



Tom's Tidbits

Two reasons 2014 is already better than 2013

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Our Year In Review

Our annual roundup of all our Feature articles from this year



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Earn \$250 or more for the groups you care about



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Local, rational radio is almost back in Portland

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A full year of fine dining

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Humorousness

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A year of Popcorn in one bucket!

News To Make You Furious

A year of rage on just one page!



Tom's Tidbits

Two reasons 2014 is already better than 2013



Greetings!

...and our best wishes for a Happy 2014 for everyone!

January means taking stock of the past and looking forward to the future, and either way we look there are good things to see. Our newsletter this month features our look back at all our stories from 2013. From the big stories of our Feature articles, through Drew's full menu, Keith's year-long funny page, or the full year of Furious, you'll find it all wrapped up in a bow. But of course, I'm more excited about the future. Just here in the opening weeks of the new year there are already two things to look forward to... one will correct an egregious wrong we've been living with for more than a year, and the other will mean money in the pockets of deserving non-profits...

The first big event is for all of Portland. XRAY-FM is stepping forward to fill the abandoned shoes of local talk radio. It's not a rumor anymore, they've blown away their Kickstarter goal of \$40K and they'll definitely be on the air, probably starting in mid-February. You'll hear familiar voices like Thom Hartmann and Carl Wolfson, but you'll also hear new shows from Jefferson Smith, Adam Klugman, and more. XRAY is planning to augment the talk radio with local music curated by an impressive array of DJs and musicians. It's going to be something entirely new on the radio dial, a resource currently not found in Portland, and possibly the beginnings of something that could spread far beyond just our city. We hope you check it out at your first opportunity, and I promise to keep you informed on their progress (starting with this month's article on it).

The second big event hits a little closer to home. One of our Feature articles this month describes our new Referral Reward Program, designed to reward your generous referrals with contributions to the non-profit groups of your choice. You'll want to read the article for all the details, but basically we'll donate up to \$50 to a group you pick for every new client who comes in and gives your name as a referral. Not only that, but we'll make an additional quarterly donation of up to \$250 and a yearly donation of up to \$500 in the name of the person with the most referrals! We're sure this program will be a great boon to everyone involved.

Again, on behalf of all of us here at the shop, I'd like to extend our warmest wishes for a happy new year for you and your families. We appreciate your support through the years, and we'll do our best to justify your continued support going forward. And we look forward to seeing you throughout 2014 and beyond!

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

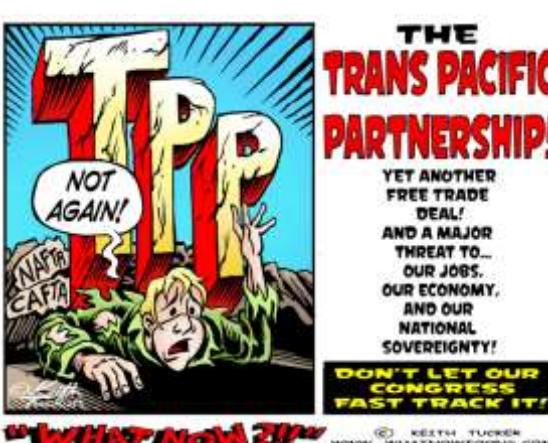
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's Toons-of-the-Year



We like to brag that we're the "only auto repair shop in the country with our own political cartoonist", and Keith Tucker is the man who makes that boast possible. Keith has graced our newsletters with his own take on issues of the day since 2011, and we plan to see the work of his eloquent pen for years to come. Here's what he's done for us just this year, but don't settle for just these... read [our full profile of Keith here](#), or better yet, check out his website at TuckerToons.com for the totality of Tucker Toons trappings. Toodle-oo!





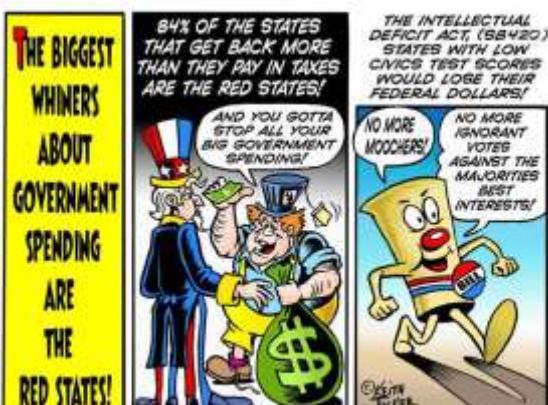
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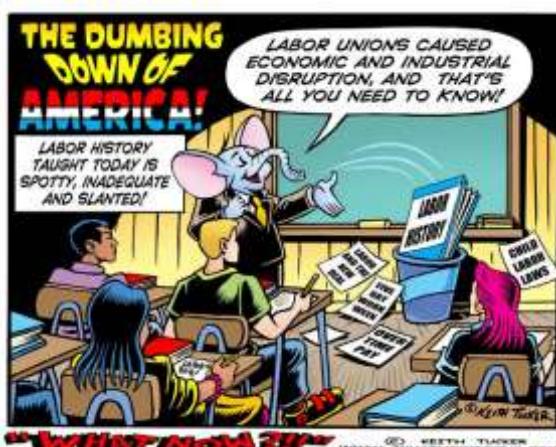
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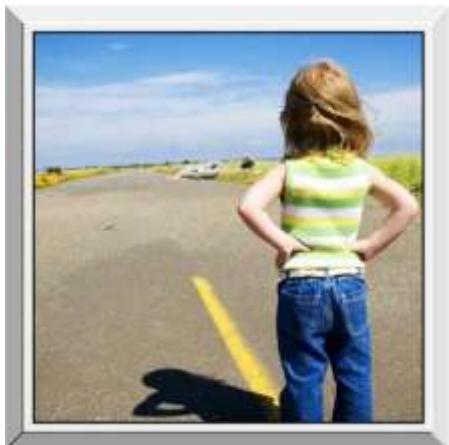


