



# AUTO NEWS

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## Toyota Tacoma TRD PRO Double Cab Performs Well On Road-Trip From Seattle To Sun Valley and Back



Toyota Tacoma TRD PRO in Sun Valley, Idaho on Road Trip (photo Auto News)

by Bill McCallum

In the past, the ride for my annual road-trip from Seattle to Sun Valley and back was a SUV. This year my "test drive" vehicle was a brand new Toyota Tacoma TRD PRO 4x4 Double Cab. First and foremost the "top four" take aways from the "test drive" were the Tacoma's power, ease of han-

dling, visibility, and technology upgrades. The i-Force MAX 2.4 liter Turbocharged Hybrid Powertrain combined with an ease of handling helped me navigate "The Blue Mountain Pass" in Oregon and the winding highway from Mt. Home to Sun Valley, Idaho. The Toyota Tacoma's driver visibility was the best of any "test drive"

vehicle I have driven in 2024. Technology upgrades including Toyota's Safety Sense 3.0 w/Pre-Collision and Apple CarPlay & Android Auto Compatibility are the best.

If your in the market for a truck I would suggest adding a "Test Drive" of the Toyota Tacoma to your list.

**AUTO NEWS**

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## Auto News Non-Profit Foundation (501c3) To Sponsor Private Fund Raising Event For Northwest Legends of Auto

by Bill McCallum

Our 2nd annual NW Legends of Auto Event sponsored by the Auto News 501 (c) (3) Non Profit Foundation will be held on Saturday Night March 22nd from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm in Tacoma, Washington. The private party will benefit the Auto News Foundation and the \$500 ticket price (per couple) is tax deductible and will help support the Auto News Foundation Scholarship Fund with a goal of "Finding Tomorrows Technicians Today for Dealers." (See NW Legends photo from our first event) The program will include FREE parking, a tour of Griot's

Garage Retail Store and Car Collection and then an evening of fun across the street at Scale Racing Center where we will honor NW Legends and present Scholarships to students from NW tech schools. Our special guest Steve Saleen, International Race Driver, and automotive legend will host a slot car competition for Legends, Scholarships Winners, and Kids. Hors d' oeuvres and Beverages hosted by Scale Racing Center.

TICKETS LIMITED - Questions: bill@autonewsonline.com - Please mail checks to: AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION - P.O. Box 3327 - Bellevue, WA. 98009

(Photo from previous NW Legends - BELOW)



Legends of Auto Award Winners (Left to Right) Jose Enciso, XXX Drive-In; Mitch Silver, Silver Auctions; Bob Campbell, KarMart Auto Group; Tony Rehn, Evergreen Auto Group; Lance Lambert, Vintage Vehicles; John Biddle, Brooks Biddle; Kevin Iden, Iden Dealer Services; Jim Roes, O'Brien Auto Group; Jerry Hudson, Auto Trim Design; David Madeira, LeMay Museum (photo Auto News)

## 2025 Subaru WRX tS "Test Drive" Creates A Trip Down Memory Lane for Auto News Writer (Story on page 18)



Chris Chung Auto News Digital Editor with 2025 Subaru WRX at Michael's Bellevue Subaru (photo Auto News) (Story on page 18)

**SEE 12 SHOWCASE TEST DRIVE REVIEWS ON PAGES 14 & 15**

### When Is To Much Technology Enough?



Bill McCallum  
publisher

Many decades ago Microsoft CEO at the time, Bill Gates said "... eventually all vehicles will be nothing more than a computer on wheels." There is no question in my mind that Bill was right, but I ask you ..... is this evolution of technology in vehicles the best outcome for the auto industry and vehicle owners. I SAY ABSOLUTELY NOT and here is why:

1- Technology additions have driven the cost of a new vehicles to an all time high.  
Some consumer surveys indicate that average cost of a new vehicle today to be over 45K thus forcing potential new car buyers to keep their cars longer and escalating repair costs.  
2- Distracted driving accidents are at an all time high with cell phone use, entertainment apps, texting, and other technology features such as checking your blood pressure, heart rate, turning on home appliances, and checking on a court date for your divorce because your partner hates technology in your vehicle.  
3- An increase in vehicle insurance fees across the United States because of technology related to EV's. As an example, if you own an EV that is damaged in an accident and the "fender-bender" would normally cost a few thousand dollars, reports indicate that some insurance companies are "totaling the replacement cost of the entire vehicle" because of hundreds of computer chips and passing that expense on to ALL POLICY HOLDERS. To be continued.

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



Chris Chung  
Digital editor

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

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

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

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### Sally "Tests" A Hyundai Sante Fe Then Buys One



Sally Hanson  
editor

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

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

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

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### Nissan Armada PRO 4X "Test Drive"



Dave Kunz  
LA feature writer

Nissan made lots of news in late 2024, primarily about the planned merger with Honda. But on the product side, the company was busy launching a trio of all-new SUV models for 2025. First, the subcompact Kicks, then the compact Murano, and lastly the big three-row Armada.

The body-on-frame Armada has now been around since well before the iPhone, first arriving in 2003 as the "Pathfinder Armada," playing off an established nameplate. Nissan was really spreading its wings, entering the segment to compete with other large, V8-powered family rides. It gave loyal Nissan buyers something to trade up to when the family grew.

Now all these years later, the full-size SUV segment is still very hot, and quite profitable. People who need space, towing capacity, or perhaps four-wheel drive capability are plunking down good money to have something traditional, while also wearing the latest technology.

And a vehicle with a bold presence, of course. The new Armada delivers, wearing fresh sheet metal front to back. Other drivers or onlookers are greeted by a stout-looking upright nose, suggesting strength and power. Inside, the spaciousness the segment is famous for, including a third-row seat that can actually hold adults.

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### Kia Carnival Hybrid wins high praise from grandsons



Keith Turner  
SF feature writer

Sometimes, the best review is the reaction that you get from others in your family. In my case, it was my grandsons (ages 11 and 8) who said it best: "This is our favorite car!"

The car they were referring to is the 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige, the latest iteration of Kia's not-so-mini stylish and versatile multi-purpose vehicle. The three-row Carnival has always been a family favorite, but with hybrid technology now in the mix, the Carnival is more fuel efficient than ever, sure to provide significant savings at the gas pump.

