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AUTO NEWS

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The Toyota Tacoma Mid-Size Truck Is The All Time "Best Seller"



2026 Toyota Tacoma pictured at the "Tacoma Dome" in Tacoma, Washington (photo Auto News)

by Bill McCallum

According to a recent issue of CAR and DRIVER magazine the Toyota Tacoma mid-size truck is the sales leader in it's class. While Toyota is challenging GM for the total U.S. vehicle sales lead (WSJ - 8/22/26), both GM and FORD still have a commanding lead in overall truck sales.

So what's there to like about the 2026 Toyota Tacoma Mid-size truck.

Being born in Tacoma, Washington, I have often JOKED, that the only significant thing to happen to the City of Tacoma was Toyota naming their truck after the city where I was born.

The 2026 Toyota Tacoma is loaded with off-features and a favorite with that crowd. The 2026 Toyota Tacoma's base price of $33,740 makes it a great value for a truck. The Turbo 4 and hybrid version offer maximum power of 326 horsepower while producing EPA Combined 20-23 mpg. The "tech crowd" will like the high-resolution screens and "easy-to-use" buttons and knobs.

Years ago, I personally attended the NATIONAL PRESS LAUNCH in Tacoma, Washington and when I see the growing number of Toyota Tacoma's on the road today "..... say "Thank You Toyota, for giving my home town the worldwide publicity."

Bill McCallum presents Monterey Peninsula College Tech School Students with "TAP" Awards



Isabel Lopez (left) and Dan Brigantino receives TAP Schlorships in Monterey (photo Auto News)

The Hyundai Tucson PHEV Performs well for Global Auto News on recent trip to "Monterey Car Week" for "Legends of Auto 20 Year Reunion"



Texas Mega Ford Dealer Sam Pack receives "Legend of Auto "Dealer of the Decade" Awards in Monterey (see page 8) (photo Auto News)



Hyundai Tucson PHEV in Monterey (see story on page 14)

SEE 12 SHOWCASE TEST DRIVE REVIEWS ON PAGES 14 & 15

"20 Year Reunion of Legends of Auto" Monterey



Bill McCallum
publisher

On August 13, 2026 we celebrated the "20 Year Reunion of Legends of Auto" during Monterey "Car Week." This year we honored Sam Pack, Ford Mega Dealer from Texas, Elena Ford, founding Ford Family member, John Clinard, Veteran Ford West Coast PR Manager and Gary Williams Auto News Feature Writer and a close friend of ours who passed last fall.

We also created a new annual event entitled "Dealer of the Decade", honoring Beau Boeckmann, Los Angeles mega dealer; Rita Case, Florida mega dealer, Sam Pack, Texas mega dealer and Greg Penske, U.S. mega dealer.

Sam Pack (see page 1 photo) with his family and management team in the audience made an INSPIRING ACCEPTANCE speech on how important the auto industry is to the U.S. economy and how his team has given back to his community and the state of Texas.

The evening concluded with the presentation of two TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) checks presented to Monterey Peninsula College Automotive Tech School students Isabel Lopez (first of 3 checks) and Dan Brigantino (third of 3) (see page 1 photo) from the AUTO NEWS 501 (c) (3) NON PROFIT FOUNDATION

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ALSO see photos on page 5, 12, & 25)

2026 Ford Explorer Tremor Review: More Than a Sticker Package?



Chris Chung
Digital editor

Every automaker has an off-road trim now. Subaru has Wilderness, Ford has Tremor, and so on down the line. The question is always the same: is it hardware, or is it stickers?

I loaded this one with camping gear to find out. The trip fell apart, but the test didn't.

Our test vehicle was a 2026 Ford Explorer Tremor 4WD finished in Star White Metallic Tri-Coat over Onyx with Miko suede inserts, powered by the 3.0-liter twin-turbo EcoBoost V6 and a 10-speed automatic. Base price is $48,465. The $11,850 Ultimate Package and a handful of smaller options carried it to a total MSRP of $64,705.

The Hardware

The Tremor is not a decal job. It brings a one-inch lift to 8.7 inches of ground clearance, off-road shocks, skid plates, a Torsen limited-slip rear axle, P265/65R18 all-terrain tires on 18-inch wheels, off-road auxiliary lighting and a Class III tow package rated to 5,000 pounds.

Those trail lights matter. We came back from the campsite well after dark, and between them and the 360-degree camera, which stays live on the screen in Off-Road mode, I could pick out brush and rocks I had no business seeing.

Living With It

This is where the Explorer earns its money. There are 14 cubic feet behind the third row,

continued on page 27

On The Road Again With 20 Spectacular Vehicles



Sally Hanson
editor

Attending Drive Revolution is always a great experience to discover some of the latest innovations in automobile technology as well as networking with other automotive journalists who are always willing to share their knowledge about almost everything. Since automotive journalism is mostly a male sport, I love to listen to the guys wax eloquently about their automotive experiences. At this year's event one-sixth of the writers were ladies.

