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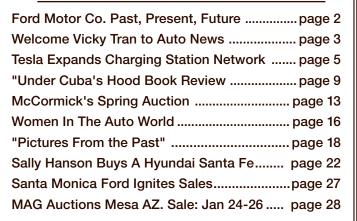
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Rita Case Presented with Lifetime Achievement Award from National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers

She was recognized for her significant contributions to leadership, success, diversity and inclusion in the automotive industry

The National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD) presented Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, with its Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a lifetime of significant contributions to the automotive industry and to the spirit of diversity and inclusion.

"As a female in the auto industry, I strive to be a role model for all women, where the only barriers to a career are the ones you place on yourself. Regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or religion, you can sell cars if you have a positive attitude, education, confidence and perseverance," said Case, who is one of the most respected women and individuals in the automotive industry. "According to Zippia, only 4.3% of mechanics in the U.S. are women and 11% of car salespeople are women, so we have a long way to go to shatter the glass ceiling. I'd love to see more women in all positions in our dealerships and I strive to create such opportunities." continued on page 16



Perry Watson IV, President of the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD), presents Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award. (Photo credit: Andrea Stinson/Stinson Photography LLC)

A Road Trip To the LA Auto Show In An All-New Toyota Corolla Cross HV



Toyota Corolla Cross HV pictured in Santa Monica CA with Santa Monica Pier in background (photo Auto News)

Bill McCallum

My road trip to the LA Auto Show started in Monterey, CA where I connected with friends we worked with during "Car Week 2024." I also had a meeting with clients and future partners for "Car Week 2025." (see page 26) Then it was hit-the-road in my Toyota Corolla Cross Hybrid SUV Nightside edition for LA. Not sure on the total miles for a

round trip from Monterey to LA and back. The Toyota Corolla Cross Hybrid delivered over 42 mpg on the entire trip.

My drive route was, highway #101 to Paso Robles, East on #46 to highway #5 and on to Los Angeles. I had lots of chances to put the "pedal-to-the-medal" and the 2.0L 4-cyl engine responded as needed. I didn't carry a lot of gear, but the Toyota Corolla Cross

SUV offers more than enough room for a family road trip. The Toyota "Safety Sense 3.0" offers over 10 safety features including Lane Departure Alert and Lane Tracing Assist, which came in handy on the LA freeways.

The Toyota Corolla Cross HV Nightside Edition is priced at \$30,465 as driven and I suggest a "test drive" if your looking for a "value-based" new SUV.

Honda Steps-Up with the All-New Ridgeline, Offering Customers A''Real Pick Up Truck''



2025 Honda Ridgeline Trail Sport Edition P/U (photo Auto News - Story on page 4)

SEE 12 SHOWCASE TEST DRIVE REVIEWS ON PAGES 14 & 15



Ford Motor Co. Past, Present, Future....?



Bill McCallum publisher

Congratulations to Bill Ford on receiving the Automotive News (the trade publication) Hall of Fame Award for 2024. He truly deserves this honor for his long history with his family's company. I have been a bystander on his journey to the top. For me it started over three decades ago when I first observed Bill make presentations at Eddie Bauer. Redmond, Bellevue Rotary Club Luncheon, Seattle University, and introduce the all-new Ford Ranger on the ice between periods at a Seattle hockey game. Bill went on to be CEO of Ford Motor Company and eventually dealt with a string of CEO's with different ideas on how to manage Ford.

So the question is ?? Who is the next Ford family member to face the challenges facing the auto industry. Is it Bill Ford III, Edsel's Fords son and a board member ? Or is it Will Ford, Bill's younger son who I met last year at a Ford event in Pebble Beach. Or could it be Alexandra Ford English, Bill's daughter, a board member, and serves on the finance, sustainability, innovation, and policy committees. Wow go girl!! My money is on Alexandra as the next Ford CEO.

The next question is Alexandra ready to be CEO of Ford? And the final question is for Bill Ford. Were you ready to be CEO? Or did you just "dig in" and do the job that needed to be done.

Once again! Bill, congrats on a job well done!! From one Bill to another.

2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV: A New Era of EVs



Chris Chung Digital editor

This fall, I embarked on a road trip through Washington's majestic North Cascades in the 2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV—a journey that perfectly showcased the capabilities of this ground breaking electric SUV. Designed to make EV ownership more accessible than ever, the Equinox EV combines affordability, impressive range, and cutting-edge technology, redefining what an electric vehicle can be.

With a starting price of \$34,995—or \$27,495 after federal tax credits—the Equinox EV is America's most affordable EV offering over 300 miles of range. On this trip, the 2RS trim's 319-mile range was nothing short of remarkable, eliminating any anxiety about finding charging stations as I ventured deep into the mountains. The Ultium battery platform's efficiency meant I could explore winding roads and rugged landscapes without interruption.

One of the highlights of my trip was experiencing Chevrolet's Super Cruise technology. On long stretches of highway leading into the Cascades, the hands-free driving system provided seamless navigation, handling curves and changes in elevation with ease. This feature wasn't just convenient—it transformed the journey, allowing me to fully enjoy the fiery reds and oranges of fall foliage that surrounded me.

continued on page 12

Sold on Hyundai Santa Fe



Sally Hanson editor

When the redesigned Hyundai Santa Fe arrived for my test drive, I was excited to be reintroduced to the Hyundai brand after driving one of their luxury sedans for nine years — and became even happier that Hyundai created such an outstanding vehicle named after the amazing southwestern city that I formerly called home. It got even better when the vehicle turned out to be a hybrid featuring the top trim package offered in the Santa Fe line — the Calligraphy.

Growing from a compact into a midsize SUV, the Santa Fe hybrid's powertrain is a 1.6-liter turbocharged Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI), 4-cylinder engine coupled with a six-speed automatic transmission. I was impressed with the drive and smooth ride. Combined city/highway fuel economy is estimated at 34mpg. HTRAC all-wheel drive monitors vehicle inputs to calculate the torque needed for each wheel by rerouting power between the front and rear axles when slippage is detected. To help maintain traction, subtle braking pressure is applied to the wheels.

An enormous list of safety features are included. Avoidance assist for forward, blind spot, parking, and rear cross-traffic collisions warn the driver about impending dangers. Lane following and lane keeping assist keep the driver alert. Forward attention

Ford Mach-E Rally Model EV



Dave Kunz LA feature writer

Find a group of die-hard Mustang enthusiasts, and bring up the Mustang Mach-E, Ford's electric SUV that they chose to use an iconic name on. That naming decision was, shall we say, polarizing.

Complaints aside, what's done is done. The Mach-E has been out for a few years now, and a new version pays tribute to another facet of Ford's worldwide heritage: rally competition. The Mustang Mach-E Rally blends EV technology, the heritage of the Mustang, and the heritage of cars like the European Sierra and Escort that stormed rally circuits around the world in the '80s and '90s.

Mechanically, it's not that different from the AWD Mach-E GT on which it's based, though it does get a touch more ground clearance, and special protective pieces underneath to shield it from rocks and gravel. Yes, it can go off-road, at least on mildly-rutted dirt roads. The Rubicon Trail is, however, out of the question.

Visually is where the Mach-E Rally shines, with styling tributes to those Euro Fords that flung gravel and thrilled spectators while sliding in opposite lock. A big spoiler sits on the rear hatch, a double stripe runs the length of the hood and rear, and bright white OZ-style wheels drive the rally heritage theme home. Those WRC-inspired wheels are shod with Michelin CrossClimate tires

Lucid Air Pure a triple champ at Best of The Bay



Keith Turner SF feature writer

The lovely beach city of Santa Cruz, Calif., was this year's site for the 2nd Annual Best of the Bay Awards competition, where 14 of today's hottest new vehicles competed for top honors in six categories judged by members of the Western Automotive Journalists association.

Over a two-day period, we test drove all 14 vehicles in 30-min segments to get a quick feel for the ride, driving and technology of each contestant. Then we voted for the Best of the Bay in the six categories: Best EV, Best SUV, Best Passenger Vehicle, Best Technology and Best Overall Vehicle. There was also a category titled: "What would I buy?" Asking the journalists for their personal preference.

When all the voting was counted, this year's top winner was the 2025 Lucid Air Pure, a moderately-price (from \$69,900) luxury all-electric sedan that won three categories: Best Overall Vehicle, Best Electric Vehicle and tied for the Best Technology Award with the Hyundai Ioniq 5 N, an all-electric vehicle with can sound like a hot rod at the push of a button.

Runners-up in the Best Overall Vehicle category were the Hyundai Ioniq 5 N, Range Rover SE 7-seat LWB, Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat and the Genesis G80 3.5T Sport Prestige.

continued on page 22 continued on page 16 continued on page 6





Innovative Wind & Solar Tower Debuts at Auto Show



Jim Trainor feature writer

Emission-Free Electricity from Both Wind and Sun Can Charge EVs and Hybrids at **Almost Any Location and** Time

The world's only hybrid power station "fueled" solely by a combination of wind and sun, the internationally-patented Wind & Solar Tower (WST), will be on display for the first time during this year's North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The automated 1:18 scale model will demonstrate how clean, offgrid power can charge electric vehicles in a way that is cleaner and more efficient than anything presently available. A full-sized Tower operated seamlessly and flawlessly for five years, even surviving two hurricanes.

The Tower will be a featured attraction at the Plug and Play Startup Arena at Automobili-D in conjunction with this year's show from Sept. 13 - 15.

"The Detroit Auto Show is one of the most influential annual automotive events in the world

continued on page 5



An Ode to My 2015 Toyota Corolla



Vicky Tran writer

Your first car is often not your last, but it's always memorable. My 2015 Toyota Corolla LE has been my loyal companion since day one. It's not the fastest or flashiest, but it's reliable and full of memories. With 132 horsepower and 128 lb-ft of torque, it's taken me across the United States, from the East Coast to the West, road-tripping through states like Colorado, Utah, and California.

Despite a few cosmetic bumps new tires in 2020, a windshield $replacement in 2018, and a \, bumper$ fix in 2019—it's still in great shape. The interior is simple but practical, with excellent gas mileage (29 mpg city, 38 mpg highway) and a trusty AC/heater. This silver Corolla has been my work commuter, road-trip buddy, and now my remote-work ride. Economical, reliable, and a resale value that holds strong, it's truly a car for the long haul.

> "Vicky Tran Welcome to Team Auto News" Bill

(See photo on page 10)

2025 **RAM ProMaster EV**



truck writer

Ram is the latest brand to bring electrification to its utility van offerings with a new Pro-Master – all electric – for 2025. I recently had a chance to drive one of these at a demonstration in Michigan. It was everything I expected. Quiet, quick, and simple. In fact, electric service and delivery vehicles are an improvement for in this segment that, in my opinion, can't come fast enough. Because delivery vans run set routes – or work in stop/go short range urban service areas; the drawbacks of electric power are very few. These trucks will work all day and recharge over night. Their usage cases have way fewer charging variables than electric passenger vehicles. Also, from a business perspective, over time they will cost less to run, cost less to service and last longer

Arriving late this year are two EV models. The ProMaster EV delivery model and the Cargo model. The Cargo model is available as a 12-foot box – or as an extended 13-foot box. Both versions come with a 110-kilwatthour (kWh) battery pack that has a targeted range of 261

continued on page 6

Hyundai **Introduces 25K Inster EV**



Jordan Williams millennial writer

Exciting EV News from Korea: Hyundai introduces its \$25,000 Inster, an affordable EV in Asia and Europe

Crain's Automotive News recently published a June 26th, 2024 article by Hans Greimel introducing Hyundai's new \$25.000 EV, named Inster—an exciting read.

Why? Because EV affordability has always been a concern of Millennials — and other budget conscious, environmentally concerned global citizens.

Though automakers like Tesla have reduced EV price points thrice, hoping to entice new buyers, Inster's \$25,000 breaks a glass ceiling that to date has been upwards of \$40,000. In fact, the average price of an EV in the United States is still \$55,167, as per Cox Automotive.

Hyundai's target market with Inster is "the young, city-dwelling professional," they state. Inster is attractive, futuristic, but has compact dimensions, a range of 220 miles, and is convenient to park. These are all attractive features in today's world.

But the \$25,000 sticker price expects Inster to be in high demand,

Slot Car racing in Europe compared to the USA



Allen Smith motorsports writer

In 1957 the Slot Car Racing Industry ignited when Fred Francis, owner of a miniature Model Car Company, electrified his tin plate model cars. His company was called Scalex, as while good models they were not to a specific scale.

This new line was then renamed Scalextric the "tric" because they were now motorized, with a small electric motor, and could be driven on a model race car track.

Sales took off as almost every little boy wanted to be a race car driver, and Model Car racing was

The by produce of that was a love and passion for Cars that was instilled in generations of children. They became enamored with racing and cars in general, and the real car Industry supported that with themed race sets for their brands.

Across the pond in the USA the first experiences most had with Scale Model Car Racing, or Slot Car Racing as it is known here, was Scalextric. But the cost of an imported toy from Europe and the construction methods was not well received.

continued on page 6

continued on page 13





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The Balancing Act in EV **Transition**



Larry Weitzman EV specialist

New gasoline discovery will eventually double your fuel mileage, and nothing has changed.

I published the column below 14 years ago saying that current battery technology will not, if change and the future is petroleum. The column talked of a spoof miracle invention that would double the gas mileage of all cars by simply doubling the energy density of gasoline. It turns out that the energy density of current battery technology has also remained the same 14 years later. The only reason EVs travel farther on a charge is because the batteries have increased in size and weight in proportion to their increased range. The biggest batteries that power pickup trucks are over 2,000 pounds and occupy a quarter of the entire vehicle weight. Yet they can only tow a 6,000-pound trailer a measly 150 miles before needing a minimum 2-hour recharge that will cost a minimum of \$70. At home, the same charge on a 220v level II charger would take 20 hours.

October 30, 2010. While every-



"Cinquecento **Returns** Electrically"



Ary Voss feature writer

THE BACK STORY:

Fiat pulled out of the U.S. marketplace forty years ago. Following the Italian automaker's hook-up with Chrysler, the spunky little hatchback returned to our shores in 2012 as the Fiat Cinquecento or Fiat 500. It was available exclusively as a three-door and came inPop, Sport, Lounge and designer Gucci trim levels.

