DEQ tests).

### **We're Bringing Back Our Courtesy Shuttle**

Our Courtesy Shuttle will be returning to the road soon, but not quite yet... we'll keep you posted when there's an exact date. If you haven't yet taken advantage of our Courtesy Shuttle then here's what you need to know...

- the Shuttle runs BY ADVANCE APPOINTMENT, so remember to request it when you schedule your appointment.
- The morning Shuttle makes three scheduled outbound runs at 8:30am, and 9:30am.
- The Shuttle DOES NOT run between 12:00pm and 1:00pm or at all on Saturdays.
- The evening Shuttle makes inbound runs until its final trip at 5pm.
- For full details, please see "[Our Courtesy Shuttle](#)" on TomDwyer.com

### **We'll Keep Opening At 8AM**

We changed from 7a-6p to 8a-6p at the start of the crisis, and it's worked out pretty well. We'll keep that in place for the foreseeable future, so our new PERMANENT hours are 8a-6p M-F, and 10a-1p on Saturday for Pickup and Dropoff.



## **The Lobby Will Change A Little Bit**

Our attempts at Lobby crowd control included pylons and guide tape, but they only seemed confusing. They'll disappear soon, but please maintain social distance in our lobby for the next several months.

On the other hand, the clear shields at the front desk will probably help cut down on cold and flu post-Covid, free hand sanitizer at the front counter seemed like a good idea, and the HEPA air filter worked out well too. We'll be keeping these for your health and ours.

## **We'll Still Do Post-Service Sanitization**

We'll continue our Post-Service Sanitization procedures for a while to come. That means aside from checking fluids, pressures, wipers, and a double-check of the work we did, we'll use sanitizer on all the interior surfaces touched during your service.

## **If You're Still Covid-Skittish...**

If there's any reason you aren't quite ready to jump back into normality like nothing ever happened, we don't want to force you. You can still get Non-Contact service at our shop or even Pickup and Dropoff Service at your home or office. If you have ANY CONCERNS AT ALL, just ask your Service Advisor and we'll do everything we can to make you feel as comfortable and safe as possible in working with us.

That's what we know for now, but if there's anything to be learned from the Covid Crisis it's that things can change instantly. For Covid and for anything else, our policies are driven by concern for our clients and the quality and safety of your experience with us. Please, tell us about any questions, comments, or concerns you have! Our Service Advisors are happy to talk with you in person or by phone at 503-230-2300, or you can reach our Outreach Coordinator Charles Letherwood at [Charles@TomDwyer.com](mailto:Charles@TomDwyer.com). We hope to hear from you, and we'll keep you informed as things inevitably change in the weeks, months, and years to come.

## Digging Deeper..

### Coverage of the Covid opening...

[Coronavirus FAQ: I'm Vaccinated And Confused. Do I Need To Mask Up Or Not?](#) Sheila Mulrooney Eldred on NPR, Jun 2021

[5 charts that show where we are in the pandemic](#), PBS NewsHour, Jun 2021

[COVID-19 and Oregon OSHA](#), Oregon OSHA-Covid website, updated constantly.

[CDC COVID Data Tracker](#), updated daily

[Tracking COVID-19 vaccine distribution by state: How many people have been vaccinated in the US?](#), Janie Haseman on USA Today, June 2021

[Biden's vaccine goal of 70% by July 4 could pass us by, and we have no one to blame but ourselves](#), Baltimore Sun Editorial Board, Baltimore Sun, Jun 2021

[Daily update: Will America meet Biden's July 4 vaccine goals?](#) Janie Haseman on USA Today, June 2021

[States ranked by percentage of population fully vaccinated: June 16](#), Katie Adams in Becker's Hospital Review, Jun 2021

[U.S. COVID-19 vaccine tracker: See your state's progress](#), Mayo Clinic

### Our Tom Dwyer Covid Coverage...

[Tom Dwyer Coronavirus Response](#), Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, Mar-Oct 2020

[To Mask Or Not To Mask: How the Mask debate is playing out here at our shop](#), Charles Letherwood for Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, Aug 2020

[Everyone's Keynesian in a foxhole- So join us in learning what "Keynesian" means.](#) Charles Letherwood for Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, May 2020

[Corollavirus is coming! YOU'RE ready for the pandemic, but what about your vehicles?](#) Charles Letherwood for Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, Mar 2020

