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News To Make You Furious

What's The Latest On The Fukushima Disaster?

Money Saving Programs
See our website for complete details

Carbon Neutral Program
Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and earn 10% off labor costs!

Labor Lock Program
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Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!

Moneysaving Programs

To stretch your hard-earned dollars their farthest



Tom's Tidbits **Looking for local fun**

Greetings!

Finally, we're getting a taste of the summer weather that makes the Northwest so worthwhile. I'm making plans to get out and take advantage of the sun, and I'm sure you are too. A summer walk in the neighborhood does more than burn the calories from the last cookout, it gives us the opportunity to discover things that are in walking distance rather than visible through the window of a car. It gives us the opportunity to slow down and examine our surroundings up-close, and look at our neighborhoods in a new way.

Just as a "citizen" should be more than someone who just lives in a country, a "neighbor" should be more than someone who just lives nearby. Neighborhoods grow and prosper when residents live, work, and play locally. Look around the corner, and what do you find? Is there a park to take the kids to instead of them being plugged in all day? Could you eat at a good local restaurant instead of a corporate fast food chain? Does the neighborhood school need someone to volunteer? Could your local credit union use your money building small businesses? Is there a local stationery store that could supply your business? As a company, we try hard to be good neighbors by supporting many of the local Sellwood events and groups that our neighbors count on like; Sellwood Little League, the Sellwood/Westmoreland Business Alliance, local schools, our neighborhood paper (The Sellwood Bee), and more.

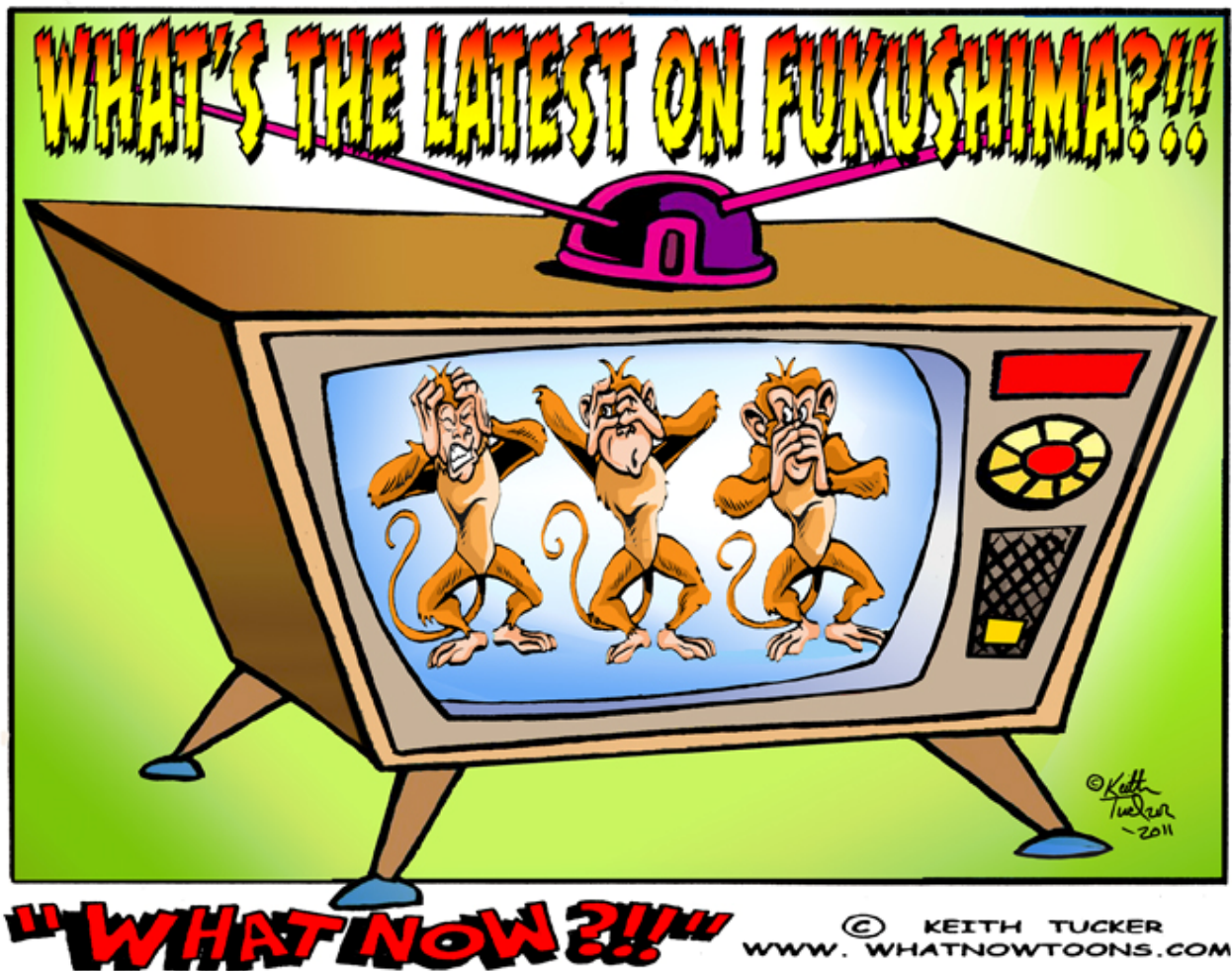
One of our great neighborhood events we support is the Sellwood Park Riverfront concerts. These concerts take place Monday evenings through August 1, and feature excellent music in an ideal summer venue. Bring your family and a picnic, and dance through the evening as warm breezes blow across the grass and the sun sets on the Willamette. It's the kind of event you'll enjoy and remember, it helps the neighborhood thrive, and it's free. See? When we all support our neighborhoods, everyone benefits. I hope to see you there!