The power source was a 1.4-liter SOHC, 16-valve, four-cylinder with port fuel injection that developed only 101 horsepower at 6,500 rpm and 98 pound feet of torque at 4,000 rpm. The transmission was a five-speed manual as standard or an optional 6-speed automatic.

OVERVIEW:

The beloved little Fiat 500 has returned as a 2024 model and is available as a two door, four passenger hatchback and is powered exclusively by electric propulsion, hence the 500e designation. Its mission is to serve as an affordable EV featuring agile handling and visual appeal with Italian styling.

continued on page 7



2024 Mazda **CX-50 2.5 Turbo Meridian Edition**



Texas feature writer

The Mazda CX50 Meridian Edition offers a great value for the \$43,850 price tag. Pricing for the CX50 starts at \$31,720 and goes up to \$44,720 for the Premium Turbo Plus model. No question I would go for the model that has the 2.5 Turbo engine. It has great get up and go and the six-speed transmission is very smooth.

Mileage ranges from 23 mpg in the city to 29 mpg on the highway. The interior is well-appointed and the Meridian model has great-looking and very comfortable seats. The interior has very little plastic and most surfaces are a soft touch.

Safety standard features include automated emergency braking, lane-departure warning, and adaptive cruise control. The design is better looking than the Subaru, but everyone has their taste in styling. As this is an allwheel drive model the height of the vehicle will limit how much off-road it can tackle but for the East where they get snow and

continued on page 10



Cam Clark Features A Culture of **Community Service**



Lynn Rehn writer

The Kindness of Canadians: How Cam Clark Dealerships Foster a Culture of Community Service Introduction

The kindness of Canadians is renowned worldwide, a trait deeply embedded in the nation's culture and reflected in the actions of its citizens. Nowhere is this more evident than in the community service initiatives led by the team members at Cam Clark-owned dealerships. From its humble beginnings in Canada to its expansion into the United States, the Cam Clark Auto Group has built a reputation not just for exceptional customer service, but for fostering a deep commitment to community involvement and philanthropy.

To keep things personal I took guided tours and self guided snoops of 11 of these dealerships, it was a remarkable experienced based on my own past, when I had carved a niche in our families dealership through volunteering in our community - directions came from ownership to write my own job description with a small stipend

continued on page 8



2025 Honda **Ridgeline AWD Trail Sport**



Scot McCallum feature writer

Honda has made a cannonball splash with its 2025 Ridgeline AWD TrailSport mid-sized truck. My test drive was a Diffused Sky Pearl vehicle which is one of the most beautiful and exotic car colors available on the market! The trim lines and overall unibody design are appealing. The 280hp 3.5-liter VTEC V8 engine delivers power and 20mpg. The Ridgeline handles like a car but has all the "truck" you could want with its i-VTM4 AWD System, locking trunk space below the bed, and independent suspension.

The interior is spacious, comfortable and quiet. External visibility is exceptional, and inside the navigation, display, and 7-speaker audio system are intuitive. The Ridgeline is rich with Safety, Sensing, and overall Technical features. Best of all, you know the quality you will receive from Honda when you invest in this fantastic truck at an affordable price point. Holiday season is approaching, so treat yourself and test drive the Ridgeline at your nearest Honda dealer.





Evergreen Chevrolet sells more Chevy Corvettes than anyone else in the Northwest!



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decade. In the forty plus years that I have been doing this, I am happy to say that this generation Corvette (C8) is the most awe inspiring one so far. Having sold the C4, C5, C6 and the C7 as new vehicles, I think that I have a pretty good idea of what each can offer. I have attended all the ride and drive training classes associated with each of those Corvette models. I think that this current platform is by far the most fun to drive while offering the most advanced technology available.



CRAIG BENNETT Corvette Specialist & Inventory Mgr

I am happy to be selling new Chevrolets in my 5th



EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies





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Emission-Free Electricity from Both Wind and Sun Can Charge EVs and Hybrids at **Almost Any Location and Time**

by Jim Trainor, Auto News Feature Writer

continued from page 4

and a showcase for emerging technologies like The Wind & Solar Tower," said the inventor of The Tower, Jim Bardia. "With its vertical axis wind turbine, "frictionless" levitation hub, and self-cleaning/self cooling solar panel, The Tower generates prodigious electrical output on a small footprint, making it a compelling addition to EV-charging choices.

 $Can \, operate \, independent \, of \, grid \,$ The Wind & Solar Tower is more than merely an EV-charg-

ing device simply linked to today's electric charging grid; it goes beyond because unlike all

Auto News

To Increase

EV "Test

Some

OEM's

Drives" as

Automaker

Push Back

On Their

EV Plans

other charging systems, it can function independent of the grid or be supplemented by the grid.

"The U.S. electric grid needs strengthening because it is being asked to deliver far more energy than ever before," Bardia explains, "but we can't be spending billions of dollars to build additional power plants that will increase pollution by burning more fossil fuels."

Renewables are key to survival

Using more wind, solar and hydroelectric power is the key to survival of our grid and the continuation of the comfortable lives we've come to enjoy.

by Bill McCallum

As we increase our EV test drives during the coming months: see page 4 "EV Balancing Act", page 5 Toyota bZ4x review and page 27 Ford Mach E review, my hope is automakers consider these 5 facts.

1- My University of Washington business 101 class stated "never follow a startup company when introducing a new product.' A startup company is defined by time in the market place NOT the valuation of their stock. REASON "Let the startup company make the mistakes if the new idea takes hold."

2- The EV charging issue will ONLY be solved when we connect our 3 regional grids and the Texas grid. Estimates indicate that could take 20 to 30 years if we start

3- The cost of reducing EV's production will ONLY happen through industry consolidation.

The All-New Toyota bZ4x EV **Offers Cutting Edge Design and** is Priced Right

by Bill McCallum

As I have said before, "I have never met an EV I didn't like." (During a test drive) The Toyota bZ4x more than qualifies with that statement. The bZ4x is one of the best designed EV's on the market. It has the "thumbs-up" look that you are looking for when buying a new EV. And when it comes to the purchase price, How about \$46,700, as tested.

Powered with 201 Total System Horsepower and a single Electric Motor (150 KW) producing 114 MPGe. A level 1 Charging Cord (120V) is included and the bZ4x is DC Charging Compatible. The Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 System with Pre-Collision and Pedestrian Detection is also included. If there is an EV in your future be sure and test drive the Toyota bZ4x EV.

Breaking News: Auto News Reader Reach (RR) Scales to 1 Million

Breaking News: Auto News scales readership reach (RR) to 1,000,000 per month. Reader reach (RR), a new terminology of the digital world that includes our national print distribution, direct mail, our print distribution via automotive retail locations located in 7 Western states in addition to our digital editions including email digital fast blasts, You Tube, X (twitter), Facebook,

Pinterest, Linkedin, Instagram, TikTok, and impressions from their 15 automotive writers across the United States.

Auto News intends to continue to build its readership reach with an aggressive expansion plan in 2024 for its print, digital and affiliate programs. Make sure to follow their progress at the link below or online at <u>autonewsonline.com</u>.

Tesla Opening New Charging Stations In California and Across The U.S.



El Tejon Outlet Center North of L.A. (photo Auto News)

4- The idea of developing an EV truck needs new research for a number of reasons. As we have discovered TODAY the mass market want's a well designed, roomy, low cost sedan.

5- The acceleration of the transition of EV's to the mass market will only happen when we reach "PEAK OIL". (Defined as: when the global supply of oil starts to decline.)

Thank you for taking the time to share my thoughts and have a nice day !!

AUTO NEWS® BYTES

"Words Matter."

"Words Matter." After a recent auto show survey asking attendee's to give us a list of industry terms or words that have dual meanings or may confuse readers I give you.....

"A.I." (Artificial Intelligence) – real information distributed a different way using technology.

CIRCULATION-An outdated term used to confirm the number of readers for newspapers and magazines.

FAST BLASTS – a method of distributing data using companies like Mail-Chimp and others.

READER REACH (RR) – For those that still know how to read and practice the art it's a total of all the methods listed.

SOCIAL MEDIA – a term created by the tech industry to increase revenue streams, justify advertising, steal your data, while confusing the public.

STREAMING – a new way to deliver movies, TV programs, and series using a subscription model while increasing revenue.

VIEWS – a term originally associated with movies, TV, as in "viewers", but can include those of us that still read !!!

Remember "words matter" and don't stop reading.

SEE: Aiwordsmatter.com



2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive Report"

continued from page 3

kilometers in city driving. Most owners will be using a Level 2 wall changer (which delivers up to 11 kw), however the ProMaster will also accept a Level 3 DC fast charger that delivers up to 50 kw. The charge port illuminates while the vehicle is charging and has an audible sound alert to confirm the connection.

This ProMaster architecture, has been designed specifically for electrification, featuring a unibody design that incorporates the battery pack. The battery is

2025 Lucid Air Pure

positioned under the floor in the centre of the vehicle, maintaining a flat floor while cargo volume is unchanged from the gas-powered vehicles. The battery pack drives a 200-kilowatt (kW) electric drive module (EDM) which delivers 268 hp and 302 lb.-ft. of torque using the standard frontwheel-drive capability.

All versions have a 159-in. wheelbase, and an extended super-high-roof. Other new driver features include an available heated steering wheel and heated windshield. New available safety and security features include Park Sense with stop, white noise backup alarm and "normal" backup alarm.

Another new feature on this ProMaster is a rear roll-up door. Built of anodized aluminum its light weight yet durable. A passenger-side sliding pocket door is also now standard on the Ram ProMaster EV delivery vehicle. This will ease ingress and egress while making deliveries.

The handling of cargo is the number one consideration for



2025 ProMaster EV delivery van. Photos are all factory. continued on page 7 Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ) Awards

continued from page 2

Runner-up for Best EV was the Hyundai Ioniq 5 N.

The Acura ZDX Type S was the runner-up in the Best Technology category.

We got a chance to test drive the sleek and quiet Lucid Air Pure and learn about some of its features from Lucid representative Dave Buchko.

"This is the 2025 Lucid Air Pure, it's the entry point for the Lucid lineup," said Buchko. "It has a single motor, rear wheel drive, that gets 430 horsepower, 406 pound-feet of torque, and is the most efficient electric vehicle on

road, according to EPA estimates. It has an 84 kWh battery that is rated at 520 miles of range.'

The Best Passenger Vehicle award went to the Genesis G80 3.5T, a luxury sedan with a sports car feel. As one journalist commented after driving the G80: "This creates a new definition of a full-size luxury car."

Runners-up for Best Passenger Vehicle were the Toyota Camry Hybrid XSE and the Kia Carnival Hybrid.

The Best Sport Utility Vehicle was a tie between the Genesis GV80 3.5T Prestige and the Genesis GV80 3.5T Coupe.

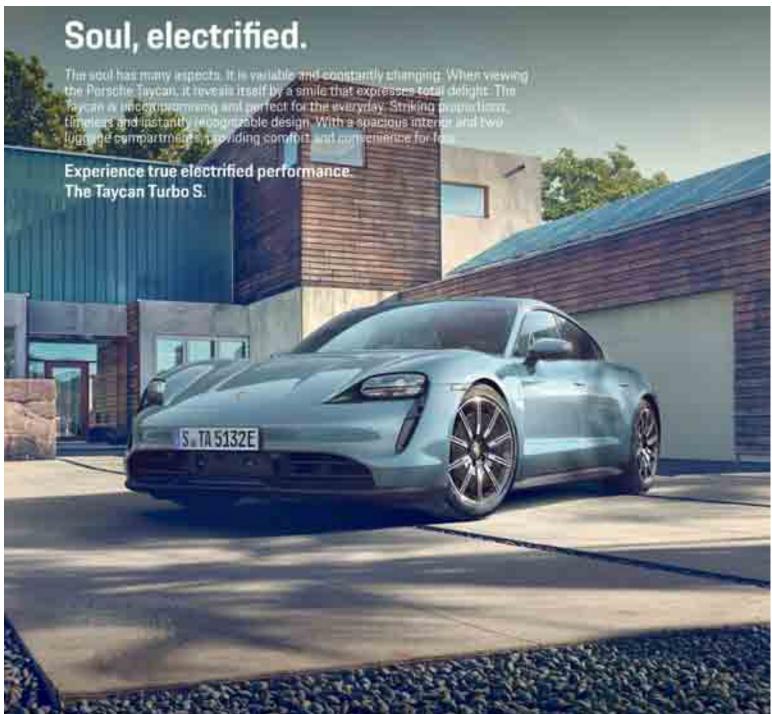
"The GV80 Coupe," said one judge, "was also my favorite luxury vehicle. Outstanding interior. Most comfortable car in the group. Just the right mix of road feel and soft ride.'

Runners-up for the Best SUV were the Kia Sorento PHEV, Range Rover SE7-passenger LWB and the Lexus GX550 Premium.

The "What would I buy?" Award category winners were spread across 11 models, proving that all were worthy of high praise. As one journalist put it: "There aren't any bad cars here. We're splitting hairs."

Many thanks to the automotive manufacturers who took part in the competition and to Page One Automotive and Drive Shop for organizing the event for the Western Automotive Journalists.

Keith Turner is an automotive journalist based in Northern California. Check out his video review channel: Carguy Drives on YouTube.



