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AUTO NEWS

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Akio Toyoda Continues Family Legacy as Chairman of Toyota Corporation and is honored as a Legend of Auto in Monterey, CA

Akio Toyoda
*Chairman,
Member of the Board of Directors
Toyota Motor Corporation*

Akio Toyoda was born on May 3, 1956. He graduated from Keio University with a degree in law in April 1979, and then from Babson College in the United States, with a master's degree in business administration in 1982. He joined Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) in April 1984.

Mr. Toyoda's career has included postings in every phase of automotive operations, including production, marketing and product development, both in Japan and internationally. Outside Japan, he served as an executive vice president and board member



Akio Toyoda
*Chairman,
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at New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI), Toyota's production joint venture with General Motors in California, starting in April 1998.

In January 2000, he returned to Japan and was named to TMC's Board of Directors in June. In that capacity, he took on the creation and supervision of gazoo.com, a website that contains dozens of virtual shops for consumer goods and services and also provides information about new and used vehicles. Also during this time, he supervised domestic marketing operations, operations in the Americas, and production management consulting. In June 2001, Mr. Toyoda became the chief officer of the Asia & China Operations Center, and then in June 2002, he assumed the position of managing director.

In June 2003, Mr. Toyoda was made a senior managing director (this title was changed to senior managing officer as of June 2011), and, in January 2005, he became chief officer of both the China Operations Group and the Asia, Oceania & Middle East Operations Group. In June 2005, he became an executive vice president and a representative director, where he was responsible for IT & ITS, quality, product management, purchasing, Japan and overseas sales, and overseas operations. In June 2009, Mr. Toyoda became president of TMC. In April 2023, he became chairman of TMC.

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2025 Toyota Grand Highlander Delivers with Pricing, Economy, Power, Room and Comfort During Monterey Car Week 2025



Toyota Grand Highlander in Carmel Valley (photo Auto News)

by Bill McCallum (Publisher/Founder)

One of the things that I have enjoyed the most over the last four decades of publishing Auto News is witnessing the growth of Toyota as an entry level brand in the U.S. to the largest most successful brand WORLDWIDE. Thank you Akio Toyoda and family !! (See Toyoda family story also on page 1)

The 2025 Grand Highlander Hybrid is an example of that expertise with industry leading pricing, economy, power, room, and comfort. PRICING while you might think the base MSRP (as tested) of \$52,610 is high. It's not when compared it to other luxury brand 3 row SUV's at \$100K. ECONOMY ... the Highlander Hybrid delivers 36 mph City, 32

mpg Highway, 34 mpg Overall. POWER ... 2.5L EVCT I suggest a "test drive" at your nearest Toyota Dealer. ROOM & COMFORT ... see for your self on your "test drive." and last but not least Toyota's 3.0 Safety Sense w/ Pre-Collision package. I hope you enjoy your new 2025 Toyota Grand Highlander Hybrid. I enjoyed my "test drive."

2025 Subaru Forester Touring Hybrid "Test Drive Review" (see story on page 2)



Michael's of Bellevue Subaru GM, Mark King pictured with a 2025 Subaru Forester Touring Hybrid (story on page 2)

SEE 12 SHOWCASE TEST DRIVE REVIEWS ON PAGES 14 & 15

EV's vs. Insurance Companies



Bill McCallum
publisher

EV's will never disappear like they did in the early 1900's. (see story on page 5) But, the question is ... will the future EV growth & market share be influenced by insurance companies ?

EXAMPLE #1 ... a long time friend of mine is an independent Insurance sales person representing 5 different automotive insurers and TWO of the five won't insure EV's.

EXAMPLE #2 ... in the last few months their have been a number of reports of Tesla owners involved in minor accidents where the damage was minimal but the entire car was "totaled" because of the cost of technology repairs replacing hundreds of "chips".

EXAMPLE #3 ... in Redmond, Washington, there are 5 condo/apartment projects under construction. NOT ONE of them has EV charging stations in the ground floor garage. WHY ?

The building insurance company wouldn't insure the project because of potential EV battery fires.

EXAMPLE #4 The leading ocean shipper of vehicles to Alaska just announced "... they would not ship EV's to Alaska any more because of potential EV battery fires on board their ships." as in the boat load of EV's that caught on fire in transit from Europe to the U.S. a few years ago. Just a thought for auto O.E.M.'s to consider.

CONGRATULATIONS Roger Penske on your Centennial Award.....!

Subaru Forester Touring Hybrid "Test Drive"



Chris Chung
Digital editor

Subaru's sixth-generation Forester Touring Hybrid hits the sweet spot between rugged utility and refined comfort. With subtle nods to its roots, this Forester blends classic boxy SUV design cues with modern touches—like responsive LED headlights, a blacked-out grille, and integrated roof rails. At 8.7 inches, ground clearance remains adventure-ready.

Inside, it's all about functionality and comfort. Heated, ventilated front seats and a spacious second row offer more than 39 inches of legroom. Cargo space? A generous 69.1 cubic feet with the rear seats folded. The dashboard is anchored by a crisp 11.6-inch vertical touchscreen and a 12.3-inch digital driver display.

Under the hood, the Forester Hybrid pairs Subaru's 2.5-liter Boxer engine with two electric motor generators, delivering 194 horsepower and 199 lb-ft of torque. Fuel economy jumps to a combined 35 mpg—about 40% better than the outgoing model.

The drive is nimble and confidence-inspiring, with X-MODE and symmetrical all-wheel drive making light work of dirt, snow, or rain.

If you're ready to check one out in person, Michael's Subaru of Bellevue has the 2025 Forester Touring Hybrid on the lot now—often hard to find and ready for winter and summer adventures alike.

(photo on page 19)

The Hyundai Tucson Is Cooler than Tucson



Sally Hanson
editor

It's no wonder the Tucson is Hyundai's best selling model. The compact crossover SUV was first launched in 2004 and is now offered in five trims and three powertrains. This year a styling refresh was introduced on the fourth generation of the Tucson. It just keeps getting better!

When the SEL trim of Hyundai's Tucson arrived for a test drive, I was pleasantly surprised that all the standard features included in the vehicle were offered at a window sticker price under \$34,000. Just a few of the outstanding inclusions are all-wheel-drive, a 12.3 inch multimedia screen, wireless device charging, a long list of advanced safety technologies, and a hands-free smart power liftgate with auto open.

The exterior styling of the Tucson adds a definite aerodynamic look with hood creases and beautiful body lines that continue along the sides of the vehicle where 18" alloy wheels complete the muscular stance. The creamy white pearl paint on the model I drove is an added feature that shimmered in the sunlight and made the body lines more obvious. LED headlights and daytime running lights are standard.

The interior of the SEL trim package exceeds the quality offered in most of its rivals.

The eight-way power driver's seat has great lumbar support

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Chrysler Pacific Hybrid "Test Drive"



Dave Kunz
LA feature writer

"Why doesn't someone make an electric minivan?" is a question I've heard asked over the years. Well, someone does. Sort of.

The Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is a PHEV, or plug-in hybrid vehicle. Top up the battery, and it lets you drive around for an estimated 32 miles with no gasoline involved. In theory, it could be used as an electric vehicle for pretty much all your local driving.

As an experiment, I wanted to see if I could spend an entire week with a 2024 Pacifica Hybrid and never make use of the V6 gasoline engine. I have a 240-volt (Level 2) charging station at my home, and I wasn't planning on doing any long-distance trips. For the most part, it worked.

I did have to plug the Pacifica in multiple times, of course, but that's what anyone living in a single-family home could do. When the battery state-of-charge got down to single-digit mileage, I topped it up. Since it's relatively small (16 kWh), the EV battery can be completely charged in two hours at 240 volts. Full battery; 30+ more miles of driving.

Of course, the Pacifica has the practicality of a minivan going for it. This particular one was the high-end Pinnacle trim, so the second row captain's chairs resembled business class seats in an airplane. Tons of room in the back for cargo, even without the

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Ford Maverick Hybrid Adds AWD And Gets 40 MPG



Keith Turner
SF feature writer

Everyone needs a truck at some point in their lives, but size, price and lack of fuel efficiency are often a deal-breaker. That's why the Ford Maverick has been a runaway success since its debut in 2022, carving out a niche as the practical, affordable compact pickup for everyday drivers. Now for 2025, Ford gives the Maverick its first significant refresh, and the headline news is huge: the fuel-sipping hybrid powertrain is now available with all-wheel drive.

For buyers eyeing the sweet-spot XLT trim, the result is a compact truck that blends efficiency, utility and value better than anything else on the road.

At the heart of the Maverick XLT Hybrid is a 2.5-liter Atkinson-cycle four-cylinder paired with an electric motor, delivering a combined 191 horsepower and 155 lb-ft of torque. While that may sound modest, the e-CVT transmission makes the most of the hybrid system's instant torque. Around town, the Maverick feels peppy and highway merging is more confident than the numbers suggest.

The big story is all-wheel drive. Previously, hybrid buyers were limited to front-wheel drive, while AWD was reserved for the turbocharged EcoBoost. Now, the 2025 Hybrid AWD setup brings traction and stability

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I guess you can
call me
Electric Jim.



Jim Trainor
feature writer

It all started when my wife and I decided to leave southern California and build a home in northern Michigan shortly after ending our careers and almost 20 years in southern California. How we reached this decision is the topic for another article.

Building a new home comes with an almost endless number of decisions, everything from floors to the number of bedrooms to the design of the door handle to the closet. Oh, one more – should the garage be equipped with a 240-volt outlet that would provide Level 2 charging for an electric vehicle? We opted in.

Besides, I had just bought a new battery-powered lawn mower to go with my electric leaf blower, electric trimmer, electric chain saw and the king of them all, electric snowblower. All battery operated so cords and extension cords were a thing of the past. And, more importantly, no more gas cans, spills in the driveway, mixing oil for two-stroke engines, and messy trips to the

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2025
Electrify Expo
Seattle Recap



Vicky Tran
writer

This year’s Electrify Expo in Seattle was buzzing — literally and figuratively — with innovation, energy, and hands-on experiences. Held at Marymoor Park in Redmond, WA, the festival-like atmosphere brought together leading EV automakers, e-bike brands, charging tech companies, and curious consumers ready to experience the electrified future firsthand.

Standout vehicles included the new Subaru Solterra, Ford F-150 Lightning, Kia EV9, and Hyundai IONIQ 5 N, all available for test drives on-site. Brands like Lexus, Kia, Tesla, and Porsche were also present, offering both static displays and drive loops. On the micromobility side, attendees zipped around on the latest electric scooters, skateboards, and e-bikes from companies like Onyx, Rawrr, and NIU. There even was a flying car brought by Pivotal, a Bay Area startup whose goal is to “turn the art of the possible into everyday reality.”