Make a great day,



"What NOW?!!" Toons

You can't see this one anywhere but here



(You might also enjoy the article about Keith Tucker later in this newsletter)



Report Back From Phame Show **"Grease" is not just for oil changes**

Tom Dwyer Automotive has been a strong supporter of [PHAME \(Pacific Handicapped Artists, Musicians, and Entertainers\)](#) for several years now, sponsoring past productions of *Secret Garden*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. This year's production of *Grease*, which just wrapped up June 19, was truly something special.

Grease broke box office records to become the single best-selling production in PHAME's 26-year history. It opened to a standing-room-only opening night house at the Mt. Hood Community College mainstage theatre, followed by a very full matinee crowd on Sunday. In total, just over 800 tickets were sold to the production. This amazing success was achieved in only the second year for Phame's new creative team of Jessica Dart (director), Ben Landsverk (musical director), and Korie Chung (choreographer). Of course, they had the advantage of an experienced cast of nearly 50 PHAME student performers – all adults with developmental disabilities – some of whom had almost 25 years of experience with PHAME productions to fall back on.

PHAME Executive Director Stephen Marc Beaudoin said "We are thrilled that hundreds of PHAME friends and families came out to see our incredible production of 'Grease' this past weekend, and especially that so many of our audience members were first-time attendees to a PHAME production." (We like to think that these first-timers were due in part to [the radio spot we ran for Phame](#); radio advertising is something new for them this year.) Stephen continued "We're continuing to grow and evolve, and PHAME performances are becoming must-see events in the Portland metro region!"

Although next year's production has yet to be announced, you can be sure we'll keep you posted when it is. In the meantime, if you'd like to support this one-of-a-kind organization you can visit their website at www.PhameAcademy.org. If this year's production is any indication, you should start waiting in line for tickets now!

(WOW! Check out the show pictures below!)



Photo Credit- Byron Beck



Photo Credit- Byron Beck



Photo Credit- Jennie Baker



Photo Credit- Jennie Baker



Photo Credit- Jennie Baker



Photo Credit- Jennie Baker



When Will YOU Switch To Synthetic Oil?

Synthetic oil is better for you, your vehicle, and the planet.

Not so long ago, few people had heard of synthetic oil and even fewer wanted to buy it. Things have changed... crude oil prices are rising, people are keeping their cars longer, and more people are worried about the environment. Now we have a steady stream of people at the shop asking about this important product, but many more still aren't aware of the advantages of synthetic oil. If you're one of the people who hasn't made the jump yet, there are three main reasons to switch to synthetic oil. Synthetics are:

- **Better for you**
- **Better for your vehicle**
- **Better for the planet**

Let's look at each of these points a little more closely...

Better for you

Synthetic oils are better for you because they **save you valuable time and money!** The superior protection of synthetics mean you only need to get your vehicle's oil changed half as often, so you'll spend less of your valuable time chasing oil changes. We recommend that clients using synthetic oils have their Minor Interval Service with oil change about every 6 months or 6000 miles. This interval coincides well with the need for tire rotation and periodic inspection. The superior properties of the synthetic oils could (in a pinch) actually be pushed as far as 12 months or 10,000 miles, though we would not recommend it. The superior protection also reduces expensive mechanical failures, keeping you on the road more reliably.