Drive Revolution is an annual performance and advanced automotive technology competition hosted by the Northwest Automotive Press Association since 2013. In mid- September, 18 automotive journalists gathered in southwest Washington to test drive 20 vehicles and select the best of these categories: ICE (internal combustion engine), BEV (battery electric), HEV/PHEV (hybrid powertrains), Best Value (All Powertrains) and Vehicle of the Year (Overall Winner).

Each vehicle was rated on:

Driving dynamics
Powertrain
Braking
Design
Interior features
Technology
Backseat and utility
Value

The two-day event included 30-minute test drives per vehicle as well as the opportunity to hear

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Monterey Car Week Review



Dave Kunz
LA feature writer

If you're in the business of covering the automotive world, Monterey Car Week is often an opportunity to see what the industry is showing off. And sometimes, we get a super-secret, non-disclosure agreement, take-our-phones-away preview of a vehicle still a long ways out.

Such was the case for me this year, with an invite from Mercedes-Benz. I arrived at their huge compound just up the hill from the Pebble Beach Lodge for a fireside chat (they literally had those vertical flame heaters going around us), followed by being escorted to a special room at the back of the main display space. But first we stopped at a reception desk.

After we each signed the NDA, staff slipped our phones into thick nylon pouches, then locked them shut with those things like retailers use on clothing to prevent theft. I still had my phone, but could not access it until the pouch would be unlocked afterward with the magic key. Cameras secured, we filed in and saw "it." Mercedes-Benz executives gave us a show-and-tell, answered questions, even demonstrating its pivotal operational feature.

Obviously, I can't give you too much of a hint as to what about a dozen or so of us saw that evening. I can say it will not even be revealed to the public for quite some time, even though it was in full-production state. (Not a "con-

continued on page 16

Chevy Trax LT: Low price, Plenty of Car



Keith Turner
SF feature writer

There was a time when telling someone your new car had a three-cylinder engine would have been met with concern, followed by a chuckle and suggestion that perhaps you should have bought something with a normal four-cylinder engine.

The 2026 Chevrolet Trax LT makes a pretty good argument for reconsidering that thought.

Under the hood is a 1.2-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine paired with a six-speed automatic transmission. It isn't trying to turn the Trax into a sports car, but it provides enough motivation for everyday driving while helping deliver an EPA-rated 30 mpg combined, 28 city and 32 highway.

And here's the best part: the Trax LT starts at just $23,200.

That's increasingly unusual territory in today's new-car market, where "affordable" sometimes means a vehicle that merely costs less than your house.

The Trax tested here isn't the bare-bones model, either. A collection of options—including the Midnight Edition exterior, Sunroof Package, Driver Confidence Package and LT Convenience Package—pushes the price to $27,975 including destination. Even so, the Trax remains an appealing value proposition for buyers who want a new crossover without taking out a second mortgage.

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Owning and operating an EV in Northern Michigan



Jim Trainor
feature writer

It's been more than one year since I reported on my experience living with an electric vehicle in northern Michigan. Many wondered if it made sense at all, much less if it was a wise decision. The hue and cry for an update has been overwhelming, which I am happy to provide.

I've now been through two winters in Traverse City with my Kia EV and the experience has been overwhelmingly positive. Big time. I can report only minor issues.

One not so minor issue involved a deer, a fairly large one, that decided to jump in front of my EV6 GT Line while I was traveling at about 55 one February evening. While there were no injuries to me or my passengers, the car (and the deer) didn't fare so well. Both were deemed a total loss.

I loved the EV6 GT Line AWD, with its more than 330 range and 320 hp. I hated to see it go and I needed to replace it right away. Even though empty nesters, my wife and I often are out sepa-

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Shelby F-250, 2026 Super Baja Announced



Harold Allen
Texas feature writer

A New Line of Redesigned High Performance Shelby Trucks

The redesigned Shelby F-250 Baja Truck will feature a new design, advanced performance, new suspension, and available custom styling. The vehicle will be built at Shelby Performances new state-of-the-art facility in Bristol, Indiana.

Shelby's team developed their version of the four-wheel drive vehicle with high quality suppliers in the industry. This version will have a Ford 6.7-liter turbo diesel with advanced technology and superior handling with best-in-class towing.

With the new King Shocks suspension system that increases the ride height, more travel and transforms how the truck will perform on and off the road. The Shelby F-250 Super Baja has two-tone 20-inch alloy wheels and BFG 37-inch tires. Also, a new functional air induction hood with painted extraction vents.