Charging tech demos, solar displays, and family-friendly activities rounded out the weekend. The overall vibe? Accessible, informative, and fun.

2025
RAM
ProMaster EV



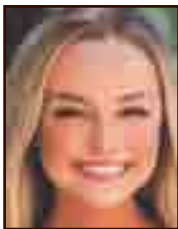
Howard Elmer
truck writer

Ram is the latest brand to bring electrification to its utility van offerings with a new ProMaster – 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-kilowatt-hour (kWh) battery pack that has a targeted range of 261 kilome-

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Kelly
Blue Book Best
Buy List



Jordan Williams
millennial writer

Kelley Blue Book and company recently published their 11th annual Kelley Blue Book Best Buy Awards, featuring their favorite cars, trucks, and SUVs.

Executive Editor, Brian Moody, states the awards span a range of vehicle sizes, prices and other financial considerations, such as reliability and the resale market.

Take a look at what made their 2025 Best Buy Awards list:

Best New Model
• 2025 Toyota Camry

Best in Class Subcompact SUV
• 2025 Hyundai

Best Compact SUV
• 2025 Honda CR-

Best Midsize SUV
2025

Best 3-Row EV
• 2025 Kia EV9

Best Electric Vehicle
• 2025 Hyundai Ioniq 5

Best Compact Car
2025

Best Midsize Car
• 2025 Toyota Camry

Best Minivan
• 2025 Toyota Sienna

Best Compact Truck

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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 born.

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.

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

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History of EV's In the U.S.



Larry Weitzman
EV specialist

As with the early 1900s, EVs as a competitor to conventional gasoline and diesel powered (Internal Combustion Engine-ICE) cars are just about done. EVs are not ready for prime time. As I have related in prior columns, in 1900 and for a few years thereafter, EVs dominated the “car” market with a 38 percent market share compared to ICE car sales holding just 22 percent of the market. But in a purely competitive market with no government interference, by 1905, EVs had just 7 percent of the market while improved ICE cars dominated, and that’s with crank starters. By 1911, when Charles Kettering invented the electric starter for Cadillac, EVs were sold in liveries and department stores next to the buggy whips. Since about 2012, when Tesla introduced the Model S, governments have been mandating EVs. Many European countries with dictating governments have mandated the EV as the only form of automobile while banishing the ICE vehicle. And in the United

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Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio AWD



Arv Voss
feature writer

“A Race machine in compact wagon or SUV Guise”
OVERVIEW:
The Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio AWD first appeared as a 2019 compact wagon, or was it a compact SUV, or was it a race car in disguise? It’s styling is unmistakably Italian with curvaceous, sexy lines. It’s power is surprising as is its overall handling and performance.
In any case, it is a front wheel drive, four door set of hot wheels that seats five in comfort – at least in the front seats.
FERRARIESQUE MOTIVE FORCE:
The engine is a 2.9 -liter Twin Turbo/intercooled DOHC 24-valve with Port Direct Injection V6 with Stop/Start. it is not a Ferrari power plant, but was designed by former Ferrari engineers.
Horsepower is 505 @ 6,500 rpm with 443 pound feet of torque @2,500 rpm. The engine mates to an 8-speed automatic transferring energy to all four wheels. It’s capable of catapulting this Alfa from 0-60 mph in 3.3 seconds .The EPA rating is 17 mpg city, 23 mpg highway and 19 combined mpg.

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Second Generation RIVIAN R1S and R1T



Harold Allen
Texas feature writer

Rivian has a lot to offer, including three battery packs to fit the customer’s needs. On my quick test drive, it featured high-tech features and great performance. The handling was excellent, and the ride was very comfortable. Pricing for the R1S starts at \$75,900 and jumps to \$99,900 for the dual tri-Motor Max Pack battery. The dual-motor has 533hp 610lb-ft. With a 0 to 60 mph at 4.5 seconds. The Quad Motor has 1,025 hp 1,198 lb-ft and 0 to 60 mph in less than 2.5 seconds.
There are many combinations to select from so visiting a showroom is recommended. The exterior is subject to one’s taste and is different than most large SUVs on the market today. The next-gen R3 has much better styling for my taste. Some model configurations can be purchased in as little as 6 days. However special orders can take as long as six to twelve weeks EST.
The Interior is well laid out and crisp-looking. Craftsmanship is outstanding and the dash is well laid out. The Infotainment system is well-positioned and easy to use but the steering wheel knobs are small and hard to get used to.

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The Saleen Story from the Track to the Street



Steve Saleen
legends reunion chair

Nearly 50 years ago, Steve Saleen embarked on making his childhood dream of becoming a race car driver a reality.
Born and raised in Southern California, Steve lived and breathed cars. After entering and winning his first race in 1973, his journey to becoming a legend in the automotive industry was just beginning.
After racing in the SCCA Trans Am, Saleen started his company in 1983.
While much has been accomplished, Saleen is not done creating, building, and winning.
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SEE Saleen Ad on Page 10

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.



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EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies



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In the Early 1900s, EVs Represented 38% of the Market, Gas 22% & Steam 40%, by WWI EVs were 0% of the Market!

continued from page 4

States, this was attempted under the Biden Administration with mandates banishing ICE vehicles by 2035. The Congress has recently repealed (a resolution signed by the President) the California mandate to banish ICE cars by 2035.

Going back to the Tesla, it was and is a terrific looking and performing car, but it came with huge baggage, range and refueling anxiety. And after over 12 years since the Model S, there still is no significant refueling infrastructure in the U.S., even after the promise by the Biden Admin. of building 50,000 new charging stations for about \$8 Billion of spending. Biden is gone (has been for about 4 years) and his legacy will be 7 working charging stations, about a \$Billion apiece.

Most of those U.S. mandates have been repealed by the new EPA and now in the Big, Beautiful Bill, in 2026 so will be the \$300 Billion to - \$1 Trillion in \$7,500 to \$10,000 in government buyer tax credits. Think of it as a scheme to transfer money from lower middle class taxpayers to wealthy taxpayers, as EVs are more expensive than their ICE counterparts.

EVs sales are continuing their decline. In April, with new car sales up 10 percent, EV sales were down 5 percent. In 2024 EVs had just 7 percent of new car sales and that’s with huge incentives paid by the manufacturers and of course, the government. Without them, dealers can’t give them away. Rivian sales were down by 50% in April with the average Rivian stickered for \$88,000. And Rivians are also great driving cars, but range and refueling issues detract markedly from their utility as cars.

I guess you can call me Electric Jim.

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gas station.

But, was I ready for the big step to an electric vehicle?

Honestly, when we made the decision to install the 240V outlet, the thinking was that down the road we might consider an EV. But the decision happened much faster than we anticipated. Part of this was due to leases expiring on our Hyundai Sonata Hybrid and Hyundai Santa Fe. After being treated poorly by the Hyundai dealer in town, we found ourselves at the local Kia dealership. We made the relatively easy decision to replace our Santa Fe with a Sorento Hybrid, rated at 37 MPG. Nice. Fuel economy is important to me.

But, what to do about the Sonata replacement? After a

few days of research (mostly YouTube) and a test drive -- not to mention a \$13,500 company rebate -- we were the proud lessees of an EV6 GT Line AWD in Runway Red and with 327-mile range. All for a lease price of about \$44,000,

Here’s the six-month review.

For many northern Michigan residents, the idea of switching to an EV comes with a mix of excitement and hesitation. Harsh winters and rural living can make EV adoption feel like a leap of faith. But for me, the transition has been nothing short of exceptional.

The EV6 has the 300+-mile range that many today consider a minimum number. Of course, that number dips substantially in the winter due to the obvious reasons (although I’ve been a bit surprised by how much juice is used by the HVAC fan.) To this I say: “So what?” We live about eight miles out of town and the vast majority of trips are in the

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An Advertisement for the Columbia Runabout Ran on April 11, 1903 in the "Scientific American"

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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 autonewsonline.com.

AUTO NEWS® BYTES

Words Matter “DIGIPRINT” “DATA DRIVEN” (dd) "HALLUCINATION"

As our industry moves closer to the total domination by technology we are still creating NEW WORDS that explain what we do in the publishing world. Therefore we have a new word “Digiprint”, that we will be using to help explain how we have grown to the largest consumer Auto News paper in the U.S. and will continue to grow.

Starting in 2026 you will see the word “digiprint” on our online rate card and the printed version. The word will help explain how our advertisers can buy a combination of digital “e-mail fast blasts” and print ads.

In our next issue we will explain how the term “DATA DRIVEN” (dd) is being used by the tech industry to define “ai” which is just another “money-grab” by those inventing and building computer chips.

Also How the Word "HALLUCINATION" is used by "ai" Folks

WORDS MATTER AND THEY ARE THE KEY TO INTELLIGENCE

by BILL MCCALLUM, Publisher

Akio Toyoda Honored as Legend of Auto

continued from page 1

Awards and citations

L'ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, Officier, France (Nov. 2013)

Medal with Blue Ribbon, Japan (Nov. 2017)

Key Points:

Family Legacy:

Akio Toyoda is part of the founding family of Toyota, with a lineage deeply rooted in the company's history.

Early Career:

He joined Toyota in 1984 and held various positions in production, marketing, and product development, both in Japan and internationally.

Leadership:

Toyoda became president in 2009, a challenging time for the company

due to a global economic crisis and quality control issues.

Visionary Leadership:

He has been recognized for his leadership in navigating Toyota through difficult times and maintaining its position as a leading global automaker.

Focus on "Ever-Better Cars":

Toyoda is known for his passion for cars and his commitment to continuous improvement in vehicle development and manufacturing, sometimes participating in races under the pseudonym "Morizo".

Shift in Role:

In 2023, Toyoda stepped down as CEO and assumed the role of chairman of the board.

Background:

He has a law degree from Keio University and an MBA from Babson College.

2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive"

continued from page 3

ters in city driving. Most owners will be using a Level 2 wall charger (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 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 front-wheel-drive capability.

All versions have a 159-in. wheelbase, and an extended



2025 ProMaster EV delivery van. Photos are all factory.

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 van buyers. The ProMaster EV includes best-in-class features

Auto News Foundation Introduces TAP Tuition Assistance Program

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/Founder

For TWO years we have been developing our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for students attending Automotive Tech Schools. Our goal was three fold.

1- To develop a workable program delivering more potential employee's for auto dealers and OEM's across the U.S.

2- Using Global Auto News to highlight each students path to graduation over a two year period.