Slot Car racing in Europe vs. the **United States** continued from page 3 Scalextric cars were still tin plate, and their track made of rubber so expensive to ship to America. Several toy companies here in the USA sent sample to Hong Kong to be analyzed. They produced a cheaper version with plastic track and cars and Slot Car Racing started to boom in the USA So much so that car Manufacturers commissioned Slot Car Sets to be given out to new buyers of cars so their children could play at car racing. This endorsed branding too where children as they grew became owners of real cars from the brands they played with in their childhood. Americas fascination with Slot Car Racing saw an explosion in sales and from that a new Industry grew, and that was Commercial

the Slot Car crazed took off. With this and the need for speed the industry of hopped-up cars grew rapidly with new motors, gear, tires and bodies arriving every Month or so. The speeds at these Commercial Raceways were more than a plastic car could withstand, so the bodies changed continued on page 17

Slot Car Tracks. Across America somewhere between 3000 to 10,000 raceways appeared and



in the Transition

to EV's

continued from page 4

one is looking for the "magic battery" sometimes referred to as "unobtainium" which will make electric cars more practical and less expensive, Dr. Ralf von Hammerschmidt from the University of Heidelberg, Grossaspach has discovered a way to double the energy content of petroleum gasoline. After 12 years of intensive research and development and through the use of a newly invented Thermal Dynamic Spatial Reducer, Dr. von Hammerschmidt and his team of dedicated German and Austrian scientists and physicists have been able to nearly double the BTU content of a gallon of gasoline from its current 115,000 btus to 212,000 btus, nearly doubling vehicle fuel economy.

The process is not all that dissimilar to the Fischer Tropsch process developed nearly 100 years ago by fellow German scientists who were able to gasify coal and make it into a liquid. Through the use of the recently discovered Spatial Reducer, they have been able to effectively add more molecules into the same space on the end product. Using several new reactive catalysts, Dr. von Hammerschmidt has successfully combined more carbon and hydrogen into the same space already occupied by the normal gasoline molecules which enhances the energy content of the liquid without the need for higher temperatures or increased pressures. The end result is a liquid product with the same volatility and vapor pressures of gasoline that contains over 200,000 btus per gallon. Dr. von Hammerschmidt and his team are working to further add to this process and eventually achieve the astounding Btu content of gasoline to 300,000 per gallon.

Part of this process has the added benefit of reducing CO2 content from the atmosphere as Dr. von Hammerschmidt has successfully used the carbon from this compound and re-processed it through the thermal dynamic spatial reducer along with pure hydrogen. Dr. von Hammerschmidt estimates the process will add approximately 25 cents to a gallon of gasoline on a volume basis.

For those that CO2 and climate change, this will reduce the CO2 output of vehicles because CO2 emissions per mile will be cut in half because the carbon for this process is extracted from the atmosphere. The reality is that it would be 80 percent more

eco-friendly than a current hybrid vehicle and as eco-friendly as an electric car and at a fraction of the cost.

The process would be put in place during the actual refining of the gasoline in a current facility and it would be just another step from crude oil to the end product. Part of the estimated 25 cents per gallon considers the added processing of petroleum and the attendant new equipment.

There would be some negatives. First while reducing the demand of oil, it would put a damper on developing other alternative technology such as hybrids, electric vehicles, and fuel cells because gasoline as a fuel would have a significantly reduced cost per mile (essentially cut in half) thereby making any alternatives even less attractive.

While strides have been made in electric vehicles, they still suffer from two significant issues. First the range of electric cars is still extremely limited to less than 100 miles and as with the current Leaf, at 70 mph and using the climate control system, the maximum range is just 55 miles. Secondly, eclectic vehicles take hours to recharge. Hybrids which already never return their extra cost (about \$5,000 per vehicle) will become even less attractive and will now have a higher unreturned premium on investment. Already extremely expensive fuel cells will have to compete with a more efficient use of hydrogen attained by the thermal dynamic spatial reducer.

Dr. von Hammerschmidt has virtually made all current known alternatives vehicles potentially obsolete with this newly developed process. However, he still recommends that research should continue into alternative vehicles. However, before investing, any idea should be examined by a nonpolitical body of scientists and that the idea passes a rigorous scientific test before billions of dollars are wasted on fruitless ventures. Perhaps the magic battery has been discovered right under our noses and it was the same tried and tested fuel that currently powers our transportation system. The doctor has done the impossible, something he says that will never happen with the solid-state battery.

Here we are 14 years later, and EV demand is falling. It is too expensive and too inconvenient and now the energy cost is more expensive than gasoline. Yet our autocratic government is still trying to shove it down our throats (or stick it somewhere else in our scared body) and using your money to do it.

The Balancing Act | Fiat 500e "Test Drive Report" by Arv Voss

continued from page 4 **ELECTRIC POWER PLANT:**

The 500e's motive force is delivered by a permanent magnet synchronous AC - 37.0 kWh electric motor with liquid-cooled lithium battery pack and 11.0 kW onboard charger. Horsepower is rated at 117 while the torque is rated at 162.

The motor is mounted up front driving the front wheels via a direct drive transmission. There are three different driving modes -Normal, Range, and Sherpa. The most regenerative braking system mode that allows for one-pedal

UPDATED ITALIAN STYLING:

The 500e's design has been upgraded both inside and out while retaining the exterior charm of the previous generation's retro-modern appearance and appeal. Inside, a big

10.3-inch touchscreen infotainment system features the latest version of Uconnect 5 software interface. The cabin not only looks better now, but is better equipped that before as well – not to mention more comfy.

The 500e will be introduced in special versions at regular intervals each of which will be available for a limited time. The first will be the Inspi(RED) model that benefits Product Red rasing money to fund HIV and AIDS research. The next two models will be Inspired by Music and Inspired by Beauty. The Beauty model comes in only Rose Gold paint, with the Music version is only available in Tuxedo Black. Both are fully loaded with driverassistance features and desirable items such as heated front seats, adaptive cruise control and parking sensors. The Inspired by Music model also boasts a 7-speaker JBL:

stereo system tuned by Andrea Bocelli. Pricing will range from \$34,095 to \$37,595.

PERFORMANCE:

The 500e is an excellent urban transport not especially deemed as a freeway cruiser or high-performance racer. The U.S. battery pack is claimed to deliver a range between 141 and 150 miles. The battery may be recharged at a DC charging station at up to 85kW, adding 31 miles of range in only five minutes.

Standard fare includes automated emergency braking and Lane-keeping Assist.

Available options include: adaptive cruise control and a lanecentering feature.

AS TESTED:

My 2024 Fiat 500e was the Inspi(RED) model with a bright continued on page 10

2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive Report" by Howard

Elmer continued from page 6

van buyers. The ProMaster EV includes best-in-class features, such as 524 cubic feet of cargo space, standard best-inclass interior cargo height of 86 inches, a low load-floor height and max width between wheel wells. The cargo van features up to 3,020 lb of payload while the delivery configuration offers up to 2,030 lb of payload.

Ram Commercial is well known for providing upfitterfriendly offerings. The new Ram ProMaster EV continues this tradition. It has standard upfitter electrical connector and an integrated cab configuration for easy upfitter/conversion solutions. Adding to the new ProMaster design for adaptability, virtually all primary vehicle systems are packaged forward of the cargo area. This body can be upfitted for virtually every conceivable commercial need because of its unique front-drive system and body-integral construction. It has the most vertically oriented sidewalls in the cargo van category (nearly 90 degrees in relation to the cargo floor) combined with a best-in-class cargo width of 75.6 inches.

Two key considerations for prospective van buyers are visibility (this means, glass, mirrors and cameras) and safety systems (both for the driver and for pedestrians). Both of these important features have been addressed in the ProMaster EV. For instance, ProMaster features a standard high-resolution backup camera with dynamic grid lines. The available digital rearview mirror displays video in real time in all driving modes from a rear-facing camera and can be turned off to revert to a traditional reflective mirror. The digital rearview mirror is available on all ProMaster models and provides an unobstructed rear view. Also available on the Ram ProMaster is 360-degree Surround View camera. The system offers 360-degree, bird's-eye views of the vehicle and its surroundings, enhanced by dynamic grid lines displayed on a 10.1inch digital touchscreen.

For 2025 the safety and security list continue to grow and offers the following features:

Full-Speed Forward Collision Warning,

Crosswind Assist Rear backup camera with dynamic gridlines,

Post-collision braking, **Drowsiness Detection** Traffic sign information Auto high-beams

Cornering function fog lamps, Push-button starter,

Keyless entry (all doors) Electric parking brake.

Optional safety and security features include:

Intelligent Speed Assist, Lane Keep Assist,

Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop & Go

Front parking sensors

Rain-sensingwindshieldwipers. Ram ProMaster will also feature Secure Park, a feature that prevents the vehicle from being shifted out of "Park" unless a key is present.

Also of note is a continuing progression towards autonomous driving. ProMaster has an Active Driving Assist feature that provides Level 2 (L2) automated driving capability. This consists of hands-on-wheel and eyes-onroad automated driving using lane centring with adaptive cruise control. The system uses multiple sensors, including radars and cameras to dictate appropriate roads for the technology.

The 2025 Ram ProMaster EV is available for order now and should be on dealer lot's late this vear.





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Bring A Trailer and Pennzoil Partner to | "Proud To Wear The Shirt" **Deliver Enhanced Content, Incentives** and Exclusive Experiences

Joint initiatives will focus on enhancing the experience of the companies' respective enthusiast **Communities**

Automotive auction platform and enthusiast community Bring a Trailer (BaT) is partnering with leading global lubricant brand Pennzoil on several collaborative projects.

Both companies bring a shared passion for enthusiast vehicles and the indelible experiences enjoyed by their drivers. BaT, with its actively engaged community of buyers and sellers, and Pennzoil, through its Long May We Drive campaign, aim to enhance the BaT user experience as well as provide Pennzoil application expertise, brand engagement, and other opportunities for the companies' respective audiences.

Both companies will benefit from the relationship through a wide array of activation elements, including collaborative content, a dedicated page on BringaTrailer. com, co-promotion of the brands, educational elements, giveaways, charity auctions for exclusive experiences, and more.

Bring a Trailer is all about connecting enthusiasts with the cars of their dreams regardless of era or category. This creates a natural synergy with our Pennzoil Long May We Drive initiative, which celebrates cars, the inspired lives they help us lead and is our

pledge to help keep every engine protected," said Andrea Bottini, Marketing Manager for Pennzoil. "Since 1913, Pennzoil has led the way in pioneering motor oils, and we're thrilled to partner with Bring a Trailer to support their community for an unbeatable driving experience, so all drivers can ignite their passions."

"Pennzoil was built on innovation, protection and quality, all attributes valued by our community of automotive enthusiasts," said Randy Nonnenberg, Cofounder and President of Bring a Trailer. "We look forward to working with them to introduce programs that will enhance the experience of fans of both brands in the coming months."

The collaboration brings together two of the most trusted companies in their respective industries: Pennzoil, one of the leading global providers of oils and lubricants, and Bring a Trailer, which reinvented the collector and enthusiast vehicle auction industry with unmatched transparency and a highly engaged community of over one million users.

For more information, visit the Bring a Trailer Pennzoil page at: http://bringatrailer.com/pennzoil/ About Bring a Trailer

Bring a Trailer (BaT) is a digital auction platform and enthusiast community founded in 2007 to connect buyers and sellers of classic, collector and enthusiast vehicles. BaT curates vehicles submitted by sellers and helps them craft transparent auction listings that present the vehicles as they are — without superlatives or dubious used-car-lot language. At the end of a successful auction, BaT connects the seller and buyer so they can work together to complete the transaction. BaT's knowledgeable community of more than 1,000,000 registered users vet each listing so potential buyers can bid with confidence. BaT auctions are listed at a flat rate, starting at just \$99 with a sell-through rate of 83%. Bring a Trailer Shipping is the company's fully integrated vehicle transport service, available for both BaT auction listings and private vehicles in the contiguous 48 U.S. states. For more information, visit www.bringatrailer.com. About Pennzoil

Innovating since 1913, Pennzoil is passionate about driving the future and relentlessly works to help transform the motor oil category. Pennzoil Synthetic motor oil gives you unsurpassed engine protection.

Pennzoil is the most trusted motor oil brand in America and is backed by our 500,000-mile Pennzoil Lubrication Limited Warranty.

For more information about the full line of Pennzoil lubricating products, motor oils and filters, please visit www.pennzoil.com.

for the Cam Clark Brand!

by Lynn Rehn

continued from page 4

for my efforts included. No negotiations - just saying. One of my favorite quotes from the interviewing process was with a Parts and Service Manager as he described the community they served and service this man had said "I am PROUD TO WEAR THE SHIRT" with its Cam Clark logo on it and he meant it! Another General Manager has dedicated a shopping experience in what for most stores is a fail of retail opportunity. This GM has created a Nordstrom Environment upstairs next to Finance with music chosen specifically for its beneficial motivational effects on shoppers who while waiting for delivery "shop" this Stores Logo laden Hudson Bay Company worthy displays of quality goods anyone would use in their daily lives right down to the pen, thus putting this stores Logo ALL OVER TOWN in the most casual and natural of ways Subliminally in your faces ingenuity! One man who grew up in the Cam Clark stores spoke so eloquently i left my husband in the office to have a small weep as i had heard enough heartwarming details to write a script for the Hallmark Channel and not a small community service piece.

The Heart of Cam Clark Dealerships: A Culture of Service

At the core of Cam Clark's business philosophy is the belief that success is not only measured by sales and profits but by the positive

impact a company can have on its community. This ethos is evident in every dealership owned by the Cam Clark Auto Group, where team members are encouraged to actively participate in community service and charitable initiatives.

This culture of service is not just an added bonus; it is an integral part of the company's identity. Whether it's volunteering at local food banks, sponsoring youth sports teams, or organizing fundraising events for local charities, Cam Clark dealerships are committed to making a difference in the lives of those around them.

A Ripple Effect: Expanding **Kindness Across Borders**

The impact of this community service culture has not been confined to Canada. As the Cam Clark Auto Group expanded into the United States, the same values and principles were carried across the border. American team members, inspired by their Canadian counterparts, have embraced the culture of kindness and community involvement with enthusiasm and dedication.

This cross-border spread of kindness is a testament to the universal appeal of compassion and the positive impact it can have on communities, regardless of geography. The culture of service that started in Canadian dealerships has taken root in the U.S., leading to a growing number of community initiatives and charitable activities organized by Cam Clark team members in their local areas.

Community Service in Action: Real Stories from Cam Clark **Dealerships**

The stories of community service from Cam Clark dealerships are as varied as they are inspiring. In Canada, one dealership organized a toy drive during the holiday season, collecting thousands of toys for underprivileged children in the community. Another dealership in the United States hosted a charity car wash, with all proceeds going to support a local children's hospital.

