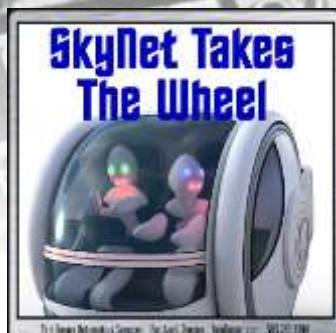


"Your Car Matters"

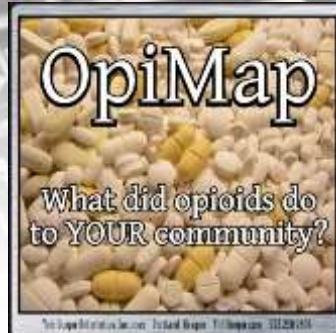
Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for August, 2019



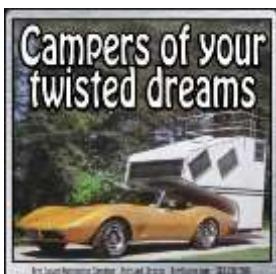
We're committed to the environment. So what?
So it affects every part of our business!



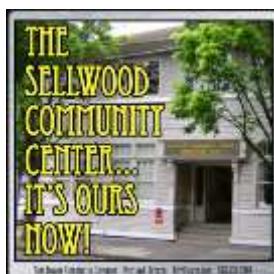
SkyNet Takes The Wheel
Brakes aren't the problem with self-drivers... it's when to use them.



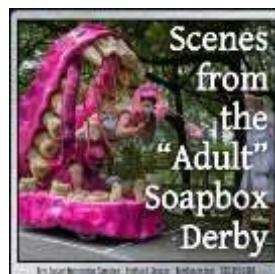
OpiMap
What did opioids do to YOUR community?



Campers of your twisted dreams



The Sellwood Community Center is ours now!



Scenes from the "adult" Soapbox Derby



The bombings we've forgotten

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- You make everything we do possible

What NOW?!! Toons Tucker's Toon for August

Shop Talk- A milestone for our Referral Reward Program

Drew's Kitchen- Cilantro lime marinade

Health Notes- New SuperBugs evolving from Western diet

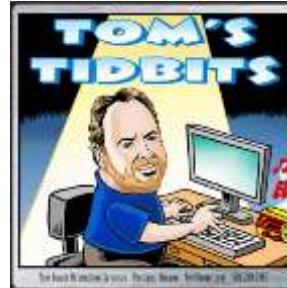
Book Spotlight- "Humans- A Brief History of How We ***ed It All Up" by Tom Phillips

Humorousness- These are the yokes, folks!

News To Make You Furious- We're flushing an entire generation of scientists

Tom's Tidbits

You make everything we do possible.



Greetings,

This month marks a major milestone in our Referral Reward Program. We've donated to hundreds of non-profit groups so far, and our donation total just passed an amazing \$27,000! I say "we've donated", but it's really "you've donated" because it's you, our clients, who make the Referral Reward Program and everything else we do possible. Some of our newer clients may not be aware of some of those other things, so this month I wanted to point out just a few of the things we're involved in beyond fixing cars. I'm very proud of each of these but I want you to feel that same pride and more, because **WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE!**

As I said, our [Referral Reward Program soared past the \\$27,000 mark](#) with \$27,412 in donations and growing. (We make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice when a new client comes to us because of your referral.) Since we began in 2014, we've donated to hundreds of non-profit groups around the city, country, and even the world. We don't pick these groups; YOU do in your individual donations and by voting for our Yearly Award Winner. Thank you, and thank you on behalf of ALL the non-profits you've helped, for making this possible!

Our one-of-a-kind Carbon Neutral Program (CNP) reached a milestone recently as well, passing the 2 MILLION mark with [2,034,900 pounds of carbon offset from our atmosphere!](#) This, again, is solely due to our clients' participation by purchasing their 1-year CNP memberships (and saving 10% on Labor Charges here at the shop). Thank you; the world breathes a little easier because of you!

We're just finishing another summer of events around Sellwood, working with the Sellwood Moreland Business Alliance (SMBA) and other groups. [Participating with the SMBA helps build the business opportunities in Sellwood](#) to maintain our vibrant neighborhood. From school fairs to concerts to picnics, your support lets us get out to meet our neighbors and engage with our community. It was you that let our Magical Buttonizer put smiles on hundreds of kid's faces this summer. Thank you; our neighborhood is a little more like home because of you!

XRAY-FM, the station that rose up to replace the late, lamented KPOJ, just completed its 5th year on the air with its 5th Willy Week "Best Radio Station" award. Because of you we've been able to support the fledgling station from its initial Kickstarter campaign and we continue supporting them today as they take over KUIK, Rush Limbaugh's first radio home in Oregon. [Rational radio can still be heard in Portland](#) because you enabled us to help!

There's so much more... [Genesis, our adopted child](#) in Ecuador who just left the nest or Kerly, the little girl who replaced her. Support for [Single Payer Health Care](#) and the [magical Inner City Blues Festival](#). Our [odd little newsletter](#) or [our Facebook page](#) where we can share information you may not have heard. Support for environmental, community, and political events and causes. And there are other little things that no one will ever hear of, things that plug us into our community in small and quiet ways. None of this would happen unless our clients cared about us the way you do.

Finally, most clients take their most fundamental contribution for granted... your support has built a successful business that's thrived for well over 30 years. [Scores of our employees](#) have had solid, stable careers that have allowed them to raise families, putting their dollars back into our local economy. We've paid taxes (LOTS of taxes, but I digress) that helped build our City and State. Your support has built a resource for your neighbors, a place they can go for reliable auto care they can trust. It's not news, but it's still true... NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!

THANK YOU! Thank you for EVERYTHING you do!

