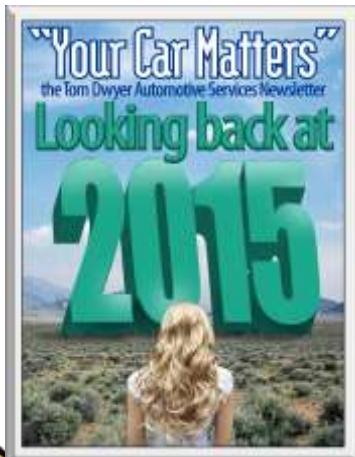




Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for January, 2016



Looking Back At 2015

We never get tired of saying it... our company newsletter, "Your Car Matters", is not like any other newsletter you've ever read. Tom's philosophy on newsletters is simple: "How much do you want to read about bugs from your exterminator, or taxes from your accountant?" We're sure exterminators and accountants have interesting things to say about their fields, and we do too about automotive care, but if we expect to stay off your spam list we know we've got to give you more. Our Feature articles do just that. From politics and commentary to humor, science, current events and yes, even auto maintenance, you never know what will catch our editorial eye each month. But if you want a taste of what to expect, take a look at all these stories our crack news department brought you in 2015...

PLUS- 2015's Best From All Our Monthly Columns



Tom's Tidbits

America's Choice



"What NOW?!!" Toons

Keith Tucker's 2015 Funny Page



Drew's Kitchen

Drew's 2015 Feast



Shop Talk

A Year of Yammering



Health Notes-

Staying Fit in 2015

Sellwood Bridge Update

2015 Brought Us Much Closer



Book Spotlight

2015's Pile of Publications



Humor

2015's Hoard of Hoodwinks



Popcorn Shorts

2015's Big Bucket of Popcorn



News To Make You Furious

2015's Amalgam of Acrimony



Tom's Tidbits

America's Choice

Greetings!



The 2016 election is already being called “the most important election ever”, and while I think the elections around the Civil War, Depression, and World Wars (to name a few) could probably give some stiff competition, I get the general sentiment. Despite any feelings we may have about the individual candidates, I think America’s choice has narrowed to four choices this cycle; Fascism, Corporatism, Theocracy, or Democratic Socialism. As an exercise, every American should rank these 4 choices in the order of their preference and act accordingly.

[The Republican frontrunner Donald Trump stands alone in his telegenic brand of Fascism.](#) For people who don’t understand the difference between a reality TV show, running a business, or governing, he makes some points of consideration. There is a visceral understanding that our country has lost its way, but most of Trump’s “solutions” can’t be implemented because they’re too expensive, unconstitutional, blatantly illegal, or repellent to civilized thinking. That doesn’t seem to affect his status, however, because the people most threatened by our country’s troubles can’t afford the time to research, identify, and understand where the troubles originated and why “The Donald’s” solutions would fail. Trump’s policies wouldn’t solve the problems that beset us, even though they sound good to an angry and disenfranchised population.

[Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, and to a lesser extent Ted Cruz offer us the option of Theocracy.](#) In a world where 44% of Republicans want Christianity as the US official religion making God the commander in chief may sound like a good idea, but at least Huckabee and Carson’s poll numbers remain reassuringly low. Cruz, posturing to pick off disillusioned Trump supporters (should they falter) seems happy to use the religious impulses of his voters, but he also seems somehow duplicitous. Ted’s a bit of a category hybrid and I have quarrels with him on many levels, but I don’t think he would make the hard push for Theocracy that Huckabee or Carson would. Still, that’s what he’s offering.

[Corporatism is the third choice, and a toxin that feeds both parties.](#) Whether it’s the smiling leftish-wing Corporatism of Clinton or the smiling right-wing Corporatism of Bush, Rubio, Christie, Paul, Fiorina, and the others, it’s Corporations come first! NAFTA, CAFTA, TPP, TISA, TTIP, and a host of other agreements backed by “establishment” politicians guarantee Corporations, not government of the people, would run things. There may be different flavors of Corporatism; versions with more or less of a safety net, personal freedom, environmental protection, worker protection, or other factors, but they all boil down to political process being directed by wealth. No matter how smiling it is, if the people don’t have control, Democracy dies.