[Tom's Tidbits- Death by Denial](#), Tom's Tidbits, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, Nov 2020

[Tom's Tidbits- We are OPEN during this Crisis](#), Tom's Tidbits, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, Mar 2020

[Tom's Tidbits- THIS... this is what government is SUPPOSED to do!](#) Tom's Tidbits, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, May 2020

[Shop Talk- Our response to a client who asked us to contact the Governor about masks](#), Shop Talk, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, May 2020





## **The Eviction and Foreclosure Meltdown Isn't Bad for Everyone**

Your neighbors may be worried, but the hedge funds aren't.

When the Covid lockdown crushed the entire planetary economy, it affected everyone from the people who depended on their income and savings to keep them alive to the immortal ultra-rich corporate 'people' who depended on their income and savings to keep them wealthy. Guess we were all suffering. With no income, residents couldn't pay the landlords and banks who also had their own bills, so the rental/housing market was essentially frozen by eviction and foreclosure moratoriums. Now Covid's lifting and people (human and corporate) are looking at 14 months of unpaid rent and mortgage and moratoriums about to end. Human renters, homeowners, and small landlords face a bleak future, but the corporate people are smiling all the way to the bank.

Foreclosure and eviction are interesting and serious issues for everyone, even people not facing homelessness themselves, but many people will read this article because it's an imminent worry. If you are facing eviction or foreclosure, here's a few links that might help (and we're sorry we can't offer more)...

[Oregon eviction prevention and homeless assistance programs](#), NeedHelpPayingBills.com

[Get assistance from Eviction Prevention Programs](#), NeedHelpPayingBills.com

[COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium Information](#), Multnomah County, 2021

[Homeowner Help](#)- US Department of Housing and Urban Development

[Mortgage Payment Help](#), Oregon.gov

[National Federal Eviction Moratorium- Learn About Protections and Steps Renters Must Take!](#)

National Low Income Housing Coalition

The Biden administration announced on June 24 an extension of the federal eviction moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through July 31, 2021, and that it will implement a whole-of-government approach to prevent an historic wave of evictions this summer. The moratorium was set to expire on June 30.

These actions from the White House extend an essential lifeline to millions of renters who remain behind on rent and would be at heightened risk of eviction when the moratorium expires. Extending the moratorium through July gives state and local governments more time to distribute more than \$46 billion in emergency rental assistance (ERA) to those most in need. The administration's whole-of-government effort to stem evictions and help ensure ERA is provided efficiently, effectively, and equitably can keep families safely housed and bolster the administration's efforts to contain COVID-19. While in many areas in the U.S. vaccinations rates are up and COVID-19 caseloads are down, communities with

lower vaccination rates and more COVID-19 cases tend to be the same communities that have large numbers of renters at heightened risk of eviction.

Just in case you aren't aware of the problem, here's a brief outline...

[Oregon's eviction moratorium will expire next week. Here's what that means for Oregon tenants and landlords.](#), Rebecca Ellis on OPB, Jun 2021

Here are three common questions about what to expect June 30 with answers from Oregon advocates, attorneys and housing officials...

I'm a tenant who hasn't been able to pay full rent since the pandemic started. How much will I owe when the moratorium ends on June 30?

I keep hearing about a tidal wave of evictions looming when the moratorium ends. Is that what's coming on July 1?

How much rental assistance has been dispensed to people so far?

[Lawmakers vote to extend Oregon's eviction moratorium, but assistance backlog leaves thousands in limbo](#), Maggie Vespa for KGW8, Jun 2021

Even if they qualify for that assistance, there's no guarantee renters will get the money in time. The state's backlog on doling out rent assistance is that bad.

['The eviction moratorium is killing small landlords,' says one, as ban is extended another month](#), Diana Olick on CNBC, Jun 2021

But it's not all bad news. Individuals and families are facing homelessness and small landlords are facing bankruptcy, but rest easy! Our Corporate Brothers and Sisters will apparently do just fine...

[Bank of America and Chase could restart mortgage foreclosures as early as July, but Wells Fargo is waiting until 2022](#), Megan Leonhardt on CNBC.com, May 2021

"About 2.1 million homeowners are still in forbearance plans that suspend their mortgage payments, according to Mortgage Bankers Association's latest data. And about 1.8 million families are not in forbearance, but are already at least 90 days delinquent on paying their mortgages as of April, according to the latest data from Black Knight, which monitors mortgage data. For now, many are protected from eviction through a foreclosure moratorium on federally backed loans.