Better for your vehicle

When synthetic oils were in their infancy in the 40's and 50's, the challenge was to make them as good as conventional oil. Since then, **synthetic technology has far surpassed the capabilities of regular crude.** Now, synthetics have fewer impurities, leave fewer deposits, are better for extreme driving conditions (especially temperature), offer better mileage, lower oil consumption, lower octane requirements, and more. For example, "Film Strength" is how strong the film of oil is between any moving parts. While petroleum oils have film strength of around 500 psi, synthetics average about 3000 psi, over 6 times stronger!

In modern engines with tight tolerances and high operating temperatures this extra strength is critical to extending the life of your engine. In New York taxi tests, taxis that were run 60,000 miles on synthetic oil without oil changes (but using a special filter) showed less wear than taxis using conventional oil changed every 3000 miles.

Better for the planet

Crude oil has thousands of natural impurities that can't be entirely removed in the refining process. The corrosive acids, paraffin and other waxes, heavy metals, asphalt, naphthenes and benzenes, as well as countless compounds of sulfur, chlorine, and nitrogen in crude oil mean more toxics emitted into the air with crude than with synthetics. These chemicals also pass through your catalytic converter, reducing its life and efficiency.

The actual size of the oil molecules also has an effect on emissions. Crude oil has variable size molecules, while synthetic oil's molecules are mostly the same size. In crude oil the smaller molecules are stripped away to form gunk in the engine and goo in the emissions.

Since synthetic oil is made from crude oil as a feedstock, it isn't a complete replacement for conventional oil. **The extended life of synthetic oils does reduce our dependence on crude oil.** This is good for two reasons: Environmentally, every drop of oil we don't use is a drop we don't use. This leaves carbon sequestered in the ground and not free in the atmosphere to influence global climate change. Politically, every drop of oil we don't import helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Conclusion

So why hasn't everyone already switched to synthetic oil? Some people (even professional mechanics) aren't aware that modern synthetic oils have solved the problems of their early ancestors, but the biggest reason is probably the fact that the oil itself is about twice expensive as conventional oil. This seems like a logical stumbling block, but the higher price for the synthetic oil has to be weighed against the advantages of your time savings, fewer oil changes, better mechanical performance, longer vehicle life, better mileage, lower emissions, and the environmental advantages. We think that the advantages far outweigh any perceived cost drawbacks, and recommend that you consider synthetics on your next Minor Interval Service. Like many quality products; they may cost more upfront but the long-term return makes them by far the best value.



Raising Tomorrow's Rabble Rousers Today **Summer Camp Empowers Youth Leaders for Social Change**

OK, so we're a little socially outspoken here at Tom Dwyer. One of the big issues that's repeatedly drawn Tom's frustration in the past is the apathy that too many people show when it comes to politics. We saw a large youth vote with Obama's election, but that youth interest has faded with the day-to-day reality of the Obama administration. But long before they can vote many young people take an interest in the issues around them, and a new and innovative summer camp is giving them the tools they need to make a difference.

[Youth Empowered Action Camp](#) (YEA) is an Oregon camp whose mission is to empower youth with knowledge, skills, confidence and community to address social justice issues including animal cruelty, gay rights, climate change and racism. Each camper chooses his or her area of interest and explores how they want to take action on this issue. This summer's camp will be the organization's second year in Oregon and will be held in Corbett, August 7th to the 14th.

YEA Camp is for 12 to 17 year olds who want to make a difference. The emphasis at YEA is on teaching skills kids can use to tackle social injustices in the real world. "Each camper has a mentor who will work with them to make sure they have accurate information and are connected with local or national groups working on their issue of importance," explains Nora Kramer, the Director of YEA Camp.

An example activity at camp is to have campers create their own talking points, break out into small groups and practice answering questions about their topic; not only does this give them exposure to the rhetoric of their chosen issue, but they'll be teaching one another. (This is a technique adults can apply to their activism too: Take a public-speaking class, for example, and you've got a built-in audience for your outreach efforts while polishing your skills.)

Not only is YEA Camp a powerful catalyst for youth to take action on the issues they care about, it's fun, too! The campers build strong relationships with one another and with the experienced staff, and enjoy activities such as games, hikes, scavenger hunts, and talent shows.