Then, of course, there’s [Democratic Socialism](#). Democratic Socialism is a hard sell in a country where the word “Socialist” has historically been derogatory. Bernie Sanders has been successfully espousing that term and those policies for decades. His core interest in government of, by, and for the people may be his biggest *difference* from the other candidates, but that consistency, that ability to hold to a position on principle despite backlash, may be his biggest *strength*. Some of Trump’s supporters cite Donald’s “plain speaking” and the idea that he “can’t be bought” as major reasons they support him. Those are indeed rare and desirable qualities in a candidate, and Bernie has them both in spades.

2016 finds our beloved country faced with stark choices. We won’t be deciding between subtle policy adjustments, but between fundamental competing philosophies.

Take care, and make a great 2016!

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

What was on Tom's mind in 2015

Tom is not a person who thinks he should stay silent on the issues of the day! He believes we all have an obligation to take an educated, useful, active role in building the world we want, from the local to the global. Tom's Tidbits is where he gets to share his view of the world and current events each month. Agree or disagree, he tries to bring a perspective to issues you may not have considered before. Take a look at these Tidbits from 2015, and you'll get to know our company's owner (and the values he built that company on) a little better...

December- [The common sense of Donald Trump](#)

November- [Waging a smarter response](#)

October- [Connecting the dots](#)

September- [Kids For Cash update](#)

August- [Comparing apples and oranges](#)

July- [Green job creation](#)

June- [Hopefully... a look beyond the labels](#)

May- [Trans-Pacific tidbits](#)

April- [More noise, less news](#)

March- [47 Senators wrote a letter to regret](#)

February- [A “thank you” to be proud of](#)

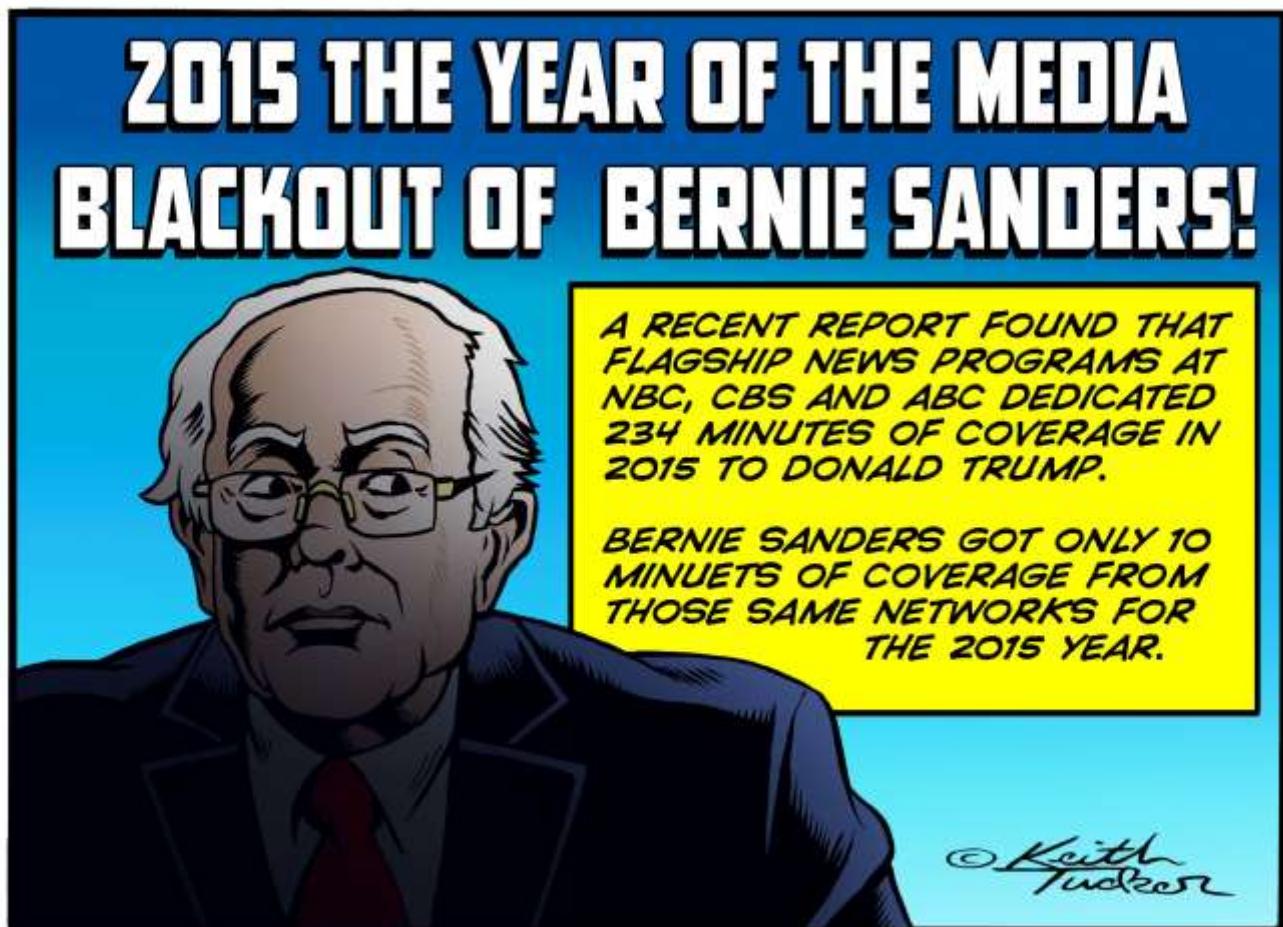
January- [Hope for 2015? Don't hope, get involved!](#)