OE style fender flares with marker lights, powder coated bumpers and LED lighting enhance the truck styling. The F-250 Shelby Super Baja has full leather seat covers, digital

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2026 Light-Duty Pickup Trucks for Supply Pro



Howard Elmer
truck writer

For 2026 we are seeing a profound shift in the electric vehicle market. Governments that supported EVs, with legislation and generous rebates are changing their tune. The full speed ahead rush to complete electrification is paused – and in some cases backing up. We are seeing official support for traditional ICE trucks again and rebates for all-electrics are suspended. Still electric is now integrated into the market in the form of hybrids. This mix of gas and electric is doing well – while all-electric is not. This market shift is best exemplified by the product direction Ram has adopted this year.

Ram – till last year- was promoting the coming of the REV, an all-electric pickup while at the same time killing its gas 5.7L Hemi engine. This was their future. Not anymore, the REV is permanently cancelled and the 5.7L gas Hemi V8 is back. This has been followed by a host of other "Back to the Future" model changes from all the manufacturers. Electrics are still out there, but for now they are taking a backseat.

Despite this seismic shift in the pickup market – there is not much on offer for 2026. Tariffs, politics

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"Slate's" Target Audience; Young, Price Conscious, Tech Savvy



Jordan Williams
millennial writer

With tag lines such as "Designed for Real Life", "It's a Blank Slate, You Call the Shots", and "Great cars got too pricey. We fixed that", start-up Slate the Shots", and "Great cars got too pricey. We fixed that", start-up Slate auto company launched its entrance into the United States auto market, with its EV basic truck model and is currently taking orders.

Slate's target audience is the price conscious, tech savvy younger generation, i.e. the Millennial and Generation Z market, whose own phones would in most cases replace what has become a typical interior auto screen feature.

The central idea of Slate auto is to start with an affordable "blank slate truck", at a mid-twenties price tag, and then add -on any features one desires. A buyer can even convert the truck to an SUV with an add on option.

Currently, to begin, the company requires $50 to place an order hold. Then, each buyer selects which battery they want and any other pre installed accessories "like wraps or an SUV Kit". The standard battery carries a 150 mile

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Slot Car racing in Europe compared to the USA



Allen Smith
motorsports writer

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

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

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

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

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

Scalextric cars were still tin plate, and their track made of rubber so expensive to ship to America.

Several toy companies here in the USA sent sample to Hong Kong

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Larry See's Slow Growth for EVs



Larry Weitzman
EV specialist

About three weeks ago at the direction of President Donald Trump, Lee Zeldin, the EPA Administrator abolished the fictitious MPGe posted on EVs. These numbers, created by some convoluted formula, were suppose to show the efficiency of EVs in miles per gallon. The MPG numbers that were posted on EVs were outlandish, exaggerated by a factor of 3, 4 or even 5. In the case of electric pickups, the lie was even greater.

Let me give you some examples: An Audi Q4 45 e-tron EV MPGe number was 115 mpg (combined). A Ford Mustang Mach-E EV MPGe number was 107 mpg (comb.) A Tesla Model 3 (2WD) EV MPGe number was 137 mpg. In other words the EPA was telling you that an EV Mustang Mach-E would achieve 107 miles on a single gallon of gas. Why even at $5 a gallon gasoline I'll be driving this Mach-E for about five cents a mile. That's a hor-

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Land Rover Defender 110 X-Dynamic SE



Arv Voss
feature writer

1947 marked the vision of Land Rover when chief Designer Maurice Wilks sketched a silhouette in the sand of a Welsh beach - a vehicle influenced heavily by the Willys Jeep. Initially intended for farm and industrial use, it was destined to become an accomplished and revered off-road transporter that would serve equally for leisure and rugged adventures.

From that beginning, there have been a dozen series or variations, in many forms with the first generation Land Rover Defender bowing in 1990. Range Rover models became part of the company's offerings in 1970 and the second generation Defender appeared in 2020.

There are now 13 different Defender models representing various levels of trim and equipment ranging in price from $58,750 to $169,650. The least expensive is the S model and the priciest is the Octa Edition1. My test Defender was a four door model seating five and came with a base price of $73,725 and a final sticker of $96,625. It's a blend of functional utility and creature comfort, loaded with a host of off-road enhancing features such as Terrain Response2 with Dynamic

continued on page 6

The Used-Car Advantage Hiding in Plain Sight



Tony Rehn
feature writer

After more than four decades inside automotive retail, I'll share something the industry knows but doesn't always explain very well: one of the safest places to buy a pre owned vehicle is often your neighborhood new-car dealership. **Here's why.**

Franchise dealers generally have access to better "pedigree" inventory. Many of their best used vehicles were originally sold by the dealership, serviced in its own shop and ultimately traded back by a local customer. The dealer may know more than what appears on a vehicle-history report—it may have years of repair orders, warranty records and service history already in its system.

