



# "Your Car Matters"

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for November, 2021

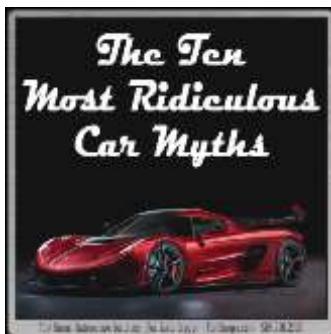


## Saturday Shop Hours?

We're thinking about making a change. What do YOU think?

## January 6, 2021

A full timeline of how it happened, before, during, and after. In reality.



The Ten Most Ridiculous Car Myths



Giant Spiders have invaded Georgia. Will they spread?



What's your political typology? Take the fun quiz!



The Interstate Bridge in the Big One



Don't "Eat the Rich"... Tax the Wealth!



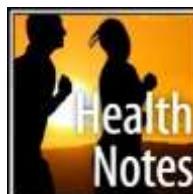
A profoundly touching compliment



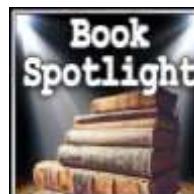
Your source for cartoons, puzzles, memes, jokes, and more



Invisibility, Texting for the Paralyzed, and Martian Organics



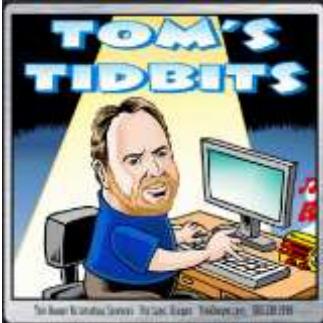
How you can be fooled into health



"Kings, Conquerors, Psychopaths: From Alexander to Hitler to the Corporation"



Cranberry Brie Tarts



# Tom's Tidbits

## Don't "Eat the Rich"... Tax The Wealth!

Greetings,

"Eat the Rich" is a catchy little phrase gaining traction these days, but it goes back to [Jean Jacques Rousseau](#) during the French Reign of Terror- "When the people shall have no more to eat, they will eat the rich!" A visceral hatred for those who denigrate the little people making life-or-death decisions in a collapsing economy might be

understandable. 'The Rich' aren't trying to help their case either, as Elon's recent Tweet to Bernie showed... "I keep forgetting that you're still alive." "Eat the Rich" may be a feel-good phrase if you're one of the not-rich, but it's a toxic appeal to the lowest instincts in the poor and middle classes and fuels the fears of the rich. Even worse, it masks a non-vengeful policy that makes perfect sense... "Tax Wealth".

[Trickle-down economics](#), the idea that money given to 'the rich' trickles down to benefit everyone, is so transparently ridiculous that George Bush famously called it '[voodoo economics](#)' when Reagan proposed it. Bush has since been vindicated by [scientific studies](#) and [40 years of easily observable reality](#). "The Rich" don't get their income from wages, they get it through investments, stock options, bonuses, and other non-wage sources. [Tax has been effectively removed on capital gains and investments but remains firmly in place on wages](#).

The result has been a transfer of roughly [\\$50 TRILLION dollars from the bottom 90% to the top 10%](#) over the last four decades.

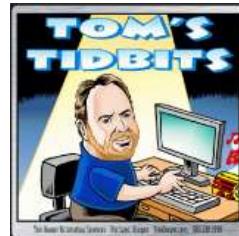
That's not because the top 10% were working trillions of times harder. Rich people can [pay for accountants to take maximum advantage of the tax laws, avoid taxes where possible](#), and fight the IRS when (and [notably, IF](#)) they're audited. It's a self-reinforcing cycle, as they also have the money to hire [accountants](#) and [lobbyists](#) to write laws more generous to their tax bracket. Congress was awash in [\\$3.53 BILLION in lobbying spending in lobbying cash in 2020](#) (on all subjects), and you can bet not a dime came from bottom-economic-quartile clients.

But "Eat the Rich" hands yet another club to the Rich to beat down any attempt to reform this corrupted system. They can clutch their pearls at the "[raw bigotry that threatens to poison the well for everyone who aspires to a better life](#)" and [pretend the only possible motivation could be envy](#). They can hide behind the sentiment of the phrase and never deal with the content, turning natural human anger at injustice into a justification to continue the abuse.

Every society funds government through tax, a percent of the value produced in the society. Where does/should a proper tax burden fall? The [value of anything is its total value in land, labor, and capital](#), (recent economists also include [entrepreneurship](#)) and since land (raw material) doesn't pay tax, that leaves labor and capital (and entrepreneurship) as tax targets. I think we're all obligated to pay tax but to me, at least, there's a world of difference between taxing someone's daily bread and their accumulated overage. Class hatred is a poor basis for tax policy, but taxing wealth is perfectly reasonable. In fact, it's essential. TAX WEALTH!

"Eat the Rich" is not some proposal for class war and cannibalism, it's a slogan to vent steam and a warning to the plutocrats, kleptocrats, and oligarchs. Unfortunately, the wealthy who've built the parasitic system we live in are highly motivated to watch the steam and ignore the warning. They're gonna go low anyway, so let's go high. It's a stronger, better, healthier place to be.