But those protections are running short on time. President Joe Biden extended the federal foreclosure moratorium earlier this year, but that will expire on June 30, 2021. Many of the forbearance programs on federally backed loans are set to lapse this fall. In a hearing Wednesday, Senators asked the CEOs of several major banks about what they plan to do to help Americans caught in this situation. Here's what the heads of Bank of America, Chase and Wells Fargo said..."

[If You Sell a House These Days, the Buyer Might Be a Pension Fund](#), Ryan Dezember in the Wall Street Journal, Apr 2021

D.R. Horton Inc. built 124 houses in Conroe, Texas, rented them out and then put the whole community, Amber Pines at Fosters Ridge, on the block. A Who's Who of investors and home-rental firms flocked to the December sale. The winning \$32 million bid came from an online property-investing platform, Fundrise LLC, which manages more than \$1 billion on behalf of about 150,000 individuals. The country's most prolific home builder booked roughly twice what it typically makes selling houses to the middle class—an encouraging debut in the business of selling entire neighborhoods to investors.

[What Happens When Hedge Funds Buy Up Neighborhoods](#), Joy Pullmann in TheFederalist, Jun 2021



“You now have permanent capital competing with a young couple trying to buy a house,” real estate consultant John Burns told the Wall Street Journal. “That’s going to make U.S. housing permanently more expensive.” His firm estimates “that in many of the nation’s top markets, roughly one in every five houses sold is bought by someone who never moves in.”

[When Wall Street Is Your Landlord](#), Alana Semuels in The Atlantic, Feb 2019

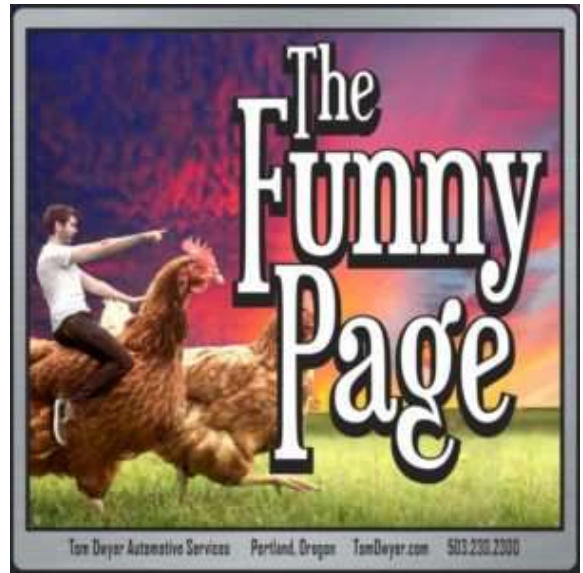
“Between 2011 and 2017, some of the world’s largest private-equity groups and hedge funds, as well as other large investors, spent a combined \$36 billion on more than 200,000 homes in ailing markets across the country. In one Atlanta zip code, they bought almost 90 percent of the 7,500 homes sold between January 2011 and June 2012; today, institutional investors own at least one in five single-family rentals in some parts of the metro area, according to Dan Immergluck, a professor at the Urban Studies Institute at Georgia State University. Some of the nation’s hardest-hit housing markets were finally stabilized.”

[When Investors Buy Up the Neighborhood Preventing Investor Ownership from Causing Neighborhood Decline](#), Treuhaft, Rose, and Black, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Community Development, Spring 2011

“Yet, even as these neighborhood stabilization strategies begin to take hold, communities face an additional threat to recuperation: unscrupulous absentee investors. Nationwide, would-be homebuyers and community developers are facing stiff competition from private investors who have seen a business opportunity in the foreclosure crisis and are rapidly buying up foreclosed properties to sell or rent out for a profit. Unlike homebuyers and municipalities, investors can buy properties in cash and in bulk- sometimes ‘sight unseen’- purchasing them before homebuyers, nonprofits, or cities even have a chance to bid. In some communities, efforts to improve the neighborhood are being thwarted by investors who are either mothballing their properties or buying severely distressed homes and renting them out to vulnerable tenants with little to no rehabilitation or maintenance of the property.”