Make a great day,

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

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon for August

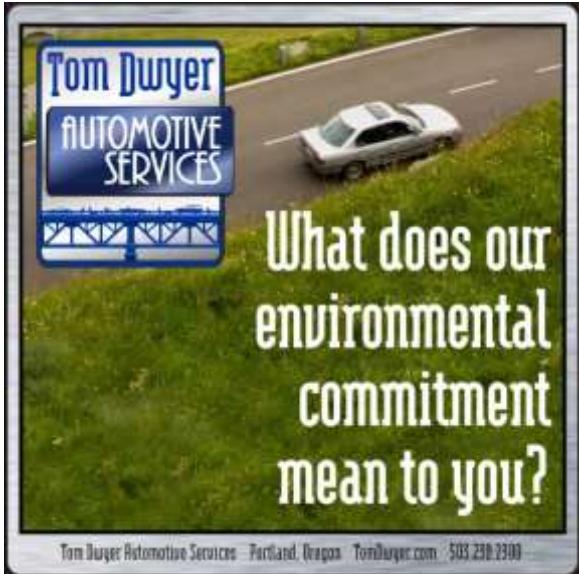


"WHAT NOW?!!"

© KEITH TUCKER WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

We're committed to the environment. So what?

So it affects every part of our business!



What's the biggest contributor to atmospheric carbon dioxide? It's not belching smokestacks or farting cows, it's your car. Well, probably not your car individually, but in [2010 NASA announced that road transportation had surpassed power generation as the largest source of carbon dioxide](#). As a company, Tom Dwyer Automotive has loudly proclaimed the need for environmental awareness and action on multiple issues, yet we do it all from our apparently hypocritical seat in the most carbon-intensive industry on the planet. What good is it to have an "environmental commitment" if our very business model encourages pollution? What difference does it make to you or your vehicle if we care about the environment or not? Quite a bit, actually...

It's not just us. If you drive an automobile, Climate Change has your fingerprints all over it too. People are finally coming to terms with the fact that our western industrialized lifestyle is killing the planet. Each of us, individually, plays some role in pollution, environmental degradation, and Climate Change. But environmental impact isn't graded on a pass/fail basis, it's a continuum. Few of us have the desire or ability to live completely off-grid (and even those would still have some minimal environmental impact) but the alternative is not pollute-all-we-can-and-let-God-clean-it-up. As humans we can't escape our effect on the environment, but we can minimize it. We can never be perfect, but we can always be better.

That's the motivation behind our environmental commitment at Tom Dwyer Automotive. We know it's our job to keep those fossil-fuel fountains on the road, but we have choices about how we do it. We know that everyone drinks the same water and breathes the same air, so when those choices come up we always make them with the environment as the prime consideration. But as companies have noticed consumers desire to be environmentally sensitive as well as the marketing attractiveness of environmentalism, they've all tried to make themselves look as environmentally conscious as possible. But our commitment is more than just 'greenwashing' and we thought we tell you exactly why...

A well-maintained vehicle is better for the environment

A well-maintained vehicle uses less fuel and runs much cleaner than one that's been neglected. Just by keeping your vehicle in top shape you (and we) are helping the environment somewhat, but the big environmental jump will be moving away from gas-powered vehicles to electrics. Electric vehicles are here today, but they may not be ready for prime time. They're still a little expensive for the average pocketbook, range is a little low, and charging stations aren't as common as they need to be. We're big advocates of electrics and hybrids, but if you aren't ready to make the jump then maintaining your vehicle is the best step you can take for now.

We're training for the Electric Future

We're not just waiting for the electric future, we're getting ready for it. Our team of Technicians are all either Certified or Master-Certified by the [National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence](#) (ASE), the main group responsible for certifying Technicians as trained and ready. ASE certifies competence in areas like Engine Repair, Drive Train & Axles, Brakes, and others. With the rise of electric vehicles, in 2014 ASE started certifying Technicians in Light-Duty Hybrid/Electric Vehicles, and [Chris Waterbury, an ASE-Master-Certified Technician who's been with us since 1999, was one of the first of Technicians to achieve this certification.](#)

More Techs will become Hybrid/Electric certified in the years to come, but for now it's still a rarity. Of the approximately 300,000 ASE-certified technicians, only 1,457 earned this credential (as of 2016). Put another way, Toyota has about 70% of the hybrid/electric vehicle market and about 1500 dealerships in the US and Canada. That means there's *not yet one ASE-certified hybrid/electric Technician for every Toyota dealership*, much less the other dealers and independent shops around the country. We're very proud of Chris, and very proud to say we have at least 3 more Tom Dwyer Technicians studying to take their Hybrid/Electric tests soon.



For now, we think gas (or hybrid) vehicles are still the way to go, but the sooner we can all switch to electric vehicles the better. When you're ready to make the switch we'll be ready *and qualified* to service yours.

We're a certified EcoBiz

[EcoBiz](#) (short for eco-logical business) is a program that certifies Auto Repair & Body Shops, Landscapers, and Car Washes in Oregon that meet high standards in reducing toxics, preventing pollution, and protecting the environment. Each applicant is visited and evaluated by EcoBiz program staff, and certified by the Oregon DEQ and a local water authority. (Public agencies, such as fleet maintenance facilities and parks departments, are also eligible for EcoBiz Certification). Tom Dwyer Automotive Services was one of the first auto businesses certified by the Pollution Prevention Outreach in the Portland Area. EcoBiz is fanatical about recycling, so when they came for our certification visit they were blown away to find we already recycled everything from used motor oil and dirty fluids to the mercury in automotive switches. Certification covers all aspects of the business, including



Hazardous waste management
Air quality and pollution
Spill prevention and response
Product and waste storage
Cleaning procedures

Purchasing and inventory management
Recycling practices
Employee training
Vehicle washing and stormwater
Energy and water use

If you really want to dig deeply into the EcoBiz requirements, you can download the [Auto Checklist](#) or [Auto Guide](#) here, and if there's some reason to find an EcoBiz auto shop other than Tom Dwyer you can get a [map of them all here](#).