In dealership language, that's a known car. And known cars are valuable.

The next advantage is reconditioning. Reputable new-car dealers don't simply wash a trade, photograph it and hope nobody notices the check engine light. Pre owned vehicles are inspected by trained certified technicians with access to factory diagnostic equipment, recall information, technical service bulletins and model-specific knowledge. Huge deal.

Some vehicles make the front

continued on page 14

What makes the Volkswagen Jetta a staple?



Julia King
writer

In 2024, Volkswagen sold 71,830 Jettas. While that number appears like a lot, it is also not surprising. Like many, I seem to spot a Jetta, or multiple, wherever I go. Whether it be a college campus, city street, or business parking lot, their presence is prevalent; serving as an ideal mode of transportation across demographics.

My first car was a 2019 Volkswagen Jetta. As soon as I learned to drive, I took full advantage of its efficient fuel mileage and zippy navigation. My Jetta took me from Seattle to Los Angeles (and back, multiple times), and racked up a healthy 80,000 miles in just around six years.

The car served me well even until my last drive, when another driver T-boned my left side at about 40 miles per hour. While my car was undeniably totaled, I was relatively unscathed.

Losing my car has since spurred a newfound appreciation for the Jetta. Naturally, the question crossed my mind — what makes this model a staple?

Since its debut in 1979, over 14 million Jettas have been produced and sold worldwide. The model has gone through six "generations," manifesting a modernity

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Lexus LX 700h Hybrid "test drive"



Scot McCallum
feature writer

The Lexus LX 700h Hybrid with its 3.4L V6 457 horsepower engine provides significant performance in a luxury vehicle with off road 4WD capability.

It is a sleek, handsome vehicle loaded with features we've come to expect from Lexus. Comfort is key with the interior design which includes a 4 zone climate system, plenty of device charging ports, seating for seven passengers, and 2nd row rear seat temperature control. Lexus is well known for its safety features which includes alerts for blind spots as well as rear and front cross traffic. I particularly enjoyed using the park assist system which is simple and effective. Technology is front and center in the LX 700h with an intuitive display system which includes wireless phone integration and Traffic Jam Assist. And of the overall quality of this vehicle is exceptional!

Test drive the Lexus LX 700h soon at your nearest Lexus dealer.

See additional Lexus LX 700h Details on page 14 "SHOWCASE REVIEWS"



EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies

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"EV Sales Increase this Summer"

continued from page 4

rendous, intentional lie committed by the Feds that President Donald Trump and Lee Zeldin has just abolished. Just think how many people bought EV's thinking they were going to drive for a nickel a mile. Sounds like 1960 again when gas was 35 cents a gallon. But also remember the dollar was worth about 10 times as much, new cars were about $3,000 and a 1,500 sq. ft. house in California cost about $15,000-$20,000.

About eight years ago I wrote Motor Trend to tell them that these MPGe numbers were fictitious, as much as made up. In that letter I wrote there is only one actual way to compare energy operating costs of EVs to gasoline/diesel vehicles and that is energy per mile cost. It's all pretty simple. The average EV gets a return of about 3-3.5 miles per kilo Watt hour of energy consumed. Pickup trucks are about 2 miles/kWh. I am not going to discuss battery range and refueling times for EVs. Those are separate issues of EVs.

While electricity costs vary across the United States gasoline is much more uniform excepting California, which also has some of the highest electrical rates in the country (it's the 49th highest, Hawaii is 50th). But in many jurisdictions rates are tiered. In California, in El Dorado County, where PG&E is the vendor, they are tiered as to the time of day and usage per month. There are even special plans for EV charging with rates based on summer and winter seasons as well as time of day. One plan during summer if you charge between 2 pm and 9 pm, the rate is 62 cents/kWh. But overall, it costs on average 30-35 cents a kWh for electricity (energy) to charge your EV. On the road, if you charge at public charging, energy could cost you 50-80 cents a kWh. But here's the rub, that cost is for a Level 2 charger, which adds about 20 miles of range per hour. Level 3 chargers which can charge your battery in an hour are much more expensive.

At an average kWh of 35 cents/kWh, EVs cost 10-12 cents a mile for energy. Before the "Iranian turkey shoot" gasoline averaged less than $3.00/gallon. Most cars sold today and for the last several years averaged 30-35 mpg,

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Haselwood Family Honored at recent Auto Group Fundraiser – See Back Page Ad



JoAnne Haselwood & son Rick Wiler presented with "Legend of Auto" awards at summer event (photo Auto News)



Jason Courter (right) owner Bellevue Honda with Tony Rehn at remodeling event this summer (photo Auto News)

Jim Trainor Reports on Owning & Driving a Kia EV in Northern Michigan

continued from page 3

rately and need two vehicles and we make regular trips to Detroit, a 720-mile round trip. Having an EV for local and moderate-distance trips, and a hybrid SUV for long trips, makes perfect sense for us, especially with an in-garage charger. It's just so darn convenient and inexpensive that I can't imagine having vehicles with gas engines, Just think, no more visits to gas stations in the middle of winter nor in spring and summer rainstorms.