Make a great day,



"The Rich" are human, and while they should pay much higher taxes they could also, theoretically, be abused. What's their Fair Share? Glad you asked. Check out [Tom's Tidbits- What's a 'fair share'? Here's one answer](#)



Our society can't depend on Table Scraps from the Rich; it shouldn't be their choice whether to contribute or not. We did a spot on this topic back in the KPOJ days... click here for "[Table Scraps](#)", which comes with its own video

## Digging Deeper...

[Inside the Shadowy Industry Where the Uber-Rich Pay Millions to Hide Trillions](#), Andy Kroll in Rolling Stone, June 2021

[Here are 5 ways the super-rich manage to pay lower taxes](#), Michelle Fox on CNBC, Feb 2019

[Philanthropy is currently a 'Band-Aid on the open wound of American poverty' when it should be tackling larger systematic problems](#), Paul Constant on BusinessInsider.com, Feb 2020

[Why "Eat The Rich" Leads To Pauperizing the Poor](#), William Collier in The Economic Standard

[The Rich in Public Opinion](#), Dr. Rainer Zitelmann, May 2020

[The richest 1 percent dodge taxes on more than one-fifth of their income, study shows](#), Christopher Ingraham in Washington Post, Mar 2021

[CHARTS: Here's What The Wall Street Protesters Are So Angry About...](#), Henry Blodget on BusinessInsider, Oct 2011

[How Accounting Giants Craft Favorable Tax Rules From Inside Government](#), Jesse Drucker and Danny Hakim in NY Times, Sep 2021

[I'm an accountant for ultrawealthy people in Florida. Here's what surprises my clients most about their taxes — and what I love about my job](#), Meira Gelb in Business Insider, May 2021

[The Government Just Admitted It Doesn't Really Try to Collect Rich People's Taxes](#), David Sirota in Newsweek, Mar 2021

[Addressing Tax System Failings That Favor Billionaires and Corporations](#), Seth Hanlon and Galen Hendricks at American Progress, Sep 2021

[Author explains why the so-called Great Resignation is happening: The American dream is dead](#), Kurt Eichenwald on Upworthy, Nov 2021

[Substantial Income of Wealthy Households Escapes Annual Taxation Or Enjoys Special Tax Breaks](#), Marr, Jacoby, and Bryant at Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Nov 2019

[How Corporate Donors Get Their Tax Breaks and 5 Ways to Fight Back](#), Tausanovitch and Kennedy at American Progress, Nov 2017

[When a Hyundai is also the family home](#), Chloe Nouvelle on NPR, Nov 2021

[Nobel-winning 'natural experiments' approach made economics more robust](#), Philip Ball in Nature, Oct 2021

[Trends in Income From 1975 to 2018](#), Price and Edwards at Rand Corporation, 2020

[Identification and Estimation of Local Average Treatment Effects](#), Imbens and Angrist in Econometrica, Mar 1994

[How These Ultrawealthy Politicians Avoided Paying Taxes](#), Dimani, Faturechi, and Ward in ProPublica, Nov 2021

[Former Trump official tells workers it's their 'patriotic duty' to take whatever jobs are offered to them](#), Brad Reed on Raw Story, Nov 2021

[Trickle-down economics just doesn't work, and this study shows it](#), Mihai Andrei in ZMEScience, Apr 2021

[Tax Cuts For Whom? Heterogeneous Effects Of Income Tax Changes On Growth And Employment](#), Owen Zidar at the National Bureau of Economic Research, Feb 2017

[Why Trickle-Down Economics Works in Theory But Not in Fact](#), Kimberly Amadeo in The Balance, Mar 2021

[Trickle-Down Economics: Four Reasons Why It Just Doesn't Work](#), Mehrun Etebari on United for a Fair Economy, Jul 2003

['Trickle-down' tax cuts make the rich richer but are of no value to overall economy, study finds](#), Christopher Ingraham in Washington Post, Dec 2020

[The Economic Consequences of Major Tax Cuts for the Rich](#), Hope and Limberg at London School of Economics, Dec 2020

[What Is Trickle-Down Economics & Why It Doesn't Work](#), Ethical Unicorn, Jun 2021

[Twitter poll calls on Elon Musk to sell 10% stake in Tesla](#), BBC News, Nov 2021

[The Top 1% of Americans Have Taken \\$50 Trillion From the Bottom 90%—And That's Made the U.S. Less Secure](#), Nick Hanauer and David Rolf in Time, Sep 2020

[The second-biggest program in the Democrats' spending plan gives billions to the rich](#), Fowers and Ducroquet in Washington Post, Nov 2021

[Sanders opposes plan to scrap 'SALT' cap, then restore it](#), Laura Weill and Lindsey McPherson in Roll Call, Nov 2021

[How These Ultrawealthy Politicians Avoided Paying Taxes](#), Simani, Faturechi, and Ward on ProPublica, Nov 2020

[Author explains why the so-called Great Resignation is happening: The American dream is dead](#), Sethuraman S on Upworthy, Nov 2021

[Voodoo Economics](#), Daniel Liberto in Investopedia, Feb 2021



## The Reality of January 6

A full timeline of how it happened, before, during, and after. In reality.