We offset the carbon production of our shop

No matter how tightly we stick to the EcoBiz guidelines we're still producing carbon, and that's not acceptable. We can't stop, but we can make up for it through carbon offsets.

"Offsets" are based on the idea that the amount of carbon (or other greenhouse gasses) an individual or business produces can be offset by funding carbon reduction in other places. One carbon offset is the reduction of one metric ton (1000kg) of carbon, or its equivalent in other greenhouse gasses (CO2e). For example, if a power plant can install equipment to reduce 100 tons of carbon then it could create 100 carbon offsets, which it can sell to fund the equipment. Conservation projects also create offsets; for example tree planting can absorb anywhere from 2 to 48 metric tons of carbon (2000kg to 48000kg) of carbon per tree per year, or 2 to 48 carbon offsets.



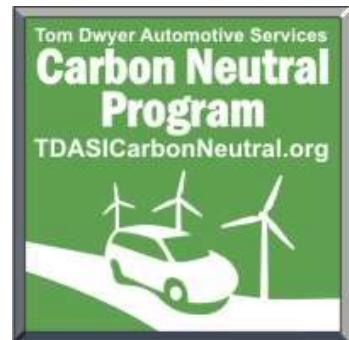
We fully offset the carbon production of our shop, right down to the amount we generate by test-driving clients' vehicles. We buy our carbon offsets from [Bonneville Environmental Foundation](#), an Oregon company that's been working on watershed restoration and renewable energy since 1998. Their offsets qualify for the [Green-e Certification](#) to ensure the money they generate is going to the most effective mitigation projects.

We work with outside environmental groups

Like many companies, we spend money and time on outreach and marketing. Because we care about the environment, we choose to spend those dollars and hours with organizations that promote environmental awareness and action like [350.org](#), [Sierra Club](#), and [Willamette Riverkeeper](#).

We offer a one-of-a-kind Carbon Neutral Program

But perhaps our proudest achievement is our [Tom Dwyer Automotive Carbon Neutral Program](#) (CNP), a partnership with [Bonneville Environmental Foundation](#) (BEF). We started the CNP in 2007 to allow our clients to offset the carbon output of their vehicles and save money at the same time. As of 2019, the members of the Tom Dwyer Automotive Carbon Neutral Program (CNP) have been responsible for removing over 2 MILLION POUNDS OF CARBON from our air!



If you're environmentally-minded as well then we definitely want you to join the CNP. Your **1-year membership** will not only **offset the carbon production of your vehicle**, but you'll also **save 10% on labor charges here at the shop** and you'll get a really cool **window cling sticker**.

Cost varies by vehicle type and the number of offsets you need. Sippers (hybrids and electrics) cost about \$30, drinkers (most cars) cost about \$50, and guzzlers (big gas users) cost about \$90.

And *because* we're environmentally committed, *because* we *want* you to offset your carbon production, we make no money off the sale of these offsets. The price you'll pay is the price we pay to BEF!

You can breathe easy with Tom Dwyer

It seems like every company these days is thinking about the environment, but that's because they see that every person is thinking about it as well. If the environmental stance of the companies you deal with matters to you, then you can rest easy dealing with Tom Dwyer Automotive. Our environmental commitment is much more than greenwashing... it drives everything we do!

Digging Deeper...

[Which industries and activities emit the most carbon?](#) The Guardian, Apr 2011

[Vehicles are now America's biggest CO2 source but EPA is tearing up regulations,](#) Oliver Milman in The Guardian, Jan 2018

[Germany Has Proven the Modern Automobile Must Die,](#) Emily Atkin in Wired, Aug 2018

[Car Emissions & Global Warming,](#) Dave Cook on Union of Concerned Scientists,

[Shrinking Your Footprint- What are those carbon offsets you keep hearing about?](#)

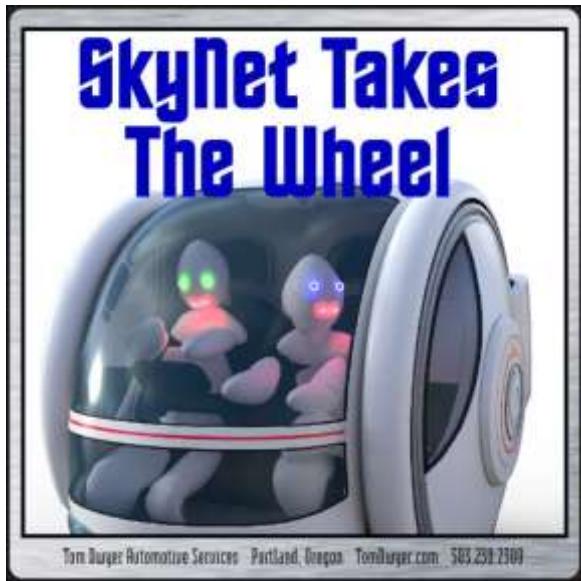
Charles Letherwood on Tom Dwyer Automotive, Sep 2011

[What Does It Mean To Step Lightly? Understanding your carbon footprint,](#) Charles Letherwood on Tom Dwyer Automotive, Feb 2011

[We're now CERTIFIED for hybrids and electrics!](#) Charles Letherwood on Tom Dwyer Automotive, Aug 2016

SkyNet Takes The Wheel

Brakes aren't the problem with self-drivers... it's when to use them



NIGHTMARE SCENARIO: You're driving down the road when a child darts out in front of you. There's no room to brake, but as you start to swerve you see the jogger in the other lane. No way around it, either the child or the jogger will die. There's no time to think, only to act... *what do you do?*

It's the classic Trolley Problem, but here's a twist... imagine that instead of you being the driver, you're the passenger in a self-driving car that encounters the same situation. What does *it* do? What *should* it do? What do *other people* think it should do?