To replace the EV6, we decided on a brand-new Kia EV9. While not as sporty nor fast as the EV6, it's a very cool-looking vehicle and has a range of more than 350 miles. It looks different than most cars on the road but not in a way that makes the driver look silly. (I'm looking at you, Cybertruck owners.) And, the price was super attractive -- $489 per month for a two year lease – with no money down. Heck, a Mustang Mach E will run you at least $500 per month with a $3,000 down payment and it's a lot smaller and not nearly the vehicle the EV9 is.

So, speaking of the cost of operation, the EV is brilliant. I barely notice the cost of the electricity on my monthly electric bill – about $14 – 17 for a full charge. I receive a $10 rebate every month for charging only between the hours of 11 p.m. – 6 a.m., easily achieved by setting these charging hours in the car. That is on top of the $500 one-time credit I receive from my local utility company for having installed a charger in my garage. One real-life example of on-road savings is this: twice a week I make a 52-mile, round-trip visit to my physical therapist as I rehab a new knee. In my hybrid SUV, this would mean two gallons of gas, or about $10 per trip. That's $20 per week and $80 a month. With the EV9, the cost is only about $4 per month. That's real savings in a blast-to drive vehicle.

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AUTO NEWS® BYTES

Words Matter

"fake news"
"affordability"
"under employment"

"FAKE NEWS" — The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word FAKE as .... "to treat so as to falsify "So that being the case the news itself is not FAKE but the source of the information is. The SOURCE creates the lie and News Media reports the facts as REAL NEWS.

"AFFORDABILITY" — For politicians to claim there is not an AFFORDABILITY Issue in the U. S. Is an insane point-of-view. 7 Examples:
1- 60% to 70% of people across the U.S. living check to check
2- Credit Card defaults at an all time high
3- Price of fuel at an all time high
4- Price of most groceries at an all time high
5- Cost of buying a home or renting one at an all time high
6- Car loan ratio of payments to income at an all time high
7- "Tariff Game" is causing inflation and higher prices across the

"UNDER EMPOLYMENT" — A new term refers to College Graduates who are able to work but have enough net worth so they aren't currently working.

WORDS MATTER AND THEY ARE THE KEY TO INTELLIGENCE

by BILL McCALLUM, Publisher

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Land Rover Defender 110 "test drive" report

continued from page 4

Program, Configurable Terrain Response, Rear Electronic Active Differential, All Terrain Progress Control, Hill Descent Control, Air Suspension, Adaptive Dynamics and 20" wheels.

Over the Defender line, there are 4 available powertrains and three body styles to challenge truck-like competitors while delivering an incredible range of luxurious features comparable to loaded Range Rover models. The 2-door Defender 90 leans to a more retro purist design, while the 130's extended wheelbase and third row seating is clearly more suited to carrying people and gear.

My Defender's power was delivered by a 5.0 liter V-8 gas engine that cranked out 493 horsepower and 450 pound feet of torque through an 8 speed automatic transmission to all four wheels

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Land Rover Defender 110 (photo by Arv Voss)

Howard Elmer Reports on Light-Duty Trucks for Supply Pro

continued from page 3

and production issues have created a pause for many previously announced new models. In fact, most auto news is now concerned with 2027. Don't expect much new in this calendar year.

RAM

Ram 1500 features a refreshed design and the return of the HEMI V8 engine, alongside a trio of engine options including the Pentastar V6 and the Hurricane inline-six. The 2026 Ram 1500 trucks equipped with the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 eTorque engine are being built at the Sterling Heights (Michigan) Assembly Plant and are available now. When the return of the Hemi was first announced Ram also added a new 10 year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty to the deal.

FORD

For 2026 Ford is adding trim packages to its Maverick – like the Lobo. Inspired by the lowered truck era that lasted from the mid-1980s to the early 2000s. The Maverick Lobo is a new canvas for modern street truck builds. It joins the lineup that includes the off-road capable Maverick Tremor and the efficient Maverick Hybrid. The F-150 is also getting the Lobo treatment.

HONDA



Ford Truck (photo Howard Elmer)

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first-generation Ridgeline launch. New for 2026 is the Ridgeline TrailSport which also gets an exclusive Ash Green Metallic paint. Ridgeline is available in three all-wheel drive trim levels, starting with the well-equipped Ridgeline Sport. Honda says, "Throughout its history, Ridgeline has offered features pickup buyers look for, including payload and towing capacity without compromising the superior ride quality its unique unibody construction offers, setting the standard for overall comfort and capability.'

