



# "Your Car Matters"

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for June and July, 2017



## Can't We All Just Get Along?

Apparently not. Here's why.



## Insider Tips For The Best Tom Dwyer Service

We're not like other shops. Here's how to make that your advantage



## Our First Referral Reward Quarterly Winner of 2017

Our clients have voted, and the winner is...



## Attack of the Oregon Slime Eels



## 7 Things To Keep Out Of Your Recycling Bin



## Snake Island... Incredibly Deadly. Horribly Real.



## Net Neutrality- Yes, It's Still A Thing.

## Our Monthly Columns

**Tom's Tidbits-** Sellwood's under threat, but there IS a solution! (*Letter to the Sellwood Bee editor*)

**Keith Tucker's** What NOW?!! Toon for June and July, 2017

**Drew's Kitchen-** Ahi Tuna Steaks with Thyme and Shallots

**Shop Talk-** What are they building across the street?

**Health Notes-** Does this country make my butt look big?

**Book Spotlight-** "Churchill and Orwell- The Fight For Freedom" by Thomas Ricks, **PLUS-** The Bibliophile Quiz

**Humorousness-** Boy Scouting Revised for the Trumpocracy **PLUS** our first Humorousness Contest

**News To Make You Furious-** Jeff Sessions plays "Dukes of Hazzard"... for real.

# Tom's Tidbits

Sellwood's under threat, but there IS a solution!

*This month's Tidbits is also available in the Sellwood Bee's "Letters to the Editor". If you care about our Sellwood, please share this letter with everyone you*



*Editor". know!*

Greetings,

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services is a proud independent business with a 30-year history in Sellwood. Like most other small businesses, we try to be a true neighbor by not just serving our clients but supporting neighborhood schools, organizations, events, and causes. In particular we have a long history of promoting "buying local" to create strong local economies. We think spending money *with* our neighbors *helps* our neighbors, provides the local and responsive services we need, and localizes economic power to build vibrant communities that benefit everyone. Our Sellwood neighborhood is a shining example of that "buy local" philosophy in action, but I'm writing because I see a threat to all we've built together here. On the other hand, I also see a solution.

The Sellwood we love is a tree-shaded paradise of homes, businesses, and parks, but the proliferation of high-occupancy apartments means construction, parking, and traffic problems for residents and businesses alike. Neighborhoods need close-by, available businesses and services just as much as trees and parks, but unrestrained building is forcing out many of the local businesses Sellwood depends on. Once these businesses leave it may be impossible to bring them back. Portland is allowing this building boom, at least in part, to create affordable housing in walkable neighborhoods. Unfortunately, it makes little sense to build high-occupancy housing under the assumption that people won't need cars, and then deprive the neighborhood of the products and services they need within walking distance. It defeats the goals of the City's plan, and will turn Sellwood into little more than a "bedroom community" for Portland.

If that's the threat, what's the solution? The most effective long-term fix would change the way the City of Portland handles construction, planning and zoning, but that's too slow to help businesses struggling right now. The biggest thing we can do, something that will help RIGHT NOW, is for Sellwood neighbors to SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL BUSINESSES! Almost any product or service is available within a mile of Sellwood, so explore your LOCAL options, pick one, and go give them a try! The Sellwood-Westmoreland Business Alliance has a list of Sellwood businesses of all types to choose from. They'll appreciate your business and you'll appreciate the convenience and personal service they provide. We'll all appreciate them if they're forced to leave!

Tom Dwyer Automotive and the other local businesses of our neighbors, families, and friends want to be here for Sellwood's future, but ALL our local businesses depend on local patronage. That patronage has never been more important than now, as change and growth squeeze us all. We don't have to lose what makes our neighborhood great, but keeping it demands our conscious choice and effort. Take time to treat yourself to one of the hundreds of businesses that makes Sellwood everything we love. We're all here for you today, and with your support, we'll all be here for you tomorrow.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

# What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon for June and July,  
2017



## CONFERENCE OF **ELECTION** INTEGRITY!



**"WHAT NOW?!!"**

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WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

# **Can't We All Just Get Along?**

Apparently not. Here's why.



It's not news that our country is going through a period of hyper-partisanship. Nothing, it seems, is beyond politics and even demonstrable facts make little difference to entrenched ideological positions. Rodney King's plaintive cry, "Can't we all just get along?" resonates again with all of us, so much so that some people are beginning to shake off the blinders of politics and reach across the aisle to their fellow Americans. Are we shaking off a fog of confusion? Is there real reason to hope for real change?

Apparently not. We hate to be buzzkills on this, but science has uncovered fascinating (if depressing) evidence that much of the way we see the world, much of what makes that partisan divide so gaping, is hard-wired. In fields like

sociology, anthropology, economics, biology, psychology, and more, new tools and techniques are giving us insights into the deepest parts of the human psyche, and the results can be pretty scary to those who like to believe our opinions have some relevance to facts.

Our "*Your Car Matters*" staff combs through mountains of information to produce this newsletter, and not every story we read deserves a full article by itself. But bit by bit, they sometimes add up to something important. We've been squirreling away studies and reports on the deep causes of why humans see the world the way we do, and there's no better time than today, in the midst of the Trumpocracy, to share them with you. Beware; the research paints a dim picture! But on the other hand, we have one ray of sunlight to put it all into perspective...

You probably won't want to read all the articles below unless you're working on a doctoral thesis of some type, but pick a few at random... you'll find they'll point in the same general direction. It seems much of what we think of as "reasoning" to a conclusion is actually "justification" for conclusions we've already reached in our subconscious, which can be influenced by things we'll never be explicitly aware of. But we promised you a ray of hope, and here it is... all these studies deal with how we form our worldview to begin with. They don't deal with what we do with that worldview once we have it.

One of the things that sets human intelligence apart is that (at least many of us) are self-reflective. We might *form* opinions in our subconscious, but what we *do* with those opinions is a matter of conscious choice. If we realize how susceptible we can be to subconscious influence, we can, in fact we're obligated to, use our conscious thought to overcome our animal brains. Facts and reality are not subject to our choices, but our responses to them are, and understanding *why* we think the way we do makes us better at thinking more effectively at all. As Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living". That may or may not be true, but the unexamined life definitely makes it harder for us to all get along. And the examined life is always within our reach.

**Digging very, very deeply...**

[Conservatives and Liberals Have Different Brains, Studies Show](#), by Sydney Lupkin on ABC News, Sep 2012

[What Shapes Your Political Beliefs at 18, 35, and 50](#), by Natalie Jacewicz on NYMag Science of US, Apr 2017

[New Studies Suggest Liberals Are As Blinkered And Biased As Conservatives](#), by Christian Jarret in the Research Digest of the British Psychological Society, Apr 2017

[The Devil In All Of Us? The Stanford Prison Experiment](#), by Charles Letherwood, Your Car Matters, Jun 2015

[The Power Of Framing: It's Not What You Say, It's How You Say It](#), by Steve Rathje in The Guardian, Jul 2017

[Human Brain Function May Be Organized Differently Than Scientists Have Thought](#), by Renee Morad on Seeker, Apr 2017

[The Mindset That Makes It Hard to Admit You're Wrong](#), by Dr. Susan Whitbourne in Psychology Today, Mar 2017

[America In Crisis: Is A Second Civil War In The Making?](#) By Richard Striner on History News Network, Jun 2017

[For A Modest Personality Trait, 'Intellectual Humility' Packs A Punch](#), on Medical Express, Mar 2017

[More Human Than Thou... Or Just Better? Our Motivation To Think We're Good Trumps Our Desire To Feel Human](#), by Alex Fradera in the Research Digest of the British Psychological Society, Mar 2017

[The Most Important Communication Skill You Will Ever Need](#), by Susan Krauss Whitbourne in Psychology Today, Jul 2017

[Why Facts Don't Convince People \(And What You Can Do About it\)](#), video by Brave New Films, Jun 2017

[Our Brains Judge a Face's Trustworthiness—Even When We Can't See It](#) by James Devitt on the NYU website, Aug 2014

[New Paper Provides Evidence-Backed Insights On How Not To Come Across As A Jerk](#), by Alex Fradera in the Research Digest of the British Psychological Society, Jul 2017