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith's 2015 Funny Page



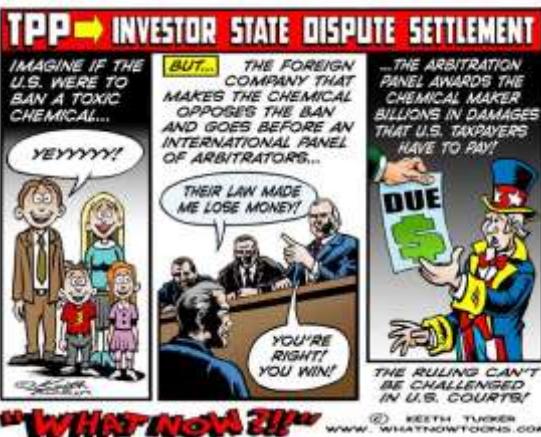
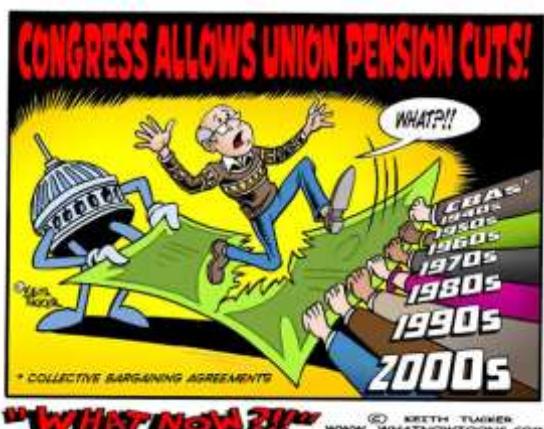
Unless things have changed since last year, we are STILL the only auto repair facility on the planet with our own political cartoonist. Keith Tucker brings the spice each month to the topics of the day. Stay Tooned for more of Keith's "What NOW?!! Toons" throughout 2016! Oh, and here's some yet-to-break news... Keith is working on a special project with a well-known journalistic icon that they expect to release in 2016. We'll let you know more as soon as we have the OK to let the cat out of the bag!



"WHAT NOW?!!"

© KEITH TUCKER WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

Think things are suspicious just because you read about them in cartoons? Not at all! [Click this link to see documentation on the Bernie Blackout!](#)





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RAIDING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TPP JOB LOSSES!