3- Passing on 70 % of the funds raised by the Auto News Foundation a 501 (3)(c)NON-PROFIT for TAP scholarships starting in 2026. RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

- Shoreline Community College - Seattle, WA
- Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA (see page 18)
- Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA
- University of Washington (Business School) Seattle, WA

Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U. S.

continued from page 3

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

continued on page 19



Steve Saleen presents Akio Toyoda Legends Award to Ray Alcazar, Mgr. Victory Toyota, Seaside, California



PORSCHE

Flying Car Featured at Redmond, Washington "Electric Expo" in August



Heather Chirtea
Flying Cars

Flying Cars Hit the Skies: The Soar Tour Brings the Future to Life
The future of transportation has arrived — not in the pages of science fiction, but in the skies over America. A small group of pioneers is piloting the nation's first coast-to-coast flying car tour, giving the public a rare chance to witness history in motion.

At the heart of the tour is the BlackFly, an all-electric, vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed for everyday people. Unlike traditional planes, the BlackFly doesn't require a pilot's license to fly. If you can drive a car and handle a video game joystick, you have the basic skills necessary to tackle the 2-week training program and learn to fly.

John and Heather Chirtea, are a father/daughter flying duo, and one of the first five civilian owners of the BlackFly in the United States. Their story adds a deeply personal note to this technological leap.

"My dad dragged me to the Oshkosh Air Show year after year to watch the flying car in development," Heather recalled with a laugh. "It wasn't even flying yet. But we kept coming back. We made hats, cheered from the sidelines, and became obsessed with the flying car. When the day came that they started selling them, we were first in line."

That persistence turned them

into the nation's first father-daughter flying car team. John, now the oldest flying car pilot in the country, and Heather, the first female consumer to fly one, embody the passing of the torch between dreamers and doers.

The BlackFly itself is deceptively simple: just 18 moving parts, a vertical liftoff that takes about ten seconds, and a glide into forward flight that resembles a small biplane in motion. Flights last about 20 minutes on a charge, and recharging takes only 40 minutes. With no airports required, pilots can take off from driveways, fields, or open spaces.

"Really, the computer does the flying," explained tour pilot Tim Lum, a former Air Force pararescueman and smokejumper. "You tell it where to go with the joystick, and the computer won't let me push outside safe limits. It feels like freedom, without the danger."

For Lum, who has spent his life in high-risk environments, the BlackFly is something different: thrilling but accessible. "I've jumped out of planes, fought wildfires, taken risks most people wouldn't dream of. But this? This feels like a new chapter. It's exhilarating, and the margin of safety is somewhere between motorcycle and automobile."

The Soar Tour is crisscrossing the nation, giving thousands their first up-close encounter with a flying car. Attendees can sit in the cockpit, grip the joystick, and imagine themselves lifting off.

For Heather, it's about more than technology. "This is about wonder," she said. "It's about giving people that spark—that feeling of, wow, the future really is here. For us, it's the Jetsons come to life."



Heather Chirtea is the Nation's First Female Consumer Flying Car Pilot.

For more information visit: www.thesoartour.com

Jim Trainor Reports On Buying An All-New Kia EV6!

"Call me Electric Jim"

continued from page 5

20 mile range. Often, heading to a golf course, or a winery (or two...), or a sightseeing excursion means might travel 50 to 100 miles or more. All super attainable.

Further, I've been pleasantly surprised at how capable the EV6 is in the snow. "Snow Mode" gets us up our steep driveway and through 10-inches of snow without issue. The heated seats and steering wheel got warmer

quickly and hotter than in any other ICE vehicle I've owned. Winter hasn't been an issue at all, including days with below zero temperatures and with snow almost every day.

I cut a deal with our local electric utility for a \$10 monthly rebate if I charge the EV6 from between 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. so that's what I do. It's easy to set a timer of simply plug in the car. We've gone weeks without having to charge while using the car every day. It's surprising how far 250 miles is when tooling around town. Even better, a full charge runs me about \$17 and I figure I'm saving about \$100 per month not having to buy gas. Plus, one gets great pleasure seeing folks at

the gas pumps on 2-degree days fishing for their credit cards and filling up their gas cans for the snowblower. Plugging in at home feels like second nature now.

For anyone on the fence about EV ownership in places like northern Michigan and other cold parts of the country, I can confidently say it's worth it. The one "must have," though, is an EV charger at home. To attempt to do this while only being able to charge remotely would be foolhardy. But with at-home charging capability, and a second vehicle for lengthy road trips, it seems silly and old-fashioned not to.

Oh, did I tell you that my EV6 looks cool?

2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive Report" by Howard Elmer

continued from page 6

tures, such as 524 cubic feet of cargo space, standard best-in-class 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 upfitter-friendly 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 10.1-inch 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 grid lines,
- 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-sensing windshield wipers.

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-on-road 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 year.



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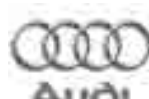
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Top 5 Worst Drivers by Car Brand

[LendingTree Report]

Tesla drivers are involved in more accidents than drivers of any other brand for the 2nd year in a row.

Top 5 Worst Drivers by Car Brand (Driving incidents per 1,000 drivers)

- 1. Tesla (37)
- 2. Ram (34)
- 3. Subaru (33)
- 4. Audi (32)
- 5. Mazda (32)

LendingTree’s auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent, Rob Bhatt, had this to say:

“It often costs more to insure a car with high crash rates. Regardless of your car’s reputation, you will pay more for insurance if you have moving violations or accidents on your driving record. It’s important to stay alert and responsible behind the wheel, regardless of the vehicle you drive.

No car makes you invincible. Not even a Tesla can protect you from getting into an accident or getting a ticket. Nor can a Subaru or Ram truck.”

Tesla, Ram and Subaru have the worst drivers in the nation, according to a LendingTree analysis of 30 car brands. For the second year in a row, we found that **Tesla drivers are involved in more accidents than drivers of any other brand.**

Researchers calculated the number of driving incidents per 1,000 drivers for every brand to determine the best and worst drivers by car brand. The rankings include; accidents, DUIs, speeding-related incidents, and citations. Here is what we found:

• **Tesla, Ram and Subaru have the worst drivers.** Nationally, Tesla

drivers had 37 incidents per 1,000 drivers — up significantly from 31 in last year’s analysis. Ram and Subaru driver are involved in 34 and 33 incidents, respectively. Tesla drivers are the worst in nine states.

• **Mercury, Pontiac and Cadillac have the best drivers.** Mercury drivers had 19 incidents per 1,000 drivers nationally — about half the rate among Tesla drivers — making it the best brand two years in a row.

• **Pontiac overtakes BMW as the brand with the highest DUI rate.** Pontiac drivers had a DUI rate of 3 per 1,000 drivers — a massive jump from 1 in last year’s analysis.

• **Ram has the worst drivers in 16 states.** That means Ram drivers had the highest incident rates among the 30 brands analyzed in nearly a third of states.

LendingTree’s auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent, Rob Bhatt, had this to say:

“The data shows that those who drive practical vehicles like Subarus and RAMs are involved in incidents nearly as frequently as those in zippier models like Teslas. This is a good reminder of how important it is to drive responsibly, regardless of the vehicle you drive.”

Tesla has worst drivers

Going fully electric may not mean as much if you’re a menace on the streets.

In fact, from Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024, Tesla had the worst drivers, at 36.94 incidents (accidents, DUIs, speeding and citations) per 1,000 drivers. When we conducted this study in late 2023, Tesla ranked second-worst

with 31.13 incidents from Nov. 14, 2022, through Nov. 14, 2023.

The car brands with the most driving incidents per 1,000 drivers are Tesla, Ram and Subaru.

Speed can play a role here. The cheapest Tesla—a standard Model 3 with rear-wheel drive — can accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 5.8 seconds. Other packages of the Model 3 can accelerate from zero to 60 in 4.2 and 3.1 seconds.

Ram — which became a stand-alone brand in 2009 — follows at 33.92. That’s an improvement from our last version’s worst ranking, though it had a similar incident rate of 32.90. Subaru (32.85) remains third-worst, though it saw an uptick from an incident rate of 30.09.

What does that mean for drivers of these cars? According to LendingTree auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent Rob Bhatt, it could affect insurance rates in a few different ways.

“The immediate impact is on the individual,” he says. “Most of these incidents are going to make your rates go up. The insurance rates for specific models are more impacted by accidents than some of these other incidents. If Tesla drivers get into accidents at a higher rate than other drivers, insurance companies will probably spend more to insure them than other vehicles. This, in turn, may prompt insurance companies to charge higher rates to insure a Tesla.”

Disrupting EV Charging Chaos: Bradford Crist’s AI Fix for a Broken System

Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption faces significant challenges due to inadequate charging infrastructure, leading to the growing issue of “charging anxiety.” Bradford Crist, Co-founder and CEO of Chargemate, shares how his AI-powered solutions aim to make EV charging as seamless as refueling a traditional car.

Electric Vehicle (EV) sales hit an all-time high of 1.3 million units in 2024, reflecting an impressive 7.3% growth compared to the previous year. (1) Yet, despite this milestone, the EV revolution faces a significant roadblock—charging anxiety. Nearly 20% of public charging attempts fail, leaving drivers frustrated and hesitant about the shift to electric. (2) On the latest episode of the Disruption Interruption podcast, Karla Jo Helms (KJ) welcomes Bradford Crist, Co-founder and CEO of Chargemate, a climate tech innovator helping drivers overcome these hurdles. Crist is rewriting the future of Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption by enabling AI to address real-time charging concerns while ensuring public charging systems operate efficiently.

“Our goal is a world where EV ownership is practical for everyone.” — Bradford Crist, Co-founder and CEO of Chargemate

“Imagine pulling up to a gas station, only to find 20% of pumps out of order,” Crist emphasizes. “We’re tackling the same friction for EV drivers, empowering infrastructure providers and vehicle owners to bridge the confidence gap.”

Charging Anxiety is Stalling EV Adoption

Despite its rise, EV adoption remains limited at approximately 7–10% of vehicle sales in the U.S., a figure projected to grow to 25% in a few years. However, the underlying Achilles’ heel is charging anxiety, which stems from broken chargers, inconsistent payment methods, and the lack of a cohesive support system for public chargers.

“EV owners outside early-adopter hubs like California face what we call charging deserts,” Crist explains. “This creates regional disparity, with urban centers seeing adoption while rural or Midwest states remain reluctant.”

Unlike filling up a traditional gas tank, EV charging requires precise coordination between hardware, networks, apps, and vehicles. The failure of any one component, like payment terminals or software handshakes between EVs and chargers, can derail an entire charging session. For new EV users, this complexity can feel overwhelming.

“Drivers shouldn’t have to act as troubleshooting technicians,” Crist states. “This complexity undermines the scalability of EV infrastructure, leaving prospective EV buyers skeptical.”