This interactive simulation from MIT makes you the AI behind the wheel of a self-driving car, and someone's going to die... who will it be? Find out how you'd make split-second, life-and-death decisions if you have

the time to reflect, then compare your answers with the millions of others from around the globe. And then dig deeper into the moral dilemmas of self-driving cars...

[Click here to try the MIT Media Lab's Moral Machine interactive](#)



Digging deeper...

[How should autonomous vehicles be programmed? Massive global survey reveals ethics preferences and regional differences](#), Peter Dizikes at MIT Media Lab, Oct 2018

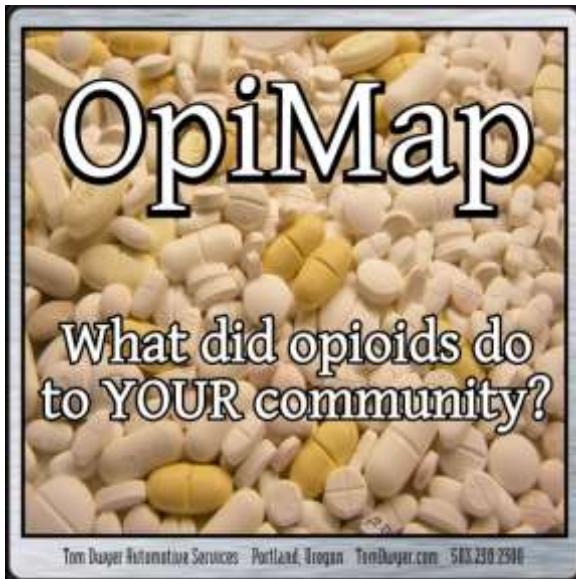
[Your \(future\) car's moral compass](#), by Edmond Awad on MIT Media Lab, Feb 2019

[Self-driving cars will have to decide who should live and who should die. Here's who humans would kill.](#) Carolyn Johnson in Washington Post, Oct 2018

[Self-driving car dilemmas reveal that moral choices are not universal](#), Amy Maxmen in Nature, Oct 2018
<http://moralmachine.mit.edu/>

OpiMap

Opioid dealers are being hit with gigantic fines. Here's why.



Two major stories in the news recently came from the plague of intentionally over-prescribed opioids that swept our country. In one, Johnson&Johnson was hit with a \$572 million fine, and in the other the Sackler family proposed a \$10-12\$ billion settlement that included their sale of Purdue Pharmaceuticals. Are these numbers reasonable? Everyone knows the opioid epidemic was bad, but we may not all be aware exactly how bad it was, and still is. As these stories develop we thought context might be useful, so this month we bring you interactive maps showing exactly where the opioids went nationwide, a story on just what happened here on the Oregon Coast, and more statistics that illustrate exactly what these companies are settling over...

A screenshot of an interactive map showing the distribution of opioid pills by pharmacy across the United States. The map is a grayscale choropleth map where darker shades represent higher concentrations of opioid prescriptions. A legend at the top right indicates the scale of the data, ranging from 0 to over 100,000 prescriptions. A callout box in the bottom right corner reads: "Click here for an interactive map of how many opioid pills were distributed at each pharmacy in the US."

[Click here for an interactive map of how many opioid pills were distributed at each pharmacy in the US.](#)

A photograph of a rugged, rocky coastline under a dark, overcast sky. The ocean is filled with white-capped waves crashing against the rocks. The scene conveys a sense of raw power and natural beauty.

[Pharmaceutical Companies Flooded the Oregon Coast With an Ocean of Pain Pills](#)

The Oregon Coast fits the demographic profile most commonly associated with opioid addiction.

Digging Deeper...

[Johnson & Johnson Was Ordered to Pay \\$572 Million for Its Role in the Opioid Crisis. With Similar Lawsuits Across the Country, That Could Be Just the Beginning,](#)
Sanya Mansoor in Time Magazine, Aug 2019

[How many pain pills went to your pharmacy?](#)
Emamdjomeh, Ba Tran, Williams, Rindler, and Meko on Washington Post, Aug 2019

[Pharmaceutical Companies Flooded the Oregon Coast With an Ocean of Pain Pills](#), Katie shepherd in Willamette Week, July 2019

[What is the U.S. Opioid Epidemic?](#) Website, US Department of Health and Human Services

[Opioid Overdose Crisis](#), Website, National Institute on Drug Abuse

[Overdose Death Rates](#), Website, National Institute on Drug Abuse

[Opioid Overdose- Understanding the Epidemic](#), Website, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[7 Staggering Statistics About America's Opioid Epidemic](#), Website, American Physical Therapy Association

Shop Talk

A milestone for our Referral Reward program



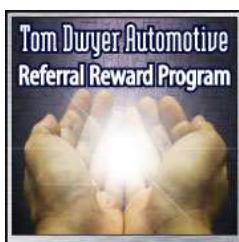
Comment of the Month



Adam W. said “We are so glad you serve our community!”

We're very grateful for Adam's Comment, and we focused on it this month because we're proud to say it represents a very common comment. “Thanks for all you do”, “thanks for being a strong part of our community”, and others are similar. We're trying very hard to be a productive part of our community, instead of just a resident in it, but we're just a conduit; our clients enable everything we do. This was on Tom's mind this month and he goes into it much deeper in this month's Tom's Tidbits. For our response to Adam W. though, we'll just say thank you, and WITH YOUR HELP we plan to keep it up for many years to come.