[Psychologists Have Identified The Kind Of Emotional Intelligence That Makes Internet Trolls So Mean](#), by Cassie Werber on Quartz, Jul 2017

[Americans Want to Live in a Much More Equal Country \(They Just Don't Realize It\)](#), by Dan Ariely in The Atlantic, Aug 2012

[How To Get People To Overcome Their Bias](#), by Tom Stafford on BBC, Jan 2017

[Conducting The Milgram Experiment In Poland, Psychologists Show People Still Obey](#), Dolinski et al on ScienceDaily, Mar 2017

[How To Pop Your 'Filter Bubble'](#), BBC News Video, Jun 2017

[Online Purchas Patterns Show Left-Wingers And Right-Wingers Read Very Diferent Science Books](#), by Alex Fradera in the Research Digest of the British Psychological Society, Jun 2017

[Were you once a conservative but are now a liberal? Were you once a liberal but are now a conservative? How did it feel?](#) Answer thread on Quora, 2017

[Culture Affects How People Deceive Others, Study Shows](#), ScienceDaily, Jun 2017

[Harvard Study Holds a Clue on How to Combat Political Vitriol](#), by Annie Holmquist in Intellectual Takeout, Jun 2017

[Why Don't Some People Believe In Science?](#) On Seeker, Nov 2016

[Conspiracy Theorists May Really Just Be Lonely,](#) by Matthew Hutson in Scientific American, May 2017

[Shocking Discovery? Money Earned By Exploitation Is Less Rewarding, Study Shows,](#) by Hannah Devlin in The Guardian, May 2017

[As News Approaches, Even Optimists Brace For The Worst,](#) by Christian Jarrett in the Research Digest of the British Psychological Society, May 2017

[Is This How Discrimination Ends?](#) By Jessica Nordell in The Atlantic, May 2017

[The psychology behind that popular new comic from 'The Oatmeal',](#) by Cross, Martinez, and Galarreta on KPCC website, May 2017

[Donald Trump And The Slippery Slope To Becoming A Prolific Liar,](#) by Brian Resnick on Vox, May 2017

[The Dark Allure Of Conspiracy Theories, Explained By A Psychologist,](#) by Brian Resnick on Vox, May 2017

[Explicitly Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in a History Course,](#) by Anne McLaughlin and Alicia McGill on SpringerLink, Mar 2017

[How the Science of “Blue Lies” May Explain Trump’s Support,](#) by Jeremy Smith in Scientific American, Mar 2017

[Distress, Status Wars And Immoral Behaviour: The Psychological Impacts Of Inequality,](#) by Nick Haslam on The Conversation, Mar 2017

[Fake News Spreads Because People Trust Their Friends Too Much,](#) by Jesse Singal on NYMag Science of US, Mar 2017

[How to Criticize with Kindness: Philosopher Daniel Dennett on the Four Steps to Arguing Intelligently,](#) by Maria Popova on Brain Pickings

[The Effects Of Social Identity Threat And Social Identity Affirmation On Laypersons’ Perception Of Scientists,](#) by Nauroth et al on Sage Journals, Feb 2016

[Living a Lie: We Deceive Ourselves to Better Deceive Others,](#) by Matthew Hutson in Scientific American, Apr 2017

[How East and West Think In Profoundly Different Ways,](#) by David Robson on BBC.com, Jan 2017

[Talking in Euphemisms Can Chip Away at Your Sense of Morality,](#) by Niemi et al on NYMag Science of US, Apr 2017

[People Who Are Curious About Science Are More Open-Minded About Politics,](#) by Tracy Staedter on Seeker, Jan 2017

[Should Students be Taught to Argue Rationally?](#) By Annie Holmquist on Intellectual Takeout, May 2016

[Are There Emotional No-Go Areas Where Logic Dare Not Show Its Face?](#) By Richard Dawkins on the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science, Jul 2014

[The Hypothesis- Why Do People Want What They Want?](#) By Satoshi Kanazawa in Psychology Today, Mar 2010

[A Major New Study Shows That Political Polarization Is Mainly A Right-Wing Phenomenon,](#) by Dan Kennedy on WGBH Website, Mar 2017

[Understanding The Role Of Offender History In Mitigating Moral Blame Requires New Insights Into How People Think About Free Will,](#) by Dr. Michael Gill on Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Jun 2017

# Insider Tips for Tom Dwyer Service

We're not like other shops, and that's YOUR advantage!



We're a full-service automotive shop offering rational, prioritized service advice based on YOUR auto ownership goals. But we're more than that... we're Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, and we're not like any other automotive shop you've ever dealt with. Clients who've been with us for years know that, and most have learned to use it to their advantage. However, it might take a while for new clients to learn all the ropes. That's why we created a specific page on our website devoted to all the insider tips that let you take full advantage of our many unique elements. We have several headings on topics from "Calling for Estimates" to "Transportation Options", and each has links to detailed articles we've written on each. Whether you're new to the shop or been a client for years, we're sure

you'll find something to make your experience with Tom Dwyer Automotive even smoother and easier. And please remember, if you EVER have questions or problems our Service Advisors are just a click or phone call away. Count on them to give you the same sound advice they'd give their own family.

### Calling for Estimates

Our Service Advisors are happy to provide general price information over the phone, but a precise estimate, one we can stand behind, depends on inspecting and diagnosing your vehicle to determine the exact services you'll need. You can use our over-the-phone numbers for guidance and comparison, but you can **RELY** on our estimates.

[Calling for Estimates](#)

[Understanding the types of estimates](#)

[How much is a 60K service?](#)

**98.79% within estimate**

### Scheduling Your Appointment

We do work primarily on an appointment basis, but remember you never need appointments for breakdowns, emergencies, or minor services. We have some tricks to make sure you get the service you want on the schedule you need...

[How to schedule for your convenience](#)

[Can I wait for an oil change?](#)

[What we'll ask about when you call](#)

[Saturday pickup and dropoff](#)

[Early Bird or After Hours pickup and dropoff](#)

A sample from our Client Orientation page, showing a couple of the main headings and useful associated links.

## How To Make Our Shop Features Work For You



THANK YOU for choosing Tom Dwyer Automotive!  
This brochure introduces some basic features of our shop, but PLEASE visit our web page

**"How To Make Our Shop Features Work For You"**  
for detailed information on any aspect of our services

503.230.2300  
530 SE Tenino St., Portland  
TomDwyer.com

We also have a brochure that hits many of the high points... just click here to download a PDF.

# Our First Referral Reward Quarterly Winner of 2017

Our clients have voted, and the winner is...



Our Referral Reward Program is our way of saying “thanks” for your generous referrals. When a new client tells us they were referred by someone, we call the person they named and make a donation (varying from \$10 to \$50 depending on the new client’s initial purchases) to any non-profit group they choose. These donations aren’t huge but they add up... **we’ve donated a total of \$18,433** since we started the program in 2014. June was a particularly good month for giving with \$988 in donations to these deserving groups...

[The Pixie Project](#) by Ilona E.  
[Adelante Mujeres](#) by Callie M.  
[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Diane L., Charles A.,  
[Natural Resources Defense Council](#) by Max B.  
[Meals on Wheels](#) by Lavon M.  
[Portland Rescue Mission](#) by Keith J.  
[Delete Blood Cancer](#) by Megan L.  
[Greater Portland Bible Church](#) by Mitch L.  
[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) by Peter G.  
[Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette](#) by Loren C., Seth W., Anne R., and Mike S.

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#) by Stan K.  
[Workers Justice Project NW](#) by Hilarie H.  
[OCHIN- Healthcare Solutions](#) by John H.  
[Habitat for Humanity](#) by Karrie R.  
[Sister of the Road Café](#) by Larry F.  
[Basic Rights Oregon](#) by Sierra L.  
[Sierra Club](#) by Jake C.  
[Doug Center](#) by Timothy W.  
[Shriners Hospital for Children](#) by David D.

We also put all these groups into competition for Quarterly and Yearly awards of \$200 and \$500 which are voted on by our clients. That brings us to the big unveiling of our first Quarterly Award Winner of 2017, a group that’s been certainly been earning their pay over the past six months...