In addition to these one-time events, Cam Clark dealerships are also involved in ongoing community service efforts. Many team members volunteer their time on a regular basis, serving at local shelters, mentoring youth, or participating in environmental clean-up efforts. These activities not only benefit the community but also foster a sense of camaraderie and purpose among team members, strengthening the bonds within the dealership teams.

continued on page 9

Auto News Introduces All-New **QR** Code



INSIDE VIETNAM AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City 2024 blends trade fair experiences with the pulse of everyday life

The sixth edition of Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City, taking place from 20 to 22 June 2024, is set to host an impressive line-up of global industry players. More than 500 exhibitors will showcase innovative mobility solutions, advanced technologies and a wide range of automotive products and services across halls A and B of the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center. The exhibition is built on mobilising domestic and international resources to serve as a platform for networking, trade, and knowledge exchange, fostering collaboration and community to drive the progression of the Vietnamese market under a backdrop of sustainability.

'The green energy transition, electric fication and digitalisation are influencing all parts of society and reshaping people's daily lives and commuting habits," said Ms Fiona Chiew, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd. "In Vietnam, the roadmap for advancing the automotive industry will transform manufacturing, business processes and the aftermarket, as electric mobility emerges as one of the nation's solutions for environmental protection. From this standpoint, innovation, new technologies, skilled professionals, efficient management practices and new business models are growing necessities, which is why our goal for Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City is to provide a platform for business people to explore trends while creating an open environment that can educate the general public about future transportation and mobility.'

To address the demand of capturing momentum in the rising new energy vehicle market, the new Automotive Mobility Zone will be a prime spot for promoting the digitalisation, AI adoption, sustainability and ESG efforts that are shaping the future of transportation. The area is set to feature an impressive range of electric and autonomous vehicles technologies, as well as connectivity and smart mobility solutions with related conferences to address the ever-evolving industry needs. Topics will provide insights into logistics, warehousing, supply chain management, automotive manufacturing, and automation to help participants understand different stages of their digital transformation. Experts are expected to present use cases on applying management systems for AI-based products and services and the implementation of Industry 4.0 and industrial automation (mechatronics, PLC, sensorics, pneumatics and robotics).

Mr Sehong An (Sean), Domestic Sales Team / Team Leader at CTR, mentioned: Vietnam's automotive industry has a lot of potential, which is why we are here to expand our business in the market; to look for new dealers through our presence at the show." The company exhibited last year and has already confirmed their participation at the next edition. "We believe the fair can also help us to identify opportunities in the domestic electric vehicle market, as we offer products for this segment as well."

Other zones across the exhibition grounds include Parts & Components and Automotive Repair, Maintenance & Care / Accessories & Customising. Leading brands comprise the likes of:

- · Oils and lubricants: Royal Super, Motorix, PROFI-CAR, UG Lubricants, and YOKOHAMA OILS
- Repair equipment and toolkits: Autel, Intradin (Vietnam), Launch Tech, OBD Vietnam, and Wedo Tools
 - · Car detailing and car washing: Carlas
 - · Accessories: FIRSTCOM and IROAD
- Parts and components: ADD, Canstar, CTR, Hengst, Mancando, NBK and XGM (starters, alternators, bearings, planetary gears, armatures, voltage regulators, electrical fuel pumps, starter motors, lighting, alternator brakes and brake pads)
 - Tyres: Hui Bao, Koryo, Lionstone, and New Century

INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Automechanika Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Paths to long-term sustainability in the automotive industry at Automechanika Shanghai 2024

The automotive industry is transitioning towards more sustainable mobility solutions that reduce carbon footprints and enhance environmental protection. With sustainability at its core, the theme of Automechanika Shanghai 2024 – innovate, transform; driving a sustainable future - will focus exhibits, conferences and onsite activities on promoting a greener automotive industry. In this regard, the trade fair stands as a beacon of innovation. serving as a platform for information exchange, marketing, business trading and education to offer compelling insight into the industry's trajectory. This theme also guides back-ofhouse processes as an all-encompassing sustainably-conscious platform within China's MICE industry.

In this regard, Messe Frankfurt and Sinomachint have taken significant steps to reduce their carbon footprint, implementing environmental measures to enhance sustainability. The 20-year anniversary edition of Automechanika Shanghai will take place from 2 to 5 December 2024 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)

By increasing the use of recyclable materials and replacing conventional construction materials with reusable alternatives like aluminium profiles and stretched fabric printings, the exhibition is taking charge of an eco-friendlier approach to organising large-scale industry events. Notably, all fascia boards on standard booths comply with E0 environmental gradings to ensure recyclability and adherence to fire safety.

In addition, all 6,500 exhibitors across the 350,000 sqm venue are encouraged to adopt sustainable practices, including the use of recyclable materials, modular constructions, energy-saving lighting, and waste separation to minimise environmental impact. The transition to a paperless system was also recently prioritised, digitising processes such as mapping, layout design, and production.

The focus on green protection extends beyond operational aspects to promotional and advertising efforts. For instance, the show has significantly reduced the use of printed materials, replacing them with digital modes of communication. Visitors can now also access AMS Live, a convenient online platform to explore products, search exhibitors, check booth locations, schedule meetings, and watch livestreamed conferences. Innovation, transformation and sustainability in the market

Regarding the theme's portrayal in the automotive market, technological innovations play a critical role in achieving sustainability goals. China's ambitious efforts to transform the automotive ecosystem makes it a key player in the global market as significant investments in decarbonising the transportation sector have propelled advancements, particularly in passenger and commercial vehicles.

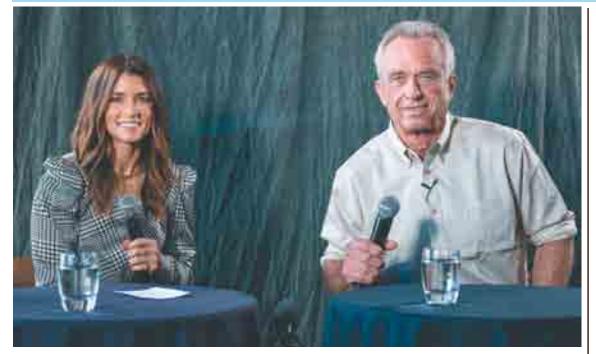
Exhibitors are embracing this direction with approximately one third offering new energy and connectivity related products. As such, the introduction of the New Energy & Connectivity sector aligns with this evolving landscape, emphasising sustainable mobility solutions and the increased adoption of new energy vehicles. This sector is set to showcase cutting-edge innovations driving sustainability in the industry. Spanning over 26,000 sam of the entire Hall 5.1 with more than 450 exhibitors, displays will feature advancements in core electric components and systems, energy charging and storage, intelligent driving and chassis, and fuel cells, electric systems, battery technology, autonomous driving, and digital management solutions. This scope reflects a significant growth from previous editions.

It includes JMC's smart driving systems, SHedrive's electric drive system for new energy vehicles, Black Sesame's high-performance autonomous driving chips, Hesai Technology's LiDAR system, and more.



International Auto News





Danica Patrick and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "Pretty Intense" podcast meet and greet during Formula 1 Race in Las Vegas (photo credit: Joshua Foster)

Seattle Resident, **Michael Shapiro Publishes Book On** Cuban Car Culture.

For those of you that have been to Cuba or have followed the stories on why there are so many American cars of the 50's and 60's on the streets of Cuba today. This book will answer those questions. Seattle author Michael Shapiro made many trips to Cuba detailing these stories.

Shapiro gained his bachelor's degree from University of California Berkeley and Master's degree's in Latin American studies from the University of New Mexico. He is a lifetime member of REFORMA,

the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking Community. Shapiro traveled regularly to Cuba between 1998 and 2002 to gather content for this book.

He and his wife Tanya and family currently live in Seattle, Washington.

The book is currently available from Books 4 Cars, Seattle, Washington (books@books4cars.com)

See page 23 for: Books 4 Cars information.

Proud To Wear The Shirt for the Cam Clark Brand!

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The Impact on the Cam Clark Brand

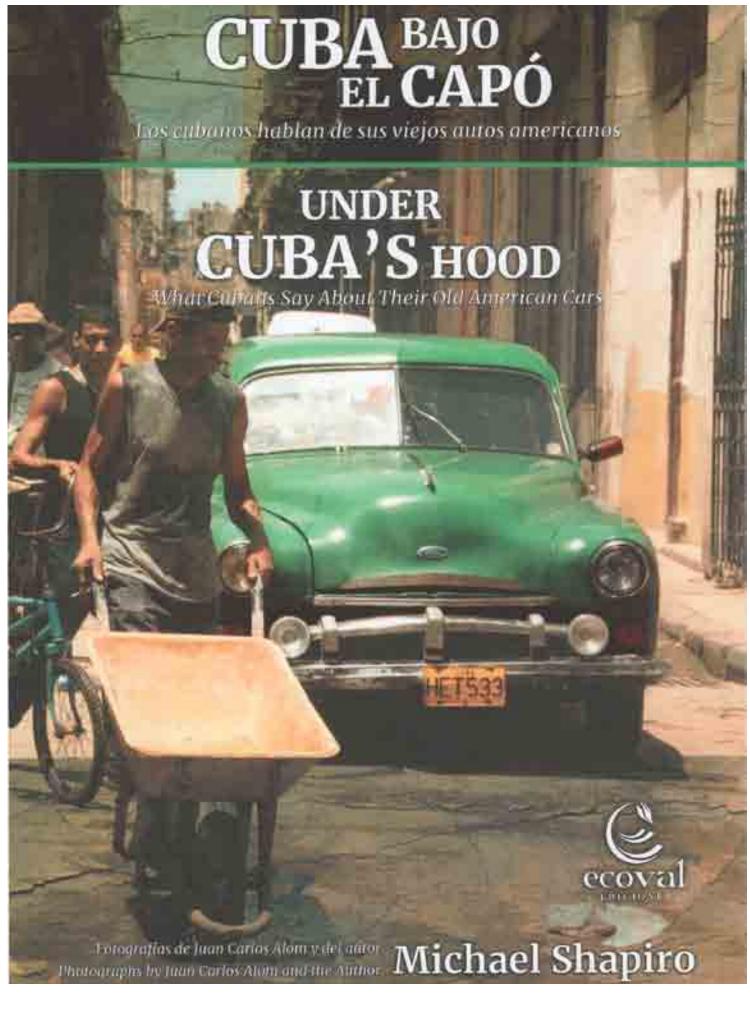
The culture of community service at Cam Clark-owned dealerships has had a profound impact on the brand's reputation. Customers recognize and appreciate the company's commitment to giving back, which has helped to build strong relationships with local communities. This, in turn, has translated into customer loyalty and trust, essential elements for long-term business success. One of these is the "Conference Room", at any Cam Clark facility at any given time, you may walk into this room and find a group of knitters working on items for donation to a Senior Center that some of the employees grandparents reside in, or a Kiwanis or Rotary meeting going on, I haven't even touched on the sponsoring of all things sports!

Moreover, the emphasis on kindness and community service has attracted employees who share these values, creating a positive and supportive work environment. Team members are not only proud of the work they do but also of the company they represent, leading to high levels of job satisfaction and employee retention.

Conclusion

The kindness of Canadians, as reflected in the community service culture at Cam Clark-owned dealerships, is more than just a national trait; it is a guiding principle that has shaped the company's identity and its approach to business. As this culture of service spreads from Canada to the United States, it continues to inspire team members to make a positive impact in their communities.

Through their actions, Cam Clark dealerships are demonstrating that kindness knows no borders and that the values of compassion, generosity, and community involvement are universal. In a world where businesses are increasingly judged Cam Clark Auto Group is leading by example, proving that success and kindness can go hand in hand.





Around the Track – Racing News



Full Throttle Triumphs: Recapping the 35th NHRA **Northwest Nationals at** Pacific Raceways by Chris Chung

Nationals at Pacific Raceways was nothing short of spectacular, delivering a weekend filled with roaring engines and thrilling finishes that captured the essence of drag racing.

Austin Prock, already a standout in the Funny Car category, continued his dominant season by clinching yet another victory. This time, Prock outpaced Paul Lee in a gripping final, showcasing his relentless drive and precision, which have become his hallmark at John Force Racing. With four wins under his belt this season, Prock's trajectory in the sport is clearly pointing skyward.

In the Top Fuel class, Steve Torrence added another trophy to his collection, further cementing his status as one of the sport's top competitors. Torrence's performance in Seattle was a masterclass in power and consistency, traits that have become synonymous with his racing style.

The Pro Stock category saw Jeg Coughlin Jr. return to the winner's circle, demonstrating the veteran racer's enduring skill and tactical prowess. Coughlin's victory not only highlighted his career's longevity but also his ability to perform at the highest levels against fierce competition.

Meanwhile, in Pro Stock Motorcycle, Chase Van Sant stole the spotlight with his remarkable victory. Van Sant's triumph at Pacific Raceways was both bold and commanding, underscoring

his rising prominence in the sport and his potential for future suc-

Beyond the individual accolades, the NHRA Northwest Nationals was a celebration of the sport's community and competitive spirit. Each race was a testament to the precision engineering and teamwork required to excel in one of motorsport's most challenging arenas. Drivers and teams pushed their limits, striving for that critical edge that could make the difference at the finish line.

The atmosphere off the track was just as vibrant, with fans who gathered in droves, bringing an infectious energy that only NHRA racing can elicit. The event was more than a series of races; it was a gathering of passion, a testament to the rich tapestry of stories and history that define the sport.

As we reflect on the 35th edition of the NHRA Northwest Nationals, it's clear that the event is not just a highlight of the racing calendar but a pivotal chapter in the ongoing story of drag racing. With new records in sight and rivalries heating up, the stage is set for more heart-pounding action as the season progresses.

Whether you're a seasoned fan or new to the world of NHRA, the Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways is an event that promises unmatched excitement and showcases the best of what drag racing has to offer. Here's to more tire-smoking, adrenaline-pumping action in the years to come!