Referral Reward Program



Our Referral Reward Program is how we say “thank you” to the clients who recommend our shop to their family and friends. When a new client comes in and gives your name as a Referral Source we'll make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice, and all selections are eligible for our \$1,000 Yearly Award as well. It couldn't be easier!

**THIS MONTH WE'RE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE A MILESTONE FOR
THE REFERRAL REWARD PROGRAM... THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE
DONATED OVER \$27,000 TO THE NON-PROFITS YOU CARE
ABOUT! THANK YOU!**

**We've made 10 donations for \$414 since our last count; a total of
635 donations totaling \$27,412 since the program began!**

Here's who our clients chose to help in August...

[Planned Parenthood](#) by Brian F.

[Meals On Wheels](#) by Jim H.

[Friends of Tryon Creek](#) by Sarah B.

[Dove Lewis Animal Hospital](#) by Bruce S.

[Moms Demand Action](#) by Kristin D.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) by Mark T.

[XRAY-FM](#) by Myron B.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Craig G.

[ACLU](#) by Joyce L.

[Childrens' Cancer Association](#) by Rene Z.

Current Special Offers



Take advantage of these special Tom Dwyer offers!



Save 10% on Labor Charges on any single operation

Some maintenance and repair tasks involve many hours in labor time to replace an inexpensive part... timing belt jobs are a prime example! If we've recommended a high-labor operation to you, then this is the coupon you need.

Offer expires 10/4/19

Maximum value \$250

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

Offer is VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!



Get a FREE coupon for a WashMan Car Wash!

We'd love to wash and vacuum your vehicles after service, but City restrictions for water runoff prevent washing and client privacy concerns make vacuuming a bad idea. ([If you want the details we have a full article about it here](#)). So what do we do instead? During the dusty summer months we offer coupons for a FREE CAR WASH at WashMan Car Wash, an [Portland Pollution Outreach certified EcoBiz](#) that's made the investment to clean your car spectacularly with minimum environmental impact. We can't do it for every purchase so you won't get a coupon for just an oil change, but for most things beyond that you can have your vehicle washed on us!

Offer expires Sept 2019

We also have a couple ongoing offers you might find valuable...



Carbon Neutral Program- Our company's commitment to the environment led us to partner with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to create our Carbon Neutral Program in 2007. **Client members offset the carbon production of their vehicles for one year AND save 10% on Labor Charges here at the shop!** It's a win for you AND our environment and it's been very successful... since we instituted the program our members have prevented over 1.9 MILLION POUNDS of carbon from being dumped into our air!



Referral Reward Program- Year after year, referrals from our existing clients are our greatest source of new clients, so we've tried hard to think of some way to appropriately reward people for their referrals. Our solution is our Referral Reward Program, where **we make donations to the non-profit group of your choice to say 'thanks' for your generous referrals.** Here's how it works...

Your reviews and referrals matter



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

Latest Automotive Recalls



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

Drew's Kitchen

Cilantro lime marinade



No matter the meat, the marinade matters most! While Drew's favorite cilantro marinade probably won't work as well with beef, it will make your chicken, fish, or seafood sparkle. If you're a cilantro fan then this is a go-to marinade for any cooking you'll do, but if you're not don't worry... we'll have another recipe next month!!

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cilantro, chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lime juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 garlic clove, minced

Preparation:

- Couldn't be simpler. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
- Defrost meat. Put meat in covered container or sealable plastic bag and cover with marinade. Refrigerate. Allow to soak at least 12 hours.
- This marinade can be used immediately, refrigerated for use later in the weekend, or frozen for use anytime through the year.

Prep time 0:15

Original recipe from Kiersten Hickman in "Eat this, Not That!"

Health Notes

New SuperBugs evolving from Western diet



Sugary Western Diets Fuel Newly Evolving Superbugs

By Yasemin Saplakoglu on LiveScience.com, Aug 2019

A diarrhea-causing bacterium is evolving into a new species, one that thrives on your sugar-rich Western diet, according to a new study.

The *Clostridium difficile* bacteria produce spores that spread through contact with feces, and so can commonly be found in bathrooms or on surfaces that people touch without properly washing their hands. What's more, this bacterium is becoming increasingly resistant to disinfectants used in hospitals, said study lead author Nitin Kumar, a senior bioinformatician at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

Patients taking antibiotics face the greatest risk of developing diarrhea from *C. difficile*, because antibiotics clear away healthy gut bacteria that typically fight off the infection, Kumar told Live Science.

In the new study, Kumar and his team collected 906 different strains of *C. difficile* from the environment, from humans and from animals such as dogs, pigs and horses. The researchers analyzed and compared the DNA for these various strains and found that *C. difficile* was evolving into two separate species.

In order to be considered the same species, two groups of organisms have to share 95% of their genomes, and the two emerging species of *C. difficile* share 94% to 95%, Kumar said. That indicates that "they are on the verge of speciation."

It's not uncommon for bacteria to evolve, but "this time, we actually see what factors are responsible for the evolution," Kumar said.

One of the emerging species, *C. difficile* clade A, is the one that is thriving in hospitals. The team found that it made up 70% of the samples collected from hospital patients. DNA analysis suggested that this emerging species started evolving 76,000 years ago and eventually gathered mutations in its genes that better allowed it to metabolize sugars and form disinfectant-resistant spores.

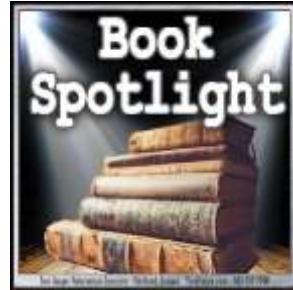
The researchers then introduced the *C. difficile* clade A bacteria to mice that were eating various diets. Results showed that the bacteria were more likely to thrive and colonize the gut when the mice ate diets rich in simple sugars, such as glucose and fructose.