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The Year In Review

What caught our attention for our Feature articles



You probably already realize this, but we never get tired of repeating it... our newsletter is not like any other out there. It's easy to "unsubscribe" from the mountain of email lists you're on, so if we want the privilege of being on your non-spam list then we'd better make it worth your while. We try to set ourselves apart with some really unusual columns and sparkling wit in our writing, but one of the biggest differences is what we cover in our Feature articles. Politics, economics, art, technology, and more, you'll find it all in our Features. Want proof? Here's everything you missed in 2013's *Your Car Matters* Features...

January



With the opening of the New Year came the first full closure of the Sellwood Bridge as it was, unbelievably, *scooted over 60 feet* to make room for construction of the new bridge! [From traffic analysis to alternate routes, we were all over this historic event](#). January also gave us the chance to [look back at 2012 with our second Year In Review of our Feature articles](#). Political coverage was heavy in 2012 including

interviews with Jefferson Smith and Steve Novick, ongoing coverage of Occupy, and, of course, the Presidential election. We also had articles on the Postal Service, what we owe to Veterans, and the Price-Anderson act, but the blow-out lead article from 2012 was our look at the November closure of KPOJ. We put this behind-the-scenes article together with some resources to weather the station's loss together on our [KPOJ Debacle Page](#), which has been viewed over 5500 times since it was published.

February



The events of late 2012 and early 2013 continued to drive our content in February. With the successful completion of the Bridge Move we brought you [a photo essay documenting the big day](#). And, as Portland struggled to deal without Progressive Radio a KPOJ veteran stepped up to make sure it didn't die completely. Carl Wolfson started his own internet radio show, Carl In The Morning, and we were there to [bring you the inside scoop as he returned to the air](#). Well, it was the Intertubes in February but it will be the air this January as Carl returns with [XRAY-FM](#)... count on us to keep you posted!

March



Our business is built around spending your money as wisely as possible to achieve your goals, and that penny-pinching sense seemed strong in March. Our first Feature article told you [how to get a free \(you read that right, FREE\) solar power system for your home](#). We followed that with our new [Automotive Amnesty program which allowed clients to take steep discounts on repairs they'd been putting off](#).

Automotive Amnesty was a huge success, and you can expect to see it again in 2014. We closed by reminding you about [our Carbon Neutral Program, which allows you to save 10% on labor costs at the shop](#)

[while offsetting the carbon production of your vehicle](#). Your \$50 membership cost can easily be offset by your savings on just one major repair, to say nothing of the benefits of a clean conscience. This is just one of [our MoneySaving programs](#) designed to save you money on auto repair in a fair and intelligent way. If you haven't checked them out yet, you should really treat yourself!

April



We got "In The Groove of Love" in April as a proud sponsor of the [Healthcare Blues Festival](#). Norman Sylvester headed the bill at the Melody Ballroom with Richard Arnold, LaRhonda Steele, Lloyd Allen, Chata Addy, and many more. Unless ObamaCare heals our national health care crisis, Health Care For All Oregon

will be back with another show in 2014... we'll see you there. "Labor pains" may be common in the world of medicine, but our second April Feature was about something different... [the labor costs of repairing your vehicle](#). We explained how bad engineering can increase the labor costs of repairs, and how you can make the best of bad labor situations. Our April Fools Day article described one of the most overlooked pieces of legislation in 2013, the IDEA or [Intellectual Deficit Equalization Act](#). This powerful rule would have taxed states where the people were just too stupid to vote in their own interests and moved the proceeds to states where rational people live. Ah, well... the best laws never really get made.

May



In May we introduced you to a company you should know about, [Better World Club](#). This alternative to AAA provides all the roadside assistance you expect from AAA, but without the petroleum-industry and auto-industry lobbying you may not want to support. BWC also offers roadside assistance to bicyclists, a big

benefit in Portland. We're still working with BWC, so ask about the services they offer the next time you come in. Our "[Charity Begins at Home](#)" article gave you some tips about wise giving to charities, and our "[Best Used Car Buying Advice](#)" article gave you the info you need when you go into battle with the Used Car Dealers.

June



As June began, rallies were happening around the country and around the world against Monsanto and its GMO products. Do you remember hearing about them? [No one else does either, because they got shockingly little coverage in the mainstream media](#). Readers of *Your Car Matters* stayed ahead of the

curve, though. We also brought you news about "[Bye Bye Birdie](#)", the big 2013 show for Phame Academy, Portland's unique program offering arts, music, and theatre opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. We wrapped up with [an article by philosopher Michael Sandel at Harvard](#), asking if there are some things shouldn't be profit driven, and how you would tell the difference.