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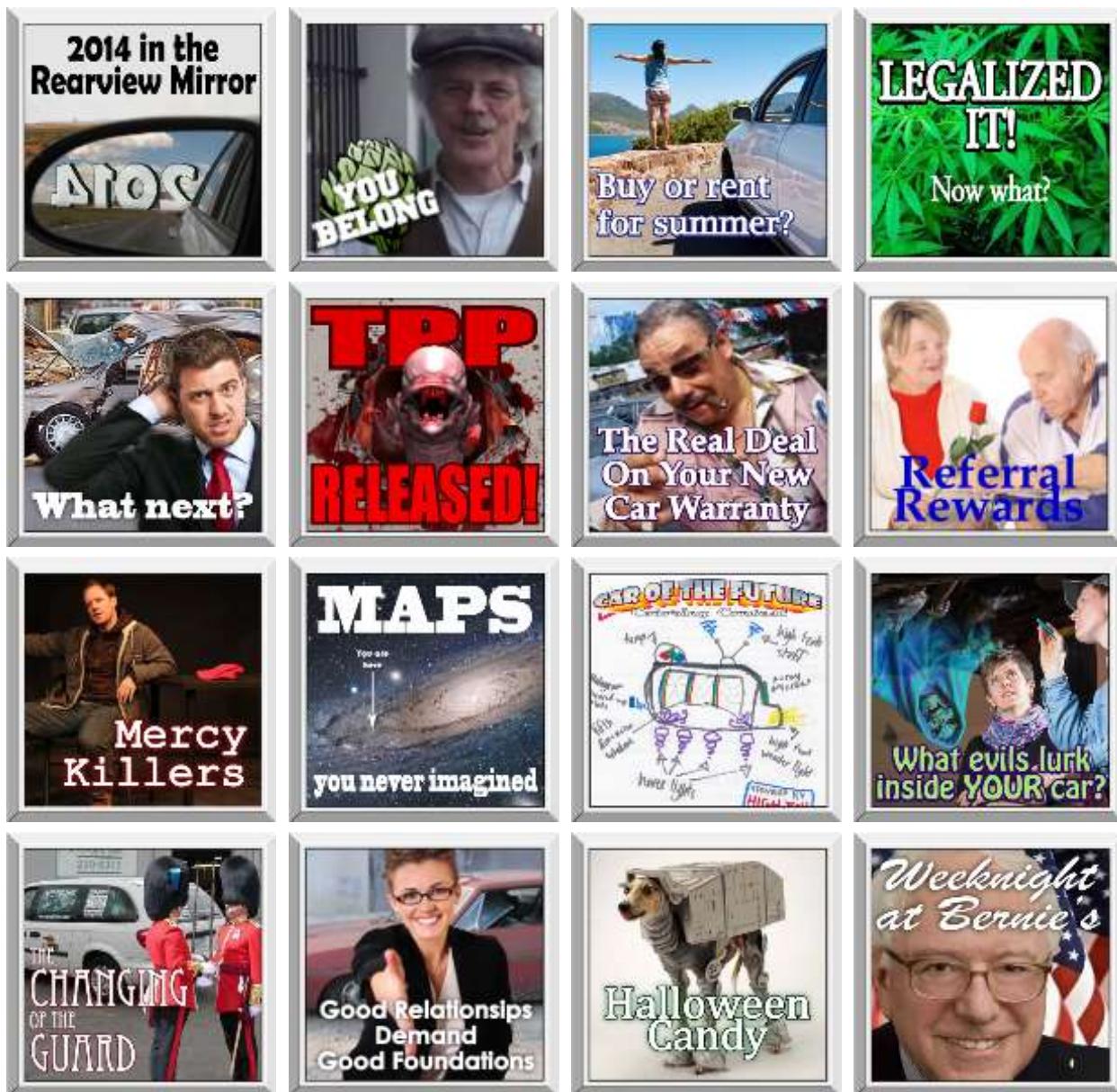
Looking Back at 2015

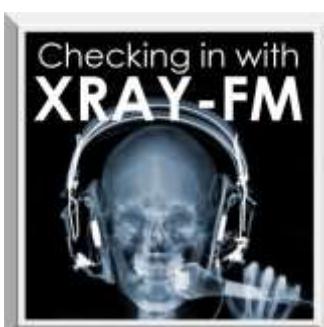
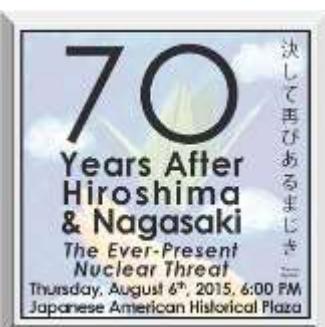
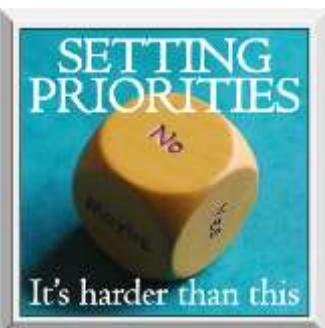
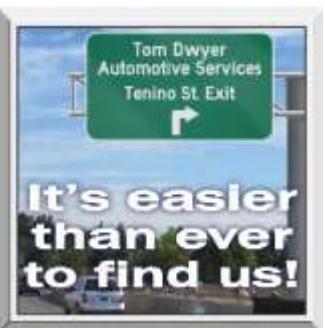
All our Feature articles from 2015



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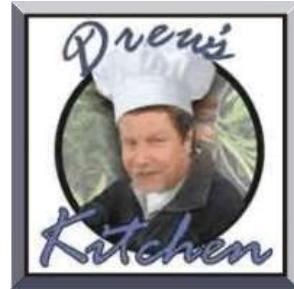
to expect, take a look at all these stories our crack news department brought you in 2015...