Chargemate’s AI-Powered Roadmap to Simplify EV Charging

Chargemate offers a game-changing solution to failed charging sessions with its AI-powered platform. Its flagship product, an AI agent, interacts with both infrastructure and drivers in real time, automating troubleshooting and restarting failed sessions in seconds. “At Chargemate, we solve two key problems,” Crist explains. “First, educating drivers on proper charger use. Second, reducing friction by detecting and resolving failures with AI workflows.”

No app downloads are needed—drivers simply scan a QR code on chargers for instant assistance. For operators, this platform delivers valuable insights and diagnostics, cutting downtime and improving customer experience. “Imagine a road trip where EV charging is seamless,” Crist says. “Our goal is a world where EV ownership is practical for everyone.”

Chargemate’s pilot programs span ten U.S. states, including California, Texas, and Illinois. “This is just the beginning,” Crist concludes. “EV drivers and operators don’t just need infrastructure—they need infrastructure they can trust.”

INSIDE MALAYSIA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Automechanika Kuala Lumpur 2025 advocates for green and innovative developments in automotive mobility for Malaysian and ASEAN markets

Automechanika Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia, 15 – 17 May 2025

Malaysian government policies and a shifting market landscape towards AI, digitalisation, electrification, energy efficiency, and sustainability have resulted in the country becoming an attractive investment destination, driven by demand for sustainable products and solutions in the automotive industry. This year, Automechanika Kuala Lumpur 2025, taking place on 15 to 17 May, features an expanded showcase across six halls at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. The exhibition will showcase the evolution of the Malaysian market through new zones, the return of specialised areas that spotlight new mobility solutions, the vibrant automotive culture at autoFEST@KL, and green development throughout Southeast Asia, all around the fairground.

Under its Green Investment Strategy (GIS), Malaysia is targeting seven key areas of investment potential: bioenergy, carbon capture, circular economy, energy efficiency, green hydrogen, green mobility, and renewable energy. Nearly all of these areas intersect with the automotive sector, and green mobility, in particular, is gaining prominence in Malaysia. The drive for sustainable development has prompted leading automotive brands to enter the Malaysian market, further enhancing its appeal for auto investors and stakeholders.

Of late, Malaysia has attracted substantial investment and co-operation from global industry leaders. For instance, the Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) plans to invest USD 479 million in Malaysia over the next five years. As part of this initiative, around 30 percent of the company’s vehicles that are manufactured in Malaysia will be exported to other countries in Southeast Asia[1], adding to the development of the industry and Malaysia’s status as an automotive manufacturing hub for the region.

Building on this momentum, domestic leader Proton has also made significant strides by launching its first electric vehicle. With much of its stake held by Chinese manufacturer, Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, Malaysian firms such as Proton are presented with opportunities for growth and innovation as expertise is transferred through this collaboration.

Ms Fiona Chiew, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, commented: “Malaysia is gaining significant traction from foreign investments and government policies aimed at sustainable technologies. Together with Malaysia’s ASEAN chairmanship for 2025, this positions the country to strengthen its leadership in the Southeast Asian automotive industry. However, the development spurred by these changes is rapidly reshaping the market, and local players must prioritise workforce training, skill development, and modern technologies to adapt effectively. The innovations at the 2025 edition of Automechanika Kuala Lumpur are vital for Malaysia and the global automotive industry in meeting the rising demand for charging technologies, electric parts and solutions, and automotive talent, fuelled by the energy transition.”

Answering the needs of the industry throughout the fairground

To address the new ideas, technologies, and innovations in the market, the Automotive Mobility Solutions Zone makes a return in 2025. The area will explore innovative solutions based on the latest advancements in green mobility as a response to the heightened focus on new energy efficiency, new materials, advanced technologies, and more. Exhibitors will cover topics such as AI and autonomous driving, automotive manufacturing and automation, connectivity, electrification and digitalisation, energy, logistics, and warehousing and supply chain.

INSIDE EUROPE AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Hydrogen Partnership between Purem by Eberspaecher and AMBARtec announced in March 2025 !

As industry and mobility decarbonize, the demand for hydrogen is growing. In order to counteract the two main challenges involved in the widespread provision of the energy source, Purem by Eberspaecher is entering into a strategic partnership with AMBARtec AG. Their common goal is the efficient transport and safe storage of hydrogen.

Market analyses show that hydrogen demand will increase in the coming decades in mobility, industry, and the energy sector. The start-up AMBARtec concerns itself with the challenge of widespread availability. The Saxony-based company is bringing a process for transporting and storing hydrogen onto the market, known as HyCS® technology (Hydrogen Compact Storage Technology). A strategic partnership signed between AMBARtec AG and Purem by Eberspaecher is intended to drive forward the scaling of the process developed by the start-up. The exhaust technology and acoustics specialist will take over the production of the storage containers in which the hydrogen is stored. “In our collaboration with AMBARtec, we see great potential for an emerging technology: thanks to our expertise in the area of materials science in relation to hydrogen and our competence in the area of industrialization, we provide considerable added value for the development of new storage and transport options for the energy source,” explains Benjamin Brenkel, Executive Vice President Business Unit Europe. Uwe Pahl, Technical Director at AMBARtec, stresses that: “To implement our automated welding and generally in industrial series production. We have found such a partner in Purem by Eberspaecher.”

Efficient and safe

To store and transport the hydrogen, AMBARtec uses standard, commercially available 20-foot containers. In them, nuggets of iron oxide in vessels serve as a storage medium. During the loading phase, the nuggets are chemically reduced to iron through the addition of hydrogen. The resulting water vapor can be discharged from the vessels and channeled back in a self-contained, sustainable water cycle. During the discharge phase, water vapor is fed into the pressure vessels. An oxidation process of the iron nuggets takes place, thus releasing hydrogen, which can be used for the purposes of energy supply or mobility. The functional principle used is both simple and efficient: initial demonstration systems confirm the high efficiency of the HyCS® technology of over 80 percent electricity to hydrogen. At the same time, the process is significantly safer, less complex and more cost-effective than transporting and storing hydrogen in liquid or gaseous form.

Expertise in flow routing and materials science

As the automotive industry transforms, Purem by Eberspaecher concerns itself with emerging technologies, including outside the familiar automotive environment. The utilization and production of hydrogen is one of the most promising business areas. Alongside initial approaches to the development and production of high-temperature electrolyzers, the partnership with AMBARtec AG is a further step towards diversification. For the production of the storage vessels and the subsequent integration into the containers, Purem by Eberspaecher contributes its expertise in materials science as well as industrial series production and the process knowledge required for this.

International Auto News

2025 Ford Maverick XLT Test Drive Review by Keith Turner

continued from page 2

to snowy climates, gravel roads, and weekend camping trails — all while maintaining standout fuel economy. With the available tow package, the XLT AWD can tow up to 4,000 pounds, an impressive number for a compact hybrid pickup. Payload remains at 1,500 pounds, making the Maverick every bit the working truck it promises to be.

Ford gave the Maverick a mild facelift for 2025. The XLT trim benefits from a fresh grille design, sleeker headlights with new L-shaped LED signatures, and redesigned wheels. It looks sharper, more modern, and a little more upscale without losing the truck’s approachable charm. Color options like Atlas Blue or Hot Pepper Red help the Maverick stand out, and an available Black Appearance Package enhances the attitude.

Inside, the XLT strikes a balance between durability and comfort. The cloth seating in feels durable and modern, and the dashboard’s mix of rugged textures and smart storage cubbies highlights Ford’s focus on practicality. The big news is technology: every Maverick now gets a 13.2-inch Sync 4 touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. A digital 8-inch gauge driver’s cluster keeps

things clean and easy to read.

Optional upgrades like the XLT package add heated seats, a power driver’s seat, and remote start — comfort features that make the Maverick feel more premium without pushing into Lariat territory. For those who plan to tow, available Pro Trailer Backup Assist and a 360-degree camera system bring big-truck tech to this compact package. Note: Wireless phone charging is an option that we didn’t have in our test vehicle.

Surprisingly, despite the addition of AWD, the Maverick XLT Hybrid delivers exceptional efficiency: up to 40 mpg city and 37 mpg combined, numbers no other pickup can touch. Pricing starts just under \$30,000, with our well-equipped XLT AWD priced at \$36,860.

The 2025 Ford Maverick XLT Hybrid AWD is the truck most buyers actually need. It’s efficient, versatile, and affordable, with just enough toughness to haul, tow, and explore when duty calls. By finally combining hybrid power with AWD, Ford has transformed the Maverick from a clever idea into a near-perfect everyday pickup.

Keith Turner is an auto journalist based in Northern California. Look for his video reviews at Carguy Drives on YouTube.



2025 Ford Maverick XLT (photo Keith Turner)



Michael's Subaru GM, Mark King pictured with a 2025 Subaru Forester Touring Hybrid (story on page 2)



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Around the Track – Racing News

Steve & Liz Saleen Help Host the NW Legends of Auto Event



Steve Saleen welcomes Kim Ray and her husband at NW Legends Event (photo Auto News)



Liz Saleen accepts award from Alan Smith, Slot Car Racing for hosting Legends Event (photo Auto News)



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From Around the U.S.



Steve Saleen, pictured with his display at the Concours Italiano during "2025 Car Week" (photo Auto News)



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

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2025 Monterey Car Week

This was our 20th year of attending "Monterey Car Week" the second week in August each Year.....!

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 - 5 Collector Car Auctions
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 - Legends of Auto Event & Presentations
 - Carmel Car Shows
 - Monterey Car Shows
 - Seaside Car Shows
 - Laguna Seca Racing Events
 - Retro Auto Forum Events
 - Automaker Events, Private and Public
 - Events at area Golf Courses
 - Auto Memorabilia Show Displays
 - Monterey Canary Row Events

Hope to see you next August!!!



One of a group of cars from the Pete Todo Collection featured at Kissimmee (photo Auto News)

World Famous Automotive Artist Lyn Hiner honored as a "Legend of Auto" in Monterey during "Car Week"



Lyn Hiner, with Legend of Auto Award in Monterey during 2025 "Car Week", has studios in San Clemente, CA and Yokohama City, Japan SEE: www.lynhiner.com

AUTO NEWS

From Around the U.S.



McCormick's
79th Palm
Springs
Collector
Car
Auction
to Feature
1976
Bi-Centennial
Cadillac
Convertible
one of 200
Only: Ever
Built
(see story)

McCormick's Palm Springs Classic Car Auctions based in California is nearing its 40th year in business. Hosting two auctions per year in February and November of 400 to 500 classic cars each sale and attracting an audience of 20 thousand people. From very humble beginnings in England way back in 1968 when a young Keith McCormick married his wife Desley. Using a small garage attached to their home they restored a 1955 Ford panel van that they paid an equivalent of \$20 and sold it for \$100 after 2 days work. From there on in they were in the auto business. Fast forward the next 13 years and the birth of Jason and Tania and accumulation of 5 car dealerships they were on their way.