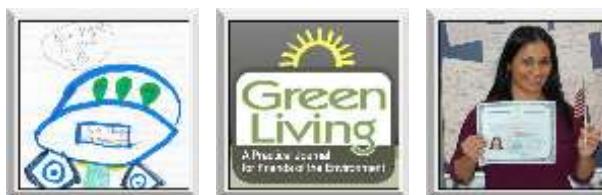
July



The explosive revelations of Edward Snowden began in June, and by July they were becoming too big to ignore. They were also becoming too big to keep track of, a problem that has continued as the revelations continue to come out. [Our July article, "Orwell was an optimist"](#), rounded up thinking from many sources on

the biggest issues Snowden brought forth. We had sections on the facts themselves, political investigations, the FISA court, opinion and analysis, whistleblowers in general, world reaction, press freedom to cover the allegations, distractions to Snowden's revelations, the increasing size of Big Brother, answers to the fallacious "I don't have anything to hide" argument, and what small steps you could take to protect yourself from the NSA. And you can bet we'll be keeping our eye on Ed in the future. On more auto related topics we told you how to [understand the blaze of "Idiot Lights"](#) you see every time you crank your car, and we explained our much-misunderstood "[1998 and newer](#)" and [why it isn't for everyone](#).

August



In August we gave you a glimpse of the future with our [kids "Car of the Future" contest](#). We do this contest every year at the Sellwood Parks Concerts, and ask kids to tell us what the future of transportation will look like. The answers are always surprising and entertaining, like this [design for an Ice-skating car](#).

We also got an opportunity to explain one of the basic assumptions of our business in Green Living Magazine, when they asked us to write an article on "[why maintenance is cheaper than repair](#)". The article, not coincidentally, also appeared in our newsletter this month. Our final article gave you the chance to [match wits with a Dwyer employee in taking a US citizenship test](#). We did pretty well, but then we didn't have the future of ourselves and our families riding on our results.

September



Many of our articles evolve from situations we encounter here at the shop. In August we had a huge water bill, so we started looking for ways to cut it. Although we didn't find any way to cut ours, [we did find several tips that could help you cut your own](#) and we shared them with you in September. We also

[recommended one of our underrated columns to you, Shop Talk](#). Not many people read this one, but it's where you can keep up on Shop events like Automotive Amnesty, Free Carwash Season, Free Coffee Season, and more. We also have the NTSA recall lists and some of the funny happenings around the shop, and we're always adding more features so we hope you check it out from time to time. We finished September with [a report on Abdulelah Haider Shaye](#), a Yemeni journalist who had the unique idea of finding out whether reality matched up with what we're told in the papers. It didn't, and he paid quite a price for his curiosity. It's a story few people know about, and we hope you take the time to read it.

October



October brought our Halloween issue, although not every article was scary. Our first Feature this month explained why, although it may seem convenient, [waiting for work to be performed on your vehicle is rarely a good idea](#). We settled down into terror after that with the classic [Automotive Horror Story about](#)

[the person who never changed their oil](#), and finished up the month with a [gallery of Halloween costumes for dogs](#). Well, not every article can be world-shaking!

November



We're very proud that [ALL of our staff \(currently 9 techs and 4 Service Advisors\)](#) are either ASE-Certified or ASE-Master-Certified. This is almost unheard of in the auto industry, and we do it because we understand exactly why they're superior to the stereotypical "Goober under a shade tree". However,

it can be hard to explain this difference to people outside the industry. In November, a typical but complex repair came into the shop, and [the creativity of one of our techs gave us exactly the opportunity we'd been missing to explain why Certified Techs are worthwhile](#). Our second Feature involved KPOJ again, but this time the Sports Version. This was their year for license renewal, so [we started a petition to deny the renewal](#). 338 people signed, and we forwarded the signatures on to the FCC on Jan 1. Finally, we told you about the promise Obama made 6 months earlier to come clean on the US drone program. Actually, we could *only* tell you about the promise because as [Cora Currier pointed out in ProPublica, no new information has actually been revealed](#).

December



We closed out 2013 with an article entitled "[Who do you trust](#)"? Our advice to one client was significantly different from the advice he received from the manufacturer on the Web, so he wrote a slightly irate letter to ask why he should believe our advice over theirs and why he should come back to us. We

explained why we stood behind our recommendations, how his vehicle ownership goals affect the advice we gave, and why he should indeed come back. We think it's one of the most important business-related articles we've written in a while, and we hope you check it out. We also kept you posted on the [last minutes of the "Deny KPOJ" petition](#) and the people who had jumped on the bandwagon, and we put all our best tire buying advice in one place with the article "[Does baby need a new pair of shoes?](#)"

...and that brings to a close our review of our Feature articles from 2013. We're already planning some interesting articles for 2014, and you can be sure that events will prompt more coverage from our somewhat unique perspective. To stay informed, please stay tuned to *Your Car Matters* in 2014!

Referral Reward Program

Earn for the groups you care about



Every business has marketing materials, but unlike some other businesses we try to make ours both interesting AND useful. This newsletter is one example; while we certainly tell you about business stuff we also try to combine it with larger things you might actually care about. Another example is our Charitable Giving Calendar. In the past years we've used it to spotlight deserving non-profits organizations you might not know about, give them a little boost, and introduce our company to some new people in the process. We love win-win scenarios like this but it seemed the Calendar wasn't having the impact we wanted, so we decided to try something

new that we hope will be even more beneficial for everyone involved...

Year after year, referrals from our existing clients are our greatest source of new clients, so we've been trying to think of some way to appropriately reward people for their referrals. Our solution is to combine a new push for referrals with our Charitable Giving Calendar concept to create our Referral Reward Program. Here's how it works...