## The American Civil Liberties Union (of Oregon)



*From the ACLU Website...*

“In the years following World War I, America was gripped by the fear that the Communist Revolution that had taken place in Russia would spread to the United States. As is often the case when fear outweighs rational debate, civil liberties paid the price. In November 1919 and January 1920, in what notoriously became known as the “Palmer Raids,” Attorney General Mitchell Palmer began rounding up and deporting so-called radicals. Thousands of people were arrested without warrants and without regard to constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure. Those arrested were brutally treated and held in horrible conditions. In the face of these egregious civil liberties abuses, a small group of people decided to take a stand, and thus was born the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU has evolved in the years since from this small group of idealists into the nation’s premier defender of the rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. With more than 1.6 million members, nearly 300 staff attorneys, thousands of

volunteer attorneys, and offices throughout the nation, the ACLU of today continues to fight government abuse and to vigorously defend individual freedoms including speech and religion, a woman's right to choose, the right to due process, citizens' rights to privacy and much more. The ACLU stands up for these rights even when the cause is unpopular, and sometimes when nobody else will. While not always in agreement with us on every issue, Americans have come to count on the ACLU for its unyielding dedication to principle. The ACLU has become so ingrained in American society that it is hard to imagine an America without it.

That commitment to principle in difficult situations continues today. Since the tragic terrorist attacks of 9/11, the ACLU has been working vigorously to oppose policies that sacrifice our fundamental freedoms in the name of national security. From opposing the Patriot Act to challenging warrantless spying to challenging the indefinite detention of terrorism suspects without charge or trial, the ACLU is committed to restoring fundamental freedoms lost as a result of policies that expand the government's power to invade privacy, imprison people without due process and punish dissent. The ACLU also remains a champion of segments of the population who have traditionally been denied their rights, with much of our work today focused on equality for people of color, women, gay and transgender people, prisoners, immigrants, and people with disabilities. Back in 1920, the individual freedoms enumerated in the Constitution had never been fully tested in the courts, making them largely meaningless for ordinary people. Since then, principles of individual freedom, protection against arbitrary government action, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and press, due process of law, equal protection, and privacy have become codified in our laws and their protections widely enforced. The advancement of civil rights and social justice over the past century represents one of the most significant developments in American history, and the ACLU has been integral to this process.

But the work of defending freedom never ends, and in our vibrant and passionate society, difficult struggles over individual rights and liberties aren't likely to disappear anytime soon. The ACLU is committed to fight for freedom and the protection of constitutional rights for generations to come.

#### **WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO**

The ACLU is frequently asked to explain its defense of certain people or groups—particularly controversial and

unpopular entities such as the American Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Nation of Islam. We do not defend them because we agree with them; rather, we defend their right to free expression and free assembly. Historically, the people whose opinions are the most controversial or extreme are the people whose rights are most often threatened. Once the government has the power to violate one person's rights, it can use that power against everyone. We work to stop the erosion of civil liberties before it's too late. Since we can't take on every worthy case, we usually select lawsuits that will have the greatest impact, cases that have the potential for breaking new ground and establishing new precedents that will strengthen American freedoms.

#### **AND HOW WE DO IT**

We have grown from that roomful of civil libertarians to more than 1.6 million members. The ACLU today is the nation's largest public interest law firm, with a 50-state network of staffed, autonomous affiliate offices. We appear before the United States Supreme Court more than any other organization except the U.S. Department of Justice. About 100 ACLU staff attorneys collaborate with about 2,000 volunteer attorneys in handling close to 2,000 cases annually.

The ACLU is non-profit and non-partisan. We do not receive any government funding. Member dues and contributions and grants from private foundations and individuals pay for the work we do. The ACLU, with headquarters in New York City, litigates across the nation and all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Our Washington, D.C., legislative office lobbies the U.S. Congress. We use strategic communications to educate the public about issues. And the ACLU has expanded its reach by applying international human rights standards in our complex Post 9/11 world. A number of national projects address specific civil liberties issues: AIDS, capital punishment, lesbian and gay rights, immigrants' rights, prisoners' rights, reproductive freedom, voting rights, women's rights and workplace rights.

If you believe your civil liberties have been violated, or if you wish to join the ACLU, contact your local ACLU affiliate from the listing in the telephone directory, or write to the national headquarters, Attention: Membership Department. You may also contact and join the ACLU on the Internet ([www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)). Briefing papers, each on a different civil liberties issue, and other publications and information are available from the Communications Department of the ACLU's national office in New York.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the American Civil Liberties Union, and our appreciation for the essential work they do on a daily basis. Our check for \$200 is on the way!

# Shop Talk

What are they building across the street?



## Comment of the Month



This month's comment addresses a very big issue here at the shop-

*"I've signed your petition... let me know who I could write to to help you in your campaign to essentially save your much-beloved business!" -Don S.*

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU Don, for writing on this! (And yes, Don is an actual real client who really wrote this on his Post-Service Reply Card; we don't make up any of these Comments!) The Sellwood Bridge construction squeezed us for 5 years but it was only the beginning... there are currently 6 more construction projects either planned or underway within 600 feet of our shop. One of these projects (see *"What are they building across the street?"* below) threatened the parking along the side of the shop, prompting the petition Don mentioned. We fought the good fight to keep our parking but as you can see from the picture at the right, the good fight doesn't always win.



We can (and we'll have to!) find alternatives to our old parking, but all Sellwood businesses are facing similar construction pressures and not all of them have the same flexibility we do. To answer your question, Don, there's one thing you can do that help us and all of the other Sellwood businesses as well... make a conscious, specific effort to **SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

Almost any product or service is available within two miles of Sellwood, so explore your LOCAL options, pick one, and go give them a try! Looking for coffee? Starbucks is great, but any of the five independent coffee shops within a half mile of the Sellwood Starbucks may appreciate your dollars more. Want a hamburger? Burger King is fine, but PDX Sliders is right there on Bybee. If you're fixing your house, skip the Home Depot and check out Westmoreland Hardware. The [Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance has a list of Sellwood businesses of all types](#), so just pick one to try. They'll appreciate your business, you'll appreciate the convenience and personal service they provide, and with your support they'll all be here for Sellwood's future.

We're going to weather this construction storm. We've been here in the same location "at the east end of the Sellwood Bridge" for 30 years, and we plan to be here for at least another 30 years to come. Other businesses run by our neighbors, families, and friends have the same dedication to the future, but local patronage and support has never been more important as change and growth squeeze us all. Take time to treat yourself ([or refer a friend](#)) to Tom Dwyer or one of the hundreds of other small, independent, LOCAL businesses that makes Sellwood everything we love. We're all here for you today, and with your support, we'll all be here for you tomorrow too!

*(and check out Tom's Letter to the Editor on this same issue in this month's Sellwood Bee!)*



## What are they building across the street?

Closely related to our “Comment of the Month” this month is the answer to the question “What are they building across the street?” It seems every client who comes in wants to know, and we’re certainly glad to tell you too... the building has been torn down to make room for the Sellwood Bridgehead apartments. Here’s the developer, [GreenLight Development](#), to describe the project and below that is a peek at the start of the construction process...

*[Sellwood Bridgehead](#) is a 119 unit multi-family housing project located in Portland's historic Sellwood neighborhood. This area is located on a bluff overlooking the Willamette River and offers scenic views of downtown Portland. While just four miles away from Downtown Portland, Sellwood offers an abundance of small-town charm, with walkable access to restaurants, grocery stores, and recreation located in the area's historic commercial district.*



*Sellwood is also home to well-regarded public and private schools and the site is just blocks away from 180-acres of parkland and wildlife refuge and is adjacent to the Springwater Corridor, a 40-mile pedestrian trail that spans from downtown Portland to Boring, Oregon. Project amenities include a fifth floor community room and roof deck overlooking the Willamette River as well as an exercise room and bike storage facility.*



The last few days of life of the old brown warehouse



130' trailer arrives to take the big drill away



Massive drilling rig for the building foundations



The view from our shop as construction gets well and truly underway

## Current Discount Offers



Summer's in full swing, and the rain that was depressing us all is now just a memory. The dust in our parking lot, however, is a constant reality. We can't wash all the vehicles we service, so we created Carwash Coupon Season from

May through September to make up for it.