Drew's Kitchen

Drew's 2015 Feast



Drew Pearson's not only been behind the desk for years as one of our Service Advisors, he's been in the kitchen for years as the driving force behind Drew's Kitchen, our longest running newsletter column. He says the two main points behind his recipes are "Delicious... that's a given. And it has to be easy to prepare. I don't want to spend hours in the kitchen working on a dish, I don't think anyone else does either". No, but we would like to spend hours lingering over the mouth-watering suggestions Drew comes up with month after month. Check out this collection of his recipes from 2015, and you'll be checking back in on Drew's Kitchen throughout 2016...

December- [Roast prime rib with thyme au jus](#)

November- [Smoky ham and split pea soup](#)

October- [Speedy shepherd pie with Halloween BONUS](#)

September- [Goodbye breakfast crab muffins](#)

August- [Flank steak tacos with avocado and red onion salad](#)

July- [Billy Joel's grilled tuna & marinated cucumber salad](#)

June- [Bacon-wrapped corn on the cob](#)

May- [Lemon butter dill tilapia](#)

April- [Garlic butter burgers](#)

March- [Crunchy baked parmesan cod](#)

February- [Bucatini with Meyer lemon cream and chives](#)

January- [Drew's 2014 collection of capital cuisine](#)

Shop Talk

A year of yammering



What would “*Your Car Matters*” look like if we didn’t work so hard to make it non-automotive? Probably a lot like Shop Talk, where we talk about happenings specific to our shop and our clients. The biggest draw to Shop Talk may be the money you could save... when we offer coupons or specials, this is where we announce them. But you’ll also find things like updates on our Referral Reward Program, personnel changes, comments from our clients, and tips to get the most from our service. It’s also where you’ll most frequently find auto-specific stories like new vehicle technologies or our monthly list of automotive recalls. It may not be the column that makes you open the Newsletter each month, but it could be the one that is the most useful to you as a Tom Dwyer Client and an auto owner in general. Make sure you check in often!



Referral Reward Program

We started our Referral Reward Program because Tom wanted a tangible way to say “Thanks!” for your all-important referrals without actually bribing you with things like oil changes. The program is simple... every time a new client comes in and gives your name as a referral source, we call you and make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice. The donation isn’t huge... it varies from \$10-\$50 based on the size of the new client’s first visit spending (excluding tires, batteries, and oil changes), but those small checks can really add up! Thanks to our clients sharing the good word with friends, family, and co-workers we’ve been able to donate

\$4279 to 68 groups in 2015 alone

and a total of

\$9908 to 152 groups since we started the program in Jan 2014

This includes our \$200 Quarterly and \$500 yearly donation recipients as well! We’re only a couple weeks into January 2016, but already our clients are taking advantage of the program for the New Year. So far in 2016 we’ve made donations to

[Pongo Fund Pet Food Bank](#), by Mary Chris M.

[Friends of Zenger Farms](#), by Laura M.

We’re expecting a big Referral Reward year in 2016, and we hope you can help us beat 2015’s totals. We’re ready to help any group you think is doing good work in the world, but if your favorite group isn’t in the running then that’s on you. Refer a new client to us today!



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](#). Click the button at left for the full list at the NHTSA website.



“Shop Talk’s” 2015 Year of Yammering

The sublime, the ridiculous, and just the automotive, we covered it all in 2015’s Shop Talk...