# The Funny Page

These are the jokes, folks! Now all in one place.



<https://tomdwyer.com/2013/uncategorized/humorousness-jokes-that-make-you-go-hmmm/>

Keith Tucker's "What NOW?!!" Toon for May



Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" puzzle for May

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

**THEME:**  
**OF THE PRANKS**

**THEME LETTERS (+/-)**  
O  
F  
T  
H  
E  
P  
R  
A  
N  
K  
S

**THEME WORDS:**

**START LIST:**

DUE	RIGHTEN
HOOK	SOCKED
HUNTED	SPRIG
JOE	STARLING
PLY	TEAS
TICK	

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

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

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go in the spaces 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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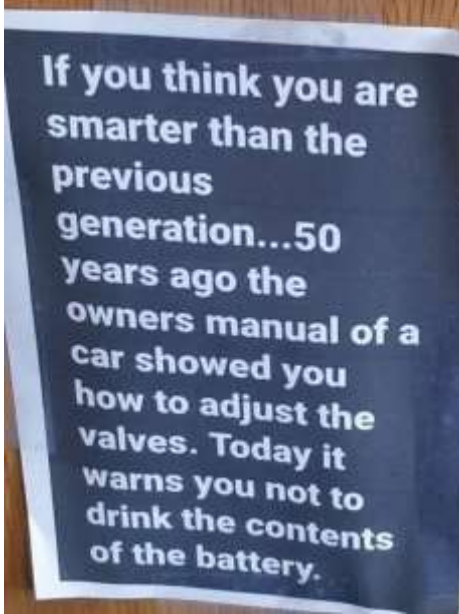
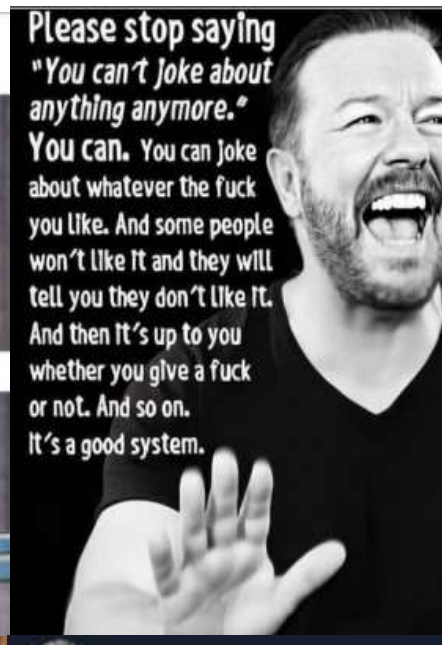
The funniest thing we've seen all month...

[The Joy of the Artful Insult](#)

One of the biggest problems today may be a lack of civility. People just can't be patient, balanced, clear, generous, and polite in the face of rabid, slavering attacks. If you're tired of even trying, don't sink to 'their' level... if you're gonna insult somebody, do it with STYLE! Start sharpening your rhetorical talons [here, with our Joy of the Artful Insult article](#). From Shakespeare to Churchill to Muhammad Ali, history is full of folks who got fed up and decided to say something about it and this article has some of their best.



# Laughs from around the InterTubes

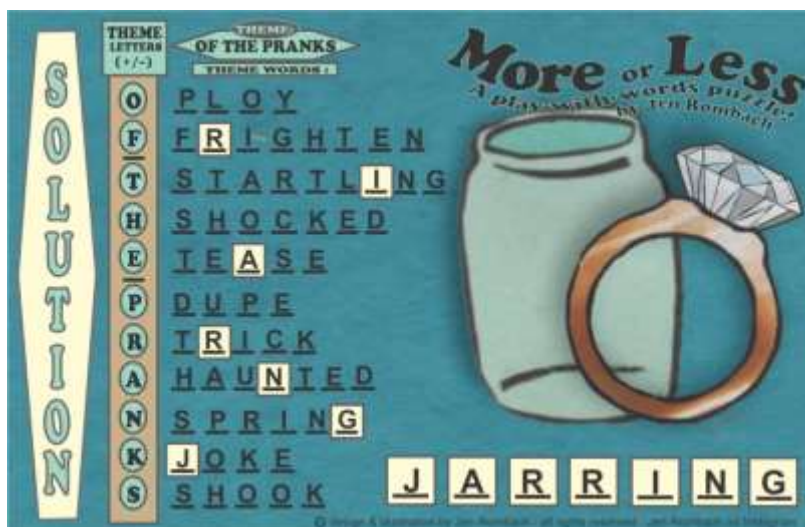




Memes from your Mechanic



"More Or Less" Solution for June



# Shop Talk

## Will this heat melt my tires?



## Comment of the Month



*This month's Comment comes from client Jen R., whose heat-related concern might be on other minds as well...*

