



June  
2023

# Industry Update

*News and Information for  
Northwest Automotive Trade Association  
Members*

## Grant will help train more EV technicians; automotive training added at a high school

There were two good pieces of news for the industry recently related to Central Oregon Community College (COCC) in Bend.



First, COCC will begin offering automotive classes two days per week in the Madras School District, and two evenings per week for adults. These classes will lead to a Maintenance and Light Repair Certificate. **It is good to hear of auto classes being ADDED in a school district!**

With electric vehicle sales surging in Oregon – 1,900 were newly registered in February alone, about 1 in 6 of new cars sold in the state – it's also great that a grant will help COCC expand its training program for EV technicians.

COCC will receive a portion of a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to help support COCC's Northwest Engineering and Vehicle Technology Exchange (NEVTEX).

"Ensuring we have trained technicians is a critical part of the infrastructure we need to support the growing number of drivers choosing to go electric," Sen. Jeff Merkley said of the grant. "This funding will put COCC in the driver's seat for expanding and supporting this vital and growing sector."

COCC is one of 15 two-year colleges who will develop or expand EV technician programs under the NEVTEX Next consortium.

[Click here](#) to watch a television news segment on the COCC program and the grant.

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## Car collection welcomes Oregon students

How lucky to be an automotive student in Oregon! When the Brothers Car Collection in Salem learned that NATA members are REAL car people, and that NATA works with the automotive programs all around the state, they extended an invitation for students to view their collection for FREE! On May 17, NATA was on hand to greet more than 300 automotive students as they arrived. Not only did they see the amazing collection, but they also had the RARE opportunity to see the shop and

meet the mechanics who keep everything running.

Inside that shop are even more magical finds: Elvis' 1973 Lincoln, John Wayne's Travelall, a SHERP. And by the way, all the students wanted to know how Doug (one of the mechanics, pictured above) got this dream job working on some of the rarest cars in existence. Doug told them he'd answered an ad on Craigslist for a 'caretaker for cars'!!! TRUE STORY- you can't make this up!

The Brothers Car Collection invited the schools to return with students during the 2023-24 school year.



Elvis' Lincoln Continental



Sherp



John Wayne's 1966 Travelall

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## Roundtable to focus on tech pay plans

"Flat Rate's Contribution to the Technician Shortage" will be the focus of a roundtable discussion being hosted June 14 by WrenchWay.



"Drawing on valuable insights gathered directly from technicians, we will examine their feedback and experiences to gain an understanding of their struggles with flat rate pay structures," a WrenchWay webpage promoting the free event states.

Registration is required. Those who can't attend the live event at 11 a.m. can still view a recording if they register in advance.

[Click here](#) for more details or to register.

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## New classes added around Oregon



New classes – a great value for NATA members – have been added in Portland, Bend and Medford as NATA continues to partner with Baxter Auto Parts to bring in-person training from the Carquest Technical Institute to the state this year – and beyond. More classes will be added as we move toward 2024. **NATA members can save hundreds of dollars on the registration subscription.**

**Baxter** **AUTO PARTS**

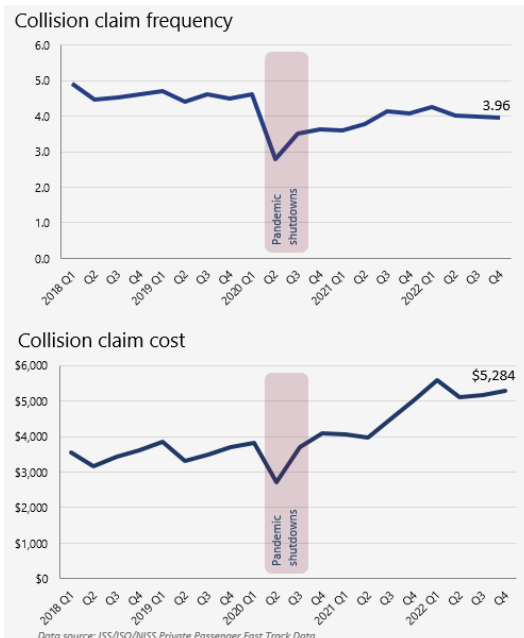
The classes are each four hours and are held in the evening at each location. NATA or TECHNet members can register for just \$99 per month.

For more details and to register, download the updated flier for the location where you will want to attend: [Bend](#), [Medford](#) or [Portland](#).

## Average cost of claim up, but frequency falls

The cost of the average collision claim in Oregon rose to \$5,284 in the fourth quarter of 2022, though that's below the national average of \$5,945.

According to Independent Statistical Service (ISS), publisher of the “Fast Track Plus” insurance data, the frequency of paid collision claims continues its slow decline. Collision claim frequency in the fourth quarter was 3.96 claims per 100 insured car years (an insured car year is the equivalent of one car insured for one full year). Pre-pandemic, claims frequency was above 4.0 and sometimes close to 5.0 claims per 100 insured car years.



## Recalls include 'park outside' warnings

Shops have perhaps more reason than ever to check



customers' vehicles for open recalls: CARFAX says its data indicates there are more than 2.5 million vehicles that have been tagged with "do not drive" or "park outside" safety recalls that remain unrepaired as of last month.



Lincoln, for example, has issued a "[park outside](#)" recall for 142,734 Lincoln MKC vehicles (model years 2015-2019) due to risk of fire.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a [VIN-search tool](#) to check for open recalls on a specific vehicle.