Here's a review from camper Clayton Davis, age 16:

"I was a camper last year and am returning this year as a Junior Camp Counselor. This camp was life changing and super fun for me last year. I completed many activities this year, which I never would have been involved in, had it not been for attending this camp. I became involved in the Environmental Action Club at my school and was instrumental in helping my school begin to become a WA State "Green" School, participated in "Jeans for Teens" campaign, attended a Boardman Coal Power Plant meeting, participated in

VegFest 2010, participated in Earth Day activities, attended benefits for YEA camp AND organized a dinner benefit raising over \$700. for scholarship funds for YEA camp. I never would have thought it possible to do these things without YEA camp. Plus I made lifetime friends that think and feel the same way I do. If you know any teens – send them to this camp – it's great! Also a big thanks to Tom Dwyer Automotive for their generous donations at my benefit! "

YEA Camp has capacity for 30 campers, and still has some spots left for campers. There's still time to apply and register at www.yeacamp.org



Tech Profile

Not everyone spins a wrench- Meet Keith Tucker, cartoonist

When you go to the [Riverfront Park Concerts](#) this summer, of course the first place you'll want to hit is the Tom Dwyer booth. Along with all the fun of past years we have something new: the chance to meet [artist Keith Tucker](#). Keith's dynamic career covers everything from mural painting to state-of-the-art special effects, and since January 2011 we've been privileged to have his unique style of political cartoons in our newsletters and on our website.

Although Keith is currently a resident of Milwaukie he started out in Los Angeles. Hollywood can be a great place for a kid, and Keith took full advantage. "I spent most of my childhood running around the CBS Studio lot, soaking up the atmosphere of the movies. I was hooked." His love for art started in his childhood as well, where he spent most of his time drawing monsters and superheroes. "My artistic heroes growing up were Wally Wood, Frank Frazetta, and Tex Avery," artists whose influence is readily apparent in Keith's current work. As his art matured he became part of the influential Los Angeles Mural Movement of the 1970's, painting murals on walls across the city.



Eventually, Los Angeles became too small of a canvas and Keith moved to Hawaii. As it turns out, this was to be a fateful move... he not only discovered a love for Tiki art that continues to this day, but he also discovered a love for Suzanne, his wife, which also continues to this day. "One of the stand-out experiences of my time in Hawaii was meeting Paul and Linda McCartney. They saw a 200-foot-long mural I'd done in downtown Honolulu and asked to meet me. I ended up painting a backdrop for their Wings Over America tour, and then being flown to LA for the tour party. Everyone was wearing white, and my friend and I painted them with airbrushes. For a 23-year-old, that was truly amazing." The Hawaiian influence stays strong in many other areas of Keith's life as well, from his love for gardening and nature, to the brightly colored shirts he frequently wears, to the "Weird Tiki Comics" that he writes and draws.



In the 1980's, Keith's childhood interest in movies drew him back to Los Angeles, this time as a storyboard artist. Given his love of movies, science fiction, and cartoons it was perhaps inevitable that Keith found himself storyboarding on productions like Star Trek, Pinky & the Brain, Robocop, Animaniacs, Addams Family, X-men, Spiderman, and many, many more. "Storyboarding is an interesting field, because each director you work with is different. Some know exactly what they are looking for in a scene, while others are looking for inspiration. Either way, a storyboard artist can have a major impact on the look and feel of a film." Keith's vision for movies has proven invaluable for the studios he has worked for, winning him one Emmy in 1998 for his work on Pinky & the Brain, and a second in 2006 for Tutenstein.

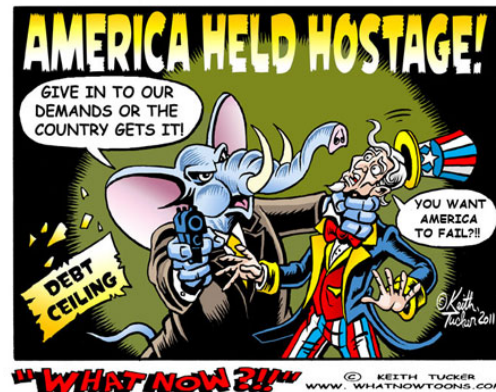
STORYBOARD BY: KEITH TUCKER



Four years ago, family issues brought Keith here to Portland (Milwaukie, actually) but that hasn't slowed him down at all. Not satisfied with his active illustration and storyboarding projects, Keith decided to enter the world of political cartoons with his weekly ["What NOW?!! Toons"](#). (We're privileged to have the new ["What NOW?!!" toon posted on our website](#) each week.) This bold and insightful one-panel strip has drawn positive notice from Progressives like Thom



Hartmann and Randi Rhodes, and investigative reporter Greg Palast said WhatNOW?!! is "Pow and



Zap right to the kissers of the Washington Junta and the media spewmeisters". Keith is also working with a collaborator on a historical graphic novel, and you can see his tiki art in a [group show at Elroy Artspace](#) through August, and... well, you get the idea. Keith may be a very busy man, but we do know where he'll be next... at our booth at the Sellwood Riverfront Concerts. We hope to see you there, too!