- For every new client you refer to us we'll **donate 20% (up to \$50) of the qualifying purchases from their first invoice** to the non-profit group of your choice.
- Each quarter we'll highlight the client and group with the most referrals in our newsletter and **make an additional of up to \$200.00 donation to their cause**.
- At the end of the year we'll highlight the client and group with the highest total referrals in our newsletter and **make an additional of up to \$500.00 donation to their cause**.
- We'll be thankful for anyone you send us, but all their services might not qualify for their donation totals. **Oil changes, tires, and batteries won't count** toward their qualifying purchases.

There are some [basic restrictions we've posted on our website](#), but it's really just that simple. So please, keep telling your friends, family members, and co-workers about us! With your help, just like with our Charitable Giving Calendar, everyone will win. And that's the best kind of marketing for ANY company!

Countdown to XRAY-FM

Local, rational radio is almost back in Portland



It's been over a year since Portland lost KPOJ. For 444 days we've limped along without Carl, Thom, Ed, Randi, and the rest. But the clouds are beginning to break, and there's a ray of sunshine coming through. XRAY-FM, broadcasting at 91.1 FM, is [finishing up their Kickstarter campaign today](#) and they're doing it in style. The program was planned at \$40,000 to get the station on the air, but yesterday they were over \$83,000 and trending toward \$90,000. They'll be bringing back Carl Wolfson and Thom Hartmann, Jefferson Smith will have a new show, Adam Klugman will be back, and they have a chorus of new voices as well. And one more big thing... rumor

is that you'll be hearing from Tom Dwyer once again!

XRAY is one of the stations created when the [Local Community Radio Act authorized the FCC to create low power FM stations in 2011](#). Licenses for these stations were granted to non-profit and community groups rather than the corporate media conglomerates who currently dominate the radio dial. Because the stations are non-profit, they won't be able to accept advertising and will operate on a similar model to OPB. They'll be much lower power (hence the name) than the big commercial stations, only covering about a 5-mile radius of their tower. Still, this will give XRAY a good coverage of downtown Portland with some bleed beyond, and they are trying to develop an app that would make the station available to anyone with a computer. If things go according to plan, XRAY will hit the airwaves in mid-February.

We've been keeping tabs on the new station, but rather than write about it ourselves we're going to let some of the other people who've been watching it tell you what they're thinking. The most recent article came from [Marjorie Skinner at the Portland Mercury...](#)

"If there's any question in your mind that Portland is ready for a new progressive community radio station, take a look at XRAY.FM. They've blown their [Kickstarter fundraiser](#) out of the water—as of this writing they've raised over \$70,000, with their original goal having only been \$40,000, so now they're going for 80k. They've also made a fresh video about how they'll use this monetary surplus, which features a puglie and a young lady with a boom mic. The new, more financed plans include an upgraded, larger studio that will allow them to air live interviews and performances (yes please), and enhance the overall vision of a station that 'ignites both hemispheres of the brain with music, talk, culture, and more.'"

She goes on...

"The scope of what they plan to cover is delightfully wide, including "food, history, comedy, music, and game changers... The groundbreaking Lund Report will bring you health policy news. Carla Axtman from Blue Oregon and former KPOJ wildcard Adam Klugman will report current events. Bitch Media will bring their feminist perspective to pop culture with Popaganda. Listeners will enjoy Kickass Oregon History's take on our past. We will innovate with new shows, including programs

from Native American voices, a Non-Profit Hour, a 'Millennial Retort' focusing on next generation doers, and a food report from Feast co-founders Carrie Welch and Mike Thelin."

An earlier [article in Willamette Week](#) described the beginnings of the Kickstarter campaign, and Jefferson Smith described where the funds would go...

"XRAY.FM now has enough money to hit the airwaves in January, but Smith encourages Portlanders to keep giving. More donations could buy it "a station bigger than a breadbox," Smith says. The current studio at ActiveSpace has "no bathroom, no office, no room to walk or interview more than a person at a time, and close quarters," Smith says. "We're scoping space now."

One of the big features of XRAY is that, unlike KPOJ, they'll be mixing music into their programming. An [article in the Oregonian](#) gave a peek at what's coming on that front...

"Who'll be playing music on XRAY? According to music director Aaron Hall, the list so far includes Maggie Vail of music/tech start-up CASH Music, club DJs Rev Shines, Beyonda and Cooky Parker, Ben Hubbird (CD Baby, Party Damage), representatives from labels, venues and promoters including Mississippi Records, Beacon Sound, PDX Pop Now!, Holocene, Smoke Signals and Kenny Fresh, whose Fresh Selects label has been an incubator for Portland hip-hop.

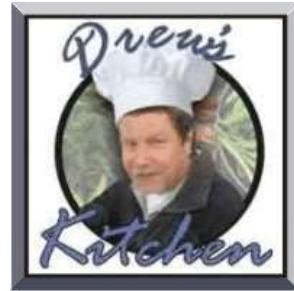
"We're avid listeners and strong supporters of OPB, KZME, KBOO and KMHD," Hall said over email of XRAY's place in the Portland scene. "There's still plenty of room on the dial for numerous under or unrepresented styles and tastemakers. Portland is a beacon of culture, music and progressive politics and deserves far more outlets for exposure than it currently has. Our primary commitment is to mirror the ideals and tastes of the city we love."

We're excited to see XRAY coming back not only because it marks the return of a balance to monolithic corporate media, but because it is a LOCAL (perhaps hyper-local with its low-power signal) station as well. It gives people and businesses in Portland a chance to build a community, share information, and actually benefit from the public airwaves.