Defying the humdrum minivan image, the Carnival Hybrid features a bold, SUV-like design that draws attention everywhere it goes. From its sharp LED lighting to the bold fish-scale-like grille, the Carnival exudes a premium look that feels at home in upscale driveways. The SX Prestige trim elevates the exterior with stylish 19-inch alloy wheels and gloss-black accents, adding a touch of sophistication. My grandsons quickly dubbed it "the cool car" upon seeing it parked in the driveway.

But it was the luxury interior that thrilled the boys the most. The cabin is a beautiful blend of comfort and technology, featuring plush leather upholstery, heated and ventilated seats (in the second row too!), and two sunroof panels

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### Innovative Wind & Solar Tower Debuts at Auto Show



Jim Trainor  
feature writer

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

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

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

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

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### An Ode to My 2015 Toyota Corolla



Vicky Tran  
writer

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

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

#### "Vicky Tran! Welcome to Team Auto News" Bill

( See photo on page 10 )

### 2025 RAM ProMaster EV



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

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### Hyundai Introduces 25K Inster EV



Jordan Williams  
millennial writer

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

Crain's Automotive News recently published a June 26th, 2024 article by Hans Greimel introducing Hyundai's new \$25,000 EV, named Inster—an exciting read.

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

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

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

But the \$25,000 sticker price expects Inster to be in high demand, for that reason and that reason alone.

### 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

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**We Are Floating On The Stuff**



Larry Weitzman  
EV specialist

**“Cinquecento Returns Electrically”**



Arv Voss  
feature writer

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



Harold Allen  
Texas feature writer

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



Lynn Rehn  
writer

**2025 Honda Ridgeline AWD Trail Sport**



Scot McCallum  
feature writer

About a week ago I received a thoughtful email from a reader, Richard, who was worried about the world running out of energy, mainly petroleum. Richard remarked of traveling all over the U.S. by car and airplane and with all the tens of thousands of airline (and military) flights daily using tanker trucks loads of fuel, how long can we sustain this usage. And Richard is correct as even a late model Boeing 737 carries about 7,000 gallons, more than a single tanker truck.

All major airports have a fuel farm containing millions of gallons of fuel in mostly above ground tanks that is distributed throughout the airport via an underground system and trucks. Jet fuel use amounts to about 66 million gallons a day or about 8 percent of our daily consumption of petroleum products.

Automobiles consume nearly 43 percent of our petroleum production, or about 370 million gallons a day.

Diesel Trucks (along with some

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**THE BACK STORY:**

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

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

**OVERVIEW:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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I am happy to be selling new Chevrolets in my 5th decade. In the forty plus years that I have been doing this, I am happy to say that this generation Corvette (C8) is the most awe inspiring one so far. Having sold the C4, C5, C6 and the C7 as new vehicles, I think that I have a pretty good idea of what each can offer. I have attended all the ride and drive training classes associated with each of those Corvette models. I think that this current platform is by far the most fun to drive while offering the most advanced technology available.



# EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies



AUTO NEWS

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## Climate Change and Global Warming are Global Problems and Require Global Solutions

by Bill McCallum

Is the climate changing around the world? Yes !!

Of course it is !! Is this global event something new? No !!

History tells us deserts around the world used to be green and loaded with vegetation and other areas around the world are turning into deserts because of lack of water caused by climate change. And yes the polar ice caps have been moving up and down for centuries because of climate change.

The question of the day ... is the overall temperature around the world warming? The answer is yes. The question is why .... and what can we do about it !! The idea that we can solve the problem by “electrifying the U.S.” is a “pipe-dream” created by idiots and it’s time we come to our senses.

The fact is ... India, China and other Asian countries contribute over 35% to 40% of the global

pollution and they have not indicated any willingness to change. While we are helping to fund climate programs in other third world countries the United States percentage of global warming cause and affect is closer to 30%. While EV’s and other forms of transportation will always be part of the answer they will NEVER be all of the answer.

It’s time we reach out to the uninformed climate change promoters with some facts and new ideas like 1- Eliminate U.S. dependency on plastics 2- Explore new fuel sources such as hydrogen. 3- Stop buying products from Global Polluters such as China 4- Stop giving our tax dollars to third world countries when in fact they are not part of the real problem. 5- Reopen and build more nuclear power plants. 6- connect U.S. grids ASAP.

Have a nice day !! ..... and thank you for reading GlobalAutoNews.

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

by Jim Trainor, Auto News Feature Writer

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

**Can operate independent of grid**

“The Wind & Solar Tower is more than merely an EV-charging device simply linked to today’s electric charging grid; it goes beyond because unlike all

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

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

**Renewables are key to survival**

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



## AutoNewsOnline.com Voted Number 1 in a Recent Survey!



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

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

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

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

## AUTO NEWS® BYTES

### “Words Matter.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Remember “words matter” and don’t stop reading.

**SEE: [Aiwordsmatter.com](http://Aiwordsmatter.com)**

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## 2025 RAM ProMaster EV "Test Drive Report"

continued from page 3

kilometers 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 super-high-roof. Other new driver features include an available heated steering wheel and heated windshield. New avail-

able 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

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2025 ProMaster EV delivery van. Photos are all factory.

## Kia Carnival Hybrid Wins High Praise from Grandsons by Keith Turner



Kia Carnival Hybrid (photo Keith Turner)

continued from page 2

that floods the space with natural light. The twin 12.3-inch displays for the driver and infotainment system are seamlessly integrated, providing easy access to navigation, entertainment and hybrid system monitoring.

### The Kia Carnival "Cargo Space is Generous"

The second-row VIP lounge seats with leg rests are a game-

changer, offering a level of comfort typically reserved for luxury sedans. My grandsons wasted no time declaring them "the best seats ever!" thoroughly enjoying the reclining function and bun warmers during our weekly trip to school and back. The rear entertainment system, with individual screens and wireless connectivity, kept them entertained, ensuring peace and quiet up front for grandpa.

The Carnival Hybrid pairs a 1.6-liter 4-cylinder turbocharged engine with an electric motor, delivering a combined 242 horsepower. The hybrid system offers smooth acceleration, responsive

handling, and an impressively quiet ride, even at highway speeds. What stands out most is its fuel efficiency - boasting an EPA-estimated 33 mpg combined, the Carnival Hybrid drastically reduces trips to the pump compared to its gas-only counterpart.

On the road, the Carnival feels nimble for its size, easily maneuvering through tight city streets and cruising effortlessly on the highway. The Heads Up Display is very informative and the high-definition digital rearview mirror is a stunning way to keep an easy eye on the traffic behind you. There's even a crystal-clear passenger camera monitor that allows me to keep an eye on the boys as they reclined in their comfy captains' chairs.