You've heard the tired cliche that "everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but no one is entitled to their own facts". There are many opinions about the events of January 6. There are also many facts.

Much information on January 6 is publicly available from real-time news reports, interviews with actors and instigators, and videos by the rioters themselves. [The Washington Post used every resource at their disposal to document everything](#). They put together a meticulous

timeline of who was doing what and when, then broke it up into sections on Before, During, and After the attack. No matter your *opinion* on the Capitol Insurrection, these are the actual *facts* you'll have to grapple with. We think this is foundational information that every citizen should know and grapple with, but not everyone has a membership to get behind Washington Post's paywall and so we want to help.

**If you want to read the Post's January 6 report but aren't a subscriber then  
CALL NOW at 503-872-7270! We're giving away 10 digital subscriptions to the  
Washington Post!**

(Contest ends 6p, PST. Don't assume we've given away all the prizes, we often don't have enough winners. CALL US!)

Use your subscription to read this January 6 Special Report, but then use it for the rest of the year to keep up on the fallout. As the Post folks tells us, 'Democracy Dies In Darkness', but it also languishes behind a paywall. Call us now and set some information free!

Once you're set up, please settle in for some democratic due diligence as the Washington Post covers..



**Wait, isn't there another side to this?**

No. There are many opinions from the Trump side of the aisle, but none are actually based on the reality of the day. We looked for a "responsible opposing viewpoint" as a counterpoint to the Post's coverage but had to settle for Tucker Carlson's "Patriot Purge" instead. Universally panned as diseased propaganda, it HAS answered the question "[What could be so servile and repulsive that FOX journalists would quit over it?](#)" Maybe you have some morbid curiosity about it; if so the link is [here](#). But if you want to know more without actually polluting your eyes, [there's a fact-check here](#) and a [summary here](#),



**Saturday  
Shop Hours?**

**Let us know what you think!**

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services • Portland, Oregon • TomDwyer.com • 503.231.2300

## **Saturday Shop Hours?**

We're thinking about making a change.  
What do YOU think?

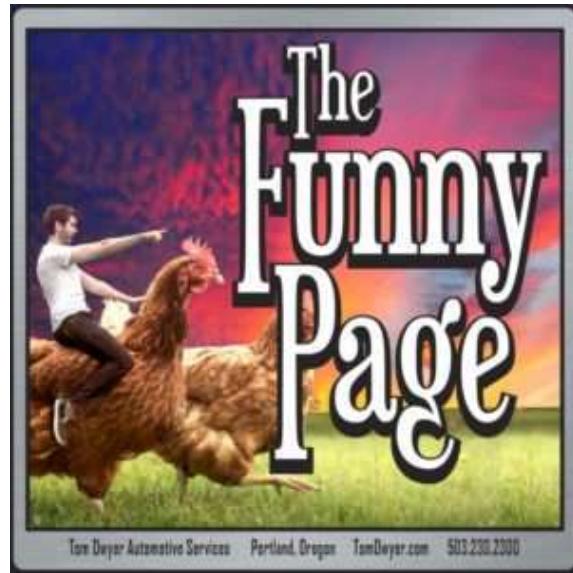
If you've ever called us to ask about vehicle service on a Saturday, you've heard our Service Advisors' standard answer... "We're open 10am to 1pm for pickup and dropoff, but we don't have any Technicians available". That may be about to change. We're thinking about adding another day to our week, Saturdays from 8a-5p, with full Technical staff. Our only real question is, what do YOU think? Do you think this would be useful to you? Do you think you would use this service? Please take a moment to email our Outreach Coordinator,

(charles@tomdwyer.com), with either "Yes! Do it!" or "No! Don't do it!" (plus any other comments you'd like to make). Thanks for your input, and we'll keep you posted on the results!