Essentially, our diet and other lifestyle factors, like the type of disinfectant commonly used in hospitals, are helping this bacteria to evolve more effectively, Kumar said. These results suggest that it might be useful to consider a "low-sugar diet for those patients who are infected with *C. difficile* clade A or [for hospitals to] look for new disinfectants as well."

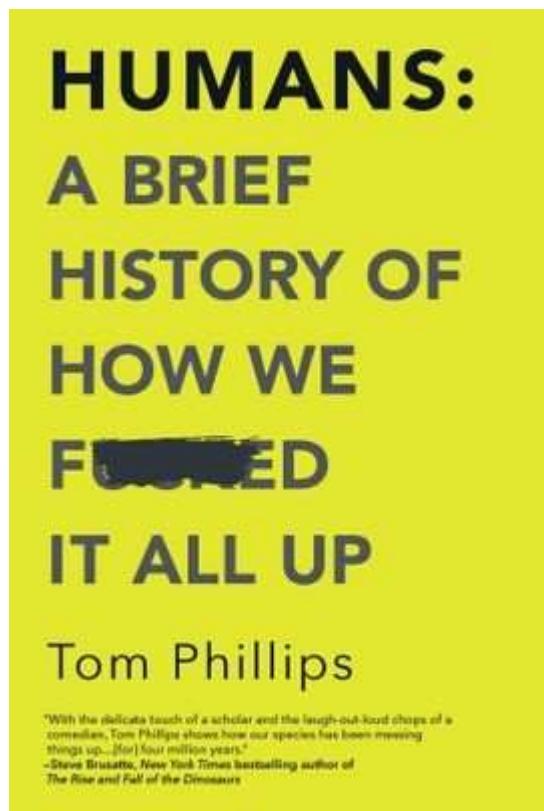
The findings were published Aug. 12 in the journal *Nature Genetics*.

Book Spotlight

"Humans- A Brief History of How We F***ed It All Up" by Tom Phillips



As we write this the [Amazon rain forest is on fire](#), the [icecaps are melting](#), [it's raining plastic](#), and oh yeah, the [latest date for the end of the world is now 2050](#). Seems we've been pretty busy in our paltry few thousand years! Human history is often seen as a slow and jagged rise from savagery to civilization, but it can just as easily be seen as a catalog of errors leading not to civilization, but to whatever it is we have now. That's how Tom Phillips looks at it in this book, combining history and humor to give us a different view of the water we fish swim in...



[Humans- A Brief History of How We F***ed It All Up](#)

by Tom Phillips

Synopsis

An exhilarating history of humankind, chronicling thousands of years of trial and error--but mostly error--in the rise of civilization. Modern humans have come a long way in the seventy thousand years they've walked the earth. Art, science, culture, trade--on the evolutionary food chain, we're true winners. But it hasn't always been smooth sailing, and sometimes--just occasionally--we've managed to truly f*ck things up. Weaving together history, science, politics and pop culture, Humans offers a panoramic exploration of humankind in all its glory, or lack thereof. From Lucy, our first ancestor, who fell out of a tree and died, to General Zhou Shou of China, who stored gunpowder in his palace before a lantern festival, to the Austrian army that attacked itself one drunken night, to the most spectacular fails of the present day, Humans

reveals how even the most mundane mistakes can shift the course of civilization as we know it. Lively, wry and brimming with brilliant insight, this unique compendium offers a fresh take on world history and is one of the most entertaining reads of the year.

Humorousness

These are the yokes, folks!



If you're like us, you're only now recovering from the mindless debauchery that was [National Tell A Joke Day](#) on August 16. (Not to be confused with [International Joke Day](#) on July 1. Posers!) Whew! What a party! For the few of you who missed it, we found some really good jokes to get you going for next year. Start memorizing now, and work on that rim shot!

Two windmills are standing in a field. One asks the other, "What kind of music do you like?" The other one says, "I'm a big metal fan."

My girlfriend says I'm hopeless at fixing appliances. Well, she's in for a shock.

A man showed up for a duel armed only with a pencil and paper. He then proceeded to draw his weapon.

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me. It means a lot.

The mother who injected her 8 year-old child with Botox for beauty pageants has lost custody. Her daughter didn't look surprised.

What do you call an imaginary color? A pigment of your imagination.

I was on a flight the other day when the air hostess came up to me and said, "Excuse me sir, would you like to have dinner?" I said, "What are the options?" She said, "Yes and No."

My girlfriend isn't talking to me because apparently I ruined her birthday. I'm not sure how I did that – I didn't even know it was her birthday...

I left my Adderall in my Ford Fiesta. Now it's a Ford Focus.

When does a joke become a Dad joke? When it becomes fully groan.

My friend has got a butler who only has one arm. Serves him right.

My favorite color is purple. I like it more than blue and red combined.

What do you call a Mexican bodybuilder who's run out of protein? No whey Jose.

My girlfriend told me she was leaving me because I keep pretending to be a Transformer. I said, "No, wait! I can change."

My girlfriend has her own taser. She's a real stunner...

What do you call a sad strawberry? A blueberry.

I asked my girlfriend if she'd like a day of eating ice cream and hanging with her girl friends. She said, "Ooh, yes." I said, "Good, because I'm breaking up with you."

My friend is a structural engineer. He's always complaining about stress at work.

I used to be a narcissist. But now look at me.

They say make up sex is the best... Which is lucky, because all my sex is made up.

I built an electric fence around my property yesterday. My neighbor is dead against it.

I've been dating a homeless woman recently, and I think it's starting to get serious... She's asked me to move out with her.

I bought a dog off a blacksmith today. As soon as I got it home it made a bolt for the door.

I called the cops about a murder on my front lawn... But they said they couldn't do anything about crows and to stop calling them.