Cargo space is generous, with 40.2 cubic feet behind the third row and up to 145.1 cubic feet with the second-row seats removed, and

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## Slot Car Racing in Europe vs. the United States

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plate, and their track made of rubber so expensive to ship to America.

Several toy companies here in the USA sent sample to Hong Kong to be analyzed. They produced a cheaper version with plastic track and cars and Slot Car Racing started to boom in the USA.

So much so that car Manufacturers commissioned Slot Car Sets to be given out to new buyers of cars so their children could play at car racing. This endorsed branding too where children as they grew became owners of real cars from the brands they played with in their childhood.

Americas fascination with Slot Car Racing saw an explosion in sales and from that a new Industry grew, and that was Commercial 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

continued on page 10

**Soul, electrified.**

The soul has many aspects. It is variable and constantly changing. When viewing the Porsche Taycan, it reveals itself by a smile that expresses total delight. The Taycan is uncompromising and perfect for the everyday. Striking proportions, timeless and instantly recognizable design. With a spacious interior and two luggage compartments, providing comfort and convenience for long journeys.

Experience true electrified performance.  
The Taycan Turbo S.



PORSCHE

# The Balancing Act in the Transition to EV's "...We Are Floating On The Stuff (Oil)!"

"by Larry Weitzman"

continued from page 4

allocation for heating oil and power plants) burn up about 20 percent of our petroleum production or about 166 million gallons every day.

Next on the list is hydrocarbon gas liquids (propane, butane, etc.) which account for another 18 percent of our consumption. The rest (about 19 percent) is spread out for industrial and other small uses, including aviation gas used in light planes (0.012 percent) which amounts to less than a million gallons a day, a literal drop in the bucket of petroleum use. The United States uses about 20 percent of the world's oil daily at about 20 million barrels a day. China for example consumes 15 percent of the World's daily oil consumption which totals about 98 million barrels a day, worldwide. At 42 gallons a barrel, you can convert all these numbers to gallons. The U.S. uses 840,000,000 gallons a day. Seems like a considerable number, but total world consumption is about 4,000,000,000 gallons a day. And we have been doing this for decades, over a trillion gallon a year. Where does it all come from and when does it all run out? The short answer is not for several hundred of years.

First let us talk about proven reserves which are listed at about 1.7 trillion barrels or almost a 50-year supply at current rates of consumption which have remained at near current levels for the last 15 years. Experts, geologists, and oil engineers believe it could be more than 5 times that amount. We are floating on the stuff, and we are not running out for centuries.

First, there is now credible evidence that oil is not just from dinosaurs and rotten plants. Both the late Cornell professor Thomas Gold, an astrophysicist and the Russians have a different theory of oil as Cornell described it in his book "The Deep, Hot Biosphere,

the Myth of Fossil Fuels. Oil comes essentially from bacteria and gases from within the Earth.

Second, we should understand how little oil we have used since about 1950, a total of about 1.5 trillion barrels. Before 1950, the world was consuming about 10 percent of what we use today. In the scheme of things, very little.

Let me draw you a picture of how little oil we have used. Most, if not all, of my readers have seen Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe is a mere speck in relation to the Earth covering almost exactly just one/one millionth of the surface of the Earth (196 million square miles). Its average depth is almost exactly 1,000 feet. If Lake Tahoe were filled to the rim with oil (not Brim) it would hold one trillion barrels of oil. That is an amount that's about 2/3 of the entire proven oil reserves, just in the speck known as Lake Tahoe.

Alaska has oil producing areas amounting to tens of thousands square miles going as much as 20,000 feet deep. The Bakken oil producing area around North Dakota encompasses over 200,000 square miles. The Permian Basin located around Texas and New Mexico has about 100,000 square miles, and I haven't even mentioned Pennsylvania, Saudi Arabia and the middle east, Lake Maracaibo, and Russia.

We are not running out of energy, not even scratching the surface. But with the advent of the pebble bed modular nuclear reactor which I discussed in this column 15 or so years ago, nearly all stationary power should be nuclear, and petroleum should be used only for transportation because of its amazing energy density. That would even further extend the life of petroleum stocks out another century or two. The only risk to the scarcity of petroleum is government regulation by do-gooders and climate wackos.

# Fiat 500e "Test Drive Report" by Arv Voss

continued from page 4

## ELECTRIC POWER PLANT:

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

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

## UPDATED ITALIAN STYLING:

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

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

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

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

## PERFORMANCE:

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

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

Available options include: adaptive cruise control and a lane-centering feature.

## AS TESTED:

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

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

continued from page 6

van buyers. The ProMaster EV includes best-in-class features, such as 524 cubic feet of cargo space, standard best-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 centering 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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## Bring A Trailer and Pennzoil Partner to Deliver Enhanced Content, Incentives and Exclusive Experiences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bring a Trailer (BaT) is a digital auction platform and enthusiast community founded in 2007 to connect buyers and sellers of

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

### About Pennzoil

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

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

For more information about the full line of Pennzoil lubricating products, motor oils and filters, please visit [www.pennzoil.com](http://www.pennzoil.com).

## "Proud To Wear The Shirt" for the Cam Clark Brand!

by Lynn Rehn

**continued from page 4**

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

### The Heart of Cam Clark Dealerships: A Culture of Service

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

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

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

### A Ripple Effect: Expanding Kindness Across Borders

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

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

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

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

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

**continued on page 9**

## INSIDE VIETNAM AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

### Attention turns to AMR as the 2025 edition attracts global leaders offering solutions to stimulate innovative advancements in the aftermarket

#### Auto Maintenance and Repair Expo Capital International Exhibition Center of China, Beijing, 31 March – 2 April 2025

As the world embraces green development, the automotive aftermarket is undergoing a dynamic transformation driven by new energy, AI and digital expansion. In this regard, traditional service providers are not just adapting; they are actively seeking to optimise services, enhance efficiency, and achieve sustainability. To meet these evolving market needs, the 73rd edition of the Auto Maintenance and Repair Expo (AMR) is set to host over 1,200 exhibitors showcasing these achievements across maintenance and repair, parts and components, accessories and customising, aftersales services, and smart transportation. The fair will be held at the Capital International Exhibition Center of China (CIECC) in Beijing from 31 March to 2 April 2025, covering 80,000 sqm across four halls.