December- [Our Referral Reward Quarterly Winner and you next dashboard](#)

November- [Yes, you DO have the right to repair your vehicle](#)

October- [New faces behind the desk](#)

September- [Our \\$200 Quarterly Award, and a donation bounces back](#)

August- [Shop Talk for August](#)

July- [Insider tips to beat construction traffic](#)

June- [Vote for Tom Dwyer!](#)

May- [FREE Carwash Season and 2015’s first Quarterly Award Winner](#)

April- [A great deal on our Comprehensive Inspection](#)

March- [50 car facts to blow your mind](#)

February- [Why not to buy salvaged vehicles... with pictures](#)

January- [2014’s Shop Talk review](#)



Health Notes

Staying Fit in 2015



Not many people think of their mechanic as anyone who should (or could) be offering Health advice, but think about it... how well is your vehicle functioning if the driver isn't functioning at top performance? Every month we try to bring you a useful tip to maintain the most important part of your vehicle... yourself. You may want to go ahead and keep your doctor for now, but the more you check back the more you'll find yourself relying on our Health Notes column!

December- [This is how air pollution affects YOU](#)

November- [This is what happens when you eat sugar](#)

October- [Blood, skulls, bones, and brains](#)

September- [Is EMF pollution the next health risk to watch for?](#)

August- [Disease or profit center?](#)

July- [Natural vs. artificial flavors](#)

June- [Something's fishy here...](#)

May- [How to recharge your gut](#)

April- [Sarah's Eggshell Calcium recipe](#)

March- [Your mind's power to heal... or to kill](#)

February- [How to beat the cold, flu, and dyslexia](#)

January- [Another healthy year in review](#)

Sellwood Bridge Update

2015 Got Us Much, Much Closer



The Sellwood Bridge has been in desperate need of overhaul for years. Crumbling and cracked concrete, narrow lanes, inadequate sidewalks, bad lighting, and difficult approaches were just some of the problems it faced. As a temporary stop-gap the County had placed a weight limit on the bridge that excluded not only big trucks but fire trucks and busses as well. Planning started on a new bridge in 2006, a design was selected in 2009, and work began on the new bridge in 2012. Since then, we and the entire Sellwood Neighborhood have gritted our teeth as this massive infrastructure project dominated our lives. 2015 was a big year though, because the County was finally able to announce a date when traffic will be flowing on the new Bridge- February 27. The whole project won't be finished until November, but the neighborhood will be throwing quite the blowout... you're invited, and we'll keep you posted. That's the point of this Sellwood Bridge Update column; to keep you posted on events with our wobbly neighbor. Check out everything we've brought you in 2015, then keep checking back. We'll tell you the latest on the party, and everything else bridge-related until the project is finally finished this November.

December- [Tentative opening date announced](#)

June- [The view from down under](#)

November- [Major westside traffic change](#)

May- [When will the Bridge be finished?](#)

October- [Big westside changes on the way](#)

April- [Falling concrete and rising arches](#)

September- [Will bad bolts bang the Bridge?](#)

March- [The next set of arches is here](#)

August- [Surprising answer to our trivia question](#)

February- [New opening date announced](#)

July- [Which PDX bridges are earthquake-rated?](#)

January- [Timeline of Bridge construction](#)