**Get a coupon for a FREE WashMan car wash (with minimum purchase)**

CarWash Coupon Season only goes through Sep 15, so act now to get the sparkly vehicle you'll love. Sorry, but we only give coupons for services exceeding \$125 and not for oil changes or other minor services. So why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, so [click here and we'll let Tom himself tell you why...](#)

*(offer expires Sep 30, 2017)*

## Your reviews and referrals matter



We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!

## Latest Automotive Recalls



Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a [constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer](#). The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.

## Quesadilla Burgers



There's nothing better than Mexican food, but paradoxically there's nothing better than a good burger. How to resolve this cognitive dissonance? Drew makes it a snap with this month's recipe, Quesadilla Burgers...

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 clove garlic; minced
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 8 small flour tortillas
- 1½ cups shredded Cheddar
- 1½ cups shredded Monterey Jack
- 1 ½ cups shredded lettuce
- 1 cup Pico de Gallo
- Sour cream, for drizzling

### Preparation:

- In a large bowl, combine ground beef, garlic, jalapeno, and chili powder. Season with salt and pepper and mix until just combined.
- Shape mixture into four large, thin patties. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the pan is hot, add the patties and cook until cooked to your desired doneness, about 4 minutes per side.
- Set aside burgers and wipe skillet clean. In the same skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add one flour tortilla and top with cheddar, Monterey Jack, and lettuce.
- Place one cooked burger on top then sprinkle more cheese and top with pico de gallo. Drizzle with sour cream then place a second tortilla on top. Cook until the bottom tortilla is golden, about 2 minutes.
- Carefully flip quesadilla and cook until the other side is golden, about 2 more minutes. Repeat with remaining ingredients and burgers. Serve immediately.

### Serves 4

And this month, Drew's made the Kitchen extra easy with a video explaining the whole thing!

And thanks to the folks at Delish for the original recipe!



# Health Notes

Does this country make my butt look big?



Most of us could probably stand to lose a little weight, but the truth is... most of us could probably stand to lose a little weight. Results from a recent study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington found that a third of the Earth's population, over *2 billion adults and children around the world*, are obese or overweight. The US had the greatest percentage of obesity in young adults and children (13%, or 4.2 million people) while Egypt led in adult obesity (35%, or 3.2 million people). These extra pounds bring much more serious consequences than beachwear embarrassment; they bring death from diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and others. This month we bring you a look at that particular study, some unanticipated impacts, and a way to find out if applies directly to you...

[One-Third Of World Now Overweight, With US Leading The Way](#), CNN Health Report by Meera Senthilingam, June 2017

[Broken Scales: Obesity And Justice In America](#), by Benforado, Hanson, and Yosifon in the Emory Law Journal

Español

STANDARD

METRIC

Your Height: 5' 9" (feet) (inches)

Your Weight: 200 (pounds)

Compute BMI

Your BMI: 29.5

**BMI Categories:**  
Underweight = <18.5  
Normal weight = 18.5–24.9  
Overweight = 25–29.9  
Obesity = BMI of 30 or greater

**The BMI Tables**

**Aim for a Healthy Weight:**  
[Limitations of the BMI](#)  
[Assessing Your Risk](#)  
[Controlling Your Weight](#)  
[Recipes](#)

Download the BMI calculator app today (available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#)).

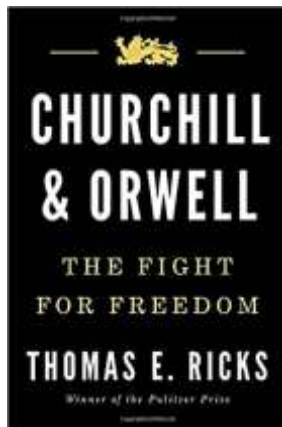
Click here to calculate your BMI, or go to the [website for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#) and search for "BMI Calculator"

# Book Spotlight

## “Churchill and Orwell- The Fight For Freedom” by Thomas Ricks



“Those Right-wingers are heartless bastards that want to kill granny.” “Those Left-wing pinkos just hate America”. It seems every that everyone can find the problem with the “other side”, but maybe they’re looking in the wrong place. Two of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’s towering figures came from opposite sides of the political spectrum but didn’t gain their fame from slandering each other. Winston Churchill, a conservative politician, and George Orwell, a socialist novelist, both realized the enemy wasn’t each other but totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and brutality; any and all enemies of human freedom and potential. Just click the link to be taken to the Powell’s website for this double biography...



### Churchill and Orwell- The Fight For Freedom

By Thomas Ricks

Both George Orwell and Winston Churchill came close to death in the mid-1930's—Orwell shot in the neck in a trench line in the Spanish Civil War, and Churchill struck by a car in New York City. If they'd died then, history would scarcely remember them. At the time, Churchill was a politician on the outs, his loyalty to his class and party suspect. Orwell was a mildly successful novelist, to put it generously. No one would have predicted that by the end of the 20th century they would be considered two of the most important people in British history for having the vision and courage to campaign tirelessly, in words and in deeds, against the totalitarian threat from both the left and the right. In a crucial moment, they responded first by seeking the facts of the matter,

seeing through the lies and obfuscations, and then they acted on their beliefs. Together, to an extent not sufficiently appreciated, they kept the West's compass set toward freedom as its due north.

It's not easy to recall now how lonely a position both men once occupied. By the late 1930's, democracy was discredited in many circles, and authoritarian rulers were everywhere in the ascent. There were some who decried the scourge of communism, but saw in Hitler and Mussolini "men we could do business with," if not in fact saviors. And there were others who saw the Nazi and fascist threat as malign, but tended to view communism as the path to salvation. Churchill and Orwell, on the other hand, had the foresight to see clearly that the issue was human freedom—that whatever its coloration, a government that denied its people basic freedoms was a totalitarian menace and had to be resisted.

In the end, Churchill and Orwell proved their age's necessary men. The glorious climax of Churchill and Orwell is the work they both did in the decade of the 1940's to triumph over freedom's enemies. And though Churchill played the larger role in the defeat of Hitler and the Axis, Orwell's reckoning with the menace of authoritarian rule in *Animal Farm* and *1984* would define the stakes of the Cold War for its 50-year course, and continues to give inspiration to fighters for freedom to this day. Taken together, in Thomas E. Ricks's masterful hands, their lives are a beautiful testament to the power of moral conviction, and to the courage it can take to stay true to it, through thick and thin.



#### [Bibliophile Quiz!](#)

We ran across one of those silly social media quizzes with the teaser “[92% of people can't guess these book titles from a single sentence summary.](#)” Challenge accepted! One Dwyer Guinea Pig got 34/35 and the other got 32/35, so those a're your marks to beat!

# Humorousness

## Boy Scouting Revised for the Trumpocracy



If you're a fan of dark humor then the daily string of cringe-inducing facepalms from the Trump administration can be its own kind of fun. Nothing exemplifies this more than Trump's recent abuse of 40,000 boys at the 2017 Boy Scout Jamboree. In the hands of past Presidents this event was a quiet part of the ceremonial duties of the presidency, but in Trump's tiny hands it became... well, something else. In the hands of America, it's become a springboard for humor as the Scouting Update below from the Washington Post shows.

### HUMOROUSNESS CONTEST!

Do you have some revised Scout Badges you think the *Post* missed? Then enter our first ever Humorousness Contest! Please email your Merit Badge suggestions to [charles@tomdwyer.com](mailto:charles@tomdwyer.com) with "Boy Scouts" in the subject line. The first five entrants will have their choice of

- 1) a **DVD or magnetic bumper sticker** from our Book & Bumper Sticker Library, or
- 2) a **SIGNED T-shirt** from Jimmy Dore of The Young Turks.