With decades of experience serving the aftermarket, AMR has established itself as a leading exhibition, consistently drawing globally-recognised players at the forefront of industry development. In 2025, the show will build upon this strong foundation in traditional maintenance and parts to unite top-tier brands across various sectors, showcasing technological evolution in new energy and digital technologies. By highlighting these cutting-edge advancements, AMR plays a pivotal role in driving industrial innovations and technological transformation, all while promoting sustainable development within the aftermarket.

#### Industry leaders and returning exhibitors feature technological innovations

Reflecting the trend of digitalisation, this year's AMR reveals recent technological innovations in maintenance and repair, with industry leaders prioritising the intelligence, efficiency and precision of their products, services and equipment. The breakthroughs on display will aim to improve operational effectiveness and reduce maintenance costs, while offering users more convenient and safer services.

These new showcases progress performance, accuracy, and reliability across various product categories. For instance, in the diagnostics and repair area, Anche will showcase cutting-edge technologies in comprehensive testing for new energy vehicles, including charging and safety inspections, battery swapping, safety testing, and high-voltage ripple testing. Regarding tyres and wheels, Corghi, a brand under Nexion, will introduce the new wheel aligner EXACT Precision Quattro, which uses high-resolution digital cameras for rapid calibration with radar sensors. Furthermore, SATA, in the field of body and paint, will present its latest jet X paint spray gun, that features a labyrinth airflow system delivering a homogeneous spray pattern.

Elsewhere, the likes of Beijing Zhongyu, Coseng, Fly-Eagle, Gaochang, Guoquan, Jian, Kingfirm, Lawrence, MeanChina, Sandwox, TRC, Vulcan, and Xuyang will return to the show with their latest solutions. Notably, PASEF will launch its four-wheel aligner for chassis testing, capable of completing chassis data tests without the need for lifting. On the other hand, prominent first-time exhibitors including Cixi, Haobang, and Jiale will inject vitality into the show through the introduction of innovative achievements and application potential in the car wash and customising markets.

## Auto News Introduces All-New QR Code





# International Auto News



See Drager Photos on page 17 and 19

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

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

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

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

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

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

See page 23 for: Books 4 Cars information.

## Proud To Wear The Shirt for the Cam Clark Brand . . . . .!

continued from page 8

### The Impact on the Cam Clark Brand

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

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

### Conclusion

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

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



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## Around the Track – Racing News



### Full Throttle Triumphs: Recapping the 35<sup>th</sup> NHRA Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways by Chris Chung

The 35th NHRA Northwest Nationals at Pacific Raceways was nothing short of spectacular, delivering a weekend filled with roaring engines and thrilling finishes that captured the essence of drag racing.

Austin Prock, already a standout in the Funny Car category, continued his dominant season by clinching yet another victory. This time, Prock outpaced Paul Lee in a gripping final, showcasing his relentless drive and precision, which have become his hallmark at John Force Racing.

With four wins under his belt this season, Prock's trajectory in the sport is clearly pointing skyward. In the Top Fuel class, Steve Torrence added another trophy to his collection, further cementing his status as one of the sport's top competitors. Torrence's performance in Seattle was a master class in power and consistency, traits that have become synonymous with his racing style.

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

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

his rising prominence in the sport and his potential for future successes.

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

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

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

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

### Fiat 500e "Test Drive" by Arv Voss

continued from page 7

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

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

**SPECIFICATIONS: Fiat 500e**  
 Vehicle Type: Compact Four passenger 2-door hatchback  
 Base Price: \$32,500  
 As Tested Price: \$34,095  
 Motor Size and Type: Permanent magnet synchronous AC – 37.0 kWh electric motor with liquid-cooled lithium battery pack and 11.0 kW onboard charger.  
 Horsepower (bhp): 117  
 Torque(lb.-ft.) 162  
 Transmission: Direct drive.  
 Brakes: Power-assisted front wheel vented discs / rear drums  
 Tires: Pirelli Cinturato P7 205/45 R17 all-season elec mounted on 24 alternating length spoke cast alloy wheels.  
 Wheelbase: 91.4 inches  
 Overall Length: 143.0 inches  
 Width: 66.3 inches  
 Height: 60.1 inches  
 Curb Weight: 2,981 pounds



Fiat 500e (photo Arv Voss)

### Slot Car Racing in Europe Compared to the United States

continued from page 6

to less detail butyrate bodies and finally Lexan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hopefully we will see you at the Races!!

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

continued from page 4

lots of rain it will do fine.

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

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

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



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

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## From Around the U.S.



### NWAPA Announces Drive Revolution 2024 Awards

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

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

The 2025 IONIQ 5 N AWD is the performance version of Hyundai’s acclaimed compact EV. The N AWD version offers an impressive 601 horsepower, sits lower with a wider and longer stance, and offers unique simulated shifting and gas-

engine sounds.

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

#### Best Performance Winners

Best Electrified Vehicle: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2025 McLaren Artura Spider

continued on page 14

### Rick Case Automotive Group’s Dealerships in South Florida Make History

*Rick Case was the largest volume new car Honda and Volkswagen dealerships in the country*

Rick Case Automotive Group celebrated 2024 with historic sales milestones as the nation’s sales

leader in multiple volume automotive brands in 2024.

Now in its 63rd year, Rick Case Automotive Group made history in 2024 as the first dealer to have two major volume brands ranked number one in the nation in new car volume sales in the same year. Rick Case Honda and Rick Case Volkswagen accomplished just that.

continued on page 13



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



(Left to Right) Adrienne Bono, General Manager, Rick Case Automotive Group and Rita Case, President and CEO, Rick Case Automotive Group (Courtesy of Rick Case Automotive Group)

### 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness: The Quintessential PNW Adventure Car by Chris Chung

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

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

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

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

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



2024 Subaru Crosstrek (photo Chris Chung)

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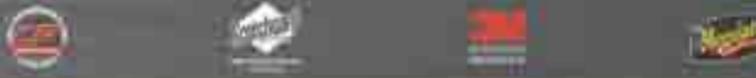




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## From Around the U.S.



### McCormick's Palm Springs Auction Results

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

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

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

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

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

Mark your calendars! Our next auction is set for February 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 2025. We look forward to welcoming car lovers from around the world to experience the thrill and excitement of Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions.

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



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

### Rick Case Automotive Group's Dealerships Make History

continued from page 12

**Rick Case Honda** in Davie, Florida ended the year as the most awarded and largest volume Honda dealer in the country, led by record new sales in December and an all-time yearly record in 2024.

**Rick Case Volkswagen** in Davie, Florida ended the year as America's largest volume Volkswagen dealer again in 2024, for the 7th year.