### Will this heat melt my tires?

There's a short answer to this one... NO! Our Service Advisors quickly and unanimously said there was nothing to worry about, because tires don't melt... they soften. The vulcanizing process for rubber essentially makes one tire-sized molecule that can only decompose into its component parts. As the tires get hot (not even from atmospheric heat; your tires get hot just driving down the road) the surface softens a little and tiny bits can be pulled off. This is the typical way your tire wears down over time anyway; it just happens a little faster when it's hot. Heat is not the way to destroy tires, in fact, when tires are recycled they have to be shredded, frozen, and shattered into tiny bits. Finally, you may rest somewhat easier knowing that your tires can take the heat better than the roads they're driving on. This [article from Australia](#) describes what happened when the heat got excessive... the tires were fine, but the road melted and stuck to the tires. You'll be sweating in this heat, but there's no reason to sweat over your tires!



## Our Current Special Offers



Our across-the-board Covid discount has dropped to 20%, but it's not too late for you to still save 25%. If you've had service recommendations in your Tom Dwyer file since 1/31/21 (or before) but you just haven't acted on them, then you can still save **25% off Labor Charges** if you act on them before 4/30/21. Even during a pandemic your vehicle needs consistent care, and Auto Amnesty is a great way to catch up on the services you may have been putting off.

**Offer expires 6/18/21**

**\$200 minimum purchase required**

**Discount limited to service recommendations in your Tom Dwyer file as of 1/31/21 or before**

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

**Offer is VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE**

## 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

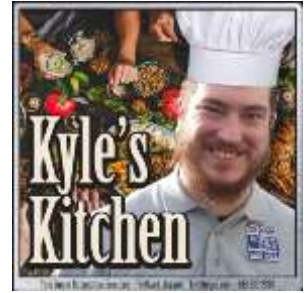


We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're 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.



A taco is only as good as its stuffing. Here's a recipe that only takes 15 minutes to prep, then you hand it off to the slow cooker to make your tacos perfect.

### Ingredients:

1 white onion, halved and thinly sliced	1 tbsp cumin
5 garlic cloves, minced	2 tbsp chopped fresh oregano
1 jalapeño, minced	2 oranges
3 lbs cubed pork shoulder	1 lime
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	½ cup chicken broth

### Directions:

1. Place the onion, garlic, jalapeño and pork in the base of a slow cooker. Add the salt, pepper, cumin and oregano.
2. Zest the oranges and lime over the pork, then halve them and squeeze the juice over the pork. Pour the broth over the pork as well.
3. Put the lid on the slow cooker and set the heat on low. Cook for 7 hours, or until the meat is tender and easy to shred with a fork.
4. Use two forks to shred the meat. The pork can be served immediately (we prefer it in tacos) or stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to five days, or in the freezer for up to a month.

Prep: 15 Min    Cook: 7 Hr    Total: 7 Hr 15 Min  
442 calories, 31g fat, 9g carbs, 30g protein, 4g sugars  
Original recipe from [Erin McDowell on PureWow.com](#)