And we'll publish all entries we receive in the Humorousness column of our next Tom Dwyer Newsletter. Extra points if you include a picture of your proposed merit badge. **Bigly fun to all!**

### A guide to Boy Scout ranks and badges, revised for Trump Scouts

*By Alexandra Petri in The Washington Post, Jul 25, 2017*

*"A scout is trustworthy, loyal. We could use some more loyalty, I will tell you that."*

*— Donald Trump, addressing the National Scout Jamboree*

#### **Ranks (from lowest to highest):**

**Tiffany Scout:** The most forgettable of the scouts. Emblem might have a fleur-de-lis, but no one can be sure, as this rank of scout has never been photographed or detected by the human eye.

**Sessions Scout:** Emblem is a picture of a Make America Great Again hat. You must learn how to tie yourself in knots (half-hitch, double hitch, sheet bend, trucker line, bow line) in the course of your testimony before the Senate.

**Son Scout:** Emblem is 1980s hair slicked back to give it the appearance of having been painted on. Ostensibly attaining this rank requires you to show leadership, but you don't have to if you are a family member. Complete at least two fitness challenges.

**Mar-a-Lago Scout:** Must earn at least 18 Golf badges. Emblem is abandoned White House full of cobwebs.

**Ivanka Scout:** The highest rank of scout but one. No mistakes, ever. Must earn three Better Business badges and one Plausible Deniability badge. Emblem is a beautiful, morally compromised pump.

**Real Donald J. Trump Scout:** The greatest, most beautiful, biggest rank of scout. Higher than an eagle, believe me. This rank is not earned. Emblem is an enormous, perfect hand.

*In order to attain the rank of Trump Scout, a scout must obtain at least 21 of these badges, including the 13 starred.*

#### **Merit Badges**

**\*Cooking Badge:** Badge for cooking steak so long that steak is no longer recognizable as steak even to its closest friends and family, then pouring ketchup on it.

**\*Lifesaving Badge:** Awarded for repealing Obamacare. Obamacare is Death, after all, as Trump

says. Can also be obtained by passing any piece of legislation that will definitely cause millions of people to lose health insurance coverage.

**Oceanography Badge:** Withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

**Emergency Preparedness Badge:** Awarded for not recusing yourself from an investigation.

**Better Business Badge:** Awarded for promoting the business venture of a Trump family member.

**Collections Badge:** Collect voter registry information for a semi-creepy commission!

**Collusions Badge:** One badge for trying, another for succeeding. "Remember, it's not illegal" is emblazoned on this badge, under a picture of Hillary Clinton with flames coming out of her mouth.

**Whitewater Badge:** No longer for outdoor activities, which are nasty and buggy and might cause your bone spurs to act up. Badge instead is awarded for reminding listeners of an unflattering Clinton news story.

**American Heritage Badge:** Badge rewards the ability to use the names Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass in a sentence. Doesn't matter what sentence.

**Her Emails Badge:** Picture of a server being wiped with a cloth. Given automatically whenever you need an extra badge.

**Locker Room Talk Badge:** This replaces the Public Speaking Badge.

**Locker Up Talk Badge:** Same.

**Architecture Badge:** Granted for talking about walls. If at any point you describe an actual wall that is feasible to build, badge is forfeited.

**\*Personal Management Badge:** Awarded for not knowing where any meeting is happening at any time, why that meeting is happening or who is arranging it.

**\*Cycling Badge:** Awarded for tweeting fast enough that the news cycle ignores a much worse thing that is happening.

**\*Citizenship in the Community Badge:** Grab a neighbor's pussycat out of a tree.

**\*Citizenship in the Nation:** Stop someone from registering to vote. Doesn't matter whom, as long as you feel vaguely certain it would make Jeff Sessions happy.

**Citizenship in the World Badge:** (Discontinued)

**Safety Badge:** Escort a woman across the street so that she cannot reach her Planned Parenthood clinic.

**Environmental Science Badge:** #FakeBadge

**\*Family Life Badge:** For the purpose of earning this badge, grandparents don't count as real family members.

**\*First Aid:** Only if provided to a fetus.

**Bird Study Badge:** For meeting a big man who seems very memorable and then forgetting him.

**\*Digital Technology Badge:** You don't have to complete this yourself; you can have a friend from abroad complete it for you.

**Signals, Signs and Codes Badge:** It's just a sheriff's star. The West must fight to preserve its integrity against this foreign invasion. Awarded for dog whistles. Doesn't even have to be subtle anymore; who are we kidding?

**\*Public Health Badge:** Punch or body-slam a journalist or protester!

**Thrift Badge:** For having a charity pay your membership fee in the organization to begin with.

**\*Loyalty Badge:** Swear personal loyalty to Donald Trump. (Honest Loyalty Badge does *not* count.)

**Plumbing Badge:** Stop leaks. Acknowledge that leaks, and leakers, are the real problem here.

**\*Camping Badge:** Awarded for vanishing convincingly into the bushes to avoid questions from the hostile mainstream media.

**\*Personal Fitness Badge:** Earned by exercising restraint and avoiding any form of physical exertion, as this will sap your vital energy.

**Journalism Badge:** For Breitbart News or "Fox & Friends" only.

**Golf Badge (unlimited):** Learn how to play golf. Continue playing golf to the exclusion of all else.

**Mammal Study Badge:** One badge awarded for every minute occupied in shaking hands or every foreign leader subdued by a mighty grip, whichever is lower.

**Law Badge:** Awarded for finding a man with a funny mustache who likes to swear a lot who will be a lawyer on your behalf.

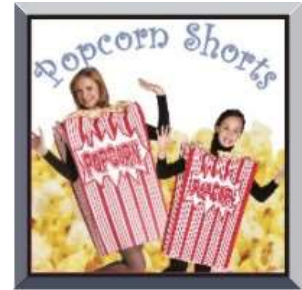
**Geocaching Badge:** Badge for *not* signing in at Trump Tower right before a sketchy meeting.

**Wilderness Survival Badge:** (now Swamp Survival Badge) Awarded for taking a meeting that you think will be helpful, because that is How The Game Is Played.

All Trump Scouts will be trustworthy and loyal. Not helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, or reverent, though.

# Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



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



## **Attack of the OREGON SLIME EELS!**



When insurance agents swap stories over a beer, this is one that will live on for decades. Ever heard of a hagfish? They're also called Slime Eels, and for a very good reason. Just as an octopus squirts ink when threatened, slime eels secrete a thick, webby slime when they're stressed. Well, for some reason a truck was carrying 7500 pounds of live slime eels down Highway 101 when was in a chain reaction accident. The eel tank broke and the eels, which can only live in water, were scattered across the road and over cars and were decidedly stressed. Hilarity, and much slime, ensued. [Click here for the pictures](#), and click here to [get to know our friend the Slime Eel](#).

## **7 things to keep out of your recycling bin**



We're recycling artists in Portland, but even art has limits. You can recycle everything together, but you can't recycle everything. [This article from Metro gives you all the basics to actually make your recycling effective](#) and non-damaging to our City recycling systems. Don't just memorize the list though... there's a video explaining why these 7 items are on the no-no list in the first place.

## **Snake Island- Incredibly deadly. Horribly real.**



Warning! If you plan to sleep soundly tonight, then stop reading now! Legend has it that off the coast of Brazil lies a tiny but terrifying island. No humans live there, and signs warn sailors not to land for good reason... the island is the only home to the Golden Lancehead, one of the deadliest snakes in the world. Their venom, which kills in hours, melts flesh from the inside. And it's not like there's just a couple snakes to ruin a picnic, either... estimates say there are between 1 and 5 snakes *per square meter*! [Click here to visit Ilha da Queimada Grande](#), "Snake Island", and get a case of the willies you'll never recover from.