If you want to help support XRAY you have only a few hours left on [their KickStarter campaign](#), but we're sure they'll appreciate your support well after. To learn more about the station go [here](#), follow [XRAY on Facebook](#), or check out their website when they get it finished. Or better yet, just tune into the station when it hits the air in about 28 days! 27... 26... 25... 24...

Drew's Kitchen

A full year of fine dining



Why, why, why would anyone get recipes from an auto shop? Because if the recipes come from Drew's Kitchen you know they'll hit the spot. Year after year, Drew scours his own recipe box (and other sources) for the delicious and easy-to-make recipes that are the centerpiece of any meal. If you missed any of these recipes in 2013, please give them a try and we promise you'll be among the legions of fans waiting to find out what's coming from the Kitchen each month...

[December- Cheddar scalloped potatoes](#)

[November- Southern sweet potato casserole with praline topping](#)

[October- Treats from beyond the grave](#)

[September- Jake's World Famous Cedar Plank Salmon](#)

[August- California crab sandwich](#)

[July- Kelley's Creamed Potatoes & Peas](#)

[June- Pork and Portobello burgers](#)

[May- Lemon and thyme grilled pork chops](#)

[April- Shiitake Mushroom Extravaganza](#)

[March- Asian-style Peanut Noodles](#)

[February- Classic Cheese Fondue](#)

[January 2012 full menu](#)

Shop Talk

A whole year of hangin' out at the shop



“Shop Talk” is where the rubber meets the road for our newsletter. It’s news about events actually happening in our own shop, mixed in with a little auto info here and there. It’s where we announce any discounts we may be running, any contests we may be having, or tell you any stories about unusual happenings. We added a couple new features this year and we have plans for more new ones next year, so please stop by from time to time for a virtual chat with our guys. Here’s what you missed in 2013...

[January](#), just like this year, was our look back at last year. In 2012 we told you about “The Scan Scam”, explained why we changed our tire rotation policy (it’s for your safety), explained yet again why we don’t pave the lot or wash your car, and came clean on all our BAD reviews. Quite a year in the rearview mirror!

In [February](#) we explained how to look into the future, and how to know what evil mechanical jack-in-the-boxes are waiting to pop out from under your hood.

In [March](#) we reminded you to keep an eye on your oil level between oil changes. Cars leak oil, and the older they get the worse the leaks get. Checking once or twice between changes keeps the leaks from adding up to an empty crankcase.

[April](#) marked the beginning of another Free Carwash Season, and for April Fools Day we told you about [Kale Auto, your source for “rare, unusual, and hard-to-find auto parts”](#). You just have to check it out to understand.

In [May](#) we ran a special Pre-Summer Discount to encourage you to get your vehicle in shape BEFORE the demanding Summer driving season.

In [June](#) not much was going on, so we told you about the sad fate of a rodent we found trapped behind a client’s bumper. Strangely, this was one of the most popular Shop Talks we’d ever had!

In [July](#) we passed on tips for worry-free Summer road trips. On the heels of our successful June rodent story we also told you a story about a kitten who got trapped INSIDE a car’s engine for a 1000-mile trip. (BTW, the kitten came out much better than the rodent). We also began featuring a list of the month’s automotive recalls from the NHTSA.

In [August](#) we said goodbye to one of our Master Techs, Mike Launder, who left us to join Tesla Motors working on the next generation of electric vehicles.

[September](#) saw the debut of a new Moneysaving Program, Automotive Amnesty. Clients could save 15% on labor charges for repair recommendations that had been building up in their maintenance files. We also ended Free Carwash Season for 2013 and told you that beginning in 2014 consumers would be able to search a new database for vehicle repairs and recalls.

[October](#) was pretty quiet as Automotive Amnesty continued, we told you how important Referrals are to us, and we gave you another Auto Recall list.

In [November](#) we laid out our holiday schedule and told you why cleaning leaves off your windshield cowling does more than keep your vehicle looking sharp.

We closed out the year in **December** by answering a client's question about our position on Washington 522 and telling you the fate of the Tom Dwyer Dart Team, "The Mechanics". Trust us, it wasn't pretty.

Now you're up to speed for 2013. We hope to see you in Shop Talk often in 2014, when we plan to add a few more fun features we think you'll enjoy. Before we move on to this month's Recalls, we'd like to say again how critical your reviews and referrals are to us. Your comments keep us on the right track to providing the service you deserve, and your referrals give us the constant stream of new clients we need to thrive. And, more than anything else, we'd like to say

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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.



[**January 15: 27,933 Ford Edge vehicles from 2012-2013**](#), Recalled for a potential fuel leak.

[**January 14: 300,000 Chevrolet Silverados and GMC Sierras from 2014**](#), Recalled for exhaust components that may overheat in colder temperatures, which could lead to an engine fire.

[**January 14: 29,222 Tesla Model S vehicles from 2013, equipped for and delivered with certain NEMA 14-20 Universal Mobile Connector adapters**](#), Recalled for potential overheating of the adapter, cord, or wall outlet while charging.

[**January 14: Certain GM vehicles installed with new software for Allison A1000 transmissions**](#), Recalled for causing the transmission indicator to incorrectly display the gear position, which could limit speed and increase the risk of a crash.

[**January 13: 1,975 Sharp cargo trailers from 2006-2013**](#), Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

[**January 13: 1,440 Cargo South enclosed trailers from 2006-2013**](#), Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

[**January 13: 986 Riverside travel trailers from 2006-2014**](#), Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

[**January 13: 667 Zero motorcycles from 2012-2013, including XU and DS models**](#), Recalled for controller firmware that may shut off power to the motor.