In addition, the South Florida **Rick Case Hyundai, Kia, Maserati** and **Alfa Romeo** dealerships ranked in the top 7 nationally.

In addition to outstanding sales volumes, Rick Case Automotive Group continued its extraordinary support of local communities in 2024 with initiatives benefiting Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, American Heart Association, Feeding South Florida, Broward Health, Holy Cross Health, Community Foundation of Broward, Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Huizenga Park and Soles-4Souls, among others.

In 2024, Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, which is also the nation's largest female owned and operated automotive dealer group in America, was named TIME Dealer of the Year, one of the automotive industry's most prestigious and highest honors for a dealer. Case is only the fifth woman in 55 years to be named TIME Dealer of the Year.

Case was also recognized with the National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers Lifetime Achievement Award for a lifetime of significant contributions to the automotive industry and to the spirit of diversity and inclusion.

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5. Global Auto news distributes OEM Programs and Editorial Messages

## NWAPA Announces Drive Revolution 2024 Awards

continued from page 12

### Best Electrified Vehicle Winners

Best Electrified Vehicle: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2024 Lucid Air Pure

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

### Best ICE Performance Vehicle

Winner Best ICE: 2024 Audi RS 6 Avant Performance

Runner Up: 2025 Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat Last Call AWD

### Best Battery Electric Vehicle

Winner Best BEV: 2025 Hyundai IONIQ 5 N AWD

Runner Up: 2024 Lucid Air Pure

### Best Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle

Winner Best PHEV: 2024 Lexus TX550h+ Luxury AWD

Runner Up: 2025 McLaren Artura Spider

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

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

## SHOWCASE REVIEWS

### Genesis GV80 Prestige



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

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

### Genesis G80 Sport Prestige



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

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

### Hyundai Kona LTD AWD



Hyundai has been reported to be the "style leader" in design and the KONA defends that title with added value and economy.

**BASE PRICE:** \$33,400 \*  
**TYPE:** 4-door SUV  
**ENGINE:** 1.6L Turbocharged i4  
**HORSEPOWER:** 190 hp  
**TRANS:** 8 speed CVT  
**MPG:** 29 highway

### Hyundai Tucson Hybrid LTD



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

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

### Toyota Crown Signia LTD



The Toyota Crown Signia has been a popular seller since it’s introduction, offering style, performance, economy in a 4 door SUV

**BASE PRICE:** \$47,990 \*  
**TYPE:** 4 door SUV  
**ENGINE:** 2.5 liter 4 cyl Hybrid  
**HORSEPOWER:** 240 hp combined  
**TRANS:** Electronic On Demand AWD  
**MPG:** 39 city

### Toyota Land Cruiser



The Land Cruiser is the "big-daddy" in the Toyota SUV line-up. The new model is smaller, less expensive, with better MPG.

**BASE PRICE:** \$55,950 \*  
**TYPE:** 4 door SUV  
**ENGINE:** 2.4 liter 4 Hybrid  
**HORSEPOWER:** 325 hp  
**TRANS:** 8 sp AT  
**MPG:** 23 mpg combined

\* All information listed "AS TESTED"

[autonewsonline.com/showcase-reviews](https://autonewsonline.com/showcase-reviews)

**SHOWCASE REVIEWS**

**Honda Accord Hybrid TRG**



Honda's all-time best selling Accord sedan, hybrid model continues gain market share as customers look for economy

**BASE PRICE:** \$39,300 \*  
**TYPE:** Sedan  
**ENGINE:** 2.0 Liter Direct Injection  
**HORSEPOWER:** 204 hp  
**TRANS:** 4-Mode Drive System  
**MPG:** 46 city

**Honda Civic Hatch Hybrid TRG**



The Honda buyers looking for a car with a "sporty flare", economy and value, pick the Civic "hatch/back"

**BASE PRICE:** \$32,950 \*  
**TYPE:** Hatchback  
**ENGINE:** 2.0 Liter Direct Injection  
**HORSEPOWER:** 204 hp  
**TRANS:** 4 Mode Drive System  
**MPG:** 50 city

**Mazda CX-50**



Mazda's Northwest Market share is very strong partly a result of the CX-30, CX-5, CX-50 and CX-70 4-door SUV line-up all packed with driver safety features.

**BASE PRICE:** \$43,400 \*  
**TYPE:** 4-door SUV  
**ENGINE:** SKYACTIV-G 2.5L  
**HORSEPOWER:** 227 hp  
**TRANS:** SKYACTIV-DRIVE 6 sp AT  
**MPG:** 29 highway

**Mazda CX-70 PHEV**



The Mazda CX-70 is the "top-of-the-lineup" in Mazda's 4-door SUV models packed with new technologies, safety, and a PHEV version as driven.

**BASE PRICE:** \$57,450 \*  
**TYPE:** 4-door SUV  
**ENGINE:** E-SKYACTIV PHEV  
**HORSEPOWER:** 323 hp  
**TRANS:** SKYACTIVE-DRIVE 8 sp  
**MPG:** 56e mpg

**Toyota Prius XLE**



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

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

**Toyota Tacoma TRD Off road**



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

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

**Kia Carnival Hybrid Wins High Praise from Grandsons**

by Keith Turner

continued from page 6

the third-row rear seats folded flat into the floor. However, the third-row legroom is a bit tighter than expected. While young children may not notice, taller teens or adults will find it uncomfortable for long trips. This minor shortcoming slightly diminishes its appeal as a full three-row family hauler.

The Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige passed the true test by winning the approval of my grandsons. They loved the spacious second row, the entertainment options, and the futuristic tech. Their only complaint? They didn't want the ride home from school to end.

The 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige is available in four trim levels: LXS, EX, SX and our tester, the SX Prestige. Base price for that model is \$52,600. When the options and destination fees were added, it totaled out to \$57,255.

For families like mine, it's a winner.

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

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

continued from page 2

Beyond its advanced tech, the Equinox EV delivered comfort and functionality. Inside, the spacious cabin offered plenty of room for both passengers and gear, while the class-leading infotainment system, featuring expansive screens and Google Voice Assistant, ensured I stayed connected and entertained. Whether I needed navigation or music, it was intuitive and easy to use on the go.