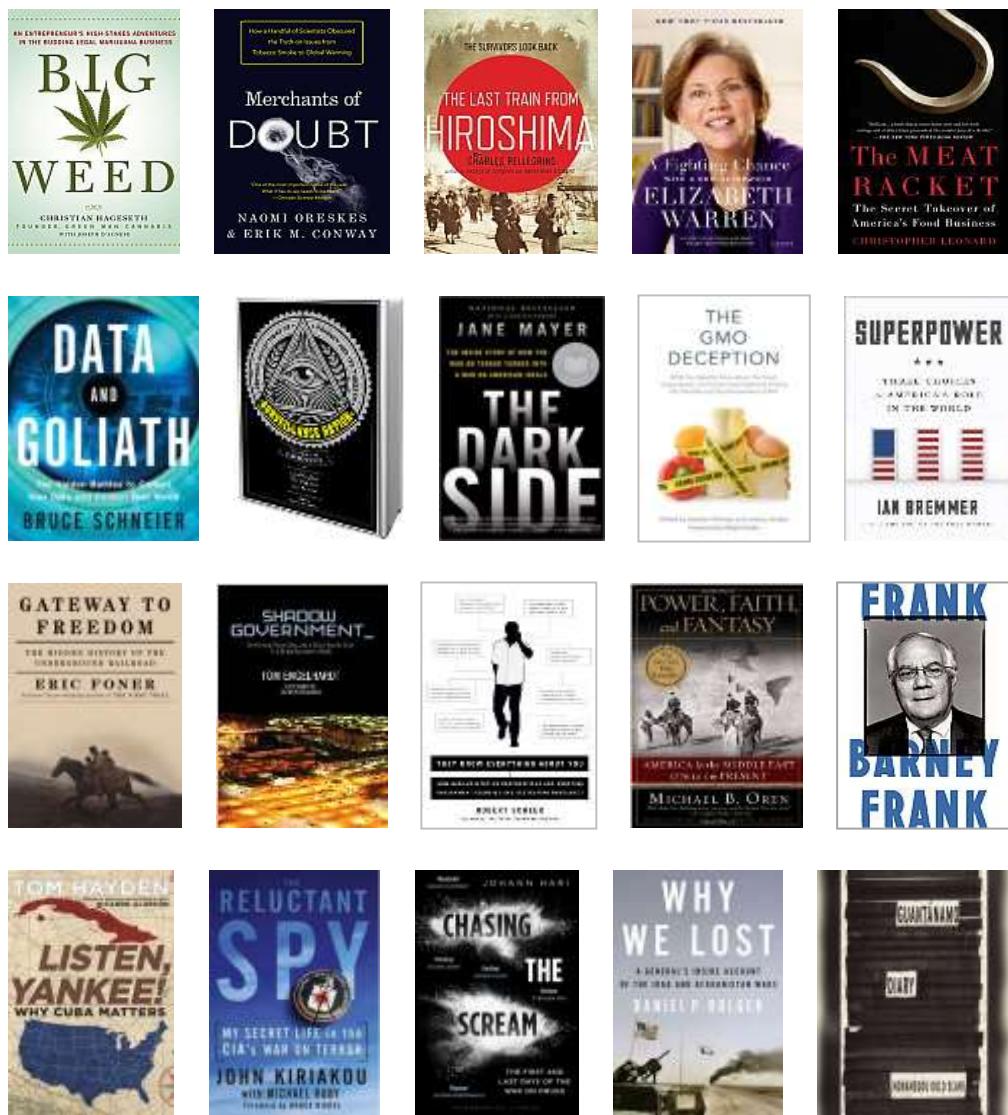
As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

Book Spotlight

2015's Pile of Publications



Not everyone looks around much when they drop their vehicle with us for repair, but those who do have noticed our Book and Bumper Sticker Library. All the books are available for checkout, and the bumper stickers (and a few videos) are FREE! In our Book Spotlight, we bring you interesting reads on a variety of subjects. You'll be able to find most of our suggestions in our Library, but just look below to find all our recommendations from 2015...



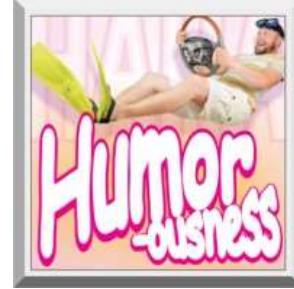
With the passing of David Bowie earlier this month, we also have an excuse to add a special bonus to this year's Book Spotlight review. Click below to discover

[David Bowie's Formative Reading List of 75 Favorite Books](#)

Goodbye, Major Tom.

Humorousness

2015's Hoard of Hoodwinks



What do you call a humor column in an automotive newsletter? Humorousness!

OK, that's not funny at all, which is why we bring you humor written by other people every month. Sometimes it's topical, sometimes it's silly, but we always try to make sure it brings you a grin. In fact, here's a gratuitous automotive joke to start 2016, along with all our Humorousness from the year...

A teenage boy tells his father, "Dad, there's trouble with the car, it has water in the carburetor." The father looks confused and says, "Water in the carburetor, that's ridiculous!" But the son insists. "I tell you, it has water in the carburetor." His father, starting to get a little nervous, says "You don't even know what a carburetor is.... but I'll check it out. Where's the car?" "In the pool," replies the son.