# Health Notes

## Just say “no” to unknown injections from strangers in parks

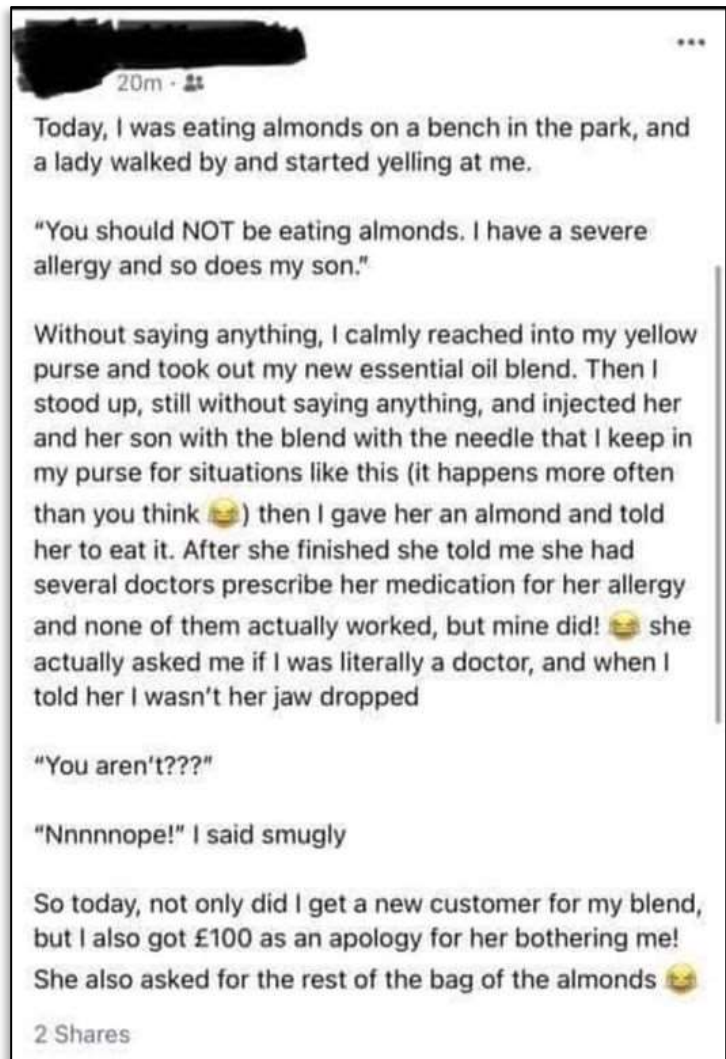


Our Health Note for this month is from an enthusiastic and apparently delusional Essential Oil advocate, re-posted by someone else with just one comment: “Apparently, essential oil fan fiction is now a thing.”

Sane, sensible people probably don’t spend a lot of time where these postings appear, so we’re sharing it with you to show just how weird the anti-science community is getting. When people give up on the scientific consensus of medical experts and go looking for ‘alternative’ explanations, this is what they often find.

There’s no real health information in this tripe, but there’s still a couple things to learn. Health Notes is here to help separate the wheat from the chaff...

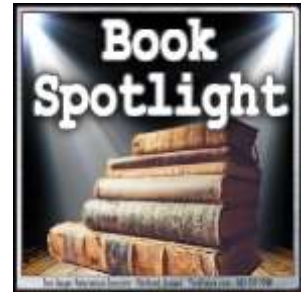
- Essential Oil sales people are most typically assaulted by “normies” when they’re quietly minding their own business in a park.
- Nut allergy sufferers are brainwashed to think their allergies can be triggered from bagged nuts on the other side of an open area.
- DO NOT allow smug, quiet people to inject you or your children with unlabeled syringes they pull from their purses.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT doubt yourself... this DOES NOT happen more often than you think.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT allow them to immediately feed you almonds a doctor told you would be deadly.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT ask if they are a doctor. You’ve already been a flamboyant idiot, and no answer they could give would make it better.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT sign up for repeated injections.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT give them £100. The traditional tipping rate when assaulted with a deadly weapon is closer to £150. Don’t cheap out.
- If you do let them inject you, DO NOT ask for the rest of the bag of almonds. Unknown injections are OK. but Health Safety means never taking food from strangers in parks.



It has been a true pleasure to share this Health Notes bulletin with you. We now return you to your regularly scheduled newsletter.

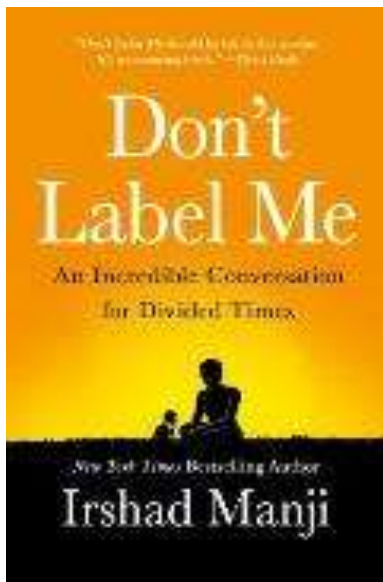
# **Book Spotlight**

## **“Don’t Label Me” by Irshad Manji**



This Book is available for you to borrow from our [Lobby Book & Bumper Sticker Library](#). Look for it next time you’re in the shop, and our Service Advisors will tell you how to check it out. If you want to pick up a copy for yourself, our hyperlinks go to [Powell’s Bookstore](#). If you want to shop even more locally, Sellwood’s own Julie Wallace would love to see you at [Wallace Books](#).