Fiat 500e "Test Drive" by Arv Voss

continued from page 7

Red (Rosso) Exterior finish and the interior executed in grey with Red accents and piping. The base price was set at \$\$\$32,500 with the final tally coming to \$34,095. **OUR FINAL TAKE:**

Many will dub the FIAT 500e as "cute" - adorable and fashionably Italian also apply to this diminutive and affordable EV. It is also fun to drive, especially in the one-pedal mode. It's perky off the line and delivers agile handling characteristics along with a firm but comfortable ride. There is no complimentary scheduled maintenance, but there is a limited warranty covering four years or 50,000 miles, a powertrain warranty for 4 years or 50,000 miles and electrical components are covered for eight vears or 100,000 miles. Bottom line, the 500e is an ideal compact EV for an urban environment.

SPECIFICATIONS: Fiat 500e Vehicle Type: Compact Four passenger 2-door hatchback \$32,500 Base Price:

As Tested Price: \$34,095 Motor Size and Type: Permanent magnet synchronous AC - 37.0 kWh electric motor with liquidcooled lithium battery pack and 11.0 kW onboard charger. Horsepower (bhp): 117 Torque(lb.-ft.) 162 Transmission: Direct drive. Brakes: Power-assisted front wheel vented discs / rear drums Tires: Pirelli Cinturato P7 205/45 R17 all-season elec mounted on

alloy wheels. Wheelbase: 91.4 inches Overall Length: 143.0 inches Width: 66.3 inches Height: 60.1 inches Curb Weight: 2,981 pounds

24 alternating length spoke cast



Fiat 500e (photo Arv Voss)



Vicky's Toyota Corrola (photo Chris Chung)

2024 Mazda **CX-50 2.5 Turbo Meridian Edition**

continued from page 4

lots of rain it will do fine.

The only two options on the CX50 Meridian Edition were are the paint color and the roof rack which I would leave off as the wind noise is horrible with the sun roof open. The standard equipment list is too long to list. I would say this is an incredibly well-equipped SUV.

Two items I did notice are at outside temps over 100 degrees the AC has a hard time cool-

ing the cabin. The Infotainment system is not very user friendly. It seems to have a mind of its own. The tires are Falken Wildpeak A/T premium quality and add to the handling of the vehicle's performance. The color choice is Zircon Sand Metallic with terracotta trim on the seats. The other is a Polymetal Metallic with the same terracotta trim. All in all, it's a great value and well worth the price and compares well with other SUVs in its class.



2024 Mazda CX-50 Turbo Meridian provided by Drive Shop (photo Harold Allen)



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From Around the U.S.



NWAPA Announces Drive Revolution 2024 Awards

The 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD was the big winner of the recent Drive Revolution competition staged by the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA). The compact all-electric hot rod won the overall Best Performance and Best Electrified vehicle classes, along with also winning the EV class. It beat out heavy-hitting competitors, many much higherpriced, to win these honors.

"Many journalists were surprised with the 2025 Hyundai IONIO 5 N AWD and its ability to provide an exceptional blend of performance and innovation, combining powerful acceleration with precision handling—rare traits in an all-electric vehicle," said NWAPA President Nik Miles of Fox Morning News/ Nextstar.tv.

The 2025 IONIQ 5 NAWD is the performance version of Hyundai's acclaimed compact EV. The N AWD version offers an impressive 601 horsepower, sits lower with a engine sounds.

Runner up in the Best Performance Vehicle class was the 2025 McLaren Artura Spider, the hybrid version of the manufacturer's retractable-top supercar. Second place in the Best Electrified Vehicle class was the 2024 Lucid Air Pure, the single-motor rear-wheel-drive version of the luxury sedan.

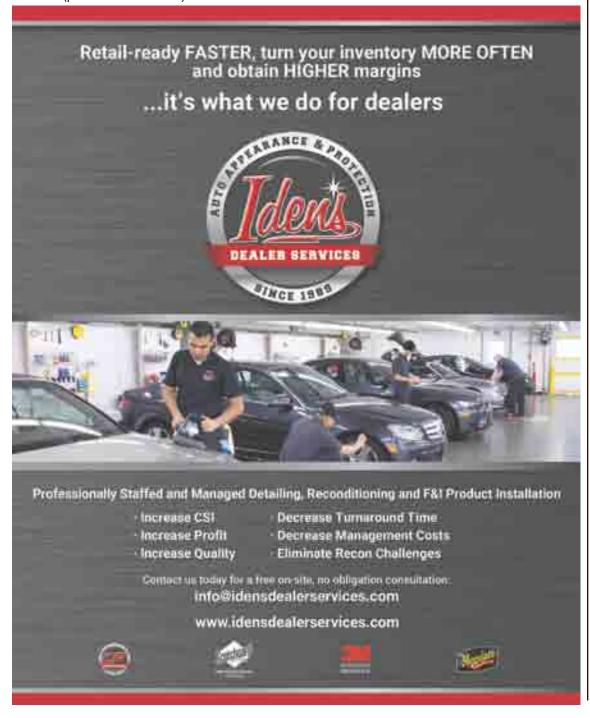
Best Performance Winners

Best Electrified Vehicle: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2025 McLaren



Chris Chung, Auto News Digital Editor pictured at Monterey Car Week 2024 at Pebble Beach (photo Auto News)



2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness: The **Ouintessential PNW Adventure Car** by Chris Chung

The 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness perfectly embodies the Pacific Northwest lifestyle, blending urban practicality with offroad prowess. Whether navigating tight city streets or escaping to the mountains, it's a vehicle designed for all facets of adventure.

With 9.3 inches of ground clearance, rugged Yokohama GEO-LANDAR® all-terrain tires, and Subaru's proven Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, the Crosstrek Wilderness makes light work of gravel roads and rocky trails. Its dual-function X-MODE and Active Torque Vectoring add con-

fidence on snow-covered passes or muddy inclines. Powered by a 2.5L BOXER engine with 182 horsepower, it's not the fastest, but it's steady, reliable, and ready for anything.

Inside, Subaru combines functionality with comfort. StarTex® water-repellant upholstery and allweather floor mats are ideal for the PNW's wet, muddy conditions, while up to 54.9 cubic feet of cargo space ensures room for all your gear. Tech features like the 11.6-inch STARLINK multimedia system with wireless Apple Car-Play and Android Auto keep you connected on every adventure.

Starting at \$31,995, the Crosstrek Wilderness offers accessibility for those without EV charging access while delivering unmatched off-road capability. For PNW adventurers, it's the perfect companion for both city life and rugged weekend getaways.



2024 Subaru Crosstrek (photo Chris Chung)

2025 Chevrolet **Equinox EV: A** New Era of EVs

continued from page 2

Beyond its advanced tech, the Equinox EV delivered comfort and functionality. Inside, the spacious cabin offered plenty of room for both passengers and gear, while the class-leading infotainment system, featuring expansive screens and Google Voice Assis-

tant, ensured I stayed connected and entertained. Whether I needed navigation or music, it was intuitive and easy to use on the go.

Chevrolet's Equinox EV isn't just a milestone for affordability—it's a vehicle designed to inspire adventure. For those who thought EVs couldn't handle real life—or real road trips—the Equinox EV proves otherwise. Whether you're navigating your daily commute or exploring the great outdoors, this SUV is ready for it all.



2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV (photo Chris Chung)





From Around the U.S.



Hyundai Introduces 25K Inster EV as O.E.M.'s **Expand Production**

continued from page 3

for that reason and that reason

Inster will be sold in Europe and Asia initially.

But look for Jeep/Stellantis, Tesla, General Motors, Ford and to compete, embracing a manufacturing goal of a more affordable EV by late 2026/2027.

A \$25,000 electric Jeep will be the brand's third EV for the US market. GM plans to revamp the Chevy Bolt, and Tesla is due out with a "mystery" EV. Many people call this goal the industry's new target market.

Hyundai calls its Inster cute/ compact with an attractive / futuristic exterior and a modern, spacious interior. I wonder who will be second to the finish line with EV affordability...Congrats to Hyundai- as Rocky would say, "Keep punching, automakers!"



Hyundfai Inster EV (photo Jordan Williams)

Another Balancing Act In The **EVTransition**

by Larry Weitzman

King of the traffic light grand

About a month ago, I remarked that part of the government's push for EV's is selling their performance or more precisely, their acceleration. Since Tom McCahill invented 0-60 mph acceleration as an automotive performance benchmark in 1947, being quickest from 0-60 mph has been a key performance bragging right and enabler of a driver to be king of the traffic light grand prix.

It happened again today, Motor Trend Automotive Magazine (MT) published its lead story on the new \$250,000, 2024 Lucid Air Sapphire, a brand I wrote about that is "only" losing about \$400,000 a copy. They only sold about 6,000 Lucids last year at about \$90-150,000 apiece. How many would they sell at \$650,000 so as not to lose money? You could say Ford did great last quarter losing \$132,000 each on all 10,000 EVs it sold.

But today, the lead headline in MT was "2024 Lucid Air Sapphire First Test: Ouickest Ouarter-Mile car we've ever tested?" Even faster in some runs (standing start ½-mile) than the much less expensive (about \$110,000) Tesla S Plaid. But it tied the Plaid for the Ouarter-Mile time and lost by a tenth of a second in the 0-60 mph time (2.2 seconds). All obtained with sophisticated electronic controls and allowing the computer and battery about 15 minutes time to reprogram itself to accomplish the eyeball flattening acceleration.

A quick calculation done in my head says the battery would be capable of about 30 runs before a zero-charge state. It would, however, go into limp-home mode after about three runs as the battery draw would be about 900 kW causing a battery overheating issue. Its three motors combined for about 1,234 horses. That is almost the stable capacity of Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby.



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The All-New **Toyota** bZ4x EV **Offers Cutting Edge Design and** is Priced Right

by Bill McCallum

As I have said before, "I have never met an EV I didn't like." (During a test drive) The Toyota bZ4x more than qualifies with that statement. The bZ4x is one of the best designed EV's on the market. It has the "thumbs-up" look that you are looking for when buying a new EV. And when it comes to the purchase price, How about \$46,700, as tested.

Powered with 201 Total System Horsepower and a single Electric Motor (150 KW) producing 114 MPGe. A level 1 Charging Cord (120V) is included and the bZ4x is DC Charging Compatible. The Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 System with Pre-Collision and Pedestrian Detection is also included. If there is an EV in your future be sure and test drive the Toyota bZ4x EV.

NWAPA Announces **Drive Revolution** 2024 Awards

continued from page 12

Best Electrified Vehicle Winners Best Electrified Vehicle: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2024 Lucid Air Pure In the three individual classes in this year's competitive event, winners included the: 2024 Audi RS 6 Avant Performance, the 2025 Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat Last Call AWD, and the 2024 Lexus TX550h+ Luxury AWD.

Best ICE Performance Vehicle Winner Best ICE: 2024 Audi RS 6 Avant Performance

Runner Up: 2025 Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat Last Call AWD

Best Battery Electric Vehicle Winner Best BEV: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2024 Lucid Air Pure **Best Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle** Winner Best PHEV: 2024 Lex

TX550h+ Luxury AWD

Runner Up: 2025 McLaren Artura Spider

Drive Revolution is an annual competition hosted by NWAPA that compares vehicles with the most advanced technologies and performance potential. During the event, 20 automotive media professionals drove and evaluated 23 vehicles over a variety of routes around the Ilani Casino and Resort near Ridgefield, Washington, over three days in early September. The routes included suburban, rural, and freeway stretches, allowing for a wide range of testing.

Automakers entered 10 battery-electric vehicles, six plug-in hybrid vehicles, and seven internalcombustion engine performance vehicles into NWAPA Drive Revolution 2024. Prices ranged from \$36,820 for the gas-powered 2024 Hyundai Elantra N to \$558,700 for the overthe- top all-electric 2024 Rolls-Royce Spectre.

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Genesis GV80 Prestige



This midsized 4 door SUV from Hyundai's luxury brand is loaded with extra's and competes head-on with all other luxury brands.

BASE PRICE: \$79,300 * TYPE: 4-door SUV **ENGINE:** 3.5L Twin Turbo V6 HORSEPOWER: 375 hp TRANS: 8 speed AT MPG: 22 highway

Genesis G80 Sport Prestige



The Genesis G80 Sport Prestige sedan takes on its German rivals in design, performance. and value.

BASE PRICE: \$77,000 * TYPE: Sedan ENGINE: 3.5L Twin Turbo V-6 HORSEPOWER: 375 hp TRANS: 8 speed AT MPG: 24 highway

Hyundai Sonata Hybrid LTD



Hyundai has been gaining market share for decades and the Sonata has contributed with styling & performance. **BASE PRICE:** \$34,950 * TYPE: Sedan

ENGINE: 2.0 Liter 4 cyl. Hybrid HORSEPOWER: 192 hp TRANS: 6 speed AT MPG: 47 combined

Hyundai Tucson Hybrid LTD



The Hyundai Tucson 4-door hybrid has been gaining market share for Hyundai in the 4-door SUV segment.

BASE PRICE: \$40,545 * TYPE: 4 door SUV **ENGINE:** 1.6 liter Hybrid HORSEPOWER: 231 hp TRANS: 6 speed AT MPG: 35 overall

Mazda CX-30



Mazda CX-30 4-door SUV is priced right, with cutting edge design, responsive handling, and above average fuel economy. **BASE PRICE:** \$36,800 * TYPE: 4 door SUV **ENGINE:** 2.5 liter turbo HORSEPOWER: 227 hp TRANS: 6 sp Sport Mode AT MPG: 30 highway

Mazda CX-90 Premium



The Mazda CX 90 Premium Is the "power machine" in the lineup. Lots of horsepower with added towing capacity.

BASE PRICE: \$56,450 * TYPE: 4 door SUV **ENGINE:** 3.3l i6 Turbo HORSEPOWER: 340 hp TRANS: AT MPG: 28 highway

* All information listed "AS TESTED"

autonewsonline.com/showcase reviews

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Honda CR-V Hybrid SP



The Honda CR-V has been an all-time best seller for Honda and the hybrid CR-V is one of best values in the market place.