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

\* 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  
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 Michelle Christensen – Acura Design  
 Lisa Copeland – FCA Dealer  
 Sandra Button – Pebble Concours  
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Monika Kalenski – MEK Magnet  
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 Dana White – Chief Comm. Officer - Hyundai N. America  
 Rita Case – Rick Case Auto Group  
 Connie Peters – Automotive Writer

## Rick Case Mazda Expansion Adds New Jobs To Community

*Mazda dealership on Gwinnett Auto Row grows by 110% bringing new jobs*



(L to R) Bob Blair, Regional Manager Mazda Financial; Jason Cropper, VP of Sales Mazda Financial; President and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group Rita Case; Tim Manniang, Sr. Vice President Retail Operations; and Spencer Bridges, Regional General Manager. Photo courtesy of Rick Case Auto Group

Following an extensive eight-month expansion and renovation, Rick Case Mazda in Duluth celebrated the grand re-opening with a ribbon cutting attended by elected officials, community leaders and Mazda executives.

This is the first time in a long time that a dealership on Gwinnett Auto Row has expanded. Rick Case Mazda increased in size by 110%, expanding from 11,975 square feet to 22,320 square feet. The number of service stalls doubled, and all-new advanced technology was installed to service vehicles.

"Rick Case Mazda is investing in the Duluth community with this state-of-the-art dealership," said Rita Case, President and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group. "I am so excited for our loyal customers to see these beautiful upgrades and to earn the business of new customers who need a new vehicle or service to their existing vehicles."

One of the highlights of Rick Case Mazda is a Jewel Box, a two-story glass enclosed car display. One vehicle is ground level and the other is raised above it on a lift. The modernized design aligns with Mazda's new retail evolution image program. The showroom fits a total of seven vehicles.

The new-look dealership will create 15 new jobs for the Duluth community, increasing the dealership's employee size by 30%. Sales are expected to increase by 60%.

Joining Case in the celebration were Mazda executives; Duluth Mayor Greg Whitlock; Councilmembers Jamin Harkness, Marline Thomas, Lamar Doss, Manfred Graeder and Shene Johnson Holloway; and Director of Community Development Margie Shames Pozin, PE, CQA.

Rick Case Mazda is located on Gwinnett Auto Row at 2493 Pleasant Hill Rd. in Duluth.

## Nissan Armada PRO 4X "Test Drive"

continued from page 2

On the mechanical side, bye-bye V8, following the lead of competitors like Ford and Toyota. It's the era of the turbocharged V6, in this case displacing 3.5 liters and delivering 425 horsepower and 516 lb-ft of torque. Maximum towing capacity is 8,500 pounds, and the Armada tackles on-ramps and steep grades as if there were still eight cylinders firing away in front of you.

Inside, the ubiquitous wide display screen for the driver, spanning from straight ahead to over the center stack. Every little feature you'd need, and if luxury is a need, the Platinum Reserve grade nips at the heels of the sibling Infiniti QX80.

Ah, but there's a version of the new Armada that goes in another direction. The new PRO-4X is tailored to off-roading, with a lifted suspension, and all-terrain tires mounted on aggressive-looking wheels. And of course, visual cues like a grille that pays tribute to the iconic Nissan Pathfinder of the 1980s.

As you might expect, the new Armada is not an inexpensive ride, like its competitors. Base trim SV 2WD starts at \$58,530, and a 4WD Platinum Reserve will set you back \$82,000. My Armada PRO-4X test vehicle started at \$75,750, though a substantial list of options brought the grand total to \$80,445. (All prices include shipping.)



Nissan Armada PRO 4X (photo Dave Kunz)



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# Car Collections



## Automotive Families Featured During 2025 with....."Pictures From the Past"

### Mike O'Brien Auto Group

by Bill McCallum

Family owned new car dealers are the "back-bone" of the auto

industry and I will start this series with one of the most successful new car dealer groups in the Northwest, Mike O'Brien's Auto Group. With 12 new car franchises in Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Renton, Fife, and Portland, Oregon

(See ad on page 18). Mike O'Brien was mentored by the Chuck Haselwood family 4 decades ago. (Haselwood family Auto Group will be featured in our next issue) Mike's first dealership was Acura of Seattle at South Center and

then a few years later Lexus of Bellevue and with excellent management the rest is history.

Connor O'Brien, Mike's son, joined the team after graduating from college and has worked his way up the ladder from the service

department, managing Polestar of Bellevue, then following in his dad's "footsteps" as the manager of the Acura of Seattle and is now the manager of Lexus of Bellevue. Congratulations to the ENTIRE O'Brien family.



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



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



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



The McCallum family founded Palm Springs in the early 1900's with the purchase of 5,000 acres (photo by A.N.)



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



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# A "Test Drive" In A 2025 Subaru WRX tS By An Auto News Writer Creates "A Trip Down Memory Lane" by Chris Chung



Almost two decades ago, I stumbled across Ken Block's first Gymkhana video. Behind the wheel of a rally-prepped blob-eye WRX STi, Block turned tight city corners into his personal playground. It was loud, raw, and exhilarating. Watching it, I felt an immediate connection to that car. A street-legal rally machine with thinner windows and no stock radio for weight reduction? It was everything my 19-year-old self could dream of.

That dream became a reality when I poured my life savings into a 2004 WRX STi I found on eBay. It was a great deal—and for a while, I was living my rally-inspired fantasy. The

2.5L Boxer engine roared with confidence, and every drive felt like a mini adventure. But, like so many young WRX owners before me, I pushed the car too hard, and it didn't take long for me to blow everything under the hood. Turbo? Gone. Rod bearings? Toast. My beloved WRX turned into a 3,200-pound paperweight sitting sadly in my driveway until I finally parted ways with her.

Since then, I've longed for another chance to get behind the wheel of a WRX. Luckily, that moment finally came when I spent a week with the 2025 Subaru WRX tS. From the moment I pressed the igni-

tion button, I was thrown back in time. The 2.4L turbocharged Boxer engine growled to life, its muted rumble striking a nostalgic chord. While I wish it was as louder and as aggressive as my old STi, it still delivered a reminder of that rally DNA Subaru is so famous for.

*"...the spirit of the WRX is alive and well"*

Sliding into the Recaro seats, I was hit with a wave of familiarity. They offered the same snug

fit that made me feel locked into my 2004 STi, but with a more polished touch. On the road, the WRX tS retained the confidence and sharp handling I remembered, yet the driving experience was undeniably more refined. Subaru has taken what made the WRX a legend—its rally-bred soul—and infused it with a sense of maturity. It's faster, smoother, and more composed, but it hasn't lost its edge.

Driving the WRX tS was like reconnecting with an old friend who had grown up in all the best ways. It may not have the rawness of my 2004 STi, but the spirit of the WRX is alive and well, and I'm happy to report that

Subaru hasn't forgotten where it came from.