My girlfriend tried to make me have sex on the hood of her Honda Civic... But I refused. If I'm going to have sex, it's going to be on my own Accord.

My wife accused me of being a transvestite. So I packed her things and left.

I haven't owned a watch for I don't know how long.

I almost got caught stealing a board game today. But it was a Risk I was willing to take.

What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One's really heavy, the other's a little lighter.

A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer. Bartender says "Sorry, we don't serve food here".

What do you call a fish without eyes? Fsh.

Two muffins are baking in the oven. One muffin says to the other, "Phew, is it getting hot in here or is it just me?" The other muffin says "AAAAAHHH!!! A TALKING MUFFIN!"

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil? Because it's pointless.

What's the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu? One requires tweetment and the other an oinkment.

Why do seagulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over a bay, they'd be bagels.

Where can you buy chicken broth in bulk? The stock market.

What do you call fake spaghetti? Impasta

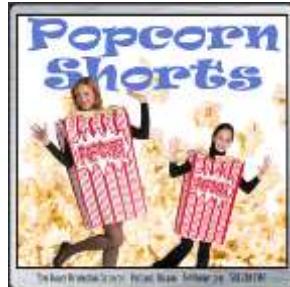
What do you call birds that stick together? Vel-crows.

What do cows most like to read? Cattle-logs.

OK, we'll stop now, but you can find all these and more at the same spots we found them... LaffGaff.com and (believe it or not) Readers' Digest (RD.com). LaffGaff especially has a long list of goodies and groaners; many very funny but slightly unfit for a family automotive newsletter.

Popcorn Shorts

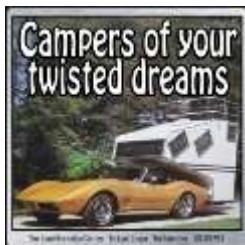
Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not necessarily all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on our Facebook page. If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!

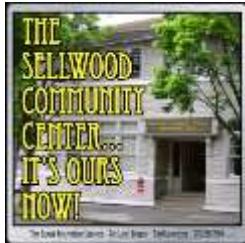


Campers of your twisted dreams



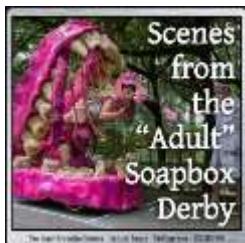
[Messy Nessy Chic](#) is always a good source for the interesting and unique kind of things we look for in our Popcorn Shorts, and they came through yet again. In their "[Compendium of Crazy Campers](#)" our fave, the Corvette Camper, is joined by station wagon popups, gigantic log campers from the 1920's, tiki campers from the 60's, aquatic ones from the 50's, and many more. If you enjoy these, you may also enjoy a look at "[Fantastic French Publicity Caravans of Yesteryear](#)", or "[10 Vintage Trailers up For Sale just in time for a Summer Road Trip](#)". Summer's never over if you've got a camper!

The Sellwood Community Center is ours now!



The Sellwood Community Center opened in 1910 and is the second longest continuously operating community center in the city of Portland. For most of its history it's been managed by the Portland Parks and Recreation Department but the City recently decided to close the center for budget reasons. The Friends of Sellwood Community Center, a subgroup of Sellwood's SMILE committee, formed to take over the facility and its programs and now the [Sellwood Community House officially opens September 1](#). Click here to get the latest on this old-yet-new community resource. (There's a rumor going around that a local auto shop will be teaching car care classes for civilians. We'll keep you posted!)

Scenes from the "adult" soapbox derby



Portland is famously where young people go to retire, and you can always tell a retiree by their ride. Thousands of people gathered to watch scores of these 'retirees' show off their rides at the most recent Portland Adult Soapbox Derby. Racers build their own gravity-propelled vehicles and race them from the top of Mt. Tabor to either glory or medical care. If you missed this year's Derby then make plans now for next year, but in the meantime enjoy these galleries from the [Portland Adult Soap Box Derby](#), [Willamette Week](#), or the [Southeast Examiner](#).

The bombings we've forgotten



We live in a world of random violence and paranoia, and the very real threats from active shooters or crowd bombers stay with us long after the act is over. It may be hard to recall now but [during the 1970s protest bombings in America were commonplace](#), especially in cities like New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Nearly a dozen radical underground groups set off hundreds of bombs during that tumultuous decade—so many, in fact, that many people all but accepted them as a part of daily life. As one woman sniffed to a New York Post reporter after an attack by a Puerto Rican independence group in 1977: "Oh, another bombing? Who is it this time?" ... depressing echoes of today.

News To Make You Furious

We're flushing an entire generation of scientists



The Scientific Method, or “Reality Studies” as we like to call it, is the beating heart of today’s world. More than religion, more than war, more than any other philosophical or political revolution, the Scientific Revolution been the foundation of virtually every human advance since the 1600’s. If you are a hawk then Science gives you the ability to conquer your enemies, if you’re a dove then it gives you the ability to prosper with them. Since we all depend on this Golden Goose for our livelihood, what’s the Trump Administration’s plan for it? Kill it with fire. To inflate your ire this month we bring you a look at the Trumpet’s all-too-successful

attempts to gut Science and muzzle Scientists, from slashing scientific advisory boards to strangling funding to just putting gag orders on facts. Your life depends on Science, the life of your family, humanity, and even the planet depend on Science, so get Furious as we watch an entire generation of scientific minds flushed down the toilet of expediency...

Science denial is pervasive today. Climate Change denial is the poster child, but Flat Earthers and Anti-vaxers are too other gigantic examples in the public sphere. These beliefs don’t cause much of a problem if they stay on the fringe, but when they become mainstream they cause real problems. The resurgence of measles in the US is a perfect example, but the death of the planet could occur if denialism persists around Climate Change.