BASE PRICE: \$40,800 * **TYPE:** 4-door SUV **ENGINE:** 2.0 Liter Direct Inj. HORSEPOWER: 204 hp TRANS: CVT MPG: 40 highway

Honda Odyssey Elite



Mini Vans seemed to be be losing market share as SUV's gain popularity. Honda with their Odyssey in an exception.

BASE PRICE: \$50,880 * TYPE: Mini-Van **ENGINE:** 3.5 Liter V6 HORSEPOWER: 280 hp TRANS: 10 speed AT MPG: 28 highway

Auto News To Increase EV "Test Drives" as Automaker **OEM's Push Back Transitions**

As we increase our EV test drives during the coming months: see page 4, EV Balancing Act, page 5 Toyota bZ4x review and page 27 Ford Mach E review, my hope is automakers consider these 5 facts.

1- My University of Washington business 101 class stated "never follow a startup company when introducing a new product." A startup company is defined by time in the market place NOT the valuation of their stock. REASON "Let the startup company make the mistakes if the new idea takes hold."

2- The EV charging issue will ONLY be solved when we connect our 3 regional grids and the Texas grid. Estimates indicate that could take 20 to 30 years if we start TODAY.

3- The cost of reducing EV's production will ONLY happen through industry consolidation.

4- The idea of developing an EV truck needs new research for a number of reasons. As we have discovered TODAY the mass market want's a well designed, roomy, low cost sedan.

5- The acceleration of the transition of EV's to the mass market will only happen when we reach "PEAK OIL". (Defined as : when the global supply of oil starts to decline.)

Thank you for taking the time to share my thoughts and have a nice day !!

Toyota bZ4x EV

Edge Design and

As I have said before, "I have never met an EV I didn't like." (During a test drive) The Toyota bZ4x more than qualifies with that statement. The bZ4x is one of the best designed EV's on the market.

It has the "thumbs-up" look that

you are looking for when buying

a new EV. And when it comes to

the purchase price, How about

Powered with 201 Total System

Horsepower and a single Electric Motor (150 KW) producing 114 MPGe. A level 1 Charging Cord (120V) is included and the bZ4x is DC Charging Compatible. The

test drive the Toyota bZ4x EV.

Offers Cutting

is Priced Right

by Bill McCallum

\$46,700, as tested.

The All-New

Hyundai Tucson XRT *



The Hyundai Tucson XRT offers a lower price point in the competitive 4-door SUV segment while still packed with extras.

BASE PRICE: \$34,165 * TYPE: 4-door SUV **ENGINE:** 2.5L 4-cylinder HORSEPOWER: 187 hp TRANS: 8 speed AT MPG: 30 highway

Mazda CX-5 Signature



Mazda has strong market share in the Northwest. (see page 11 ad) The CX-5 is one of the best selling small SUV's in the segment. **BASE PRICE:** \$40,600 * TYPE: 4-door SUV **ENGINE:** 2.5 Liter Turbo HORSEPOWER: 227 hp TRANS: 6 sp Sportmode AT MPG: 27 highway

Toyota Prius XLE



Toyota still leads the industry in the hybrid segment with the Prius. With an all-new design the Prius is still the leader.

BASE PRICE: \$35,592 * **TYPE:** 4-door hatchback hybrid **ENGINE:** 2.0L DOHC 4 cyl. HORSEPOWER: 196 net HP **TRANS:** Electronic All-Wheel Drive MPG: 50 highway

Toyota Tacoma TRD Offroad



Being born and raised in Tacoma, Wa. I still don't understand why Toyota named their popular selling truck after our city ??

BASE PRICE: \$42,900 * **TYPE:** Pickup Truck **ENGINE:** I-Force 2.4L Turbo HORSEPOWER: 270 hp TRANS: 8 speed AT MPG: 23 highway

* All information listed "AS TESTED"

Toyota Safety Sense 3.0 System with Pre-Collision and Pedestrian Detection is also included. If there autonewsonline.com/showcase reviews is an EV in your future be sure and



Women in the Auto World



Previously Featured: "Women in the Auto World"

Lyn St. James - Indy Race Driver Felicia Fields - Ford HR VP Mary Barra - GM CEO Michelle Christensen – Acura Design Lisa Copeland – FCA Dealer Sandra Button - Pebble Concours Courtney Kramer - Auto News

Amber Geissler – Reaction Motorsports

Monika Kalenski - MEK Magnet Chanterria McGilbra - Prancing Ponies Foundation Nancy LeMay - LeMay Family Collection **Muffy Bennett – Car Collector** Jennifer and Abbie Biggs - Repair Shop Owner Carolyn Jackson - VP Brand Strategy Barrett-Jackson Monterey Touring Vehicle (MTV) Heather Gardner Pam Nelson - Nelson Auto Group

Joyce Chow - Social Media Mogul in Hollywood Sarah Deccio - Distribution Mgr. Valerie Thompson – Motorcycle Racer Ashley, Courtney & Brittany Force - Drag Racing Champions Toyota of Marysville - Ladies at Work Dana White - Chief Comm. Officer - Hyundai N. America Rita Case – Rick Case Auto Group Connie Peters - Automotive Writer

Rita Case, CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group Receives NAMAD Award

continued from page 1

This year Case also received the 55th Annual TIME Dealer of the Year Award, one of the automotive industry's most prestigious and highest honors for a dealer. Awarded annually since 1970, the TIME Dealer of the Year Award, in partnership with Ally and National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), recognizes the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Nominated by members of the Automotive Trade Association Executives, Case represented the Florida Automobile Dealers Association as the Florida Dealer of the Year. Case and 49 other dealers from around the U.S. were nominated from more than 16,000 dealerships. Case is only the fifth woman to be named TIME Dealer of the Year. In addition, Case also was recognized as a 2024 AutoSuccess Women at the Wheel Award recipient, which celebrates exceptional women in the automotive industry.

As president and CEO of the award-winning Rick Case Automotive Group, she runs what is now the largest female owned and operated independent automotive

dealer group in America. The company is one of America's most respected retail automotive brands, with 12 dealerships throughout South Florida and Atlanta. The South Florida dealerships consistently rank in top volume sales nationally, are honored for operational excellence and employ 1,300 dedicated associates.

"Rita's NAMAD lifetime achievement award is a testament to a legacy of perseverance, passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence," said Perry Watson IV, President of NAMAD.

In 2011. Rita and Rick published a book titled, "Our Customers, Our Friends: What 50 Years in Business Has Taught Rita and Rick Case About Sales Success and Community Service." Providing excellent customer service is their foundation. They built and maintain a culture of treating every customer just as they would their best friend. They look at everything through the eyes of their customers. The automotive business requires dedication, hard work and a passion and plan to sell more than anyone else. To be a successful entrepreneur requires the highest level of work ethic,

innovation and commitment to develop and execute the ideas that solve problems in record setting ways.

A 2022 Horatio Alger Award recipient, Case sits on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch Board of Directors; the Horatio Alger Association, Nova Southeastern University and Broward Workshop board; served on the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County board for 35+ years; and has been involved with the Community Foundation of Broward since 2002, serving as a board member and on the strategic planning committee.

Together, Rita and Rick created. developed and led fundraising initiatives that raised more than \$120 million for organizations in South Florida, a legacy that continues today.

In 1982, the Cases launched Rick Case Bikes for Kids, which has since distributed more than 120,000 new and gently used bicycles to children in need during the holidays. In 2015, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Broward, Rita launched the establishment of 'A Rick Case Habitat Community.' When complete, this

Pompano Beach community of 76 homes will be the largest affordable home ownership community in the county's history.

About The Rick Case Automotive Group

Founded in 1962, the Rick Case Automotive Group has been honored by Automotive News as the National All-Star Dealer and President and CEO Rita Case was named the 2024 TIME Dealer of the Year. Rick Case Automotive Group is the nation's largest female owned and operated automotive dealer group in America, offering Honda, Hyundai, Genesis, Ioniq, Volkswagen, Kia, Acura, Audi, Mazda, Maserati, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Honda Motorcycles and E-Z-Go golf carts. Celebrating more than 60 years in business, the Rick Case Automotive Group has 12 dealerships in Florida and Georgia. The South Florida dealerships are known for holding national sales records, consistently ranking among the top performers in markets they serve. Rick Case Automotive Group is headquartered at 14500 W. Sunrise Blvd. in Sunrise, Florida. For more information, visit www.RickCase.com.

About The National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD)

The National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers' (NAMAD) objective is to pursue the meaningful presence and participation of minority businesses and diverse employees across all aspects of the automotive economic sector. The organization is committed to developing strategic relationships and advocating for the advancement of business policies and practices that ensure diversity and economic parity remain a priority in all aspects of the American automotive industry. NAMAD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization headquartered in the Washington, D.C. area.



Mach-E Rally "Test Drive Report"

continued from page 2

to aid traction off the tarmac.

On the street, this newest Mach-E performs very well when you stomp on the throttle pedal. As my old-school drag racing friends might say, "It hooks up." Hang on while this battery-powered SUV gets up to 60 in a huge hurry; 3.4 seconds according to Ford.

Inside, there really isn't much difference from the regular Mach-E. It's a blend of high-tech, and starkness. The vertical center screen controls most everything, whether that's a positive or a negative. (The ones who still bristle at the use of the Mustang name

might consider it the latter.)

Battery range is slightly lower than that of the other versions of the Mach-E, which offer between 280 and 320 miles, depending on configuration. The Rally model is rated by the EPA at 265 miles. Still decent by current EV standards.

Of course, playing gasolinefree rally driver will cost you a bit of money. The pricing structure begins with a Mach-E GT at \$55,890, then adds \$6,000 for the Rally option. Tax incentives and other rebates may apply, but as these trickle into Ford dealerships, discounts off sticker may be scarce or nonexistent.



Mach-E Rally Model (photo Dave Kunz)



For complete details contact Tom (509) 435-3812

Multi-car discount available.



Car Collections



McCormick's **Palm Springs** Auction Results

Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions: November Classic Car Auction a Success!

Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions concluded another successful classic car auction over three stunning days, November 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. With clear skies and a perfect 76-degree backdrop, 394 exceptional vehicles crossed the auction block, and 212 of them found proud new owners.

The auction showcased a dazzling array of classic and collectible cars, highlighted by two standout

- Lot 456: 1958 Chevrolet Impala sold for an impressive \$117,660
- Lot 276: 1969 Mercedes 280SE fetched a remarkable \$111,300

In addition to the headlinemaking sales, many more desirable classic cars found new homes in the accessible price range of \$25,000 to \$50,000, making this event appealing to enthusiasts and seasoned collectors alike.

Mark your calendars! Our next auction is set for February 21st,

22nd, and 23rd, 2025. We look forward to welcoming car lovers from around the world to experience the thrill and excitement of Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions.

For more information, visit our website classic-carauction.com or contact us directly at (760) 320 3290.Auction Results #14

Slot Car Racing in Europe Compared to the United States

continued from page 6

to less detail butyrate bodies and finally Lexan.

The cars got faster, and lower and less scale appearing, the branding was gone, no longer were they Fords and Ferrari cars, these were Asp, Manta Ray etc. and the scale cars were gone. Personally, I believe this was part of the end in America of the boom of Model Car (Slot) Car Racing.

It took a while but eventually the love of cars, and the excitement of racing a Ferrari, or Ford etc. at least for now was gone.

Back in Europe, speeds stayed more scale appearing, the cars stayed models of real cars, and the hobby continued and still is going on to this day.

Model Car racing inspires children of all ages, the thrill of racing, the excitement with almost no chance of injury, except maybe to your ego.

There are tournaments where 100's will attend, races are staged some even as long as 24 hours. Where racers young and old can pit their skills against each other and the clock.

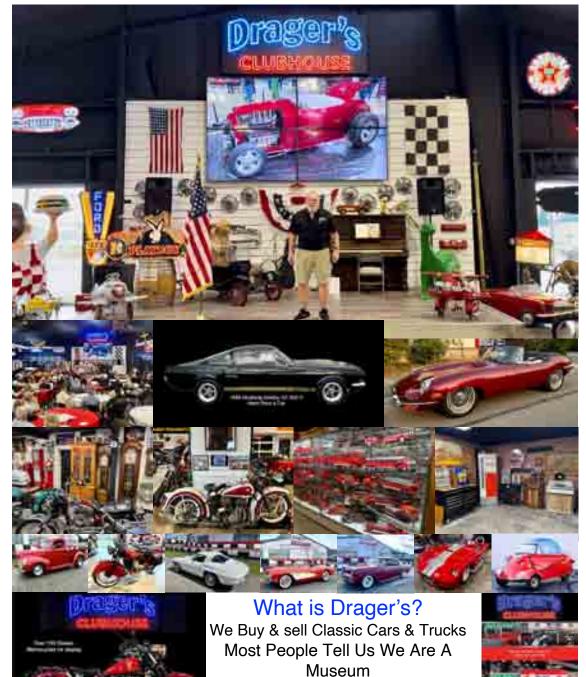
The Hobby of Model Car racing has grown again in North America, first from Scalextric, and then other brands being reintroduced here.

This hobby has created many famous real race drivers and Team owners, but that is another story.

Hopefully we will see you at the Races!!



1958 Chevrolet Impala sold for an impressive \$117,660 at McCormick's



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Automotive Families Featured During 2025 with..... 'Pictures From the Past''



McCallum family donated land for the Theater and College of the Desert, Palm Springs. (photo by Auto News)

The McCallum family founded Palm Springs in the early

1900's with the purchase of 5,000 acres (photo by A.N.)

MICALLUM ASKRE



Dave Kunz (center) see page 2 story interviews Jay Leno at LA event see page 19 story (photo by A.N.)



Frank Mecum follows in his fathers footsteps on the Mecum Auction floor (photo by Auto News)

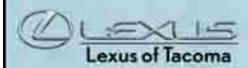


Dana Mecum has grown a small auction into the largest in the U.S. (photo by A.N.)

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From Around the U.S.