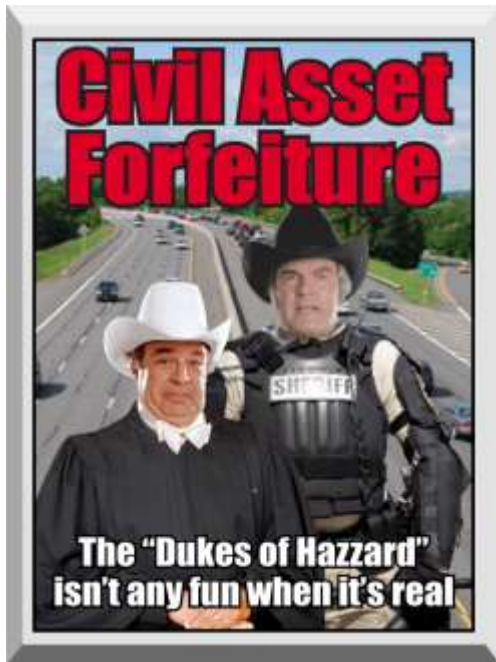
## **Net Neutrality- Yes, it's still a thing**



Net Neutrality was a big issue under Obama, when the FCC got power to regulate Internet Providers to ensure they couldn't create a two-lane Internet. It's back again as new FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, most recently a Verizon lawyer, is pushing [Verizon's agenda](#) to kill Net Neutrality. Net Neutrality can be a complex issue but one thing is simple... the Net we know would die if Net Neutrality lives. Yes, unfortunately, Net Neutrality is still a thing, and it's a thing you need to know about. [John Oliver has the best and most entertaining explanation](#), but you may also be interested in info from [CNN](#), [CNN](#), the [FCC](#), [PBS](#), or [more](#), [more](#), [more](#), and [more](#). Get up to speed, and get in the fight!

# News To Make You Furious

Jeff Sessions plays “Dukes of Hazzard” for real



What made us Furious in 2014? A little-known law enforcement technique called “Civil Asset Forfeiture”, an abusive aberration of justice allowing police to stop people and seize their property without charging them with any crime, then switching the basic presumption of innocence and *forcing the person to prove the property wasn’t used in a crime* to get it back. It was quite popular with the cops and courts that turned it into a \$4.2-billion-a-year cash cow by 2012. It was less popular with the tens of thousands of people who had their property stolen, families threatened, and lives turned upside down. In 2015 we were thrilled to update our story when the Obama administration ended the program (at least on a Federal level), but unfortunately 2017 brings another update. Trump’s Attorney General Jeff Sessions has decided what the world needs is a little more thuggery and is bringing back Civil Asset Forfeiture. Well, if Jeff’s going to reanimate this zombie then we’ll bring back our in-depth News To Make You Furious from

2014 on Civil Asset Forfeiture to tell you what it really means. Even in Trumpworld this is a stand-out horror that will have you angrily grinding your teeth to nubs even as your brain explodes from rage...

(By the way, the “Dukes of Hazzard” metaphor we use in the article was there in the original 2014 version, and isn’t a mean-spirited knock on our fine Attorney General, Jefferson Beauregard Sessions. Any resemblance is just leftover irony.)

## Civil Asset Forfeiture- Playing “Dukes of Hazzard” For Real

*Original article from “Your Car Matters”, Sep 2014*

In the cartoon world of “Dukes of Hazzard”, Boss Hogg ran Hazzard County with a comically pudgy iron hand. The County was his fiefdom, and Sherriff Roscoe P. Coltrane his goofy but strongarm enforcer. The law was a fig leaf to be worn (or not) as it suited the Boss’s greed. Hilarity ensued.

In the real world, towns, cities, states, and even the Feds have a powerful tool to create their own little extortionary fiefdoms in a previously free country... Civil Asset Forfeiture. This charming idea takes advantage of a “loophole” in the basic concepts of justice going back to the Magna Carta. When the State takes action against YOU, YOU have rights and the STATE must prove you’re guilty before your property can be seized. That’s criminal law. Civil Asset Forfeiture is based in civil law, so the State goes after your PROPERTY instead of you, shifting the burden of

**Update 7/19/2017**

**JEFF SESSIONS  
REINSTATES CIVIL ASSET  
FORFEITURE!**

Our freedoms are a small price to pay  
for the minimal PR value of a  
provably failed and despotic program.  
Have fun with Roscoe!

[Article by Matt Ford in  
The Atlantic](#)

**Update 1/9/2015**

**ERIC HOLDER ENDS CIVIL  
ASSET FORFEITURE!**

This will affect Federal programs (and  
the local programs they affiliate with)  
although the States will still be able to  
abuse you on their own.

[Article by Radley Balko in  
The Washington Post](#)

proof to YOU because your property has no rights. Roscoe gets complete authority to seize your property based on such criminally suspicious behavior as “having an air freshener hanging from your mirror”. YOU have to pay for an attorney to PROVE your property wasn’t involved in illegal activity, and the person deciding if you’ve proved your case is Boss Hogg. Hilarity does NOT ensue.

The Boss’s fig leaf for this extortion is, of course, the “war on drugs.” Officials call Civil Asset Forfeiture a powerful tool to use against drug kingpins but their actions belie those motivations. One example is Volusia County, Florida, where interstate highways serve as main corridors for the drug trade. Most drugs on this road flow north (into the country) while most cash flows south (out of the country). However, [most Volusia County seizures involve southbound rather than northbound travelers](#), suggesting that the drug cops are targeting fat bags of cash rather than dangerous criminals. Far from being the prime motivator of the stops, [no criminal charges were even filed in over 75% of the County’s seizure cases](#).

To give you an idea of how big this scam is, [forfeitures from 1989-2010 totaled over \\$12.6 BILLION](#). The total was [\\$4.2 billion just in 2012, up from \\$1.7 billion in 2011](#), and the Feds are expecting nearly \$5 billion when 2013’s totals are in.

It’s not just property at risk. Tenaha, Texas, is a poster child for Civil Asset Forfeiture abuse. [A couple and their children were pulled over for driving in the left lane without passing](#). A search (seriously, a search!) uncovered a pipe but no drugs. Into jail anyway, where they learned they “fit the profile” of drug couriers... they were driving from Houston, “a known point for distribution of illegal narcotics” to Linden, “a known place to receive illegal narcotics”. The children in their car were dismissed as decoys but they still played a role in the story... the couple were offered the choice of facing charges and handing their kids over to foster care, or sign over their \$6,037 and be on their way. They paid.

Want to stay clear of Roscoe? Click here for

[“10 Common Indicators for Highway Drug Interdiction”](#).

**WARNING: You fit at least four of these indicators!**

Most people hearing about Civil Asset Forfeiture think it can’t possibly be happening here, and even those who know about it rarely realize the scope. To get your forehead veins popping this month we bring you a buffet of stories on the subject- you’ll find case examples, legal reasoning, videos, even a website for cops who want to make it big in the Civil Asset Forfeiture business. When you know the story you’ll agree... it’s funny when Boss and Roscoe do it, but the reality will make you Furious.

### [Stop and Seize](#)

*Investigative report in The Washington Post; September 2014*

After the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the government called on police to become the eyes and ears of homeland security on America’s highways. Local officers, county deputies and state troopers were encouraged to act more aggressively in searching for suspicious people, drugs and other contraband. The departments of Homeland Security and Justice spent millions on police training. The effort succeeded, but it had an impact that has been largely hidden from public view: the spread of an aggressive brand of policing that has spurred the seizure of hundreds of millions of dollars in cash from motorists and others not charged with crimes, a Washington Post investigation found. Thousands of people have been forced to fight legal battles that can last more

than a year to get their money back. Behind the rise in seizures is a little-known cottage industry of private police-training firms that teach the techniques of “highway interdiction” to departments across the country. Here are four of the most disturbing facts from the Post’s investigation:

- State and local authorities kept more than \$1.7 billion of the \$2.5 billion in cash seizures made since 2001.
- Only one sixth of the seizures were challenged in court, thanks in part to the exorbitant costs of taking legal action against the government.
- The program is a critical source of revenue for hundreds of state and local departments. Since 2008, 298 departments and 210 task forces have seized what amounts to 20% or more of their annual budgets.

- Despite the fact that law enforcement officials in states like Kansas refuse to participate in the “highway interdiction” program because they worry it may not be legal, Justice and Homeland Security officials continue to use it.