It's no wonder that despite not being the fastest in its segment the WRX still outsells others in its class. With 271 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque paired with Subaru's renown symmetrical AWD, this hot rod can literally take you anywhere. Whether you're going to the mountains or picking up your kid from day care the WRX delivers and at a price point of \$45,705 it's definitely a contender for aging yuppies who have responsibilities but still want to have fun on their daily commute.

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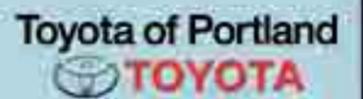
VW of Kirkland

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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Land Rover Tacoma



VOLVO OF TACOMA



From Around the U.S.



# Art Gould The "Car Guy's Car Guy".....!

by Dave Kunz

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

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

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

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

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

(see Photo on same page of Art Gould)

# "... 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](http://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.

## The Drager Automotive Museum in Mt. Vernon, WA is One of the BEST in the WEST

(See Museum Photos on Page 17)



(Left to Right) Andrew Drager, Jeri Drager, Jay Leno and Bill McCallum (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)

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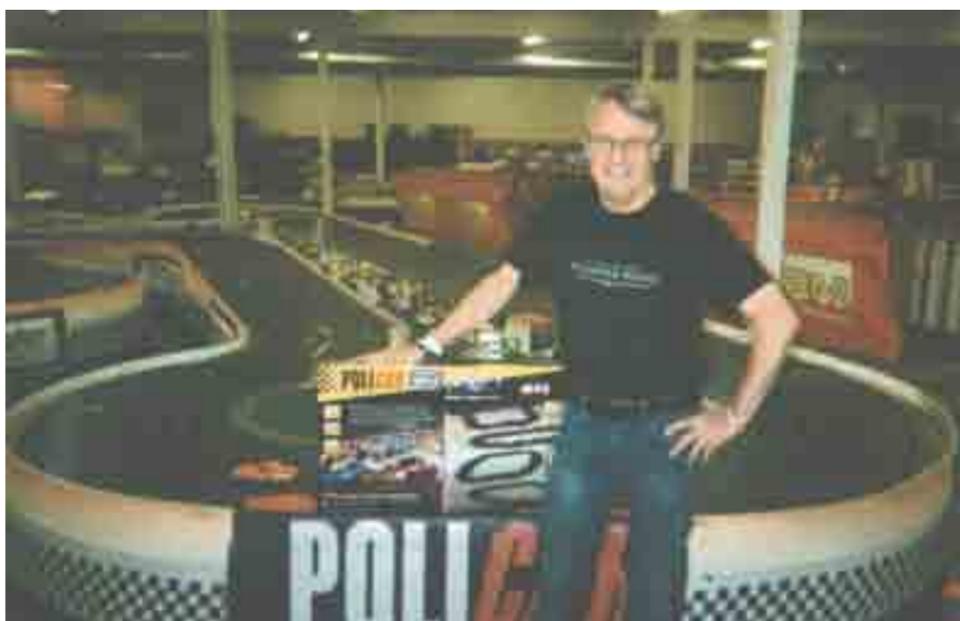
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Alan Smith, Scale Racing Center Owner, Demonstrates PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit at his Center in Tacoma



Chris Chung  
digital editor

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

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

vehicles across both on-road and off-road courses.

#### Dynamic Testing and Diverse Winners

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

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

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

#### Personal Highlights from Mudfest 2024

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

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

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

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

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

continued on page 21



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## Auto News Foundation Creates New Programs To Accelerate Growth

by Bill McCallum

As we move into our fifth decade of publishing an auto newspaper we are continuing to create new programs to promote our brand and our product. This last fall during the 2024 election season we created signage placed near select new car dealers promoting the online version of Auto News. (See photo on page 5) In the digital world, we are adding additional "e-mail fast blasts" on Mondays to support our display advertisers. Starting in 2025 we will be sending digital fast blasts to our followers on both Mondays and Thursdays, but we don't believe that sending "e-mail fast blasts" out on a daily basis is a good idea and may lead to potential readers deleting those programs.

We are continuing to increase our monthly readership with new writers and automotive subjects.

Thank you for your continued support.



Tires



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~2025~

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58<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition

**A Thrilling Test of  
the Latest Off-Road  
Vehicles** by Chris Chung

continued from page 20

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

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

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

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

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

**Looking Forward**

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

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

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

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

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

All the tires in the P Zero range but the novelties introduced recently can boast a lap record around the Ring in the last five years: P Zero Trofeo R on the Audi RS 3 and P Zero on the Audi RS Q8 performance in 2024; 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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Global Auto News Editor Sally Hanson Test Drives A Hyundai Santa Fe Calligraphy.... Then Decides To Buy A Hyundai Santa Fe While Establishing A Relationship With The Local Dealer

Rita Case Wins NAMAD Award Story on Page 1&16

continued from page 2 and park distance warnings appear on the instrument cluster. A surround and blind spot view monitor also help the driver avoid collision. Upon exiting the vehicle, a rear occupant alert reminds the driver to check the rear seating for passengers or belongings.

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

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

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

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

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

Hyundai promotes “America’s Best Warranty” with these limited warranties: a 5-year/60,000-mile new vehicle warranty, 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain and hybrid system components warranties, 3-year / 36,000-mile complimentary maintenance, and 7-year/unlimited-mile anti perforation warranty. A 5-year/

unlimited-mile roadside assistance is also included.

When I drove the new Hyundai Santa Fe, my husband and I liked it well enough to consider purchasing one to replace our compact SUV. Visiting the Speck Hyundai showroom in the Tri-Cities in the Columbia River Valley in Washington to check out their inventory was refreshing. We found a pleasant auto dealership that did not hard sell or hold us captive until we signed on the line — and they actually listened to what we were looking for. Our choice of interior and exterior colors as well as trim we selected were not on their lot,

so they searched to find exactly what we wanted. Buying a vehicle does not have to be a transaction that leaves you exhausted and feeling like you have just completed a wrestling match. Visit or give Speck Hyundai in Kennewick, Washington, a call and be sure to tell them Sally referred you!