Art Gould The "Car Guy's Car Guy....! by Dave Kunz

November marked five years since we said goodbye to longtime Auto News contributor - and my friend - Art Gould. The "car guy's car guy" left us after a brief

Art's life was a fascinating one, though he kept some details close to the vest, shared with me by his wife and sister after his passing. A gifted musician at an early age, Art could have made a comfortable living playing the saxophone. But California and the car culture beckoned, so he headed west from Washington D.C. and never looked back.

After graduating from San Jose State University, Art landed a job at the Northern California zone office of GM's Chevrolet Motor Division. He eventually transferred to Southern California, then was later offered the position as general manager at one of the largest Chevrolet dealerships in the region.

Upon retirement, he found a second career, as co-host one of the longest-running automotive radio shows in the country. Art traveled the U.S. and the world to bring stories to listeners of KPFK-FM for several decades, and I was fortunate to share the booth with him in his later years.

A fountain of knowledge, a jokester, and one of the good guys. We miss you, buddy.

(see Photo on same page of Art

"... JAY LENO Gave Me The Inspiration To Grow Auto News"

Global Auto **News Expands:**

- **★ Retail Locations**
- **★ Direct Mail**
- **★ Email "Fast Blasts"**
- **★ Social Media**
- * AI Platforms
- **★ Auto Show Events**

by Bill McCallum

When you start on a journey sometimes you have no idea when or where it will end. That's where I was 40 years ago when the idea of an auto newspaper was born. name change to Auto News of America. firms, OEM's and car collectors.

I was publishing 2 weekly newspapers at Enter Jay Leno. I first saw Jay at a the time "Uptown News" in Bellevue WA comedy club on Sunset Blvd. shortly and the Coal Creek Newcastle News to after we started circulating our paper in the South. Both papers had a small auto LA. Jay was the "car guy" that inspired section and were growing. I wasn't a car me to expand our reach to include car guy but I grew up in the business with collectors and collector car auctions. family members involved with new car I watched Jay's first TONIGHT show dealerships. I discussed the idea of an and attended his last TONIGHT show auto newspaper with Jim Hammond, the founder of the Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association and the original organizer of the Seattle Auto Show. He said "go for it" and you can count on my support. Thus Puget Sound Auto News was born. A few years later we expanded to Eastern WA, and Oregon and changed the name of the NEWS and launched our online program. paper to Northwest Auto News.

in person. (See photo below)

Next chapter. From our launch in California we build a network of over 1,000 retail automotive distribution locations in four more states. (Arizona, Nevada. Idaho, and Montana) and changed the name of our paper to GLOBAL AUTO (www.autonewsonline.com) Currently With California being the largest new we have added a digital platform sending car market in the U.S. that was the next out e-mail "fast blasts" reaching over big step in our expansion and another 1,000K auto enthusiasts, media & PR



in Pebble Beach, Carmel and Monterey (photo Auto News)



Distribution Newspaper Racks Locations Bill McCallum, Auto News Publisher (far left) Art Gould next to Bill and with Jay Leno after Jay's Last Tonight Show (photo Tonight Show Staff)

Order A Custom Made 18 foot by 8 foot Table Top Track with Cars, Controls, etc. for \$3999 or A PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit. Including Track, Two Cars & Controls for only \$599 including shipping - ORDER TODAY - While Supplies Last!

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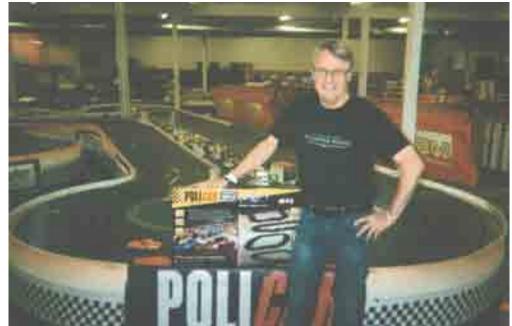
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Alan Smith, Scale Racing Center Owner, Demonstrates PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit at his Center in Tacoma



Chris Chung digital editor

After years of anticipation, I finally experienced the excitement of Mudfest, an event

A Thrilling Test of the Latest Off-Road Vehicles

dedicated to testing the latest trucks, SUVs, and crossovers in a uniquely challenging environment. Hosted by the Northwest Automotive Press Association in Shelton, Washington, Mudfest 2024 brought together automotive enthusiasts and professionals to evaluate a variety of vehicles across both on-road and off-road courses.

Dynamic Testing and Diverse Winners

The event, which took place over two days at The Ridge Motorsports Park, featured a series of comprehensive tests designed to assess everything

from acceleration and handling to off-road capability. The 2024 Lexus GX 550 Overtrail emerged as the Northwest Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year, praised for its luxurious features and impressive off-road ability. On the rugged end of the spectrum, the 2024 Jeep Wrangler 2-Door

Extreme Capability SUV of the Year, continuing Jeep's legacy of off-road excellence.

Personal Highlights from Mudfest 2024

As an avid automotive enthusiast, here are some of my personal takeaways from the event:

Subaru Solterra: This electric vehicle was a revelation, proving that EVs can indeed tackle tough terrain. Despite my initial reservations about taking an EV through water, the Solterra handled it with aplomb, demonstrating both nimbleness and capability off-road.

Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 Bison: Chevy's 2024 redesign of the Colorado ZR2 Bison did not disappoint. Its robust features and strong performance made it stand out among the contenders, justifying its win in the Pickup Truck category.

Ram Rebel: The Ram Rebel was pure fun to drive off-road. Its power and handling made navigating the challenging courses feel effortless and thrill-

Tovota Tacoma: The 2024 model impressed with its crawl mode, allowing me to ascend steep inclines with the same ease as if I were ordering at a drivethrough—truly a testament to its design and technology.

continued on page 21



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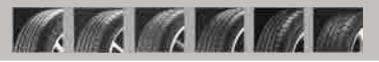
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Tires



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Auto News intends to continue to build its readership reach with an aggressive expansion plan in 2024 for its print, digital and affiliate programs. Make sure to follow their progress at the link below or online at autonewsonline.com.

"Good Things Come A Thrilling Test of

In Small Packages" **Ford** Maverick Lariat

Despite its compact size, the Maverick Lariat is big on utility. Ford's FlexBed system offers a versatile and configurable bed that can adapt to various cargo needs. It includes slots for dividers, multiple tie-down points and even a built-in bottle opener. The bed can also handle standard 4x8 sheets of plywood, a welcome addition for DIY enthusiasts and professionals alike.

Additionally, the Maverick comes with several storage solutions inside the cabin, such as under-seat storage compartments and a large center console, providing ample space for tools, gadgets, and even groceries.

The Maverick Lariat is brimming with safety features, with Ford Co-Pilot360 consisting of a suite of advanced driver-assistance features. Standard on the Lariat are automatic emergency braking, lane-keeping assist, and a rearview camera. Optional features include adaptive cruise control, blind-spot monitoring, and rear cross-traffic alert, all of which contribute to a safer driving experience.

The base price for the 2023 Ford Maverick Lariat hybrid with 2.5L engine is \$27,955, with options and delivery charges this vehicle totaled \$37,505 as tested.

The 2023 Ford Maverick Lariat is a testament to the idea that good things come in small packages. Its stylish design, comfortable and tech-savvy interior, efficient performance, and practical utility make it a compelling choice for those seeking a versatile and economical compact truck. Whether you're navigating city streets or tackling weekend warrior projects, the Maverick Lariat is well-equipped to handle the demands of modern life.

For a full video review of the Maverick Lariat, check out Carguy Drives on YouTube.

the Latest Off-Road Vehicles by Chris Chung

continued from page 20

Jeep Wrangler Rubicon: The 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon provided a surprisingly comfortable ride compared to its predecessors, both on and off the road, enhancing its appeal as a versatile off-roader.

Kia EV9: The battery life on the Kia EV9 was exceptional. After a full day of testing, it still had 91% charge, showcasing its efficiency and resilience in demanding conditions.

Lexus GX 550 Overtrail: The winner of the event, this vehicle provided luxury comfort on rugged terrains at a price point that makes it a standout choice for those seeking both opulence and functionality in an off-road capable vehicle.

INEOS Grenadier: Perhaps one of the most talked-about highlights was the INEOS Grenadier, which captured everyone's attention with its starkly utilitarian look. This vehicle, born

from Jim Ratcliffe's vision of a rugged, traditional off-roader akin to the original Land Rover Defender, stood out for its cool styling and robust build, directly appealing to purists who favor practical design over modern sleekness.

Looking Forward

Mudfest 2024 was more than just a test of vehicle performance; it was a celebration of automotive innovation and adventure. The event provided invaluable insights into the latest advancements in vehicle technology and design, especially in terms of electrification and off-road capability. As the automotive industry continues to evolve, Mudfest remains a pivotal event for experiencing firsthand the cutting-edge developments in the world of SUVs, trucks, and crossovers. I look forward to seeing how these vehicles progress in the years to come and am already excited for what Mudfest 2025 might bring.

More Than One Lap Record Per Year For Pirelli At The Nürburgring **Nordschleife**

The Most Recent Records Set This Year With The Audi RS 3 And Audi RS Q8 Performance

From 2019 up to now, Pirelli has set more than one lap record per year on average at the legendary Nürburgring Nordschleife in Germany. These records have been established with all sorts of

vehicles, ranging from electric supercars to SUVs to compact hatchbacks, yet Pirelli has been a constant when it comes to lowering the Nordschleife lap times across every category of car.

All the tires in the P Zero range but the novelties introduced recently can boast a lap record around the Ring in the last five years: P Zero Trofeo R on the Audi RS 3 and P Zero on the Audi RS Q8 performance in 2024; PZero Trofeo RS on the Porsche Taycan Turbo GT in 2023; P Zero Corsa on the Porsche Taycan Turbo S in 2022; P Zero Corsa on the Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT and P Zero Trofeo R on the Audi RS 3 in 2021; and finally P Zero on the Audi RS Q8 in 2019.

The most recent records have come this year with the Audi RS 3, set on the P Zero Trofeo R - asemi-slick tire specialised in circuit use-and Audi RS Q8 performance equipped with the P Zero: the Ultra High Performance tire most frequently chosen by manufacturers to equip their top models. The Audi RS 3 record of 7m33.123s lowered the benchmark for compact cars by more than five seconds, while the RS Q8 performance became the fastest production SUV ever to lap the Ring, in a time of 7m36.698s that broke the existing record by

more than two seconds. The same models had previously established the class records in 2021 and 2019 respectively, again on PZero Trofeo R and P Zero tires.

The Nürburgring Nordschleife, one of the most challenging circuits in the world, serves as a key testing ground for Pirelli, where the company rigorously evaluates its tires and latest developments on high-performance vehicles, particularly in partnership with German carmakers. A standout example is the P Zero Trofeo RS for the Porsche Taycan Turbo GT: the most sporting tire in the P Zero range, designed for track use but

fully approved for the road. In a specially developed version for the electric supercar, these tires brought the innovative Pirelli Elect technology package to the track; designed to enhance the performance characteristics of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The results speak for themselves: the Taycan Turbo GT achieved a lap time of 7m07.55s, claiming the title of fastest production electric car at the Nürburgring and surpassing the previous record held by the Taycan Turbo S equipped with Pirelli P Zero Corsa tires.

The P Zero Corsa, dedicated to the most performance-focused cars, also helped the Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT secure the previous record in the SUV category. Earlier this year, the very same tire powered the Hyundai Ioniq 5 N electric crossover to a remarkable lap time of 7m45.59s.

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Time to Start Traveling "Again"



Global Auto News Editor Sally Hanson Test Drives A Hyundai Santa Fe Calligraphy.... Then Decides To Buy A Hyundai Santa Fe While Establishing A Relationship With The Local Dealer

continued from page 2

and park distance warnings appear on the instrument cluster. A surround and blind spot view monitor also help the driver avoid collision. Upon exiting the vehicle, a rear occupant alert reminds the driver to check the rear seating for passengers or belongings.

The attention to detail on the interior and exterior is excellent. The 12.3-inch high resolution touch screen is easy to see without a glare on the screen on sunny days. A fully digital instrument cluster shows your speed, the speed limit, your driving mode, blind spot detection, gas gauge, and other information to make your drive a delight. A UV-C sterilization unit that will kill germs on small items like your cell phone or sunglasses is located above the globe box. One of my favorites on the interior design is a little open area in front of the center console that is a perfect spot to stow a purse out of view.

The Santa Fe Calligraphy offers second row captain's chairs and can comfortably accommodate four people in the front two rows. The third row of seating is designed for small or very flexible bodies who are able to adjust to the limited leg room. Climbing in and out of the third row is challenging for older people, but I did give it a try. I made it in okay, but getting out was not pretty! The cargo room is easy to adjust with the back two rows of seating quickly folding into more room for whatever you need to tote. The third

row is a 50/50 split folding seat. Roof side rails can be equipped to carry kayaks, skis, bicycles, surf boards, or extra baggage.

A dual pane sunroof lets the sunshine in or is perfect for stargazing for front and backseat occupants. LED headlights, tail lights and daytime running lights are in the shape of a capital "H". Power folding heated side mirrors tuck next to the body of the vehicle when locked. The power liftgate with an extra wide opening makes easy access to cargo.

Hyundai offers the Santa Fe in three trims in both hybrid and the conventional model. Calligraphy is the luxury trim with top of the line features including 20" exclusive alloy wheels, heads up display, second row power folding captain's chairs, dual wireless phone charger, Nappa leather trimmed seats, eco-suede headliner and a flush mounted C-pillar lockable assist handle. The Limited is a premium trim including many highend features with 60/40 split folding second row seating. The SEL package is considered a balanced trim taking away some of the convenience features in the upper end packages.

Hyundai promotes "America's Best Warranty" with these limited warranties: a 5-year/60,000mile new vehicle warranty, 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain and hybrid system components warranties, 3-year / 36,000-mile complimentary maintenance, and 7-year/unlimited-mile antiperforation warranty. A 5-year/ unlimited-mile roadside assistance is also included.