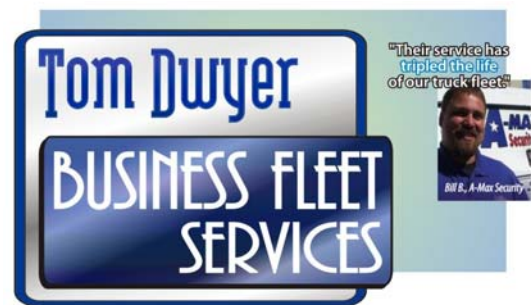
Shop Talk-

Who cares about your company's vehicles?

We do everything we can to make sure our clients receive top-of-the-line mechanical service for their vehicles and personal service for themselves. We hope we succeed, and we hope that's what keeps you coming back. But, did you know this same level of service is available for your company's business vehicles as well?

In business, vehicles are more than just a convenience... every second they're off the road costs the company money. Whether your company's fleet is one car or twenty, you shouldn't settle for unplanned breakdowns or fix-on-fail repairs. Our individual clients rely on our organized maintenance programs to keep their vehicles on the road reliably, and that same organized approach can have even greater advantages for businesses.

Organization means vehicles get the attention they need proactively, letting the company schedule necessary maintenance time in advance rather than working around unplanned breakdowns. Your company's vehicles stay on the road more often and in the shop less often. Minor problems are caught before they become major ones, reducing the overall cost of repairs and letting the company budget in advance when big-ticket repairs are necessary. Organized, planned maintenance makes sure that a company squeezes every mile out of its major equipment investment.



There's a heavy overlap between our Individual and Fleet Service, but because businesses have such specialized requirements for their vehicles, there are several features that help tailor our Fleet services specifically to business needs. These include coordinated schedules for multiple vehicles, ongoing fleet vehicle reviews, payment terms with discounts for early payment, options for heavy-duty parts, and more.

Our Fleet service has already proven itself with many satisfied business clients. One of these clients, Bill Blanchard of A-Max Security, said "Before Tom we kept trucks an average of 3 years, maybe 4 on the outside, and then typically we'd have to get rid of them. Now the oldest truck in our fleet is 10 years old. At this point we've almost tripled the life expectancy of our trucks by taking them to Tom Dwyer."

Think your company is too small for Fleet service? Small companies have the most to lose from unreliable vehicles, and establishing a strong maintenance program while your company is small will set a strong standard as it grows. Don't own a company? Suggest our service to the company where you work, and let them benefit from the same service you expect from Tom Dwyer Automotive. If you appreciate the dedication, service, and expertise we provide to our individual clients, we'd like you to consider bringing the same level of professionalism to your company's business vehicles.



Health Notes-

Mmmm.... crunchlets!

Many people think choosing foods with blueberries in them can boost antioxidant intake. That's true, but only if blueberries are actually in the food. You may want to take a second look at the label to be sure. Popular breakfast products from cereals to bagels to PopTarts advertise blueberries in the name and prominently display pictures of them on the box, but the things conspicuously missing might be the blueberries themselves.

Mike Adams, with the Food Investigations branch of the non-profit Consumer Wellness Center, looked into the issue. One of the products he focused on was Total Blueberry Pomegranate Cereal by General Mills, which does not contain blueberries or pomegranates. It does contain blue red dye #40, blue dye #2, sucralose, sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, and brown sugar syrup. Sadly, General Mills was hardly alone in their deception. Whether the other products called their imitation blueberries "blueberry *bits*", "blueberry *crunchlets*", or something else, they all had the same cast of artificial sweeteners, sugars, artificial food dyes, hydrogenated vegetable oils, and artificial flavors.

Why would companies want to trick consumers into thinking they are buying something healthy? Because it feeds their bottom line. Real blueberries can be quite expensive but artificial blueberries made from sugar are very inexpensive. The companies pocket the difference.

The good news is there are companies that actually use whole food blueberries in their ingredients. For example, Nature's Path Organic Optimum Blueberry, Cinnamon Breakfast Cereal contains both real blueberries and cinnamon! Next time you grab a box of something that you assume contains what the pictures and words are advertising; make sure you check the ingredients. The least processed foods are the best when choosing options for healthful eating.