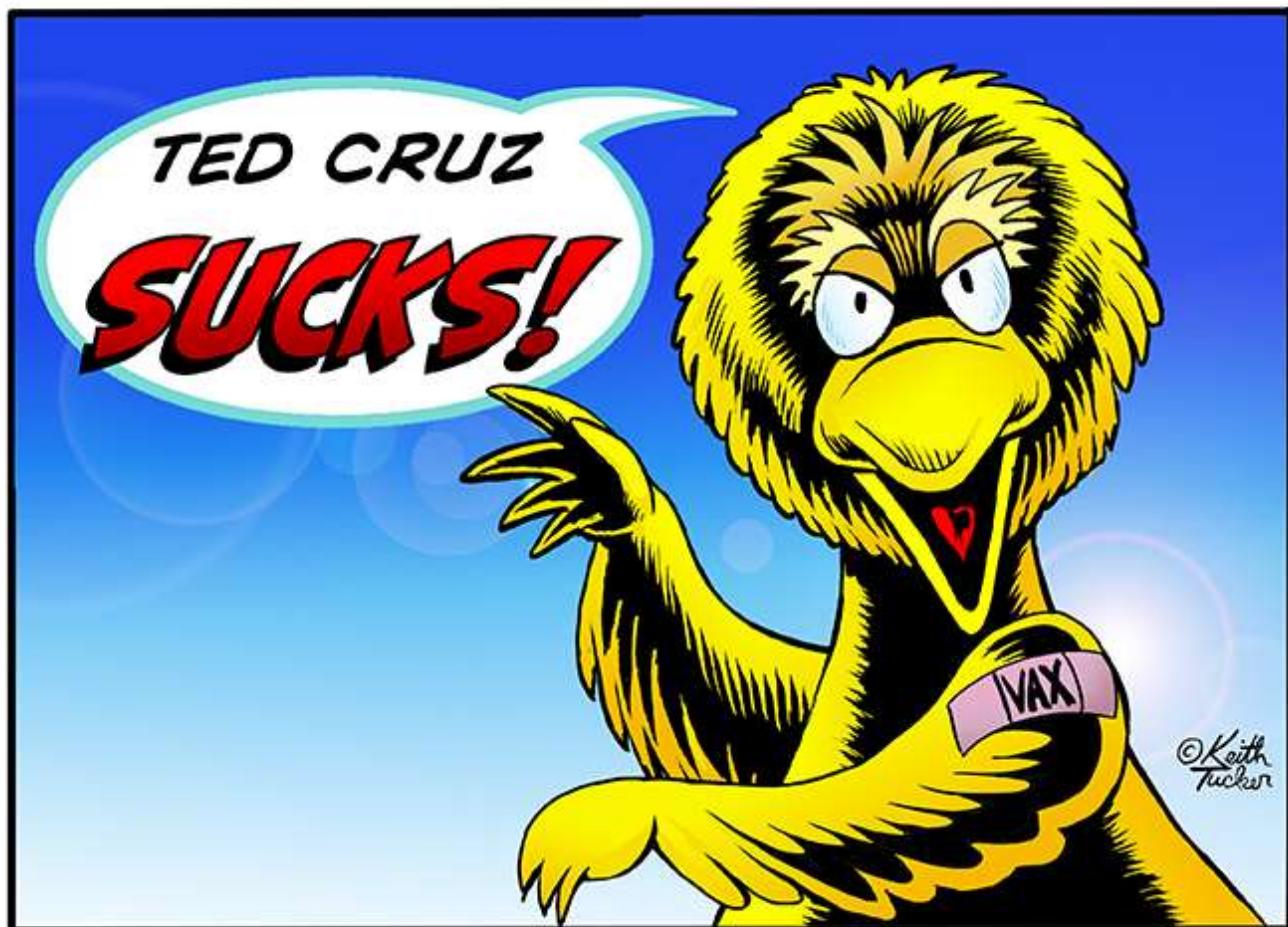
## The Funny Page

These are the jokes, folks! Now all in one place.

If you never read our monthly Humorousness column, you see the problem... no one else ever read it either. That's a shame, too, because there was some pretty funny stuff on it. Once in a while. Well, once. But Tom's sole directive is to "make this newsletter worth your time", and if you weren't reading the Humorousness column our writing staff wasn't doing their jobs. We used Coronavirus as an excuse to fire them all and we brought in a whole new crew of edgy Millennials who'd work for just a sliver of the bloated salary we gave our past writers. We're pretty pleased with what the new, more motivated staff has come up with, and we think you'll like it too...



### Keith Tucker' "What NOW?!!" Toon



**"WHAT NOW?!!"**

© KEITH TUCKER  
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" puzzle for November

**More or Less**  
A play-with-words puzzle  
by Jen Rombach

**START LIST:**

CRAM	PI
DROLL	READ
FRIT	SAT
LAW	SOIL
PAST	TRICE

**CAPTION:**

**THEME LETTERS (+/-)**

**THEME:** **TABLE SIDES**

**THEME WORDS :**

**DIRECTIONS:** Solve for the new **THEME WORDS** by either adding or subtracting (+/-) each letter from the column of **THEME LETTERS** to a word from the **START LIST**.

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go in the spaces next to the letter used.
- THEME LETTERS** - (+/-) - may go anywhere in the word (beginning / middle / end) to form the new **THEME WORD**.
- Each **THEME LETTER** and each word from the **START LIST** will only be used once. \* (multiples of a same letter within the **THEME LETTERS** each have their own word and only one place in the puzzle.)
- Anagram the boxed letters of the solved **THEME WORDS** to find the related caption that will match up the picture to the **THEME** ....more or less!

The funniest thing we've seen all month...

# The Washington Post

"Coffee" is the person upon whom one coughs. "Willy-Nilly" is impotence. If you like those, you'll love the Washington Post's Neologism contest. They had a couple subdivisions; we hope you enjoy them all.