### [Easy Money: Civil Asset Forfeiture Abuse by Police](#)

*ACLU Blog of Rights; February 2010*

On November 18, 2009, Shukree Simmons, who is African-American, was driving with his business partner on the highway from Macon, Georgia, back to Atlanta after selling his cherished Chevy Silverado truck to a restaurant owner in Macon for \$3,700 of sorely needed funds. As Mr. Simmons passed through Lamar County, he was pulled over by two patrol officers who stated no reason for the stop, but instead asked Mr. Simmons numerous questions about where he was going and where he had been, and even separated him from his business partner for extended questioning. The officers searched both people and the car, finding no evidence of any illegal activity. A drug dog sniffed the car and did not indicate the presence of any trace of drugs. Notwithstanding the total lack of evidence of criminal activity and Mr. Simmons’s explanation that he was carrying money from selling his truck, the officers confiscated the \$3,700 on the suspicion that the funds were derived from illegal activity, pursuant to their authority under Georgia’s civil asset forfeiture law. Despite the fact that Mr. Simmons mailed his bill of sale and title for the truck to the officer, he was told over the phone that he would need to file a legal claim to get his money back...

### [Cops Use Traffic Stops To Seize Millions From Drivers Never Charged With A Crime](#)

*Nick Sibilla in Forbes; March 2014*

A deputy for the Humboldt County’s Sheriff Office in rural Nevada has been accused of confiscating over \$60,000 from drivers who were never charged with a crime. These cash seizures are now the subject of two federal lawsuits and are the latest to spotlight a little-known police practice called civil forfeiture. Civil forfeiture allows law enforcement to seize property (including cash and cars) without having to prove the

owners are guilty. Last September, Tan Nguyen was pulled over for driving three miles over the speed limit, according to a suit he filed. Deputy Lee Dove asked to search the car but Nguyen said he declined. Dove claimed he smelled marijuana but couldn’t find any drugs. The deputy then searched the car and found a briefcase containing \$50,000 in cash and cashier’s checks, which he promptly seized. According to the Associated Press, Nguyen said he won that cash at a casino.

### [Sourovelis v. City of Philadelphia- Fighting the Philadelphia Forfeiture Machine](#)

*Institute for Justice*

Philadelphia’s automated, machine-like forfeiture scheme is unprecedented in size. From 2002 to 2012,

Philadelphia took in over \$64 million in forfeiture funds—or almost \$6 million per year. In 2011 alone, the city’s prosecutors filed 6,560 forfeiture petitions to take cash, cars, homes and other property. The Philadelphia District Attorney’s office used over \$25 million of that \$64 million to pay salaries, including the salaries of the very prosecutors who brought the forfeiture actions. This is almost twice as much as what all other Pennsylvania counties spent on salaries combined...

### [Highway Robbery: Tennessee Police Are Seizing Cash From Out-of-](#)

### [State Visitors In Policy Called “Policing For Profit”](#)

*Jonathan Turley; May 2012*

Bates said that he was right to take the money because “he couldn’t prove it was legitimate.” That of course flips the normal presumption under criminal law, but it is an example of how police powers have increased in this country.

To make matters even more authoritarian, Tennessee law allows a judge to sign off on the seizure in an ex parte proceeding. Reby was never informed of the hearing. Only the officer’s account is considered at such hearings.

While Reby insists that he offered to show proof on his computer as to the source of the money, the offer was not reported to the court. Bates simply stated “common people do not carry this much U.S. currency.” He noted later that “a thousand-dollar bundle could approximately buy two ounces of

[Like what you’re reading? Does a career in justice-flavored thuggery sound good to you?](#)

*There’s a website that’s ready to help you down the road...*



cocaine.” Of course, ten dollars can buy drugs as well as a thousand dollars can buy a jet ski.

Bates also said Reby had a criminal history despite the fact that it was 20 years ago and did not result in any conviction. He also said the money was hidden in the car despite the fact the Reby consented to the search and told the officer about the bag (and gave the bag to the officer).

### Highway Robbery- Police have incentives to commit legalized highway robbery.

*Bruce Benson in The Freeman; July 1993*

In 1863, Henry Plummer was sheriff of the gold camp at Bannock, Montana. He also organized a gang of about 100 “road agents” who stole from miners and travelers; his deputies were horse thieves, stagecoach robbers, and murderers. Citizens could do something about highway robbery by their sheriff in 1863, however. Since Plummer was breaking the law, a vigilante committee arrested, tried, and hanged him in short order, along with 21 members of his gang, banished several others from the area, and frightened off most of the rest. Today, the sheriff of Volusia County, Florida, also leads an organized band of “road agents” who confiscate cash from travelers on Interstate 95. His road agents are called the “drug squad” and they have seized an average of \$5,000 per day from

motorists during the 41 months preceding June 1992 and over \$8 million dollars since 1989. But Floridians cannot do anything about this highway robbery, because it is perfectly legal under the state’s asset seizure law.

Such highway robbery is being “justified” as part of a “war on drugs.” Actually, however, most Volusia County seizures involve southbound rather than northbound travelers, suggesting that the drug squad is more interested in seizing money than in stopping the flow of drugs. In fact, no criminal charges were filed in over 75 percent of the County’s seizure cases. But more significantly, a substantial amount of money has been stolen from innocent victims. In order to get their money back, these people must undertake an expensive civil trial to *prove their innocence*, something most decide they cannot afford to do...

### ACLU on Civil Asset Forfeiture

Every year, federal and state law enforcement agents seize millions of dollars from civilians during traffic stops, simply by asserting that they believe the money

is connected to some illegal activity and without ever pursuing criminal charges. Under federal law and the laws of most states, they are entitled to keep most (and sometimes all) of the money and property they seize. In many jurisdictions, the money can go to pay for salaries, advanced equipment and other perks. When salaries and perks are on the line, officers have a strong incentive to increase the seizures, as evidenced by an increase in the regularity and size of such seizures in recent years. Asset forfeiture practices often go hand-in-hand with racial profiling and disproportionately impact low-income African-American or Hispanic people who the police decide look suspicious and for whom the arcane process of trying to get one’s property back is an expensive challenge. ACLU believes that such routine “civil asset forfeiture” puts our civil liberties and property rights under assault, and calls for reform of state and federal civil asset forfeiture laws.

### Forfeiture Transparency & Accountability

*A 123-page PDF report from the Institute for Justice including state-by-state breakdown.*



### Taken

*Sarah Stillman in The New Yorker; August 2013*

The county’s district attorney, a fifty-seven-year-old woman with feathered Charlie’s Angels hair named Lynda K. Russell, arrived an hour later. Russell, who moonlighted locally as a country singer, told Henderson and Boatright that they had two options. They could face felony charges for “money laundering” and “child

endangerment,” in which case they would go to jail and their children would be handed over to foster care. Or they could sign over their cash to the city of Tenaha, and get back on the road. “No criminal charges shall be filed,” a waiver she drafted read, “and our children shall not be turned over to CPS,” or Child Protective Services. “Where are we?” Boatright remembers thinking. “Is this some kind of foreign country, where they’re selling people’s kids off?” Holding her sixteen-month-old on her hip, she broke down in tears...

PLUS TWO GOOD NEWS UPDATES! [East Texas DA faces civil rights lawsuit without government help](#), and [Settlement Means No More Highway Robbery in Tenaha, Texas](#)

### Minnesota Now Requires A Criminal Conviction Before People Can Lose Their Property To Forfeiture

*Nick Sibilla in Forbes; May 2014*

In a big win for property rights and due process, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton signed a bill yesterday to

curb an abusive—and little known—police practice called civil forfeiture. Unlike criminal forfeiture, under civil forfeiture someone does not have to be convicted of a crime, or even charged with one, to permanently lose his or her cash, car or home.

The newly signed legislation, SF 874, corrects that injustice. Now the government can only take property if it obtains a criminal conviction or its equivalent, like if a property owner pleads guilty to a crime or becomes an informant. The bill also shifts the burden of proof onto the government, where it rightfully belongs. Previously, if owners wanted to get their property back, they had to prove their property was not the instrument or proceeds of the charged drug crime. In other words, owners had to prove a negative in civil court. Being acquitted of the drug charge in criminal court did not matter to the forfeiture case in civil court.

### Stopping The Abuse Of Civil Forfeiture

*Michigan Congressman Tim Walberg in The Washington Post; September 2014*

Imagine you are driving down the highway on your way to buy a car. You spent months researching years, makes and models, and you finally found somebody who was selling the exact ride you were looking for at a reasonable price. Suddenly, police pull you over for allegedly going 37 mph in a 35 mph zone. Upon discovering the \$8,500 in cash you have on hand, the officers take you to jail and threaten to charge you with money laundering unless you turn over the money. Frightened, you give it to them.