ELECTRIC PICKUP NEWS

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Auto News Foundation Introduces TAP Tuition Assistance Program

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/ Founder

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

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

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

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

RESULTS TO DATE: 10 TAP scholarships to students attending:

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

Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U. S.

continued from page 3

to be analyzed. They produced a cheaper version with plastic track and cars and Slot Car Racing started to boom in the USA.

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

Americas fascination with Slot Car Racing saw an explosion in sales and from that a new Industry grew, and that was Commercial Slot Car Tracks. Across America somewhere between 3000 to 10,000 raceways appeared and the Slot Car crazed took off.

With this and the need for speed the industry of hopped-up cars grew rapidly with new motors, gear, tires and bodies arriving every Month or so. The speeds at these Commercial Raceways were more than a plastic car could withstand, so the bodies changed to less detail butyrate bodies and finally Lexan.

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

It took a while but eventually the

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2026 Chev Silverado EV Trail Boss "Best EV Truck"

by Christopher Chung

We had this one for the 20th anniversary of our Legends of Auto and Dealer of the Decade awards, which is not a normal press loan. A normal press loan is a week of errands and a canyon road. This was a working week: gear in, gear out, across San Francisco, on a deadline.

That is a better test than a canyon road.

Our tester was a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado EV Trail Boss finished in Blue Smoke Metallic over Black and Artemis. Dual motors produce 725 horsepower and 775 pound-feet of torque, and Chevrolet estimates 493 miles of range from the Max Range battery. A hard folding bed cover, fixed panoramic glass roof, NACS DC adapter and all-weather floor liners added $3,990 to the $86,600 base price, for a total MSRP of $93,185.

Range You Stop Thinking About 493 miles is the headline, and the number changes how you use the truck. I never once planned a day around finding a charger.

That is the whole pitch for an electric truck. Everything else is negotiable.

Big Truck, Small Streets

Here is what surprised me. This thing is enormous, you feel like The Rock driving his armored truck around the city in Fast and the Furious. But it is also the easiest large truck I have driven around a city.

Four-wheel steering does the heavy lifting. It tightens the turning circle enough that San Francisco intersections stop being a three-point-turn problem and go back to being intersections.

Then there are the hills. Crest a steep San Francisco grade in something this long and the pavement simply disappears from view. The front-facing camera hands it back to you. I used it constantly.

The Midgate Earns Its Keep

Loading out for the awards, the midgate turned a 5-foot-11-inch bed into nearly 11 feet of load floor. Fold it down, load through, close it up, go.

It is the most useful thing on this truck.

Final Thoughts

It tows up to 12,500 pounds, carries 2,100 pounds of payload, takes up to 350 kW on a DC fast charger, runs Super Cruise, and will power your event off the 240-volt outlet in the bed.

This is hands-down one of the best electric trucks you can buy today.

Range. Maneuverability. Utility. It gets all three right, and almost nothing else does. You just have to pay for it.

PROS

- Chevrolet-estimated 493 miles of range on the Max Range battery
- 725 horsepower and 775 pound-feet of torque
- Four-wheel steering makes a huge truck easy in a city
- Front-facing camera for blind crests and steep grades
- Midgate stretches the bed to nearly 11 feet
- 12,500-pound tow rating, 2,100-pound payload
- 350 kW DC fast charging, Super Cruise, 240-volt bed outlet

CONS

- $93,185 as tested



2026 Chevrolet Silverado EV Trail Boss (photo Auto News)

Land Rover Defender "test drive"

continued from page 6

with a twin speed transfer box.

It's off road credentials are stellar and claimed by the company to rank as the best Defender yet. The design is elegant and modern and visually extremely appealing.

Connectivity, infotainment and comfort features abound and seem almost limitless. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard fare along with an in-dash navigation system, a six-speaker stereo and an onboard WI-FI hotspot.

Driver-Assistance and Safety features include several specialized systems geared for off-roading and towing. Automated emergency braking with pedestrian detection and Lane Departure Warning with lane keeping assist are standard and adaptive cruise control is available.

Bottom line, this mid-line Defender is a classy, capable and desirable machine for attending the opera or for attacking backwoods trails with confidence. It's come a long way from lines in the sand.