Tom’s Tidbits this month was about the things that unite us as we celebrate independence. Our Book Spotlight offers another take on diversity and unity, or, as our national motto puts it, “E Pluribus Unum”.



### **“Don’t Label Me”- An Incredible Conversation for Divided Times** by Irshad Manji

*From the editor-* A unique conversation about diversity, bigotry, and our common humanity, by the New York Times bestselling author, Oprah "Chutzpah" award-winner, and founder of the Moral Courage Project

In these United States, discord has hit emergency levels. Civility isn't the reason to repair our caustic chasms. Diversity is.

Don't Label Me shows that America's founding genius is diversity of thought. Which is why social justice activists won't win by labeling those who disagree with them. At a time when minorities are fast becoming the majority, a truly new America requires a new way to tribe out.

Enter Irshad Manji and her dog, Lily. Raised to believe that dogs are evil, Manji overcame her fear of the "other" to adopt Lily. She got more than she bargained for. Defying her labels as an old, blind dog, Lily engages Manji in a taboo-busting conversation about identity, power, and politics. They're feisty. They're funny. And in working through their challenges to one another, they reveal how to open the hearts of opponents for the sake of enduring progress. Readers who crave concrete tips will be delighted.

Studded with insights from epigenetics and epistemology, layered with the lessons of Bruce Lee, Ben Franklin, and Audre Lorde, punctuated with stories about Manji's own experiences as a refugee from Africa, a Muslim immigrant to the U.S., and a professor of moral courage, Don't Label Me makes diversity great again.

We discovered this book, as we discover so many things, in a recommendation from Thom Hartmann. If you’d like to watch [his “Conversations With Great Minds” interview with Irshad, find it here.](#)

# Department of Reality Studies

Global warming goes too far, setting science straight, and the Trolley problem



“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!

## [Global warming may have already passed irreversible tipping point](#)

Al Jazeera, Jun 2021

*From the article-* Global warning may have already passed an irreversible tipping point, the scientist who led the biggest-ever expedition to the Arctic has warned. Presenting the first findings of the world’s largest mission to the North Pole, an expedition involving 300 scientists from 20 countries, Markus Rex said on Tuesday that the researchers had found that Arctic ice is retreating faster than ever before. “The disappearance of summer sea ice in the Arctic is one of the first landmines in this minefield, one of the tipping points that we set off first when we push warming too far,” he said during the presentation in Germany’s capital, Berlin. “And one can essentially ask if we haven’t already stepped on this mine and already set off the beginning of the explosion.”

## [We Tried to Publish a Replication of a Science Paper in Science. The Journal Refused.](#)

Arceneaux, Bakker, Gothreau, and Schumacher on Slate.com, Jun 2019

*From the article-* Our story starts in 2008, when a group of researchers published an article (here it is without a paywall) that found political conservatives have stronger physiological reactions to threatening images than liberals do. The article was published in Science, which is one of the most

prestigious general science journals around. It's the kind of journal that can make a career in academia.

It was a path-breaking and provocative study. For decades, political scientists and psychologists have tried to understand the psychological roots of ideological differences. The piece published in *Science* offered some clues as to why liberals and conservatives differ in their worldviews. Perhaps it has to do with how the brain is wired, the researchers suggested—specifically, perhaps it's because conservatives' brains are more attuned to threats than liberals'. It was an exciting finding, it helped usher in a new wave of psychophysiological work in the study of politics, and it generated extensive coverage in popular media. In 2018, 10 years after the publication of the study, the findings were featured on an episode of NPR's Hidden Brain podcast...