After many visits to California, they realized the dream of moving to the USA in 1981. Palm Springs was the ideal spot for raising the kids and starting a business. 1985 while on the Chamber of Commerce board an opportunity arises to co-produce the Palm Springs Vintage Grand Prix car races. That year also produced their first auction.

Fast forward to today. Many staff at their auctions have been with the McCormick family event for over 30 plus years. The Monterey recent events just showed how resilient the love of classic and exotic cars is. "50's, 60's and 70's cars that we were taken to school in as kids are looking affordable and the later super cars are going through the roof" stated Keith. Next Auction held weekend before Thanksgiving November 21 through 23rd. Early entry pictured here is a 1976 Caddy Bi-Centennial convertible with only 46000 miles. One of only 200 made.



1976 Cadillac Bi-Centennial Convertible featured at McCormick's Auction



FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 21, 22, & 23 2025



70% SALE RATE AT OUR LAST AUCTION - DON'T WAIT, BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW! The McCormick family invites you to their 78th auction featuring over 500 antique, classic, exotic, muscle, sports and special interest autos. **Ask for Keith, Jason or our friendly office staff to answer your questions (760) 320-3290.**

WHERE TO STAY A special rate has been set up for auction attendees at The Riviera Resort & Spa located less than 2 miles from the auction. There is only a limited number of rooms available so don't wait...book your room now. Call (760) 778-6666 for reservations.

LOCATION



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LOWEST ENTRY FEES IN THE BUSINESS AND ONLY 6% SELL FEE
Friday, Saturday and Sunday lots are \$300, \$400 for prime time and \$600 for covered canopy lots. No numbers will be reserved without consignment fee being paid in full. Visa, Mastercard and AMEX are accepted. Positions will be filled on first-come, first-served basis. To reserve the position you desire, give our office a call at 760.320.3290 with your credit card handy. You may specify the cars you're entering at a later date. Entry fees are REFUNDABLE less \$50 handling fee if you notify us in writing 14 days prior to the auction. Color photographs may be included in our exclusive color brochure. We strictly limit the number of positions available in this three-day event of 580 cars. **COMMISSION STRUCTURE: FLAT 6% OF SALES PRICE (One of the lowest in the business). WE SOLD OUT OF LOT NUMBERS DURING OUR PREVIOUS SALE SO BOOK EARLY.**

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Rick Case Honda Celebrates #1 Ranking

Rick Case Honda in Davie brings a number one ranking to South Florida as the dealership recently celebrated that number one ranking as the top Honda dealership in the United States. The most awarded and largest volume Honda dealer in the country, Rick Case Honda led all dealerships nationally in 2024. No other dealer in South Florida has ever accomplished this epic milestone.

“This is a truly a special day for us and for our team here at Honda, without whom we would not be celebrating these incredible milestones,” said Rick Case Automotive Group President and CEO Rita Case. “We are number one, and we are ready to break records in the U.S. again in 2025. We just completed a brand new, beautiful, state-of-the-art facility just for our customers, and we are excited to share it with them.”

In a league of its own, Rick Case Honda also received the President’s Elite Award for the 17th consecutive year, a feat no other volume Honda dealer in the U.S. has ever achieved. The award is based on overall dealership performance including volume, operational excellence, customer satisfaction and facility. President’s Award status is reserved for approximately 15% of Honda dealerships annually. To this day, Rick Case Honda remains the world record holder for the greatest number of new Hondas sold in one month with 1,222 sold.

Kazuhiro Takizawa, President, CEO and Director of American Honda Motor Co., Inc. and an executive officer of Honda Motor Co., Ltd., addressed the Rick Case Honda team. “I am impressed by the history of Rick Case Automotive,” Mr. Takizawa said. “You take care of our customers. Since we’ve been here you all are here selling cars, servicing cars and taking care of customers for us. Thank you very much for all of your decades-long efforts. I really appreciate it.”

American Honda Motor Co. Vice President of Automobile Sales Lance Woelfer congratulated Rita and her team on an amazing year. “We couldn’t be prouder of our association and relationship with Rick and Rita and all that has been accomplished,” Woelfer said. “Leadership drives a great experience, but it’s also about the interaction they have each and every day with the Honda team here and their customers. You can’t win the President’s Award 17 years in a row without really taking care of the customer.”

In addition to Mr. Takizawa and Mr. Woelfer, Case was joined in the celebration by 427 associates and 15 executives from American Honda Motor Company. In addition, Rick Case Honda officially introduced the brand-new “Blue Stage” Honda facility, designed to enhance and elevate the customer experience, and the grand opening of the Honda Power of Dreams Store. Serving as a one-stop for everything Honda including recreational vehicles as well as side

continued on page 15

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Honda Civic Si HPT



Both the “fun-to-drive” Civic Sedan & Hatchback have been all-time best sellers because of value, economy & power.

BASE PRICE: \$30,250 *
TYPE: Sedan
ENGINE: I-5 liter DI
HORSEPOWER: 200 hp
TRANS: 6-Speed Manual
MPG: 37 highway

Honda HR-V AWD EX-L



The value based Honda HR-V AWD 4 door SUV offers the room you are looking for when buying a family SUV.

BASE PRICE: \$31,550 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 2.0 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 158 hp
TRANS: CVT
RANGE: 30 highway

Lexus LX 700h



This is the “big-daddy” in the Lexus SUV line-up. Something for everyone, more room, power, and options.

BASE PRICE: \$52,610 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 3.4L V6 Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 457 Total System
TRANS: 10 speed AT
MPG: 22 highway

Mazda3 Premium Plus SDN AWD



Mazda has maintained its position in the economy market with the Mazda3 that delivers above average MPG and value.

BASE PRICE: \$35,800 *
TYPE: Sedan
ENGINE: SKYACTIVE-G 2.5I Turbo
HORSEPOWER: 227 hp
TRANS: 6 speed Sport Mode AT
MPG: 32 highway

Toyota Sienna PLT AWD



The Van Market has lost some players, BUT the Toyota Sienna has maintained its market share with new features and technology.

BASE PRICE: \$56,905 *
TYPE: Minivan
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 245 combined
TRANS: ECVT
MPG: 35 highway

Grand Highlander Nightshade Hybrid



The Toyota Grand Highlander has been upgraded for this model year and is “bigger” and “better” with more room & additional safety features.

BASE PRICE: \$52,610 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5L 4-cyl
HORSEPOWER: 362 hp
TRANS: AWD w/Trail Mode
MPG: 34 combined

* All information listed “AS TESTED”

SHOWCASE

REVIEWS

Honda Passport T/S Elite Trailsport

Hyundai Sonata LTD Hybrid



The Passport Trailsport is loaded with “off-road options” and 11 “safety features,” 20 “interior” & 17 exterior features.

BASE PRICE: \$52,450 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 3.5 liter V6 w/VCM
HORSEPOWER: 285 hp
TRANS: AWD
MPG: 23 highway



Hyundai sales have been increasing month-to-month for the last decade. The Sonata has been leading the brand’s sales growth.

BASE PRICE: \$37,450 *
TYPE: Sedan
ENGINE: 2.0 liter 4-cylinder-Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 193 hp
TRANS: 6-speed AT
MPG: 51 highway

Toyota Corolla SDR Premium Plus

Toyota Crown Nightshade



The Toyota Corolla sedan has been an all-time “best seller” for the brand based on design, room, “safety features” and price.

BASE PRICE: \$47,515 *
TYPE: Sedan
ENGINE: 1.6 - 3 cylinder Turbo
HORSEPOWER: 300 hp
TRANS: 8 speed AT
MPG: 27 highway



The Toyota Crown has been a “new addition” to the line-up a few ago. The sporty SUV offers “industry leading design”

BASE PRICE: \$48,765 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 236 Combined
TRANS: ECVT
MPG: 41 highway

Jeep Gladiator Rubicon X

Volvo XC- 90 T8 AWD ULTRA



If you’re looking for a vehicle that’s built for dirt, rocks, snow, and anything else Mother Nature throws your way—but you also want a pickup bed and a little comfort in the cabin—the 2025 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon X might be the answer.

BASE PRICE: \$51,100 *
TYPE: Pickup Truck
ENGINE: 3.6L V6 24V VVT Engine
HORSEPOWER: 285 hp
TRANS: 8-Speed AT
MPG: 17 City/22 Hwy, 19 Combined



Volvo has done a great job of working their way into the “luxury” SUV segment with the XC -90 by adding technology & design features.

BASE PRICE: \$80,700 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 2.0 I Turbo DI
HORSEPOWER: 455 hp combined
TRANS: 8-speed AT
MPG: 58 MPGe combined

Rick Case Honda

#1 Ranking

from page 14

by sides, ATVs, motorcycles, dirt bikes and generators, the new store combines Honda vehicles and power sports in one facility.

Also joining the celebration was Lateefah Dooling. When Rick Case Honda opened its doors in Davie in 2002, Dooling, then 11 years old and a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward, sang the National Anthem. Twenty-three years later, she returned for an encore performance.

“It feels wonderful just coming back in, seeing the growth from when I was given this opportunity 23 years ago,” said Dooling, who is a special education teacher with Broward County Public Schools and who grew up as a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs. “Although the years have gone by, I feel truly amazed and very honored to come back and be part of this celebration.”

Rita and Rick Case have supported Boys & Girls Clubs for decades. Together, they created, developed and led fundraising initiatives that raised more than \$120 million for organizations in South Florida, a legacy that continues today. For the Boys & Girls Clubs, Rita and Rick were instrumental in building 15 clubs, serving 12,000 members. Since 1982, Rick Case Bikes for Kids has distributed more than 120,000 gently used bicycles donated by the community to children in need, including members of the Boys & Girls Clubs, during the holidays.

Case also has a storied history with Honda that dates back to her childhood in Santa Rosa, California, where her parents owned a small foreign car repair shop. Her family later added Honda motorcycles in 1959, the first year Honda was introduced in the U.S. In 1968, Honda approached her parents about selling their Honda car in the U.S. when it was to be introduced, and they became the first Honda auto dealer in America. In 1970, when the first cars came in, customers were skeptical because they were so small. Case sold Honda cars after school each day and managed to convince customers that Hondas got better gas mileage and were easier to maneuver than other cars on the market. After she married Rick Case, she moved to Ohio where he also owned Honda motorcycle and car dealerships, before relocating to South Florida.