[Annual Neologism Contest](#)

[Style Invitational](#)

["One-Off" Type Neologism Contest](#)

## Laughs from around the InterTubes



Robert H. Woodman

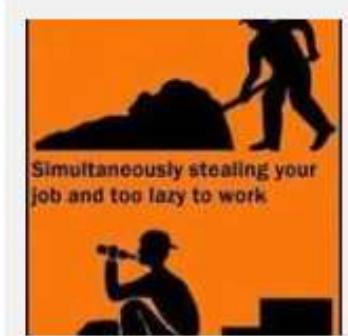
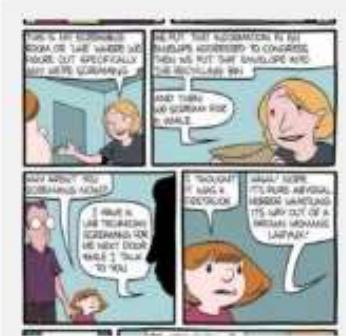
@RobertHWoodman

ing too much cake is the sin of gluttony. However, eating too much pie is okay because the s

oi is always zero.

AM · 25 Jul 21 · Twitter Web App

Retweets: 54 Quote Tweets: 1,915 Likes



ew Version Of 'Operation' Just Has 'layers Use Essential Oils Instead O 'performing A Medical Procedure



Reminder: as cold weather sets in, animals are attracted to the warmth of your vehicle. Always check your car before driving!



It's not Christmas unless it comes from the December region of the year. Otherwise it's just sparkling capitalism.



It'd be an innocent meeting between friends if they were polar bears.

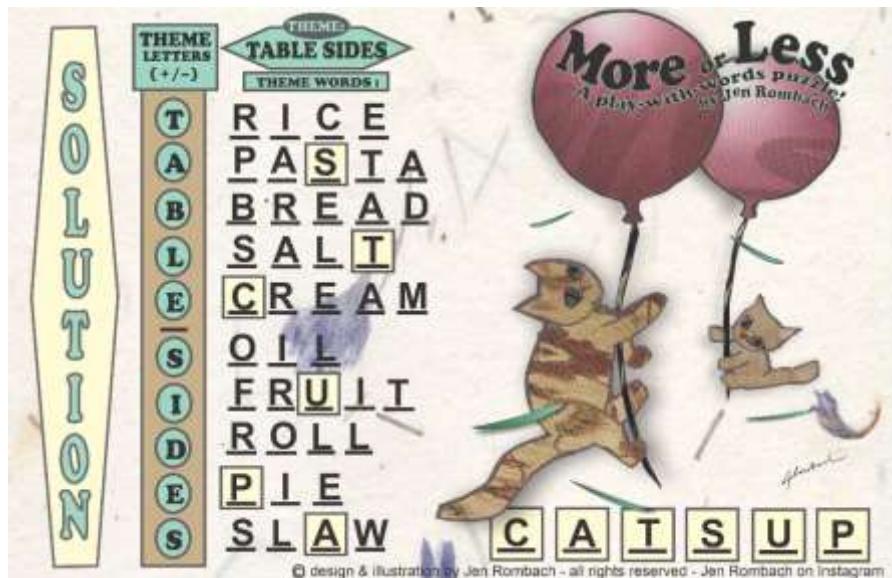
I put down new flooring in my kitchen and left a message for whoever pulls it up in the future



## Memes from your Mechanic



## “More Or Less” Solution for November

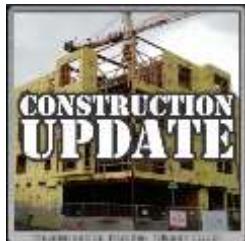


# Shop Talk

## A profoundly touching compliment



### Construction is coming again



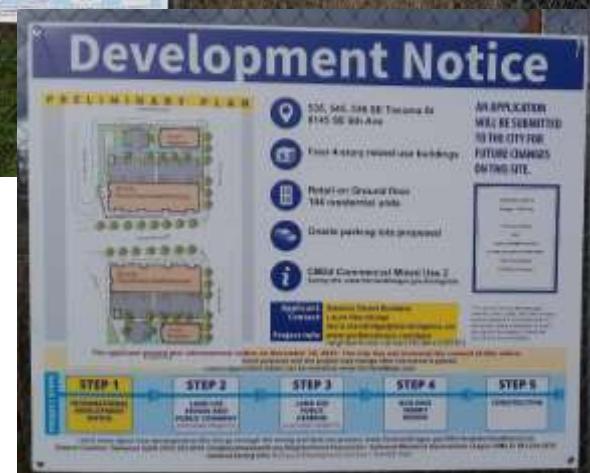
We survived the Sellwood Bridge construction but always knew more was on the way. After four years, it's finally starting to happen. Survey and testing crews have been showing up on both sides of Tacoma Street to lay the groundwork (literally!) for the next phase. Our neighborhood will soon be adding 104 residential units with first-floor retail and on-site parking for a little over half the units. There's no official start or end date yet, but if you're

interested in the project you can join us at the December 1 Zoom Meeting. Email [land-use-chair@sellwood.org](mailto:land-use-chair@sellwood.org) or go to [Sellwood.org](http://Sellwood.org) for the meeting link. We'll keep you posted throughout the project here in our Shop Talk column, and other venues as needed. Buckle up, it's gonna be a long and bumpy ride!