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## Executive Director Message

Most of you are aware that NATA has a lobbyist who monitors and testifies on every bill that is introduced that may impact NATA members. This is a member benefits that is often overlooked. I want to share a letter we received this week. It illustrates the value of having a lobbyist.



*Hi Margaret,*

*I want to thank you on behalf of the Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA) for all the great work you, Darrell Fuller, and NATA do for our shared members. I have really enjoyed working with Darrell over the past three years on industry matters in Oregon. Darrell has been a tremendous resource when our associations have worked together on matters related to vehicle sales and airbags, catalytic converter theft, stormwater permitting, and waste tire recycling.*

*Most recently, when dealing with OR SB 256, which would have prohibited the sale of any motor vehicle with a nonfunctional, deployed, or recalled airbag, Darrell identified and helped ensure that OR SB 256 would not inappropriately interfere with the commerce of motor vehicles. He clearly has a very strong understanding of the issues and concerns for those industries we represent.*

*Our association and shared NATA members are very satisfied that the problematic language was eliminated from OR SB 256 and that NATA and ARA's concerns were recognized and understood by the legislature. This is especially true considering NHTSA's recent announcement of a recall of 67 million ARC airbag inflators. Had the problematic language in SB 256 become law at the behest of the car manufacturers, it would have been illegal to sell any vehicle with a recalled air bag – even if the car had reached its end-of-life. This would have had enormous consequences for vehicle dealers, repairers, rebuilders, salvage auctions, insurers and automotive recyclers.*

*It has been a pleasure working with Darrell and he is a great representative for NATA. He is professional, extremely knowledgeable of the Oregon lawmaking process, and collaborative. He has been great to work with.*

*All that said, thank you again for the help. I look forward to continuing working with you and Darrell on future initiatives.*

*Sincerely,*

*Emil Nusbaum*

*Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs*

*Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA)*

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## High performance driver events

Looking for a graduation or Father's Day gift? From novices to aspiring race car drivers, Cascade Sports Car Club's Track Day events let you experience the thrill of driving your car in a safe and controlled environment on the Portland International Raceway.



"One of the best adrenaline rushes available on this planet," one reviewer wrote. "We are always amazed how most people had no idea that track days exist. Sports car owners and driving enthusiasts are missing out on the best part: Driving their cars fast!"

[Click here](#) for Track Day dates and details.

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## DEQ training scheduled in Medford

DEQ is offering in-person training in Medford next month on "Hazardous Waste Basics" and "Managing Common Waste: Used Oil, Batteries, Light Tubes, etc."



Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. See the [schedule](#) for details.

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## Has NATA Quoted Your Health, Dental or Vision Insurance?

Our NATA Health Plan rates are becoming more competitive all the time. Beginning this year, our health insurance plan will include life insurance coverage as well! Call Tere MacNaughton at (503) 253-9898 for quotes or more information.



## Current market trends seen as good news

NATA Associate Member Carson Wealth Management on June 5 posted a [blog](#) citing good economic trends they are seeing, including:



- The stock market rally continued as the S&P 500 closed above the critical 4,200 level.
- Historically, June is not a great month for stocks, but a positive start to the year can

lead to continued strength.

- Recent economic data do not point to a recession. Instead, the economy is showing resilience.
- The economy created 339,000 jobs in May, beating expectations for the 14th consecutive month.
- The unemployment rate rose to 3.7%, but other measures suggest this is the best labor market in two decades.
- Overall, the labor market remains strong, albeit less tight as wage growth moderates.

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## Schools Have Job Openings

**Clackamas Community College** is seeking a full-time automotive Instructor; please [click here](#) (and scroll down to “Automotive Instructor”) for more information or to apply.



Clackamas Community College also has an opening for a part-time instructor in its Auto Body/Collision Repair & Refinishing program. [Click here](#) for more details about the position and how to apply.

**Clark College** in Vancouver has a two openings for part-time lab techs in the Auto Department. The positions involve working with the students, supervising lab assignments and some general tasks in the shop. Hoping to find someone with a flexible schedule. [Click here](#) for details, or contact: Dannie Nordsiden, Manager of Technician Development (360) 992-2566 (office or (360) 907-4053 (cell)



**Portland Community College (PCC) Sylvania Campus** has an opening for a part-time Instructor in the Automotive Service Technology Department. [Click here](#) for more details.

**PCC Sylvania Campus** also has an opening for a full-time automotive Instructor for 1-year temporary position. [Click here](#) for more details.

**PCC Rock Creek Campus** has an opening for a new full-time diesel faculty member. It is a full-time position with a three-term teaching assignment which means the instructor has summers off. [Click here](#) for more details.

**PCC Rock Creek Campus** also as an opening for a full-time auto body repair instructor, a 3-term teaching assignment with summers off. [Click here](#) for more details.



**Central Oregon Community College** needs 2-3 part-time automotive instructors. There is flexibility in the schedule for those are currently working in or running shops. [Click here](#) for details, or contact Jared Green, Automotive Instructor, (541) 383-7422.

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# Helpful Links To Oregon Agencies

If you're looking for information, help or training from Oregon regulators, here are the links you need:

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a free class covering basic management of such waste. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule.



EDUCATION

BENEFITS

CONSUMER INFO

SHOP HELP

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## Northwest Automotive Trades Association

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