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 South 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.

* All information listed “AS TESTED”

**WOMEN in the
AUTO WORLD**

Women in the Auto World

**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

Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County Unveil Symbolic Panther Sculpture for Panthers on the Prowl Campaign

Rita Case donated the statue to Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County

Four young artists from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County's Rita & Rick Case Club dedicated four weeks to decorating a panther sculpture generously donated by Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group. The artwork is part of Panthers on the Prowl, an initiative launched in collaboration with the American Cancer Society and Florida Panthers President Bill Zito and his wife Julie.

Panthers on the Prowl merges art, community and philanthropy to raise funds for cancer research, patient services and advocacy programs.

The passionate, artistic team of Gizele B., Samantha A., Valentina Laurel L. and Jeydilis L. from the Rita & Rick Case Boys & Girls Club, created a design that reflects Rita's journey. Running along the panther's back is a road lined with brand names of Case dealerships. Included in the design is the Florida Panthers logo, American Cancer Society pink socks, representing the cour-

Pediatric Patients at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Get a Special Delivery

Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar, Rita Case, Golfer Paul Azinger's Family Compassion Center and One More Child deliver surprise gifts to patients at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

Broward County Property Appraiser Marty Kiar's Outreach Program in partnership with Rita Case, president CEO of the Rick Case Automotive Group, Golfer Paul Azinger's Family Compassion Center and One More Child, in partnership with Bealls department stores, made a special delivery to pediatric patients at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida.

"When I got the call about where I thought these donations would have the most impact, I immediately thought of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital," said Rita Case. "For children, coming to the hospital can be very frightening for them. We want them to feel at home and be comforted while they are here. That's what makes this donation so important."

Patients received toys, puzzles, shoes and blankets, along with beautiful, colorful handmade

quilts. Students throughout the country submitted artwork for the quilts that were then made by the loving hands of women throughout the U.S. who weaved the artwork into the quilts, which are donated by One More Child.

"Rita has been an invaluable partner, dedicating her time and resources to making people's lives better," said Ron Cacciatore, Director of Professional Standards and Compliance, Broward County Property Appraiser's office. "It is through Rita that we were connected with Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital."

Caitlin Stella, CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, and members of her team graciously accepted the donations. "We are deeply grateful to Rita, Ron, Marty, the Outreach Program and all of our generous partners," she said. "These donations will bring comfort and joy to our patients and families while they are here."

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Outreach Program aims to provide joy to the most vulnerable population during their most difficult times, support local

communities and make a positive difference in the lives of all who call South Florida their home.

"I am incredibly proud of the work our team does to serve the

residents of Broward County, and our community outreach, including this delivery to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, is a critical part of that," added Kiar.



Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, left, and Caitlin Stella, president and CEO of Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, with one of the donated quilts. (Photo courtesy of Rick Case Automotive Group)

age it takes to fight cancer, and empowering words that highlight both cancer survivorship and the Boys & Girl Clubs' mission. A

continued on page 20



Photo courtesy of The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County

2025 Chrysler Pacific Hybrid by Dave Kunz

continued from page 2

third row folded.

The key to using this as a de-facto EV is to be reasonable with the accelerator pedal. If you push the throttle too hard (for example, when entering a fast-moving freeway) the gasoline engine will come on, as the electric system can only do so much in terms of acceleration. Even if you back off

immediately, the engine remains on for 30-60 seconds, presumably in case you might need more power again. But then the system returns to EV mode.

I also did once manage to run the battery down to 0 when I was about a mile from home, so I used gasoline to get the rest of the way. Even with that and the half-dozen

other brief engine runs, at the end of the week the needle on the fuel gauge was still pretty much pointed to the full mark.

So yes, if you want a minivan that runs around purely on electricity, Chrysler has one. At least for local trips. The 2025 Pacifica Hybrid starts at \$51,055 before any incentives.



Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid (photo Dave Kunz)



Car Collections



“Bianco Speciale Ferrari” 250 GTO will be SOLD at Mecum's January Kissimmee Florida Auction.....!

Maintained, repaired and refinished, but never restored, Bianco Speciale, the only Ferrari 250 GTO to leave the Ferrari factory in white, is set to headline the Mecum Auctions lineup at The World's Largest Collector Car Auction® this January in Kissimmee, Florida. Among the mere 36 produced from 1962 to 1964, Bianco Speciale stands alone as the sole 250 GTO delivered with an unprecedented white livery applied by the Ferrari factory. This distinguishes it as one of the most desirable Ferraris in existence and earned Chassis No. 3729GT its distinctive moniker, which serves as a singular expression of individuality within the most exclusive fraternity in automotive history. With its successful racing career and distinctive white livery, Bianco Speciale's offering at Kissimmee 2026 presents an extraordinary opportunity to join its illustrious legacy.

The media and public will have the opportunity to see Bianco Speciale at Mecum's Monterey auction, where the singular 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO will be on display ahead of its offering at Kissimmee 2026. Mecum Monterey 2025 is slated for August 14-16 at the Del Monte Golf Course in Monterey, California, with the auction gates opening at 8 a.m. each day.

For those interested in obtaining more information on The Bianco Speciale or other media opportunities, please reach out to Breeann Poland at bpoland@mecum.com. For more information on Mecum Kissimmee 2026 and all other scheduled Mecum events, visit Mecum.com or call (262) 275-5050. Mecum's website is updated daily with the latest consignments and includes detailed descriptions and photographs of the vehicles offered, as well as a detailed auction and event schedule.



"Bianco Speciale Ferrari" on Display at Monterey

Mecum Monterey 2025 Auction Achieves Record Attendance and Substantial Sales

*Mecum's Car Week Auction
Reaches \$45 Million Overall as
Sales Continue*

Highlights:

- Mecum Monterey 2025 reaches \$45 million overall as sales continue to be finalized
- Multiple vehicles sell for more than \$1 million
- Record attendance recorded for Mecum Monterey 2025
- Top sales prove diverse with exotic, domestic, vintage and modern cars
- 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO—3729GT, known as Bianco Speciale, on display to promote upcoming 2026 Kissimmee auction offering

Mecum Auctions returned to California's Monterey peninsula for the area's famed annual Car Week celebration this past weekend, attracting 500 classic and collector vehicles for auction, including 100 vintage and antique motorcycles. The auction ultimately saw overall sales reach \$45 million, a total bolstered by multiple vehicles that hammered

continued on page 21




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70% SALE RATE AT OUR LAST AUCTION - DON'T WAIT, BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW! The McCormick family invites you to their 78th auction featuring over 500 antique, classic, exotic, muscle, sports and special interest autos. **Ask for Keith, Jason or our friendly office staff to answer your questions (760) 320-3290.**

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Friday, Saturday and Sunday Lots are \$300, \$400 for prime time and \$600 for covered canopy lots. No numbers will be reserved without consignment fee being paid in full. Visa, Mastercard and AMEX are accepted. Positions will be filled on first-come, first-served basis. To reserve the position you desire, give our office a call at 760.320.3290 with your credit card handy. You may specify the cars you're entering at a later date. Entry fees are REFUNDABLE less \$50 handling fee if you notify us in writing 14 days prior to the auction. Color photographs may be included in our exclusive color brochure. We strictly limit the number of positions available in this three-day event of 580 cars. **COMMISSION STRUCTURE: FLAT 6% OF SALES PRICE (One of the lowest in the business). WE SOLD OUT OF LOT NUMBERS DURING OUR PREVIOUS SALE SO BOOK EARLY.**

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Auto News Foundation
Introduces TAP Tuition
Assistance Program

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/
Founder

For TWO years we have been developing our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for students attending Automotive Tech Schools. Our goal was three fold.

1- To develop a workable program delivering more potential employee's for auto dealers and OEM's across the U.S.

2- Using Global Auto News to highlight each students path to graduation over a two year period.

3- Passing on 70 % of the funds raised by the Auto News Foundation a 501 (3)(c) NON-PROFIT for TAP scholarships starting in 2026.

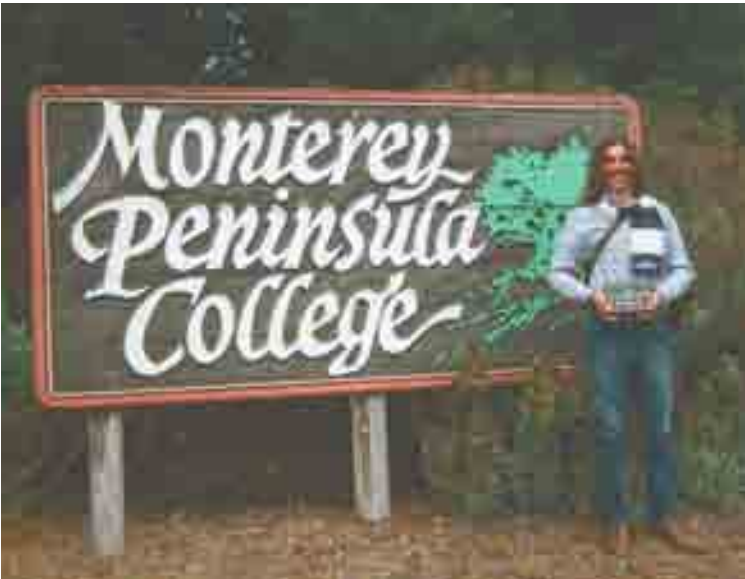
RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

- Shoreline Community College - Seattle, WA
- Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA (see page 18)
- Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA
- University of Washington (Business School) Seattle, WA

Auto News Foundation Introduces
TAP[®] Tuition Assistance Program[®]



Steve Saleen presents Fabian Jimenez a Scholarship with Murray Ruggles, Tech School Instructor (photo Auto News)



Dan Brigantino First TAP Award recipient receives Second TAP Award during "Car Week" (photo Auto News)

Over 4,000 New & Pre-Owned Choices EVERY DAY!

The finest new car franchises = Truly great trade-ins



The O'Brien Auto Group serves the N.W. with 12 Dealerships and we take in a bunch of quality trade-ins every day. Our customers are constantly trading up to a new vehicle leaving us with a tremendous selection of well-maintained, one-owner pre-owned vehicles-many still with factory warranties including Certified Pre-Owned. Stop by one of our stores or shop us online. From commuters to luxury, we've got what you're looking for!



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From Around the U.S.



Kelly Blue Book Best Buy List

by Jordan Williams *millennial writer*
continued from page 3

- 2025 Ford Maverick
- Best Midsize Truck**
- 2025 Toyota Tacoma
- Best Full-Size Truck
- 2025 Ford F-150
- Best Electric Truck
- 2025 Ford F-150 Lightning

Check them out! Click onto the links to learn about each model or visit www.kbb.com/awards/best-buy-awards-2025/

Let us at @global auto news know what you think!