When I drove the new Hyundai Santa Fe, my husband and I liked it well enough to consider purchasing one to replace our compact SUV. Visiting the Speck Hyundai showroom in the Tri-Cities in the Columbia River Valley in Washington to check out their inventory was refreshing. We found a pleasant auto dealership that did not hard sell or hold us captive until we signed on the line — and they actually listened to what we were looking for. Our choice of interior and exterior colors as well as trim we selected were not on their lot, so they searched to find exactly what we wanted. Buying a vehicle does not have to be a transaction that leaves you exhausted and feeling like you have just completed a wrestling match. Visit or give Speck Hyundai in Kennewick, Washington, a call and be sure to tell them Sally referred you!



Rita Case Wins NAMAD Award Story on Page 1&16

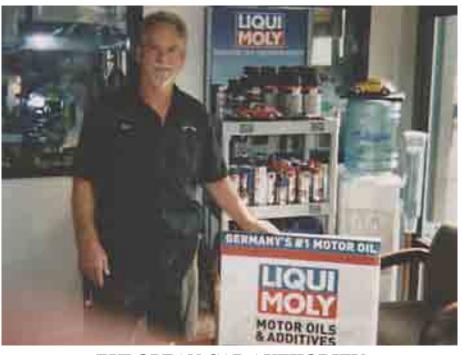


Rita Case wins the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD) Lifetime Achievement Award. (Photo credit: Jim Naskrent/ Rick Case Automotive Group)



Hyundai Santa Fe (photo Sally Hanson)





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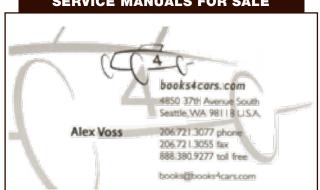
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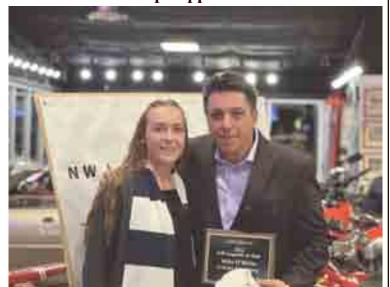
(See Story on Page 25)





Auto News Foundation





Irena, Team Auto News presents Jim Roes, O'Brien Auto Group GM with award (photo Auto News)

O'Brien Auto Group Supports 'A.N. Foundation' | Kevin Iden of Joins The Auto News **Foundation Board of Directors**



Kevin Iden (right) accepts Legend Award from Irena, Auto News (Story on page 25) (photo Auto News)

Auto News **Foundation** Board Member **Comments** on How To **Build A Foundation**

by Sally Hanson

When the AutoNews Foundation was beginning to take shape, I was told by dear friends about the amazing accomplishments that their friend had achieved in his life after completing the Automotive Technology program at Columbia Basin College (CBC) located in the Tri-Cities in Washington State. His success story resonated with me over the past few years as we formed the foundation to invest in education and innovation at automotive technology schools and to encourage passion for automobiles and technological advancement in that field.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce you to John Strege. He graduated in 1970 from Columbia High School in Richland, Washingtona dozen years before the school was renamed Richland High School. His grades in high school were poor, he had no clear direction or plans for the future and doubted any college would accept him based on his high school transcriptions. What he did have going for him was the encouragement of his girlfriend, Terry, who inspired him to apply and enroll at CBC in the Automotive Technology classes. (John and Terry have now been married 53 years.)

After acceptance into the twoyear associate degree program at CBC Strege attended general studies classes the first half of the day and classes in the automotive shop in the afternoon. The general studies classes serve to complement the automotive technology career by including reading improvement, psychology, and mechanical drawing. Upon completion, he received an Associate degree in Applied Science with a 3.96 GPA. Strege then began a long career using the knowledge, mentorship and hands-on experience that CBC offers in the automotive technology program.

The final quarter of his last year in the program, he was sent to work at Al's Repair Shop in Pasco, where he continued to work for two and a half years after graduation servicing automobiles, trucks and a wide variety of farm machinery. Then he put in a stent at a lube shop before becoming a mechanic at a service station in Richland.

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About the Auto News Foundation

The Auto News Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit foundation that was created with the intention of empowering the next generation of automotive technicians while supporting community colleges and tech school automotive programs.

Donation Tiers:

All donations are tax deductible. 100% of donations shall go towards starting the Auto News Foundation Scholarship Fund to help aspiring youth join the automotive industry.



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			*Supercar Driving Experience in Seattle

*Denotes Added Benefits

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continued on page 25



Auto News Foundation



Twisp WA., a small town in North | Inside Toyota's Central Washington, partners with local School District and Residents to create Automotive Tech School



Twisp, WA. Automotive Tech School students with Matt Kennedy, Instructor (second from right in Blue Shirt)

Building A Foundation by Sally Hanson

continued from page 24

In 1976, he was offered a job at the Hanford Site as an industrial mechanic using skills he had learned at CBC working on fans, bearings and pumps. Four years later he moved up the ranks to become a planner/scheduler with a contractor at Hanford. Later he became a manager of an insulator crew and then manager of various maintenance crews. Strege has been retired for ten years.

John Strege could be a poster person for CBC because he has plenty of rave reviews about what the Automotive Technology program and related courses provided to create his successful career. "I became excited about learning at CBC," Strege states, "Everything I learned there, I can apply to everyday life in order to excel. My entire life is a direct result of my education at CBC." And this includes the person who encouraged him to attend - John and Terry have been married 53 years!

The AutoNews Foundation is exciting as we grow and continue to offer scholarship opportunities and educational resources designed for students, apprentices and young professionals who plan to enter automotive technical training. It is our mission to nurture passion in the industry and encourage students like John Strege.

If you would like to learn more about the AutoNews Foundation, please visit our website: autonewsfoundation.org.

Top 4 States With Automotive Tech Programs

1. Michigan

- 1. Baker College of Owosso
- 2. Delta College
- 3. Ferris State University
- 4. Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- 5. Lansing Community College
- 6. Macomb Community College
- 7. Monroe County Community College
- 8. Northwest University 9. Oakland Community
- College 10. Schoolcraft College
- 11. University of Northwestern Ohio
- 12. Washtenaw Community College
- 13. Wayne County Community College District
- 14. Western Michian University
- 15. WyoTech

2. California

- 1. Cerritos College 2. Chaffey College
- 3. Citrus V
- 4. College of Alameda
- 5. College of San Mateo
- 6. Cypress College
- 7. Diablo Valley College
- 8. Los Angeles Trade Technical College
- 9. Miramar College
- 10. Palomar College
- 11. San Diego Miramar College 12. Santa Barbara City College

2. California continued

- 13. Skyline College 14. Universal Technical
- Institute (UTI) 15. WyoTech
- 16. Ohio
- 17. Illinois
- 18. Texas

3. Ohio

- 1. Cincinnati State Technical Community College
- 2. Clark State Community College
- 3. Columbus State Community College
- 4. Cuyahoga Community College
- 5. Lorain County Community College
- 6. Northwest State Community College
- 7. Ohio technical College
- 8. Owens Community College
- 9. Sinclair Community College
- 10. University of Northwestern Ohio

4. Illionois

- 1. Black Hawk College
- 2. College of DuPage
- 3. College of Lake County 4. Danville Area Community College
- 5. Lincoln Land Community College
- 6. Lincoln Technical Institute
- 7. Moraine Valley Community College
- 8. Parkland College
- 9. Prairie State College
- 10. Universal Technical Institute (UTI)

T-TEN Program: Shaping the Future of **Automotive Technicians**

by Christopher Chung

Toyota's commitment to excellence extends beyond its renowned lineup of vehicles and into the realm of education. A shining example of this commitment is the Toyota Technician Training & Education Network (T-TEN), a comprehensive training program designed to develop factory-certified technicians for over 1,400 Toyota and Lexus dealerships across the United States.

We recently had an opportunity to connect with Ben Melcher, a Service Training Specialist with Toyota, and fellow T-TEN program graduate himself at Shoreline Community College.

"The T-TEN program offers a blend of academic instruction and hands-on dealership experience, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. It's a testament to Toyota's future-centric mind set as well as a great retention tool for dealerships." Said Melcher, and he was right. While other automotive brands are seemingly not focused on training the next generation of technicians at all; Toyota is laying the groundwork to have a steady stream of quality talent who know their vehicles front to back. The curriculum covers a broad range of topics, including Toyota's hybrid systems, advanced safety technologies, and customer service principles. As a result, graduates are prepared to diagnose and repair

Toyota and Lexus vehicles, as well as provide top-notch customer service.

One of the program's unique features is its integration of paid dealership experience. This allows students to apply what they've learned in a real-world environment, gain valuable experience, and build a strong foundation for their future careers.

Under Melcher's guidance, students in the Shoreline Community College T-TEN program are well-positioned to succeed in the rapidly evolving automotive industry. His wealth of experience and deep understanding of the industry inform his teaching, ensuring the program remains relevant and effective.

The success of the T-TEN program is evident in the caliber of its graduates, who are highly sought after by Toyota and Lexus dealerships nationwide. These technicians are well-prepared to meet the challenges of the automotive industry, thanks to the robust training they received through the T-TEN program.

In summary, Toyota's T-TEN program is a testament to the automaker's commitment to nurturing the next generation of automotive technicians. By investing in high-quality education and hands-on training, Toyota is not only upholding its own standards of excellence but also contributing to the overall growth and development of the automotive industry.

"Thank You" To Those Who Donated To Our First Round of the Auto **News Foundation !!!**







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by Bill McCallum

When you start on a journey sometimes you have no idea when or where it will end. That's where I was 40 years ago when the idea of an auto newspaper was born. I was publishing 2 weekly newspapers at the time "Uptown News" in Bellevue WA and the Coal Creek Newcastle News to the South. Both papers had a small auto section and were growing. I wasn't a car guy but I grew up in the business with family members involved with new car dealerships. I discussed the idea of an auto newspaper with Jim Hammond, the founder of the Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association and the original organizer of the Seattle Auto Show. He said "go for it" and you can count on my support. Thus Puget Sound Auto News was born. A few years later we expanded to Eastern WA, and Oregon and changed the name of the paper to Northwest Auto News.

With California being the largest new car market in the U.S. that was the next big step in our expansion and another name change to Auto News of America.

Enter Jay Leno. I first saw Jay at a comedy club on Sunset Blvd. shortly after we started circulating our paper in LA. Jay was the "car guy" that inspired me to expand our reach to include car collectors and collector car auctions. (see back page ad) I watched Jay's first TONIGHT show and attended his last TONIGHT show in person.

Next chapter. From our launch in Calif. we build a network of over 1,000 retail automotive distribution locations in four more states. (Ariz, Nv. Id, & Mt) and changed the name of our paper to GLOBAL AUTO NEWS and launched our online program. (www.autonewsonline.com) Currently we have added a digital platform sending out e-mail "fast blasts" reaching over 500K auto enthusiasts, media & PR firms, OEM's and car col-



Apartment Locations in Northwest and

California (photo Auto News)





Auto News Foundation to present Awards at **Monterey "Car Week" August 2025**



Legends of Auto Gala Event attendees at dinner during presentations at previous event.

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Tim McGrane Bruce Meyer Peter Mullin³ **Roger Penske Pierre Ford Family Stewart Reed Steve Saleen** Carroll Shelby* **Danny Sullivan** *Departed Legends

Rita Case Auto Group C.E.O. is honored as a Legend of Auto



Rita Case with Legends of Auto Award at Rick Case Auto **Group Headquarters**

Tim McGrane M1 Concourse C.E.O. is honored as a Legend of Auto



Tim McGrane - M1 Concourse CEO is honored as a "Legend of Auto" Member

Mission Statement To recognize and award individual accomplishments, that have significantly advanced the auto industry around the world and to help develop the next generation of auto industry leaders.

Auto News Introduces Foundation QR Code





2024 Ford Bronco Big Bend: Rugged Heritage, Modern Adventure

Ford's Bronco lineup represents the pinnacle of rugged offroad performance and versatility, resurrecting a nameplate that first debuted in 1966. Designed as a direct rival to Jeep's Wrangler, the Bronco embodies the spirit of adventure with its bold design, exceptional capability, and modern tech. Available in twoand four-door configurations, the 2024 Bronco retains the classic, boxy silhouette of its predecessors while delivering a thoroughly modern driving experience.

At the heart of every Bronco is Ford's G.O.A.T. (Goes Over Any Terrain) philosophy, enabling drivers to traverse sand, mud, rocks, and more with ease. Even the base trims boast impressive off-road chops, but the Bronco offers a range of customization options to cater to both casual explorers and hardcore adventurers.

Although the Big Bend trim is the entry-level Bronco, mine was a particularly well-equipped example, showcasing options that take it far beyond the ordinary. Powering this Bronco is a 2.3L EcoBoost engine, delivering a robust 300 horsepower and 325 lb-ft of torque, paired with the optional 10-speed (vs standard 7-speed) automatic transmission for seamless gear changes on and off the road.

Outfitted with the Sasquatch Package — a premium \$6,665 upgrade — my test Bronco gains

17" beadlock-capable wheels, 35" all-terrain tires, high-clearance suspension, and front and rear locking differentials. Combined with the Advanced 4x4 system, these features make conquering rocky trails or muddy paths a breeze. Adding to its outdoor-ready design is the Hardtop Roof (\$1,895), which improves durability and reduces road noise, while the Hot Pepper Red Metallic Tintcoat (\$495) ensures you stand out wherever the road takes you.

For comfort and tech, the

Mid Package brings heated front seats, dual-zone climate control, and a 12-inch SYNC 4 touchscreen, keeping both passengers and drivers satisfied. With an MSRP of \$55,415, this Bronco proves you can blend luxury and trail-readiness without compromise.

The 2024 Bronco Big Bend is more than a vehicle — it's a call to adventure. Whether navigating the daily grind or exploring the great unknown, this Bronco has you covered, with style and capability to spare.

Rita Case Gives Customer A New Car For Free After Glenda Defas's Car Was Stolen



Glenda Defas (left) and Rita Case, CEO Rick Case Auto Group with Gifted car (Photo courtesy of Rick Case Automotive Group)



Ford Bronco BigBend (photo Chris Chung)





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