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



Hyundai Santa Fe (photo Sally Hanson)

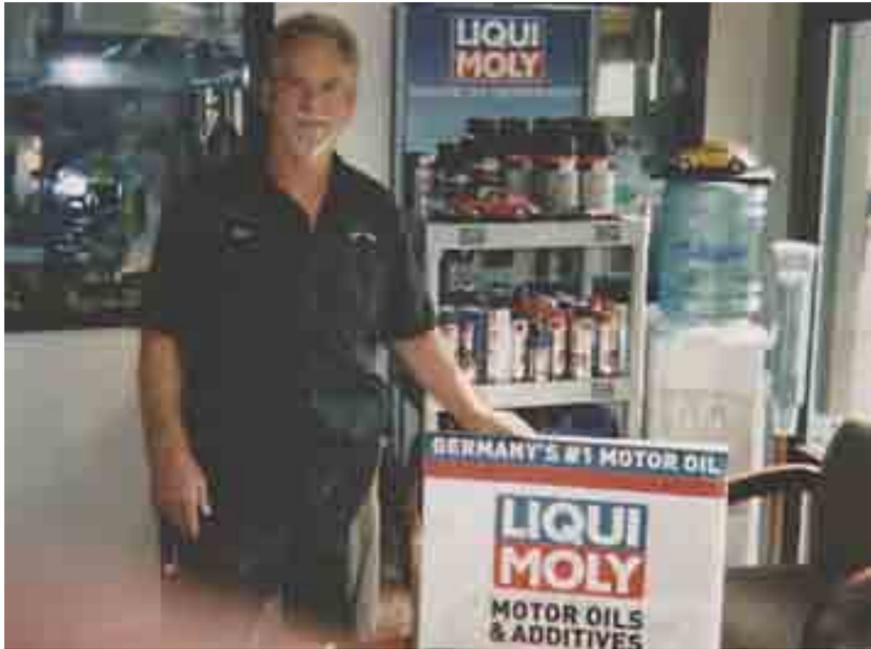
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**AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION**

*"Reaching Out To Community Colleges  
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To Enter The Automotive Industry"*

(See Story on Page 25)



# Auto News Foundation



## O'Brien Auto Group Supports "A.N. Foundation"



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

## Kevin Iden of Joins The Auto News Foundation Board of Directors



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

## John Strege Completes the Automotive Technology Program at Columbia Basin College (CBC), Tri Cities, in Washington State and Spends the Next 5 Decades in the Auto Industry

by Sally Hanson

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 transcriptions. What he did have going for him was the encouragement of his girlfriend, Terry, who inspired him to apply and enroll at CBC in the Automotive Technology classes. (John and Terry have now been married 53 years.)

After acceptance into the 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.

continued on page 25

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### "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.



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		*Special Acknowledgement at 2025 Legends of Auto Gala	*Special Acknowledgement at 2025 Legends of Auto Gala
		*Article about you or your Business on Auto News Website	Article about you or your Business on Auto News Website and *Print Publication
			*Supercar Driving Experience in Seattle

\*Denotes Added Benefits

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



### Twisp WA., a small town in North Central Washington, partners with local School District and Residents to create Automotive Tech School



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

### Building A Foundation by Sally Hanson

continued from page 24

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

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

The 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: [autonewsfoundation.org](http://autonewsfoundation.org).

### Top 4 States With Automotive Tech Programs

#### 1. Michigan

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

#### 3. Ohio

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

#### 4. 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)



### Inside Toyota's T-TEN Program: Shaping the Future of Automotive Technicians

by Christopher Chung

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# Auto News Foundation



Apartment Locations in Northwest and California (photo Auto News)



Distribution Newspaper Racks Locations in Pebble Beach, Carmel and Monterey (photo Auto News)

## Global Auto News Expands

- ★ Retail Location
- ★ 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. (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 Foundation to present Awards at Monterey "Car Week" August 2025



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

### Honored Members of Legends of Auto

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SEE - [www.LegendsofAuto.com](http://www.LegendsofAuto.com)

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



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

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



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

## Auto News Introduces Foundation QR Code



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

# 2025 Ford Explorer Platinum: Luxury Meets Capability in a Family SUV

by Bill McCallum

The 2025 Ford Explorer Platinum RWD builds on the Explorer's reputation as a versatile and capable family SUV while adding a refined, luxurious touch to its design and features. This Platinum trim, in Carbonized Gray Metallic with Mojave Dusk leather seats, combines elegance with utility, making it a standout option for buyers seeking comfort, technology, and practicality in a three-row SUV.

### Performance and Efficiency

Under the hood, the Explorer Platinum is powered by a 2.3L EcoBoost I-4 engine, paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission. While it may lack the punch of the V6 or hybrid options, the EcoBoost engine delivers a commendable balance of power and efficiency, offering 24 MPG combined (20 city / 29 highway). For families and commuters alike, this level of efficiency makes it a practical choice for long road

trips or daily errands.

The rear-wheel-drive setup provides nimble handling, with Ford's Terrain Management System enhancing the Explorer's capability across different road conditions. Features like hill start assist and trailer sway control (thanks to the standard Class III Trailer Tow Package) make towing small trailers or managing rugged terrains a breeze.

### Exterior Design

The Platinum trim elevates the Explorer's styling with satin-finished roof rails, adaptive LED headlights, and a unique satin grille that exudes sophistication. Practical touches like rain-sensing wipers and privacy glass on rear doors add convenience and functionality, while the power panoramic moonroof brings in plenty of natural light

for all three rows. The inclusion of 20-inch nickel-painted aluminum wheels enhances the SUV's upscale look.

### Interior Comfort and Features

Step inside, and the Platinum's luxurious cabin shines. The Mojave Dusk leather seats with heating and ventilation for the front row ensure year-round comfort, while the heated second-row seats keep passengers happy during colder months. The PowerFold third-row seat allows for quick and easy adjustments to maximize cargo space or accommodate extra passengers.

The Explorer Platinum is packed with technology, featuring a 12.3-inch digital gauge cluster and a large 13.2-inch touchscreen with Ford's SYNC 4 system. Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto come

standard, keeping you connected on the go, while the B&O 14-speaker sound system transforms every drive into a concert-like experience.

### Safety and Driver Assistance

Ford ensures peace of mind with the Co-Pilot360 Assist 2.0 suite, which includes features like adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and intersection assist. Additions such as the 360-degree camera and side-wind stabilization make driving safer and more comfortable, particularly for families.

### Pricing and Final Thoughts

With an MSRP of \$53,250, the 2025 Explorer Platinum RWD offers impressive value for a premium three-row SUV. It's ideal for families looking for a vehicle that blends practicality, luxury, and advanced technology.

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



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



2025 Ford Explorer Platinum (photo Auto News)

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