Happy Fall & car shopping, everyone!

Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U.S.

continued from page 6

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!!

“... 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.

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. I watched Jay's first TONIGHT show and attended his last TONIGHT show 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 NEWS and launched our online program. (www.autonewsonline.com) Currently we have added a digital platform sending out e-mail “fast blasts” reaching over 1,000K auto enthusiasts, media & PR firms, OEM's and car collectors.



Bill McCallum (Left) & Chris Chung meet with Jay Leno at Comedy Show (photo Auto News)



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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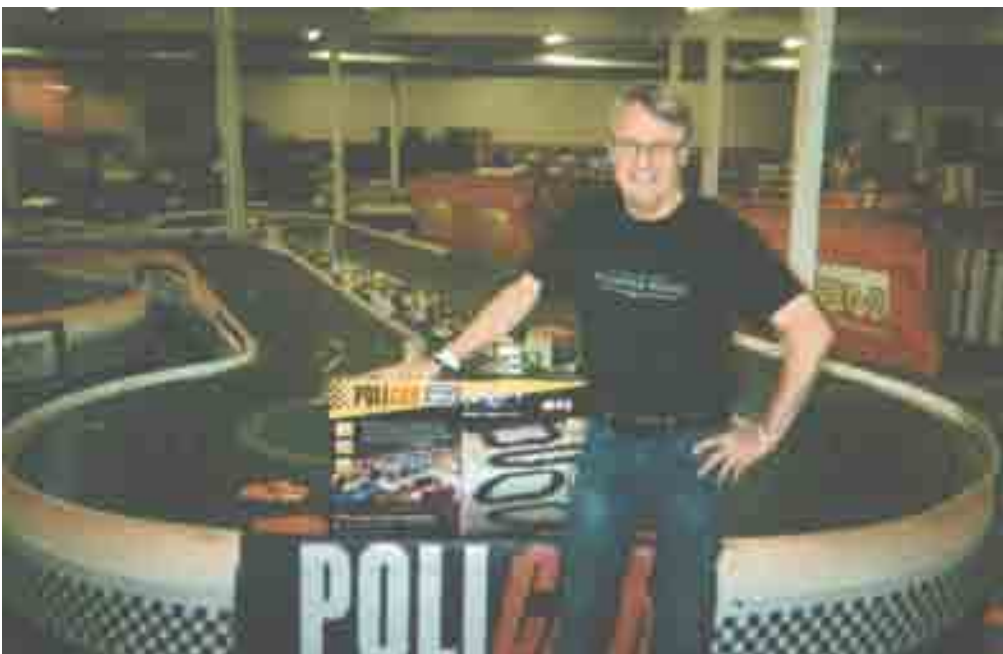
Ford GT 40 MKII Slot Cars

Arriving for the Holidays!!

\$179 each

2 for \$499 plus Track Set

**The Perfect Gift for:
Grand Dads & Grand Kids**



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





TIRE CENTERS FAST FACTS

Les Schwab Tire Centers (www.lesschwab.com) started in 1952 with just one small tire shop in Prineville, Oregon. After more than 70 years of building on our founder’s belief in honesty, service, and hard work, Les Schwab Tires is one of the leading independent tire dealers in the United States. Now, more than 8,500 employees in more than 590 locations across 15 states take pride in doing the right thing every day. That shows up in our unique tires—those we crafted specifically for the roads our customers drive on. It’s in the best tire warranty in America. It’s in how we stand behind the promise to do more for customers and communities, every step of the way.

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; P Zero 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 – a semi-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 P Zero 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.

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Rita Case CEO
of Rick Case
Auto Group
Supports Boys
& Girls Clubs of
Broward County

continued from page 16

Boys & Girls Clubs membership card dangles from a collar around the panther’s neck, signifying the organization’s dedication to youth and the broader community, while the panther’s striking golden eyes convey a sense of boldness and spirit.

“We loved creating this panther because it wasn’t just about art. It was about showing how many people and organizations truly care,” said Natalie Chin Sue, lead art instructor. “Every part of it represents hope and the power to make change together.”

The artists named their masterpiece Legacy on the Prowl to honor the impact Rita and Rick Case have on the community, highlight cancer research and awareness, and celebrate the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County’s lasting impact on youth across past, present and future generations.

“I just love how these young artists came together to create this artwork which we hope will serve as a beacon of hope for cancer research and awareness,” said Rita Case. “I appreciate how they incorporated the Florida Panthers and our company’s journey because whether on blades or wheels, we both inspire the South Florida community to get around, get involved and make a positive impact through philanthropy.”

Selected decorated panther sculptures will be showcased during a special Panthers on the Prowl Night at Amerant Bank Arena in Sunrise during the 2025–2026 NHL season, celebrating South Florida’s hockey pride while also supporting a powerful cause. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County’s Legacy on the Prowl will be featured on a digital trading card.

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 South 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.



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MICHAEL WOLFF

**THE MAN
WHO
OWNS
THE NEWS**

Inside the Secret World of
RUPERT MURDOCH

Book first published in 2008

Mecum Monterey
Auction Results

continued from page 17

in excess of the million-dollar mark. That total is still on the rise as more sales continue to be finalized in the auction house's Bid Goes On department. Top-shelf rarities and coveted collector favorites make up the majority of Mecum's annual Monterey auction lineup, and seeing them all sprawled across the manicured greens of Del Monte Golf Course is an enticing invitation. Despite the intense

competition for eyes and bids with multiple auctions taking place during Car Week, Mecum's auction drew in record attendance at this year's event. Adding intrigue, on display at Mecum Monterey 2025 was a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO – 3729GT known as Bianco Speciale. The only 250 GTO produced in white, the car was on-site to promote its upcoming offering at the 2026 return of The World's Largest Collector Car Auction® to be held in Kissimmee, Florida, this Jan. 6-18.

continued on page 25

Sally Hanson's
Test Drive on the
Hyundai Tucson
SEL 2.5 Liter AWD

continued from page 2

making a long drive easier on the body. Heated front seats and dual automatic temperature controls add to the comfort of the front seat occupants. Having owned a compact SUV without rear air vents, I am impressed that Hyundai gives attention to the comfort of the back seat occupants with the inclusion of rear air vents that give ample air to the passengers. Two front and two rear USB ports are included. The cabin is spacious and roomy for the passengers and offers more cargo space than the competition. A 2.5-liter, four cylinder engine coupled with an 8-speed automatic

transmission offers perfect power performance on highway and city streets. The ride in the Tucson is quiet and smooth. Hyundai offers the Tucson in three powertrains: a 2.5-liter four cylinder engine, a hybrid, and a plug-in hybrid that can travel up to 33 miles on electricity before using gas. All great choices — and Hyundai continues to offer “America's Best Warranty” which includes 3 years/36,000 miles of factory scheduled maintenance intervals and the industry leading 10 year/100,000 mile powertrain limited warranty.



Hyundai's Tucson SEL AWD at Howard Amon Park in Richland, Washington on the Columbia River. (Photo by Sally Hanson)

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TRAVEL
the WORLD

Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio

"Test Drive" Review

by Arv Voss

continued from page 4

INTERIOR AMBIENCE AND CARGO SPACE:

The Stelvio Quadrifoglio is well appointed with intuitive switch gear thoughtfully placed and the front seating provides an ideal driving position for performance maneuvers. The comfortable rear seat is limited in space and headroom is short with the sloping roofline.

CONNECTIVITY AND INFOTAINMENT:

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, a wireless phone charger, built-in navigation and a Wi-Fi Hotspot are available. A 12-speaker, 900-watt Harmon/Kardon sound system will satisfy discerning audiophiles.

DRIVER-ASSISTANCE AND SAFETY FEATURES:

The Stelvio Quadrifoglio comes equipped with a host of standard driver-assistance fare - automated emergency braking, blind-spot monitoring, Adaptive Cruise Control with stop and go, Lane Departure Warning, Lane-keeping Assist and automatic high-beam headlights.

AS TESTED:

The base price of my tester was \$87, 370.00 while options such as the Verde Montreal tri-coat exterior paint, Quadrifoglio AWD,

dual pane sunroof, 5-hole aluminum alloy wheels and destination charge elevated the final sticker to \$95,360.

WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE COVERAGE:

Complimentary maintenance is covered for one year or 10,000 miles. A limited Warranty and Powertrain warranty covers four years or 50,000 miles.

PERFORMANCE:

The Red Start/Stop button on the steering wheel and the drive mode selector knob with Dynamic, Natural, Advance Efficiency and Race settings allows the driver to choose the level of performance for the engine, transmission, steering, suspension and brakes as well as accelerator response.

OUR FINAL ANALYSIS:

The Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio is not for everyone's taste as a daily driver. It is exceptionally well balanced, but may be too firm for some. The nimble steering and aggressive braking are admirable. The Race exhaust note alone is worth the price of admission.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio AWD
Vehicle Type: Front engine AWD

5-passenger Four Door wagon or SUV

Base Price: \$87,370.00

As Tested Price: \$95,360.00

Motor Size and Type: 2.9-liter Twin Turbo/ intercooled DOHC 24- valve with Port Direct Injection V6 with Stop/Start.

Horsepower(bhp): 505@6500rpm

Torque (lb.-ft.) 443@ 2500 rpm

Transmission: 8 speed automatic

Drive Train: Front mounted engine – AWD

Brakes: Power-assisted Brembo high-performance four wheel cross drilled vented ceramic discs with ABS.

Suspension: Front double wishbone and Rear multilink control arms with front and rear anti-roll bars.

Tires: Pirelli P Zero PZ4 – Front – 255/45 R20 101Y AR Rear 285/40 R20 104Y AR mounted on Graphite finish 5-Linked loop alloy wheels.

Wheelbase: 110.9 inches

Overall Length: 185.1 inches

Width: 77.0 inches

Height: 66.3 inches

Curb Weight: 4,309 lbs

Fuel Capacity: 16.9 gallons

EPA Mileage Rating: 17 mpg city / 23 mpg hwy combined 19 mpg

0-60 mph: 3.3 seconds



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Seattle's trusted snow forecaster, known as the Powder Poobah, delivers The Powder Alert — the go-to snow report for Northwest skiers and snowboarders.

Every skier and snowboarder knows the frustration: you drive to the mountains, burn gas, and the snow isn't where you thought it would be. That's where Powder Poobah comes in.

Founded by Larry Schick, longtime Seattle meteorologist and avid skier, Powder Poobah delivers free, sponsor-supported snow forecasts to more than 10,000 subscribers. Schick has been writing reports since the mid-90s — long before social media.