December- [Elf jokes. Yes, elf jokes.](#)

June- [Pictures worth less than a thousand words](#)

November- [You might be an Oregonian if...](#)

May- [The White House Correspondents' dinner](#)

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

April- [Lawyer jokes](#)

September- [Hipster Barbie, and yes, she's from Portland](#)

March- [Response to the 47 Senator's letter](#)

August- [It's history... and FOX is there](#)

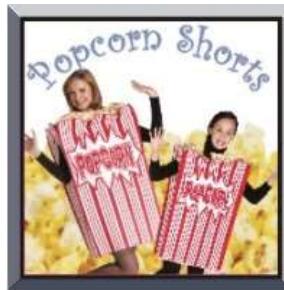
February- [Cartoon Look-a-likes](#)

July- [What your dash lights really mean](#)

January- [Our audit of 2014's amusing antics](#)

Popcorn Shorts

2015's Big Bucket of Popcorn

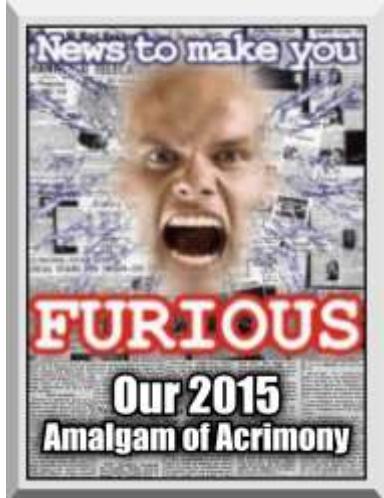


Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn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

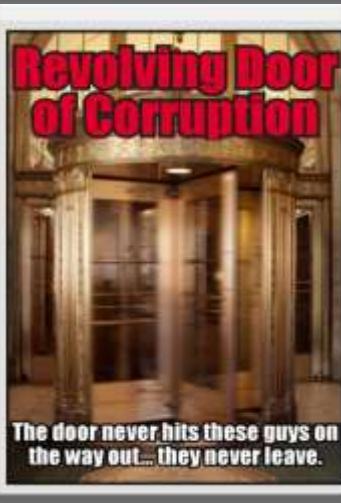
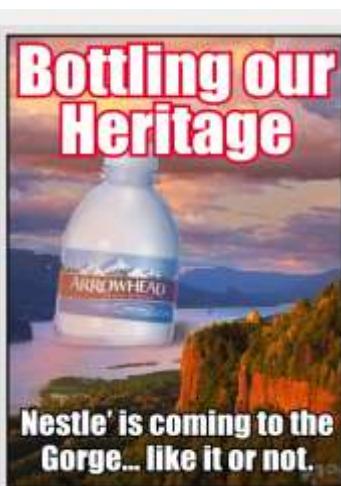


News To Make You Furious

2015's Amalgam of Acrimony



You might think people would avoid a column that specifically promises to make them angry, but News To Make You Furious is one of our most consistently popular columns. We think it's because every month we try to talk about things that aren't only horrendous, but that may not be getting the attention they deserve. Even when we talk about things that are in the news like the epidemic of police abuses, we try to direct you to links and information that may prompt you to see the issue in a new way. Our News To Make You Furious staff is constantly beset with ulcers, high blood pressures, and dental problems caused by teeth grinding, but we think it's a small price to pay to keep you informed... and occasionally Furious.

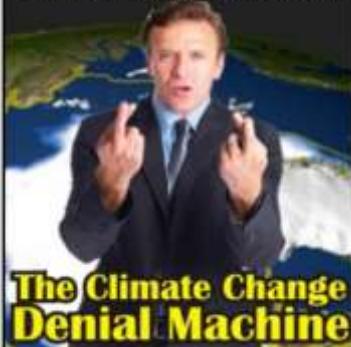


Wendell Potter



How Corporate PR Is
Killing Health Care...
From One Of The Guys
Who Helped Do It.

They're not wrong...
THEY'RE LYING!



**The Climate Change
Denial Machine**

Vacation Vexation



Our Furious staff is on vacation,
but outrage never rests

The Trans-Pacific Partnership



Negotiated in secret for
years, The Man now wants
TPP fast-tracked into law.
Should you trust him?

Torture.



It doesn't go away just
because you ignore it.

What makes us Furious?
Nothing.



And when you find out why,
it will make you Furious too.

PRISON



FOR PROFIT

The low price of your liberty

We Don't Take Kindly To Science 'Round Here

The Texas Railroad
Commission trumps a peer
reviewed earthquake study



DoubleHeader of Disgust



TWO stories of people
lying about things that
will actually kill you.

Death of the Middle Class



America quietly crosses a
very dangerous threshold

Civil Asset Forfeiture



The "Dukes of Hazzard"
isn't any fun when it's real

It's
Tax Time!