This may sound like something out of a Hollywood movie, but it's a true story, and incidents like it happen all too often across the country because of our civil forfeiture laws. Fortunately, the victim in the above story, Roderick Daniels, had his property returned by officials due to media attention and legal pressure. But the power to take property without due process continues to be abused by local, state and federal law enforcement officials. In my state of Michigan, grocery store owner Terry Dehko had his bank account seized by the IRS because it suspected him of being a money launderer. Dehko would make cash deposits in the bank across the street every night to reduce the threat of robbery and because of coverage limits on his store's insurance policy. Charges were never filed, but Dehko had to fight in court to prove that his money was not being used in a criminal enterprise.

### Civil asset forfeiture abuse takes away right to be presumed innocent

*Ken Braun on MLive; January 2014*

It's easy to understand why police chiefs don't receive hefty commissions for traffic tickets. If they did, then traffic stops for trivially small speeding violations would multiply like weeds, and eagle-eyed deputies would be on the lookout to pounce on every technical failure to signal a turn. Changing the law enforcement incentive from protecting public safety to bureaucratic profit would obliterate the basic presumption of innocence at the heart of our legal system. The police would be looking at drivers as marks to be fleeced, rather than citizens whose rights must be protected and respected...

### The continuing outrage that is civil asset forfeiture

*Radley Balko in The Washington Post; July 2014*

The motorist advocacy site TheNewspaper.com has the story of 64-year-old Laura Dutton. Estelline, Tex.,

police officer Jason Fry was manning a speed trap (a spot where the speed limit suddenly drops) when he pulled Dutton over for driving 61 mph just into the 50 mph zone. Here's what happened next:

Officer Fry said he "smelled marijuana" so a drug dog was called in, and when the K-9 arrived thirty minutes later, it alerted. Dutton had no drugs, but she was carrying \$31,000 in

cash, the bills wrapped up as they had come fresh from the bank. She had recently earned the sum from the sale of 12.9 acres of land in Van Zandt County. Despite the explanation, Officer Fry grabbed the cash and arrested Dutton, who had no criminal record of any kind, for "money laundering." Officer Fry handed the money over to Estelline City Manager Richard Ferguson.

Two months after the money had been taken from her, the charges were finally dropped and \$29,640 returned to Dutton. In addition to the \$1400 stolen from her by the city, Dutton was out \$1050 in fees she had to pay to get out of jail the day after her arrest. She was never reimbursed for the travel expenses she incurred to get her money back.

Dutton filed a complaint. The city didn't bother to investigate. So she sued. The city claimed in discovery that all video related to Dutton's arrest had been destroyed. (Sound familiar?) Fortunately, a Texas judge didn't buy into any of this. Faced with the possibility of a jury trial in front of a sympathetic plaintiff, the city settled for \$77,500. It seems unlikely

### Had your stuff taken by The Man? This man can help...

*Geoffrey G. Nathan, Cash & Money  
Seizure Legal Specialists*



that the settlement will be enough to end the harassment and fishing expeditions. Consider that Estelline police need only find three more Laura Duttons who don't sue to more than recoup the city's losses. Here's the kicker: The Amarillo Globe-News reports that 89 percent of Estelline's 2012 gross revenue came from asset forfeiture.

### **EDITORIAL: Putting a stop to civil asset-forfeiture abuse**

*Washington Post editorial; May, 2014*

When cops can help themselves to cash, cars, boats and houses of citizens who have never been charged with a crime, the system is badly broken. Minnesota has become one of the handful of states to do something to fix it.

Under the surreal doctrine of civil forfeiture, law enforcement agents can set aside constitutional protections and simply seize property under the assertion that the property is probably related to some kind of criminal activity. This is often an irresistible temptation, and the state gets away with it by laying charges against inanimate objects, which have no rights, instead of people, who do. This reverses the presumption of innocence, allowing money, cars, and even the occasional motel to become the constable's property without a judge finding the actual owner guilty of anything. It's up to the owner to prove the cops wrong, and if there's any doubt, the government wins. The system is rigged to favor those who are corrupt.

### **Policing for Profit? Lawmakers, advocates raise alarm at growing gov't power to seize property**

*Barnini Chakraborty on Fox News Politics; May 2014*

WASHINGTON — Motel owner Russell Caswell wasn't expecting to find himself at the center of a national controversy when FBI agents came knocking on his door. They said they wanted his Tewksbury, Mass., business — and the land it was on — because they suspected it was a hotbed for drug-dealing and prostitution. The agents, who were working with state and local authorities, told a disbelieving Caswell they had the right to take the property, valued at as much as \$1.5 million, through a legal process known as civil forfeiture. Caswell, 70, fought back, and the case turned into one of the nation's most contentious civil

forfeiture fights ever — and one that legal experts say sheds light on a little-known practice that, when abused, is tantamount to policing for profit.

Civil forfeiture is when police and prosecutors seize property, cars or cash from someone they suspect of wrongdoing. It differs from criminal forfeiture cases, where prosecutors typically must prove a person is guilty or reach a settlement before freezing funds or selling property. In civil forfeiture, authorities don't have to prove guilt, file charges or obtain a conviction before seizing private property. Critics say it is a process ripe for abuse, and one which leaves citizens little means of fighting back. "You breed a culture of 'take first, ask questions later,'" Larry Salzman, an attorney with the Institute for Justice, told FoxNews.com. "It's thuggish behavior."

### **Reining in Forfeiture: Common Sense Reform in the War on Drugs**

*Kyla Dunn for Frontline*

Last year, almost a billion dollars worth of cash, cars, boats, real estate, and other property was forfeited to the federal government--most of it labeled as drug-related. And while much of this property was taken from bona fide criminals, critics of the nation's forfeiture laws say that too many innocent people have fallen through the cracks in a system that, until recently, has been far too heavily slanted in the government's favor. Retreat is rare in our nation's drug war--which makes recent roll-backs to the forfeiture laws all the more remarkable. In their

scramble not to appear "soft on crime," lawmakers normally seem able only to get tougher, even amidst widespread agreement that a policy is flawed. But on August 23rd, 2000, after a difficult seven-year campaign by Republican Congressman Henry Hyde from Illinois, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act finally went into effect--making it more difficult for the federal government to seize property without evidence of wrongdoing. It took a remarkable coalition of conservative and liberal lawmakers, to change a law that everyone from the American Civil Liberties Union to the National Rifle Association has recognized as flawed. And while the reforms come too late to help Rudy Ramirez, they will help to make cases like his rarer.

### **The Daily Show- Highway-Robbing Highway Patrolmen**

*Unsurprisingly, Jon Stewart has a very funny take on a very serious problem.*



## Civil Asset Forfeiture: The Biggest Little Racket in Nevada

*Jason Snead and Andrew Kloster on The Daily Signal; April 2014*

It was highway robbery, but they called it civil asset forfeiture. On the last day of his 2,400-mile drive to start a new life on the West Coast, Matt Lee found himself on the side of the road, his belongings combed through, and drug dogs sniffing his car. Why? Because Lee made the mistake of telling Humboldt County, Nevada, sheriff's deputy Lee Dove that he had \$2,400 in cash. Lee chronicled what happened in the Silver Pinyon Journal, and it reads like a dark, twisted version of the cop-comedy *Super Troopers*. The deputy claimed that he was interested only in people traveling with more than \$10,000. (After all, Lee was assured, it

is not illegal to have cash.) Lulled into a false sense of security, Lee told the deputy about the money he had stowed in his trunk for the move, a gift from his father to help him get started with the next chapter of his life.

Deputy Dove emptied the contents of Lee's car onto the side of the road, sliced open his bags, and questioned his "cover story" that he was off to start fresh in California. The deputy found no evidence of drugs or illegal activity, but in the world of civil asset forfeiture, you don't need to in order to seize someone's property. The deputy wrote Lee a receipt for his money, then seized it on the pretense that he suspected Lee of traveling cross-country to buy illegal narcotics...