Further information-

[Blueberries faked in cereals, muffins, bagels and other food products-](#) (Video) TheHealthRanger, 6/18/11

[General Mills Total Mind Games-](#) (Audio satire of call to GM Customer Services)



Drew's Kitchen

Pearson's Pizza... with variations

Pizza is a great summer treat, and the possibilities for taste combinations are only limited by your imagination. Pre-made pizza shells, available at most supermarkets, take the hardest part out of pizza preparation and leave all the creativity with ingredients to you. Here's one of my favorite combinations, and I think you'll like it too. But beware... be sure to follow the stacking order of the ingredients below. I've experimented with other ways to layer the ingredients, and had problems with soggy crusts!

Ingredients:

8 white mushrooms (about 4 ounces)
3 teaspoons olive oil
1 large pizza shell (12-inch round)
6 thin slices turkey (or ham)

2 medium-sized tomato, thinly sliced
Coarsely ground black pepper to taste
3 teaspoons chopped parsley or basil
6 thin slices Swiss cheese (about 2 ounces)

To Prepare:

- Preheat oven to 450°F.
- Wipe mushrooms clean and trim stems; slice.
- Heat oil in a small skillet. Add mushroom slices and cook over high heat for 2 minutes, shaking skillet. Reserve.
- Cover pizza shell with turkey slices. Top with sliced mushrooms and tomato. Sprinkle with pepper and parsley to taste. Top with cheese.
- Bake 8 to 10 minutes, or until cheese is golden and bubbly. Garnish with remaining parsley. Serve immediately.

Variations:

- This is a topping well worth the extra effort- Sauté about a pound of thinly sliced mushrooms in a tablespoon of butter and ¼ cup of white wine. Spoon onto the pizza just before serving. Again, beware... use too much and you'll have the soggy crust problem again.
- If you like a Southwestern taste to your pizza, substitute slices of smoked chicken breast and Monterey Jack Cheese, then sprinkle with chopped cilantro.
- Create a great Italian taste with prosciutto and mozzarella.



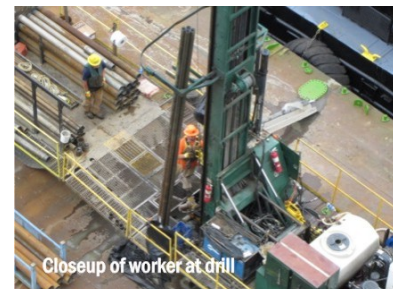
Sellwood Bridge Update **THEY STARTED!!!**

Just a quick update this month... THEY'VE STARTED! It's not the major on-land construction yet; in fact, it's probably not even in-water construction because the bridge engineering isn't done yet. They're probably just gathering the data they'll need to finish the engineering, but there are definitely a signs of life. But the important thing is THEY ACTUALLY STARTED! There was drilling during the week of July 5 - 8 in the gravel parking lot on the south side of the Staff Jennings parking lot. Also, if you look to the north side of the bridge you'll see an in-water drilling rig, which is expected to continue until the last week of July and at times through October. Drilling can take place between 7:30 am and 5 pm Mondays through Fridays.

In other Bridge news, the County officially voted to proceed with the "Shoo Fly" option for building the new bridge. This will involve building temporary supports about 40' to the north of the existing bridge, cutting the existing bridge, and moving it to the new supports where it will act as a bypass bridge while the new bridge is constructed. This will be a much quicker and less expensive option than originally planned, and will save about \$5-10 million off the project's \$42 million shortfall. Construction is planned to start in July 2012, although real in-water construction could begin as early as December 2011.

(If you want more details on the ShooFly, check out our [Sellwood Bridge Update from April 2011](#), which includes this [video of the ShooFly being implemented in Elkton, OR.](#))

Here are the latest pictures from our crumbly landmark...





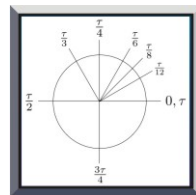
Popcorn Shorts

Cool and important stuff that's too short for a big article



Bernie Sanders' letter to President Obama

August 2 is coming like a freight train, and we'll soon find out what our "representatives" will do after they've backed themselves into their respective corners. [Bernie Sanders, independent Senator from Vermont](#) and one of the strongest voices for a sensible, people-centered agenda, is a little worried that Obama and the rest of the Dems may cave yet again to the Pubs. He wrote a simple, strongly worded letter that "encourages" them to stand strong. If you want to join the 92,455 people that have signed on as of 1048am on July 1, then just click [here](#).