(If you want to jump into a time machine, you can see the entire construction process of the new



Sellwood Bridge through the eyes of our [Sellwood Bridge Update](#). From groundbreaking to the first car over the new bridge, we were there and we want to share it with you.)



### Comment of the Month

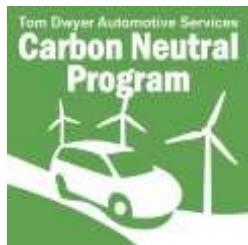


This month we wanted to share the tenderness and empathy shown to us by someone who isn't even a client. We send periodic reminders for vehicle service, but if we haven't seen a client for 18 months we send them a note that the reminders will stop. (We'll still service the vehicle, we just won't send any more reminders.) Anyway, we hadn't seen Marissa W. in 18 months and sent her the note. Here's what we got back...

*"Marissa passed away on Nov 3, 2020. We sold her car. She mentioned she had found a great place to service her car, so thank you. Sincerely, Shawn W., mother"*

We get a lot of compliments from a lot of wonderful people (thank you!) but this stood out. A grieving mother not only took the time to write to her daughter's mechanic, but was thoughtful and selfless enough to say something nice to us. Looking around the world today it's easy to think that common human warmth and relationships are dying, if not dead. But then a single sentence from someone like Shawn, in the right place at the right time for the right reasons, shows it's still alive and well. We offer our deepest sympathies and profound thanks to Shawn and her family.

## We always have 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

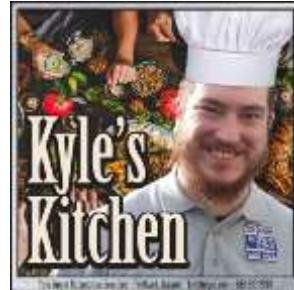


We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're 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.



Ahhh, Thanksgiving, and the Feast is coming together. Grandpa made the turkey, Grandma made the perfect stuffing, Aunts and Uncles have made all the side dishes, and that annoying Cousin even offered to bring the chips and soda. What's left for you? What could you possibly bring that will make the rest of the family want to invite you again next year? Don't worry, Kyle's Kitchen is here to make you a Thanksgiving star...

### Cranberry Brie Tarts

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 tablespoon salted butter, melted
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 2-4 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 sheets (1 box) frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 2 (8 ounce) wheels of Brie, each cut into 12 slices (leave the rind on)
- 1/3 cup fig preserves
- 1 egg, beaten
- coarse sugar, for sprinkling
- fresh thyme, for serving

#### **Preparation:**

- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a medium bowl, combine the butter, cranberries, brown sugar, and cinnamon.
- Cut each sheet of puff pastry into 6 rectangles. Spread each rectangle with about 1 teaspoon fig preserves, leaving a 1/4 inch border. Top with 2 slices of brie and then mound the cranberries over the brie, pressing them into the brie to adhere slightly (see above photo).
- Fold the edges of the pastry inward to enclose the brie. Brush the edges of pastry with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse sugar.
- Transfer to the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes or until the pastry is golden and the brie melted.
- Top with fresh thyme.

[Original recipe from Half Baked Harvest](#)

**12 servings, Total prep and cook time :30 min**

# Health Notes

How you can be fooled into health



## Why do placebos work? Scientists identify key brain pathway

Study finds opposite impacts on brainstem of placebo and “nocebo” effects

*Daryl Austin on Science.org, Oct 2021*

*(from the article)*

“The placebo effect can bring powerful relief—but what does that look like in your brain? A new study finds fake therapies and fake side effects have a real impact on your brainstem, a hub of pain processing, affecting it in opposite ways. The work could help scientists develop better treatments for chronic pain.

It’s “a major rigorous contribution to the field,” says Ted Kaptchuk, a biomedical scientist at Harvard Medical School who was not involved with the study. Still, he cautions that more work is needed to see whether this laboratory-based study translates to the real world.

Scientists have known about the placebo effect for more than 400 years. In 1572, a French philosopher wrote that “there are men on whom the mere sight of medicine is operative.” Yet researchers have struggled to understand why patients given a nonactive therapy such as a sugar pill still feel relief. They’ve also been confounded by the opposite phenomenon: When patients are told a placebo has harmful side effects, they often feel bad afterward—the so-called “nocebo” effect.

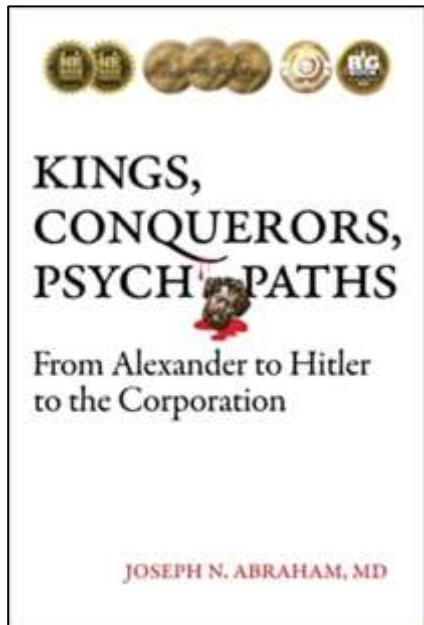
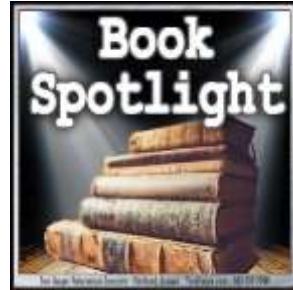
To find the signature of these two effects in brain, researchers brought 27 participants—13 men and 14 women with an average age of 23—into their laboratory at the University of Melbourne. The scientists strapped a device called a thermode to their arm, which heated up to a moderately painful temperature. Afterward, the researchers told the participants they were applying one of three creams to the affected area: a pain reliever, a pain inducer (which would make the heat feel worse), and a control cream with no effect. In reality, all three substances were petroleum jelly.