[**January 13: 623 Airstream Flamma-brand Flying Cloud accessory bike racks**](#), Recalled for blocking the secondary emergency exit of the trailer, leaving individuals unable to exit the trailer in the event of an emergency.

[**January 13: 552 Airstream Interstate recreational vehicles from 2013-2014**](#), Recalled for a potentially damaged regulator which could cause propane to leak and increase the risk of a fire.

[**January 13: 37 Spartan emergency response vehicles from 2006-2010, including Diamond and Gladiator models**](#), Recalled for welds on the independent front suspension which may crack.

[**January 13: 183 Nissan Titan vehicles from 2014**](#), Recalled for an incorrect label that overstates the maximum load and passenger carrying capacity of the vehicle, which could lead to tire damage.

[**January 10: 222 Tiffin Allegro 33AA motorhomes from 2013-2014**](#), Recalled for fireplaces that may ignite an exposed piece of wood inside the fireplace, which could set the rest of the motorhome on fire.

[**January 8: 38,434 Skyline recreational vehicle travel trailers from 2006-2013**](#), Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

[**January 8: 7,387 Acura RLX vehicles from 2014**](#), Recalled for loose rear lower control arm bolts that may reduce steering ability, increasing the risk of a crash.

January 8: 28 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles from 2014 with P235/65R17 103T Continental Crosscontact LX tires, Recalled for potential damage to the sidewall of the tire.

January 6: 50,185 BMW motorcycles from 2005-2012, including R and K models, Recalled for potential fuel leaks that could result in a fire.

January 6: 409 Genera aftermarket replacement tail lights sold for 2012-2013 Toyota Prius V vehicles, Recalled for reversed wiring that causes the brake lights to not illuminate when the brake is pressed.

January 3: 33,139 Combi car seats, including Cocco and Zeus models, Recalled for harness webbing that may not keep a child secured.

January 3: 9,733 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra vehicles from 2012-2013, Recalled for the fuel tank transfer pump that may cause inaccurate fuel gauge readings, which could cause the vehicle to stall

January 3: 3,912 Jaguar Range Rover vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for air bags that may not function.

January 3: 3,175 Monaco recreational vehicles from 2008-2013, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

January 3: 444 Contract Manufacturer trailers from 2006-2012, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

December 31: 30,929 Volvo S60 vehicles from 2011-2012, Recalled for the vehicle potentially not alerting the driver of low oil pressure, which could cause the driver to operate the vehicle until it stalls, increasing the risk of a crash.

December 31: 7,153 Lincoln MKZ Hybrid vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for a manufacturing error that may cause the vehicle to shift out of Park unintentionally.

December 31: 416 Triumph Trophy SE motorcycles from 2013, Recalled for the left hand center stand mount which may fracture, increasing the risk of injury.

December 31: 288 Covered Wagon cargo trailers from 2006-2013, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

December 31: 10 E-One Typhoon and Cyclone II fire-fighting vehicles from 2013, Recalled for seat belts that may become difficult to unlatch.

December 23: 4,194 Chrysler vehicles from 2013, including Dodge Ram and Charger models, Recalled for the transmission output shaft which may fracture, resulting in a loss of power.

December 23: 397 Airtex fuel pumps, designed for aftermarket replacements on Subaru Baja, Outback, and Legacy vehicles, Recalled for possible fuel leak, increasing the risk of a fire.

December 20: 63 Maserati Quattroporte GTS V8 vehicles from 2014, Recalled for a battery cable that may short, which could cause a fire or stall the engine.

December 18: 528,228 Lippert doors used in travel trailers from 2006-2013, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

December 18: 226,560 Jayco trailers from 2006-2014, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

December 18: 74,000 Indiana Mills seat belts, Recalled for the latch plate which may stay latched even when the release button is pressed.

December 18: 774 Fleetwood RVs from 2014, including American Heritage and Discovery models, Recalled for seat belts that may stay latched even when the release button is pressed.

December 18: 716 HL Enterprise travel trailers from 2011-2013, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

December 17: 290 Mercedes-Benz S550 vehicles from 2014, Recalled for the front seat belt anchor which may not have been installed correctly, potentially causing it to come loose in the event of a crash.

December 17: Certain BMW X3 xDrive 28i/35i vehicles from 2013, Recalled for air bags that could improperly deploy due to a production process error.

December 16: 1.2 million Michelin LTX M/S tires, Recalled for tread separation, which could cause massive air loss and loss of control over the vehicle.

December 16: 76,565 BMW vehicles from 2006-2007, including 300 and 500 series models, Recalled for the front passenger seat occupant detection system which may crack and fail, causing the front passenger air bags to not deploy.

December 16: 1,315 Carry-on cargo trailers from 2006-2013, Recalled for door locks that may jam, leaving individuals inside without an exit.

Health Notes

Living healthy for another year



What's the most important part of your vehicle? The engine? The transmission? The brakes? Nope, it's the driver, and our "Health Notes" column is designed to keep this most important part running at its best. Diet, chemicals, exercise, and more are all part of our healthy tips each month. And, if you look closely, you can find the same "Your Car Matters" spin you've come to expect. Dig in, but don't overdo it... hey, that's good advice!