The Geekiest story you'll ever read

If you remember pi, the Greek letter that pops up from your nightmares of high school math, then here's a message for you- [pi is a lie](#). It's not wrong as such, but it unnecessarily complicates geometry, trigonometry, polar coordinates, and much more. If you replace pi with the constant tau (equal to twice pi, or 6.28...) then all these problems go away. In 2001 Bob Palais wrote an essay called ["Pi is wrong!"](#) that explained the benefits of tau, and on Tau Day 2010 (6/28) Michael Hartl released [The Tau Manifesto](#) explaining why we need to make the change. If you are an engineer, mathematician, or anyone else who uses pi then you'll find some really interesting thinking in his article.

If you aren't a math geek, there's still something for you. Strangely, pi and tau make good music! You probably know that pi (and therefore tau) are irrational, infinite, non-repeating numbers. If you assign the digits from 1-9 to an 8-note octave and then play them, both pi and tau create music. It's hard to explain but easy to listen to. Try one of these renditions...

["What Tau sounds like"](#) by Michael John Blake

["What Pi sounds like"](#) by Michael John Blake

["The Pi symphony, the Ruse performance, movement 1"](#) by Lars Erickson

["The Pi symphony, the Ruse performance, movement 2"](#) by Lars Erickson

(Added interest- Lars Erickson is suing Michael John Blake for copyright infringement on his symphony, claiming the melody generated by the digits of pi is actually his melody, but you'll have to [follow this developing story](#) yourself.)



Endless War Act Moves Through Congress

You may be one of the few people who has paid attention to HR1540, the National Defense Authorization Act. Even if you are, you probably don't know about Section 1034, which (among other things) confirms that we are at war with terrorists until the last one is dead. We won't even editorialize on this, instead handing the stage over to a guest writer this month who will... Abraham Lincoln.

"Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so, whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such purpose -- and you allow him to make war at pleasure. Study to see if you can fix any limit to his power in this respect, after you have given him so much as you propose. If, today, he should choose to say he thinks it necessary to invade Canada, to prevent the British from invading us, how could you stop him? You may say to him, "I see no probability of the British invading us" but he will say to you "be silent; I see it, if you don't." The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress, was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons: Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us." *-A. Lincoln*

Here's the actual text of Section 1034...

"Congress affirms that--

- (1) the United States is engaged in an armed conflict with al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and associated forces and that those entities continue to pose a threat to the United States and its citizens, both domestically and abroad;
- (2) the President has the authority to use all necessary and appropriate force during the current armed conflict with al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and associated forces pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note);
- (3) the current armed conflict includes nations, organization, and persons who--
 - (A) are part of, or are substantially supporting, al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners; or
 - (B) have engaged in hostilities or have directly supported hostilities in aid of a nation, organization, or person described in subparagraph (A); and
- (4) the President's authority pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) includes the authority to detain belligerents, including persons described in paragraph (3), until the termination of hostilities."

For more detailed analysis, check out any of the following sources...

[H.R.1540 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012](#) (Includes full bill text, vote tallies, progress through Congress)

[H.R. 1540: the controversial "worldwide war" text](#), Includes comparison of text of Section 1034 of HB1540 with Authorization of Military Force (2001), Authorization of Military Force against Iraq (2002), and the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)

[House Passes Bill Authorizing Worldwide War As Momentum Builds Against It](#), ACLU.org, May 26, 2011

[House Prepares to Give President Authority to Wage War Anywhere, Anytime](#), -David Wallechinsky, Noel Brinkerhoff, Government in the Lab,

[Obama's Promise to Veto 'Worldwide War' Bill Rings Hollow](#), Paul Joseph Watson, Prison Planet.com, Friday, May 27, 2011

[Republicans in Congress to Crown Obama King](#), By David Swanson, 19 May 2011

[The Worst Bill Ever in Congress](#), David Swanson, WarIsACrime.org, 24 May 2011

[Obama's Promise to Veto 'Worldwide War' Bill Rings Hollow](#), Paul Joseph Watson, Prison Planet.com, Friday, May 27, 2011 (With video of Ron Paul on House Floor)

[National Defense Authorization Bill H.R 1540? Gives President the Right to Continue Wars Without Approval? Also to Declare War Within America Itself](#), May 16, 2011 by Mark Schumacher



National Debt Clock

As you've probably heard, Dems and Pubs are fighting over whether or not to raise the debt ceiling. But our debt, deficit, and other factors in our national budget can be a little hard to wrap our heads around. The [US Debt Clock](#) is an amazing graphic that shows the US Debt in all it's horrendous complexity, including your individual share and 67 other relevant details. It also has a "Debt Clock Time Machine" that lets you look at past and future debt, Debt Clocks for each state, and Debt Clocks for many countries around the world. Beware, though, it can be hypnotizing!