All the while, the team scanned the volunteers with a high-resolution functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine to detect which parts of their brain were most active. Most participants in the study experienced either the placebo or nocebo effect. About one-third reported lower levels of pain when the “pain reliever” was applied, whereas slightly more than half reported more pain when the “pain inducer” was applied...

*(article continues here)*

# Book Spotlight

“Kings, Conquerors, Psychopaths: From Alexander to Hitler to the Corporation”  
by Joseph N. Abraham



## “Kings, Conquerors, Psychopaths: From Alexander to Hitler to the Corporation”

by Joseph N. Abraham

*(from the publisher)*

“Conquest is murder & theft. Conquerors are vicious criminals. Vicious criminals become kings. Kings designed civilization. We are the products of civilization.

Right wing movements are of increasing concern around the globe, but the attention is misdirected. The real problem is not the authoritarian leader, but the blinkered supporters who unquestioningly follow him. Without them, the despot is irrelevant.

Why do we attach ourselves to demagogues & mountebanks? Why do we defend even their most obvious hypocrisies & lies? The answer lies in the roots of civilization. Despite our romantic traditions, monarchs were never wise, just, nor generous. Without exception, history shows that kings were

the most vicious psychopaths, narcissists, & sadists who ever lived.

And the only path for survival required unquestioningly obeying— & blindly believing— anything the king said.”

*(from the Psychiatric Times review)*

“...This book is unique, delving deeply into the worst horrors and most brutal leaders in history, at least from the perspective of those ruled by or critical of such rulers. His answer suggests a new interdisciplinary specialty, psychiatric archeology, for studying genocidal leaders and organizations. One contribution to this specialty could come from emergency medicine. Being an emergency physician lends itself to a “certain dark paranoia” of trying not to miss anything really important when evaluating patients. That translates into trying to think about the worse things that could be happening. Second, Abraham also feels that his evolutionary biology background makes a great contribution. Any evolutionary biologist encounters constant and enormous death and horror—such is the natural results of our human nature and the survival of the fittest. Most living things die early.

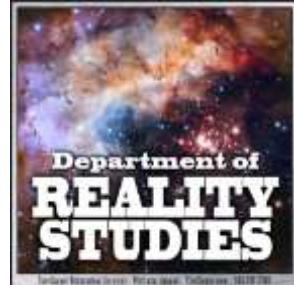
Abraham rightly recognizes that the dangerous leader nowadays may be corporations as much as individuals, although the 2 can work together synergistically. We know that there are many more sociopaths outside of jails and prisons than in them. He also comes up with the insight that there may be moral Psychopaths, whose psychopathy can be channeled into good. The main example here is the neuropsychiatrist, James Fallon, PhD. Though Fallon’s wife once compared him to the film character Hannibal (“The Cannibal”) Lecter, and his colleagues suggested he might be a psychopath, he is generous to individuals, and finds them interesting. Fallon is a demonstration of how the field of medicine has been taken over by for-profit corporations, which are responsible for the epidemic rate of physician burnout. Business ethics need to supplement healthcare ethics, not take them over.

“Because when all of the other checks and balances begin to fail, then we must be the final check. Only we can restore balance. We are the last feedback in the system,” said Abraham.

# Department of Reality Studies

## Invisibility, Texting for the Paralyzed, and Martian Organics

"My ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." Do you believe that? We don't.



Basic science, even basic consensual reality, seems under attack these days. Science and education are increasingly something for the 'elite'; something to be distrusted by honest folk. Scientists aren't trusted on public health, environmental science, or even cosmology, not because they've been proven wrong but because they've been proven so ruthlessly right. Objective reality is inconvenient for those who would like their whims to create reality instead. RestOfNewsletter But society has always and only existed in the real world and modern society isn't possible without science. Pretending otherwise can, and will, get us all killed.

The way to promote understanding and appreciation of science isn't to tell people they should care... it's to show them why it's so exciting. From the unimaginable expanse of the multiverse to the tiniest living beings and the quarks and leptons they're made of, science is an adventure. The "Department of Reality Studies" may do little to affect the appreciation of science for many people one way or another, but we'll enjoy sharing our own excitement with you so we hope you'll check back frequently to see some glimpses of Reality that may not have made your radar. Let's go!