A strongly held opinion is not the same as a fact, and that doesn’t change if the opinion is motivated by fear, political expediency, or religious preference. Science establishes facts, and then we make policy based on those facts. If a poison kills bees we can choose to use it or not but we can’t pretend the bees aren’t dead. We may decide it’s too expensive to save the planet, but we can’t pretend it stops warming because we stop caring.

The Assault on Science

Attacks on Science- Ongoing, updated list of attacks on Science

Union of Concerned Scientists

[The Trump Administration Has Attacked Science 100 Times ... and Counting. That's more than any administration since the Union of Concerned Scientists started tracking.](#) Carter, Desikan, and Goldman in Scientific American, May 2019

[Inside a Trump-era purge of military scientists at a legendary think tank](#), Charles Levinson on Reuters, Jul 2019

[Scientists Brace for a Lost Generation in American Research](#), Adrienne LaFrance in The Atlantic, Mar 2017

[Trump Admin Continues Assault on Science with Intimidation Tactics](#), Lauren Lantry on Sierra Club, Aug 2019

['All-Out Assault on Science': Latest Executive Order by Trump Puts Expert Advice on the Chopping Block](#)
[Issued Friday, the order calls on agencies to slash advisory boards by one-third.](#) By Andrea Germanos on Common Dreams, Jun 2019

[Who does President Trump treat worse than anyone else? Scientists.](#) By Robert Gebelhoff in Washington Post, Aug 2019

Facts Matter

[Rudy Giuliani says Trump is 'honest' because facts are 'in the eye of the beholder'](#), William Cummings in USA Today, Aug 2018

["We're embarrassed": US is close to losing measles-elimination status](#), Beth Mole on ARS Technica, Aug 2019

['It feels like something out of a bad sci-fi movie'- A top climate scientist quit USDA, following others who say Trump has politicized science.](#) Helena Bottemiller Evich on Politico, Aug 2019

[Bees and Beekeepers Feel the Sting of Trump Administration's Anti-Science Efforts](#), Jessica Knoblauch on EarthJustice, Jul 2019

[Trump's order to slash number of science advisory boards blasted by critics as 'nonsensical'](#), Phil McCausland on NBC News, Jun 2019

The Lost Generation

[How to track the "lost generation" of scientists](#), Podcast by David Payne on NatureJobs, Jul 2018

[Point of View: Avoiding a lost generation of scientists](#), Taylor, Kovacik, et al, May 2016

[How to track the "lost generation" of scientists](#), Podcast from Working Scientist, Aug 2018

Fighting Back

[A New Study Explains Why—And How—You Should Respond to Science Deniers](#), Annie Renau on LeapsMag, Aug 2019

[The State of Science in the Trump Era \(2019\)- Damage Done, Lessons Learned, and a Path to Progress](#), Union of Concerned Scientists, 2019

[What's next for the 'Lost Generation' of academics?](#) Marie Curie Alumni Association, Jan 2019

[Congress Must Do More to Counter Trump Administration's Assault on Climate Science](#), Majumder and Costa on Center for American Progress, Jun 2019

There's a lot of info in those links above, so let us give you just a few of the stand-out sections...

"The budget proposal President Donald Trump released on Thursday calls for major cuts to funding for medical and science research; he wants to slash funding to the National Institutes of Health by \$6 billion, which represents about one-fifth of its budget. Given that the NIH says it uses more than 80 percent of its budget on grant money to universities and other research centers, thousands of institutions and many more scientists would suffer from the proposed cuts."

From "Scientists Brace for a Lost Generation in American Research"

"President Donald Trump [signed an executive order late Friday](#) to cut the number of government advisory committees by a third across all federal agencies, a move that the White House said is long overdue and necessary to ensure good stewardship of taxpayers' money.

The administration has for two years been "shrinking and restricting the role of federal science advisory committees," said Gretchen Goldman, the research director with the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, in a statement. "Now they're removing the possibility of even making decisions based on robust science advice. It's no longer death by a thousand cuts. It's taking a knife to the jugular."

From "Trump's order to slash number of science advisory boards blasted by critics as 'nonsensical'"

Before Donald Trump came along, George W. Bush's administration posed the biggest threat to public health and safety, with a documented 98 attacks on science, according to our count. But while those attacks happened over eight years, the Trump administration topped them in a mere two and a half years. The Bush administration was no friend to federal scientists or their work. Indeed, for a long period of time, it was widely regarded by many to be the most antagonistic administration toward science and science policy in modern history.

from "The Trump Administration Has Attacked Science 100 Times ... and Counting."

"The Trump-appointed head of the U.S. Geological Survey recently announced an internal directive to only use climate projections up to the year 2040 in its assessments, instead of the traditional end-of-century reporting. This measure will reduce the usefulness of the agency's climate science reporting and obscure the extent of the threat, since projected warming rates remain more or less the same until 2050, after which rates of change show dramatic increases and differ significantly depending on the mitigation scenario.

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to alter how it estimates the impacts of air pollution on human health, which would affect the cost-benefit calculation of important climate change-related regulations and could possibly be used to defend further rollbacks. This would include the administration's proposed replacement rule for the Clean Power Plan; under the rule, the plan would calculate a significantly reduced number of premature deaths resulting from climate change.

The White House National Security Council reportedly blocked long-established scientific data from a State Department scientist's congressional testimony from entry into the congressional record—after the council failed to prevent his attendance at the hearing before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—calling it "climate alarm propaganda" and attempting unprecedented redaction of a written testimony."

From “Congress Must Do More to Counter Trump Administration’s Assault on Climate Science”

“Take the recent directive from the Department of Health and Human Services to the communications staffers at the nation’s premier health research institutions. After two mass shootings this month, they were told not to post anything on social media regarding mental health, violence or mass shootings without prior approval from the government, The Post reported Tuesday.”

from “Who does President Trump treat worse than anyone else? Scientists.”