MediCare For All Is Here At Last!

Yes! MediCare for all is HERE! Brought to you by... Senator Max Baucus? Wait, isn't that the guy who called for "more police" to arrest the people who attended his hearing to even ask about single payer healthcare? Don't worry, this program is only for the people in Libby, Montana, who... well, you just have to [read this article to find out more.](#)



Listen to the millionaires!

Regardless of what the right-wing punditocracy would have you believe, the Progressive agenda is not driven by irrational jealousy of the rich, nor is the Republican agenda driven by freedom. [Here are several millionaires who've had enough, and are speaking out.](#) Best line? "Rich people are not the cause of a robust economy, they're the result of a robust economy!" Share this with your friends!



News To Make You Furious

What's the latest on the Fukushima disaster?

If you don't know the latest on the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan, you're not alone. While we're subjected to non-stop coverage of Anthony Weiner or the Casey Anthony trial, one of the largest environmental disasters in human history is still radiating away, unabated and ignored, on the Japanese coast. If you're not furious about Fukushima, it's probably because you haven't heard any of these stories...

Fukushima- The elephant in the room

AFACEAFACE, Jun 13, 2011

"Last week the Japanese government made startling announcements. Three of the five reactors experienced total meltdowns on March 11th, the day of the initial earthquake, and all three reactors have "melted through" leaky containment vessels, molten masses of melted fuel rods now fissioning on the basement floors of those reactors. The statement further confessed that levels of radiation released from the explosions were actually twice as high as initially reported, blaming the miscalculation on bad math..."

Fukushima: It's much worse than you think

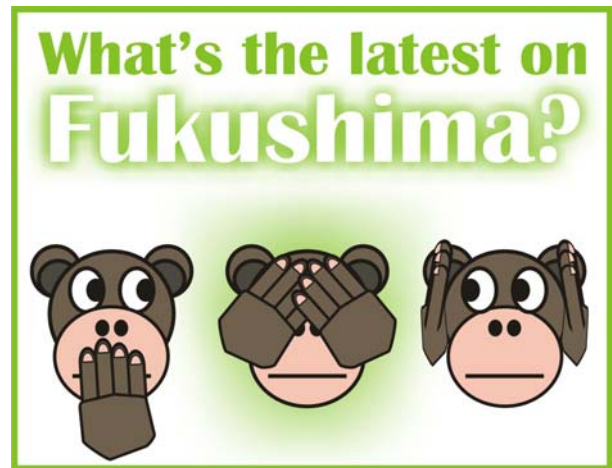
Dahr Jamail, 16 Jun 2011 12:50

Fairewinds Associates

Fairewinds Associates is a website run by [Arnie Gunderson](#), a nuclear engineer who became an industry whistleblower and analyst. His coverage of Fukushima has been called "the best available", and one article of particular interest to the West Coast is [here](#).

ENENews

ENE Energy news was started to keep tabs on the Fukushima disaster, but now carries info on the Ft. Calhoun and Cooper reactors as well. (Didn't know about them? They're two reactors in Nebraska in danger of being washed away by the Midwest flooding.)



Japan admits 3 nuclear meltdowns,

Democracy Now, June 10, 2011 (video)

Nuclear Nightmare Worsens

AFACEAFACE, Jun 21, 2011

Japan declares no-go zone around crippled Fukushima nuclear plant

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Thursday, April 21st 2011, 4:00 AM

Nuclear meltdowns nearly made northern Japan uninhabitable

By David Worthington, June 7, 2011, 4:50 PM PDT

Japan Strains to Fix a Reactor Damaged Before Quake-

HIROKO TABUCHI, NY Times, 6/17/11

Japan has been trying to repair the Monju reactor since "...a 3.3-ton device crashed into the reactor's inner vessel, cutting off access to the plutonium and uranium fuel rods at its core."

...and the media silence is not going unnoticed...

Deadly Silence on Fukushima-

Vivian Norris, 05/ 9/11 05:05 AM ET

Analysis of the lack of media coverage

Fukushima meltdown – Caldicott says Japan may become uninhabitable – media silent

Independent Australian, Tuesday, 31 May 2011