Jim Trainor, Former OEM Communication Director, Reports on Buying a Kia EV6 and Driving it in Northern Michigan……!

continued from page 5

On the minus side, I did have a problem finding a charger one time on a 225-mile trip. I used more electricity than anticipated on the trip, traveling at 85 mph on the highway much of the way, and had to find a charging station on the way home. It shouldn't have been a problem, even in Michigan, as the EV9 has the NACS charging plug – the same style Tesla's use. However, not all Tesla super chargers have converted over to allow non-Tesla vehicles to charge and I had to hunt around to find a working charger. This will change as more Telsa chargers convert over, but it was a hassle for me. Once, after a 30-inch snowstorm, I got stuck going up my hilly driveway, even in the EV9's snow mode. But a snowfall that big is rare, even in northern Michigan, so not a major concern. Heck, even the guy who plows our development got stuck in his F-250. Typically, the EV9, and the EV6 before it, operates very well in snow, thanks to snow mode and a heavy vehicle with its weight mostly centered on the vehicle.

In conclusion, an EV is an excellent choice for families like mine where a second vehicle is available for long trips. Even in northern Michigan. And, my road bike and mountain bike fit easily in the cargo space. I can't imagine living without one.

The Rugged 2026 Ram 1500 Warlock Crew Cab 4x4 Was Top Truck Pick at "Mudfest"

After two days of pavement, dirt, mud, acceleration testing, and off-road trails in the Pacific Northwest, the results from NWAPA Mudfest 2026 are officially in — and this year's competition may have been the strongest yet.

Taking home the top honor of NW Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year was the all-new 2026 Subaru Trailseeker Limited. Subaru's newest EV also captured wins for Best Two-Row Family SUV and Best Electrified Activity Vehicle, impressing journalists with its blend of strong acceleration, quiet comfort, and genuine off-road capability.

Other category winners included the luxurious and shockingly fast 2026 Lucid Gravity Grand Touring, which earned Luxury SUV honors, while the V8-powered 2026 Jeep Wrangler Moab 392 dominated the off-road course to win Extreme Capability Vehicle.

The rugged 2026 Ram 1500 Warlock Crew Cab 4x4 earned top Pickup Truck honors thanks to its off-road capability and classic HEMI rumble. Kia's refined and adventure-ready 2026 Telluride X-Pro SX-Prestige AWD won Three-Row Family SUV, while the efficient and capable 2026 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid Woodland took home Best Value NW Outdoor Activity Vehicle.

After driving all 19 vehicles ourselves at Mudfest, one thing became clear: the future of adventure vehicles is evolving rapidly — and electrified SUVs are becoming serious contenders both on-road and off. But at the same time there is a market that years for traditional V8- powered performance and capability.



20 Northwest Automotive Journalists Attend Annual 3 Day "Mudfest" Event to Test Drive Manufacturers Vehicles (photo Auto News)

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Sam Pack, Texas Ford Dealer, To Be Honored as "Dealer of the Decade" (See page 1)

Dr. Sam Pack is a native Texan, visionary dealer, and community-minded leader whose five-decade career in the automotive industry has helped shape North Texas business and civic life. His journey began in 1956 at Tarleton State University, where his early ties to the region and a genuine passion for people laid the groundwork for a lifetime of entrepreneurial achievement and service. In 1962, he entered the automotive industry with Ford Credit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, gaining deep experience in automotive finance and learning the value of long-term relationships that would guide his future as a dealer.[1]

In February 1980, Dr. Pack took a bold leap of faith by purchasing Lee Jarmon Ford in Carrollton, Texas, laying the foundation for what would become the Sam Pack Automotive Group. Over the next 45 years, that single dealership grew into one of North Texas' most respected automotive organizations, today comprised of six Five Star dealerships in the DFW market and co-ownership of six additional dealerships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Through industry cycles, economic change, and technological transformation, he remained steadfast in a simple philosophy: do what is right, care for people, and deliver an exceptional five-star experience.[1]

Under his leadership, the group has become known not only for sales performance but for a culture where employees are treated like family, customers are welcomed with sincerity, and communities see the organization as a trusted partner. The company's Five-Star Core Values—Integrity, Caring, Self-Discipline, Continuous Improvement, and Fun—guide every aspect of operations, from employee development to customer care. Long-standing partnerships with Brookhaven and Dallas Community Colleges, along with other local schools and universities, bring college courses and continuing education directly into the dealerships, reinforcing his belief in lifelong learning and professional growth.[1]



Dr Sam Pack pictured at Five Star Ford in Carollton, Texas (photo Harold Allen)

Dr. Pack's commitment to community is equally defining. Through the Sam Pack Cares charitable organization, Pack Auto Group, the Pack family, and their employees support hundreds of local nonprofit organizations each year. This spirit of giving helped the group earn a Global Marketing Award from Ad Age and Automotive News in 2025 for its Little Wishes community program, in addition to multiple Better Business Bureau Torch Awards for Ethics and numerous "Business of the Year" and dealer-of-the-year honors at the local, state, and national level. These accolades reflect his conviction that true success is measured not only in business results but in the strength and well-being of the communities served.[1]