[December- Americans, why do you keep refrigerating your eggs?](#)

[November- What not to eat if you know better](#)

[October- Don't be a zombie](#)

[September- Information-free nutrition labels](#)

[August- Why Life in America Can Literally Drive You Insane](#)

[July- The sweetener that gives monkeys tumors](#)

[June- Walk your way to health](#)

[May- The final word on the fluoridation debate](#)

[April- Bacteria may be 20% as effective as bariatric weight loss surgery](#)

[March- What's good for GM may not be good for you](#)

[February- Are you living with "Presenteeism"?](#)

[January- Another year of healthy living](#)

Sellwood Bridge Update

Don't let the bridge bother you

First, the answer to the big question... the bridge is expected to open again in 2015.



Beyond that, with the exception of the big Bridge Move in January, it's been a pretty quiet year for Sellwood's Leaning Landmark. The bridge is open and safe, and construction has become so routine that everyone in the neighborhood has pretty much gotten used to it. Sure, there are occasional slowdowns, but Multnomah County and the construction crews have been wonderful about keeping the impact to a minimum. Traffic moves smoothly throughout the day with the occasional interruption of flaggers who stop traffic for a minute or two at a time to let construction vehicles enter and leave the site. The new traffic signal on the West End of the bridge has made even that inconvenience a little easier. In short, if you're thinking about getting your vehicle fixed then the bridge construction shouldn't stand in your way.

For the best look back at 2013 and the Bridge, we'll turn to Multnomah County. They maintain the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. Their two constantly updated live webcams of the [bridge cams are available here](#), and if you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen at by email at mike.j.pullen@multco.us. But the link we want to send you to for definitive Bridge info is [their FAQ page for the project](#). From bridge design to funding questions, all the questions you have been asked before and answered here.

So what's our own "look back" from the Bridge Update? A literal look. Here are several of our favorite pictures from the 2013 construction...