Curious about the season? Larry says "Winter 2025–26 kicks off with a neutral-to-weak La Niña pattern — good news for Northwest skiers and snowboarders."

"Before social media allowed anyone to post their thoughts about snow (or anything else), Larry was giving the heads-up

about powder days," said Joel Gratz, founder of OpenSnow.

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- Free Powder Alerts twice a week via email and social media
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- Q&A Zooms with Larry and guests
- Photo contests and giveaways

Larry's Dedication: Sending out a Powder Alert is a process that can take hours as Schick tracks changing weather patterns before finalizing a forecast.

"Weather has a rhythm to it," Larry said. "People take powder seriously, and I take the weather seriously. I always pick the most confident forecast."

The Powder Alert team includes forecaster Michael Fagin and marketing led by Andrea Hamilton, with sponsor support keeping it free for readers.

Subscribe free at www.powder-poobah.com

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Conveniently located at 12700 Bel-Red Rd. in Bellevue, Washington, Biggs Eastside can serve the entire Seattle metropolitan area. They specialize exclusively in Land Rover and Range Rover service, and you can expect the best quality of service available for Land Rovers in the entire northwest. The shop has an Autologic diagnostic system with all the latest software, capable of everything the Dealer’s TestBook can

do and more, even on the newest models. Unlike many independent shops, they also carry a full line of factory equipment and replacement parts. All the technicians are Land Rover factory, ASE and ASA certified. Biggs Eastside is truly the “dealer alternative.” For more information, log onto www.biggsrovers.com and look for the Biggs Eastside Automotive ad in the Auto News Service Directory.

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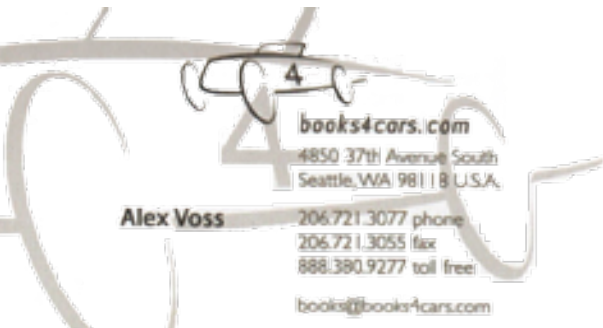


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(See Story on Page 25)



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Mike O'Brien - O'Brien Auto Group

John Biddle - Brooks Biddle

Kevin Iden - Iden's Dealer Services

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Jennif Biggs - Biggs Rovers

Colin Banks - Terry Bowen

Kim DiBenedetto - Jeri Drager

Debra Macy - Mike Morris

Bruce Saken - Elena Usrey

Auto News Foundation Introduces "TAP"

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/Founder

For TWO years we have been developing our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for students attending Automotive Tech Schools. Our goal was three fold.

1- To develop a workable program delivering more potential employee's for auto dealers and OEM's across the U.S.

2- Using Global Auto News to highlight each students path to graduation over a two year period.

3- Passing on 70 % of the funds raised by the Auto News Foundation a 501 (3) (c) NON-PROFIT for TAP scholarships starting in 2026. RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

• Shoreline Community College - Seattle, WA

• Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA (see page 18)

• Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, CA

• University of Washington (Business School) Seattle, WA

Auto News Editor Sally Hanson Has Foundation Experience

When the Auto News 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, Washington—a 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 transcripts. 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 two-year 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 stint at a lube shop before becoming a mechanic at a service station in Richland.

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 Auto News 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 Auto News Foundation, please visit our website: auto-newsfoundation.org.

Foundation QR Code



Foundation QR Code



"Finding Tomorrows Technicians Today for Dealers"

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.



"Biggs Rover" Tier Up to \$1,000	"Collector" Tier Up to \$2,500	"Doug Ikegami" Tier Up to \$5,000	"Rita Case" Tier Up to \$10,000
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Foundation Commemorative Pin	Foundation Commemorative Pin	*Recognition Plaque & Honor Roll Scarf	Recognition Plaque & Honor Roll Scarf
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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.

Auto News Foundation

Auto News 501c(3) Non-Profit Foundation Presents "TAP"® Tuition Assistance Program® Awards At NW Legends Event



Sylvée Madson, a TAP recipient accepts Award from Alan Smith (photo Auto News)



Cade Farrington Phi Kappa Psi Member and Univ. of Wash Graduate accepts TAP Award (photo Auto News)

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 Michigan 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
- 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. Illinois**
 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)





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Automotive Service Technology
Associates of Applied Arts and Sciences



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Mecum Monterey Auction Results

continued from page 21

Top auction sales at Mecum Monterey 2025 were highlighted by a wide swath of million-dollar machines, led by a meticulously restored 1969 Lamborghini Miura P400 S (Lot S93) wearing a shocking shade of Verde Miura/Pistachio and selling for \$1.98 million. A pair of Mercedes-Benz 300SL models followed with a '57 Gullwing (Lot S95) bringing \$1.65 million and a '59 Roadster (Lot S72) selling for \$1.485 million.

From the domestic market, an absolutely stunning 1932 Duesenberg Model J Sweep Panel Dual Cowl Phaeton (Lot S47) with coachwork in the style of LaGrande demanded a final price of \$1.32 million, while a 1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona NASCAR (Lot S120) driven by NASCAR Hall of Fame Driver Bobby Allison matched that amount with its own \$1.32 million sale.

From the motorcycle realm, a 1910 Harley-Davidson 6-A Single (Lot S28) led sales with a final price of \$115,500, and a new world record was set for a Kawasaki-brand bike with the sale of a 1974 Kawasaki Z1A900 (Lot T70) that demanded \$82,500.

If there was any uncertainty about the strength of the collector car market before this past weekend, Mecum's Monterey 2025 auction surely set the record straight with high demand leading to substantial sales, even in the midst of a highly competitive environment hosting many of the best cars to be found anywhere in the world.

The top collector car sales at the Monterey 2025 auction included*:

1. **1969 Lamborghini Miura P400 S** (Lot S93) at \$1,980,000
2. **1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing** (Lot S95) at \$1,650,000
3. **1959 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadster** (Lot S72) at \$1,485,000
4. **1932 Duesenberg Model J Sweep Panel Dual Cowl Phaeton** (Lot S47) at \$1,320,000
5. **1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona NASCAR** (Lot S120) at \$1,320,000
6. **1973 Porsche 911 Carrera RS 2.7 Lightweight** (Lot S91) at \$1,045,000
7. **2006 Ford GT Heritage Edition** (Lot S90.1) at \$891,000
8. **2025 Ferrari SF90 Spider** (Lot S79) at \$715,000
9. **2021 Mercedes-Benz AMG GT Black Series P One Edition** (Lot S95) at \$682,000
10. **2024 Porsche 911 S/T** (Lot S90) at \$676,500

*The 1971 Ferrari 365 GTS/4 Daytona Spider (Lot S99), 1951 Ferrari 212 Export Touring Barchetta (Lot S97) and the 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB/4 (Lot S101) sold off the auction block within Mecum's Bid Goes On department for undisclosed amounts.



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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 collectors.



Auto News
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Presented Awards at
Monterey "Car Week"
August 2025



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

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Bob Bondurant*
Sandra Button
Rita & Rick Case*
Corky Coker
Frank Corrente
Tom duPont
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Second Generation RIVIAN R1S & R1T "Test Drive Review"

by Harold Allen

continued from page 4

The R1T truck starts at \$75,900 and tops out at around 105,900. I felt the truck had lots of features like the storage bin that would hold a golf bag was genius. The color pallet for the Rivian is bland but there is a color option called canyon red, and it looks great on both vehicles that costs an extra \$2,500. Standard AWD makes it great for areas with

weather issues. They offer a battery charging option and it's well worth it. There are so many combinations to choose from, it's almost mind-boggling and too many to list. Down the road, there will be an R3, a smaller version, and more palatable pricing for most customers with availability in 2026. Harold Allen -MPG Member and TAWA Member



Rivian R1T (photo Harold Allen)

Battle of Ponies: EcoBoost Mustang vs. Mustang GT 5.0

by Keith Turner

If Ford Mustangs were siblings, the 2025 EcoBoost and the 2024 GT 5.0 would be the classic “brain vs. brawn” rivalry. Both are flashy, loud (in their own ways), and both definitely want you to notice them. But which one is the better pick when you’re standing at the dealership, keys jingling in your hand like you’re about to take home a tiger?

Let’s start with the 2025 Ford Mustang EcoBoost. Under the hood, you’ve got a 2.3L turbocharged four-cylinder — a downsized powerhouse that’s all about efficiency and fun. It punches out around 315 horsepower, which isn’t bad at all for something that could technically be called “eco-friendly” without anyone laughing too hard. Plus, it’s lighter up front, so it handles with a little more grace. More like a gymnast than linebacker.

The EcoBoost is the smart kid

who shows up to the party with a clever joke and an energy drink instead of a 12-pack. It’s a Mustang for people who appreciate a good twisty road and aren’t trying to wake up the neighbors every time they leave for work. Also, with rising gas prices, it doesn’t hurt that it can sip fuel instead of guzzling it like a pirate drinking rum.

Then there’s the 2024 Ford Mustang GT 5.0—the loud, rowdy big brother who still thinks pro wrestling is real. This beast comes with a naturally aspirated 5.0L V8 that belts out 480 horsepower (or more, depending on the trim). Revving this engine isn’t just a sound — it’s an event. Small children cover their ears. Grown adults look around in envy. Car alarms down the street may spontaneously go off.

The GT is all about raw power, tire smoke, and “because I can” energy. It’s heavier than the EcoBoost, sure, but who cares when you’re blasting from 0 to 60 in under 4 seconds and grinning like a fool? Handling is still solid—especially with the optional Performance Pack — but make no mistake: this car

is built for straight-line speed and showing off at stoplights.

Inside, both Mustangs share the new digital cockpit that looks like Ford borrowed a fighter jet’s dashboard. Big screens, better materials and seats that hug you tighter than your grandma at Christmas.

So which one should you buy? If you want a Mustang that’s a little more “I went to college”, the EcoBoost is a seriously excellent choice. It’s quick, nimble, and it won’t destroy your wallet at the gas station.

But if you think the best soundtrack ever made is a 5.0 V8 at full roar, and you don’t mind paying extra for fuel (and maybe tires), then the GT 5.0 is the clear winner.

Either way, you’re getting a Mustang and that means one thing: you’re automatically cooler than you were before you bought that powerful pony.

Keith Turner is an auto journalist based in Northern California. You can check out his automotive video reviews at Carguy Drives on YouTube.



Ford Mustang EcoBoost vs. Mustang GT 5.0 (photo Keith Turner)





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