## [Does the Trolley Problem Have a Problem?](#)

Daniel Engber on Slate.com, Jun 2018

*From the article-* Picture the following situation: You are taking a freshman-level philosophy class in college, and your professor has just asked you to imagine a runaway trolley barreling down a track toward a group of five people. The only way to save them from being killed, the professor says, is to hit a switch that will turn the trolley onto an alternate set of tracks where it will kill one person instead of five. Now you must decide: Would the mulling over of this dilemma enlighten you in any way?

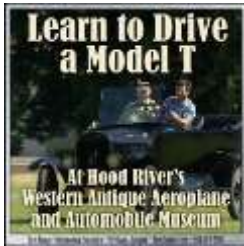
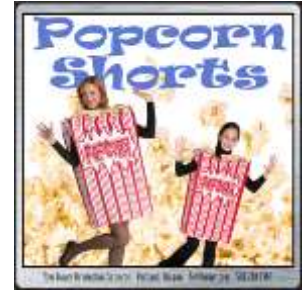
I ask because the trolley-problem thought experiment described above—and its standard culminating question, Would it be morally permissible for you to hit the switch?—has in recent years become a mainstay of research in a subfield of psychology. Scientists use versions of the kill-one-to-save-five hypothetical, reworded and reframed for added nuance, as a standard way to probe the workings of the moral mind. The corpus of “trolleyology” data they've produced hints that men are more likely than women to sacrifice a life for the sake of several others, for example, and that younger people are inclined to do the same...



# Popcorn Shorts

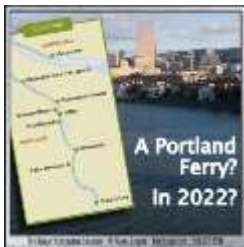
Cool stuff that's too small for a big article

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!



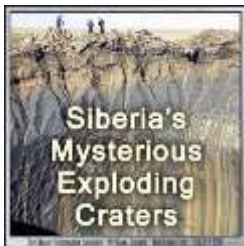
## Learn to drive a Model T

[from the OPB Article](#)- "For a small handful of folks in Hood River, Oregon, Memorial Day means jumping in a car and jumping back in time 100 years... Each summer Hood River's [Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum](#) puts on its Model T driving school. It's a one-day experience, offered a half-dozen times from late spring to early fall. They open only 10 spots per session that often fill quickly with antique car aficionados from across the country. But the Model T driving school is just one program of a much larger museum of cars and planes, gathering together a community that is devoted to making history..."



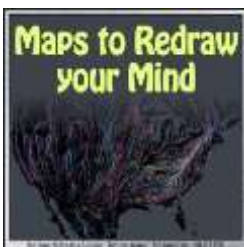
## A Portland Ferry? In 2022?

Portland may be getting a new addition to our transportation mix, possibly as soon as next year. Frog Ferry proposes to bring passenger ferry service from Vancouver to Portland at about 45 minutes per trip. Here a link to [the Frog Ferry homepage](#), and here's just a little of the coverage from [Portland Business Journal](#), [Clark County Today](#), and [Willamette Week](#).



## The mysterious exploding craters of Siberia

[from the National Geographic Article](#)- "Flying over the sweeping Siberian tundra, a Russian TV crew spotted a crater more than half a football field deep gouged from the frozen ground. Blocks of ice and dirt lay hundreds of feet away, flung from the deep scar on the surface. This is the latest in a series of such curious craters discovered in the Siberian Arctic, after the first was identified in 2014. Scientists believe they form from blasts of methane and carbon dioxide gas trapped within mounds of dirt and ice, but much remains uncertain..." More coverage here from [Discover](#) and [BBC Future](#).



## Maps to redraw your mind

"Maps are not the territory", and we rely on them at our peril. They can show us things that just aren't right; a prime example is the very common and very badly distorted Mercator Projection map of the globe. But they can also show us things in a new way and sharpen our view of the world instead, like these three map-related stories we found this month. The first is from [GiveltLove](#), where [50 amazing maps show the US \(and the world\) in a new way](#). From migration lanes to land use to where our Canadian neighbors live, ALL of these maps will question what you thought you knew. "Salary needed to avoid an average home in your state" (below) is a standalone map-turned-meme that

explains itself, as well as questioning our priorities as a society. Finally, take time to [read the story behind the 6 maps of Alabama](#) (also below), showing the connections between sediments laid down in the Cretaceous period and voting patterns today.