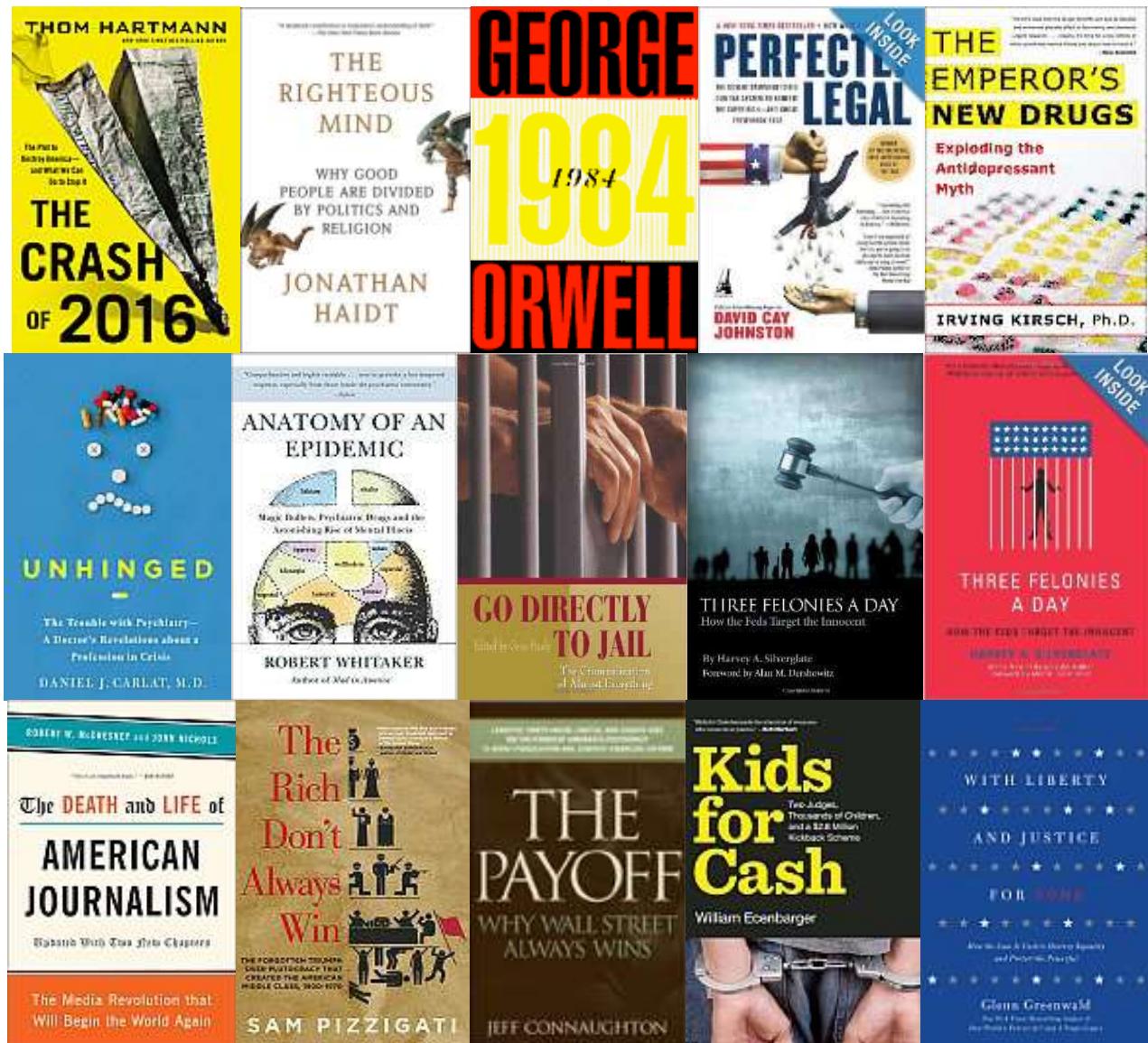


Book Spotlight

Flip through a year of our library

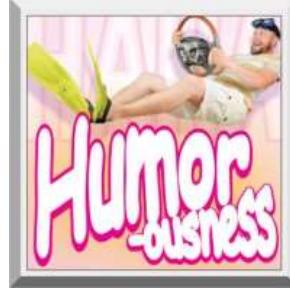


Our shop waiting area is sorely lacking in amenities, but we do have one... our book and bumper sticker library. Each month we flip through the pages of our one of our books and invite you to join us. Sometimes it's a deeper look at a subject in one of our articles, sometimes it's just something that caught our attention. But, we think all good books are worth sharing and these are the ones we shared with you in 2013. Click any of the covers below to go to the Powell's website for the book, and feel free to check out these or the rest of our library on your next visit to the shop...



Humorousness

A year of yippee



Everyone knows the most popular part of any newspaper is the funny pages, and we're not beneath stealing a good idea. Thus, our Humorousness column was born. It's kind of hard not to feel guilty about surfing the internet looking for jokes, but because of this column we can justify at least a few hours a day of it. Here's the cream of what our surfing turned up last year...

[December- Christmas Ho Ho Ho's](#)

[November- Thanksgiving humor... not a turkey in the bunch](#)

[October- Tickle your funny bone](#)

[September- Signs, signs, everywhere there's signs](#)

[August- Jokes that make you go "Hmmm..."](#)

[July- The lighter side of Orwellian Hell](#)

[June- Engineering humor... the ultimate oxymoron](#)

[May- People of Wal-Mart](#)

[April- 100 \(or 300\) Bizarre FaceBook pages](#)

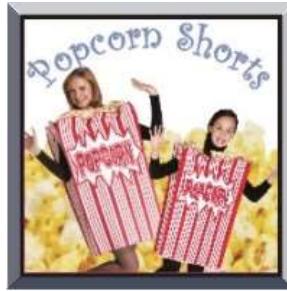
[March- 30 glimpses of the real Portland](#)

[February- Laugh at an Oregonian Day](#)

[January- Our first year of yuks](#)

Popcorn Shorts

A year of popcorn in one bucket



Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on [our Facebook page](#).

If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!

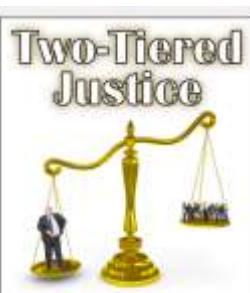


News To Make You Furious

A year of rage on just one page!



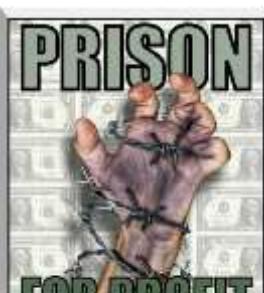
We live in a beautiful world. Seriously, look around and most of us live safe and happy lives in a society of wonders. And yet... there still are those things that aren't quite right. Some are small and some are large, some are anomalies and some are pervasive. Because we do live such secure lives it can be easy to ignore these problems, even to avoid knowing about them at all. News To Make You Furious shines a light on the problems that should never be ignored, but that you might not hear about in the happy happy media. It can be hard to be disturbed in our safety, to have the covers pulled back and ice water dumped on our comfort. It may even make us Furious. But we'll awake with better knowledge of the real world, and that can help extend the illusion of Utopia for most of us into the reality of Utopia for all. Click any of the images below to see what got our gander in 2013's News To Make You Furious...



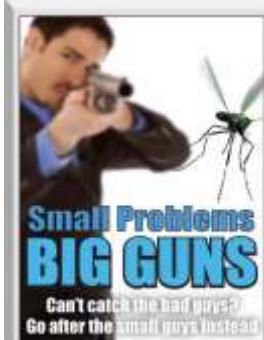
Two stories that reminded us that "justice for some" means "justice for none"



But the important stuff is going on over there



The low price of your liberty



Small Problems
BIG GUNS
Can't catch the bad guys? Go after the small guys instead!



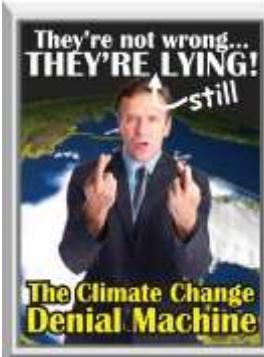
Good Cop - Bad Cop
Police stupidity makes things worse for everyone



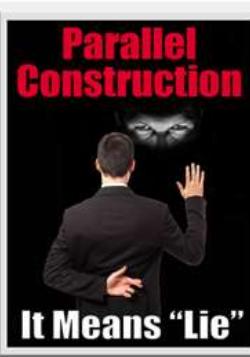
After bailing out the Banksters, Lanny Breuer just got a new job. Guess where?



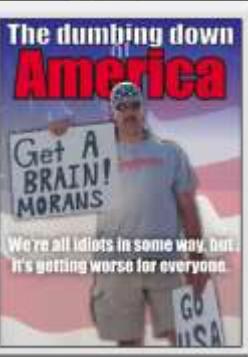
The Monsanto Protection Act



They're not wrong...
THEY'RE LYING!
still
The Climate Change Denial Machine



It Means "Lie"



We're all idiots in some way, but it's getting worse for everyone.



The low price of your liberty