**[Weird quantum effect that can turn matter invisible finally demonstrated](#)**, Ben Turner in LiveScience, Nov 2021

A weird quantum effect that was predicted decades ago has finally been demonstrated — if you make a cloud of gas cold and dense enough, you can make it invisible... The bizarre effect is the first ever specific example of a quantum mechanical process called Pauli blocking... Now that researchers have finally demonstrated the Pauli blocking effect, they could eventually use it to develop materials that suppress light. This would be especially useful for improving the efficiency of quantum computers, which are currently hindered by quantum decoherence — the loss of quantum information (carried by light) to a computer's surroundings. "Whenever we control the quantum world, like in quantum computers, light scattering is a problem and means that information is leaking out of your quantum computer," Ketterle said. "This is one way to suppress light scattering, and we are contributing to the general theme of controlling the atomic world."

**[NASA Rover Has Found Previously Unknown Organic Molecules on Mars](#)**, Carly Cassella on ScienceAlert, Nov 2021

Using a new on-board experiment, NASA's Curiosity rover has discovered traces of previously undetected organic molecules on Mars. None of the organic molecules identified in the sand hold unequivocal signs of life, but they do suggest the new technique, which didn't require the rover to drill, is an effective tool when it comes to searching for evidence of carbon-based molecules, which are important building blocks for life as we know it.

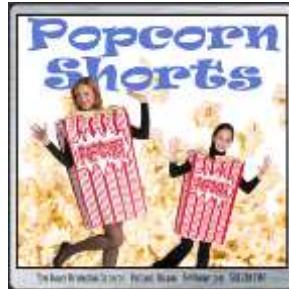
**[Brain Implant Translates Paralyzed Man's Thoughts Into Text With 94% Accuracy](#)**, Peter Dockrill on ScienceAlert, Nov 2021

A man paralyzed from the neck down due to a spinal cord injury he sustained in 2007 has shown he can communicate his thoughts, thanks to a brain implant system that translates his imagined handwriting into actual text... The device – part of a longstanding research collaboration called BrainGate – is a brain-computer interface (BCI), that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interpret signals of neural activity generated during handwriting...during the experiment, reported in Nature earlier in the year, the man concentrated as if he were writing – effectively, thinking about making the letters with an imaginary pen and paper... As he did this, electrodes implanted in his motor cortex recorded signals of his brain activity, which were then interpreted by algorithms running on an external computer, decoding T5's imaginary pen trajectories, which mentally traced the 26 letters of the alphabet and some basic punctuation marks... In tests, the man was able to achieve writing speeds of 90 characters per minute (about 18 words per minute), with approximately 94 percent accuracy (and up to 99 percent accuracy with autocorrect enabled).

# Popcorn Shorts

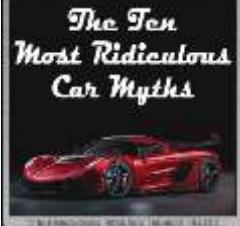
Cool stuff that's too small for a big article

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!



## [The Ten Most Ridiculous Car Myths](#)

*(from Jalopnik)*



Cars are big, expensive, and sometimes hard to understand. That's why, as Jalopnik readers found out, they are surrounded by crazy myths. These are our favorites. We've all heard the story of the secret carburetor that Big Oil kept from the public, but are there any other tall tales in the automotive world that we forgot?

## [Giant Spiders Have Invaded Georgia. Will They Spread?](#)



*(from the LiveScience)*- Millions of giant spiders have invaded North Georgia, terrifying residents and spinning webs as thick as 10 feet deep... Porches, power lines, mailboxes and vegetable patches across more than 25 counties in the state have been draped with the dense, wheel-shaped webs of the bright-yellow Joro spider (Trichonephila clavata), an invasive species originating in East Asia... The first of the 3-inch spiders was spotted 80 miles northeast of Atlanta in 2014... Since then, the spider's population and range have expanded steadily across the state, but nothing prepared residents or researchers for the number of spiders they would face this year...

## [What's your political typology? Take the fun quiz!](#)



We ran across this fascinating poll from Pew that breaks the country (and afterwards, the Parties) down into 9 political 'typologies'. And guess what? [THERE'S A QUIZ TO SEE WHERE YOU FALL!](#) We have quibbles with many of the poorly worded questions, but the Dwyer Guinea Pig came up (perhaps unsurprisingly) as a Progressive Leftist. Where do you fall? And once you've found out, should you stay there?

## [The Interstate Bridge in the Big One](#)

The Big One is still on the way, and our Portland bridges are NOT ready. The Interstate Bridge Replacement program is trying to raise awareness of how the Interstate Bridge reacts when it hits. [They modeled the bridge during a magnitude 8+ Cascadia Zone earthquake](#), and it wasn't pretty. The whole thing is a valuable and educational use of your time, but if you just want to see the Bridge collapse, FF to 2:30. So glad we're earthquake-ready here in Sellwood! Follow our coverage of the Sellwood Bridge replacement, from one of the ricketiest bridges in the country to one of 3 earthquake ready bridges in Portland, by clicking here... <https://tomdwyer.com/2017/newsletters/bridge-finished-2/>.