His leadership and character have been widely recognized. Tarleton State University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2023 and, in 2024, named its College of Business the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business. Brookhaven College honored him with its inaugural "Pillar of the Community" award, and Stephenville High School recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus. Ford Motor Company has presented him with its Salute to Dealers Award for community involvement, inducted him into the Top Volume Dealers Hall of Fame, and in 2025 selected him as the first recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award. Fairlane, home of the Clara and Henry Ford Estate, has also named its Welcome Center in his honor.[1]

Beyond industry recognition, Dr. Pack has received the Texas Automobile Dealers Association "Legend" Award, TIME Magazine's National Quality Dealer of the Year, and numerous local honors including Citizen of the Year and Entrepreneur of the Year from the City of Carrollton, as well as the United States Congressional Patriot Award. A lifelong student of the automotive industry and its history, he remains actively involved in daily business and community leadership and continues to serve on many industry and civic committees. Surrounded by his wife, Carol, and their family—Todd, Tony, Louisa, Carly, and Macy—Dr. Pack is most proud of the relationships formed, the careers built, and the communities strengthened through the dealerships that bear his name. Today, as the organization moves confidently into the future with more than 1,000 employees and a strong next generation of leadership, his legacy of faith, family, integrity, and service continues to inspire.[1]

Larry See's Slow Growth for EVs

continued from page 5

making their energy cost slightly less than an EV at about 8-10 cents a mile. The cost of gasoline will be back to below $3.00/gallon in a few weeks. This entire exercise is to demonstrate that EVs are not the equivalent of a 100 mpg car when it comes to fuel economy. The energy cost per mile of an EV is at best comparable to a conventional vehicle. However the most economical car to drive is a non plug in hybrid which can achieve 50 mpg or a bit more.

History is again repeating itself. EVs are not ready for prime time. They have range and refueling anxiety. They are just as expensive to operate on an energy cost per mile as a gasoline car and they are more expensive to acquire.

Of course there are exceptions to these "rules." If you live in Utah, energy is less than 13 cents a kWh meaning you can drive an EV for 4-5 cents a mile. Gasoline in Utah averaged about $2.60 a gallon, meaning an EV is slightly less expensive to operate. Teslas are very popular in Utah as long as you don't have to commute from Salt Lake City to St. George or St. George to Las Vegas. There are a few other low population density states like the Dakotas that have cheap electricity, however it gets cold in those states reducing battery efficiency. But the Southern gulf coast states have rates averaging less than 15 cents a kWh and they don't get very cold. A good bet for an EV.

INSIDE MALAYSIA
AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answering the needs of the industry throughout the fairground

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

INSIDE CHINA
AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Christopher Chung

"Automechanika Shanghai 2026 scheduled for December 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2026"

Automechanika Shanghai 2026 aligns its exhibition and event platform with global shifts in innovation and sustainability Shanghai, May 2026. The 21st edition of Automechanika Shanghai will continue to champion the transformation of the automotive industry. Held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) from 2 to 5 December 2026, the show will occupy the entire venue, including 390,000 sqm across 16 halls and mezzanine floor to host an anticipated 7,600 exhibitors. In line with the latest global and domestic automotive trends, the show will comprehensively highlight three core themes: technological innovation, product evolution, and service enhancement. By integrating the extensive exhibition platform with a highly impactful conference programme, Automechanika Shanghai 2026 offers comprehensive resources for the automotive industry and its ever-growing ecosystem.

With approximately 100 conferences, workshops and forums running across the four-day show, the programme bridges themes across the show floor through a mix of interactive demonstrations and global industry dialogues. These sessions will feature insights from market leaders, experts, and legislators on the trends shaping the future automotive industry.

Some highlights include the International Automotive Industry Conference – CEO Summit, a series of technical seminars focusing on autonomous driving, intelligent cockpits, battery technologies, and semiconductors, as well as the Global Collective, a conference designed to promote global investment, facilitate international cooperation, and advance business globalisation.

Automechanika Shanghai also offers a range of matchmaking sessions within the likes of the Automotive Supply-Demand Matching Series fostering strategic partnerships among OEMs, parts suppliers, and automotive technology companies. In fact, the fair offers opportunities to connect year-round in China maintaining consistent momentum across the entire supply chain.

Technologies and innovations take centre stage The fair will offer participants a preview of next-generation automotive technologies and innovations shaping the sector. Reflecting this, nearly half of exhibitors at Automechanika Shanghai will present new energy-related products and services. The New Energy & Connectivity sector is set to expand by 20 percent to accommodate displays of electric powertrains, autonomous driving, embodied AI, charging and battery swapping infrastructures, intelligent chassis, and thermal management systems. Hybrid, fuel cell, and hydrogen solutions to elevate vehicle performance, safety, and user experiences will also be on display.

Moreover, upgrades across parts and components, electrical and electronic systems, accessories and customising, diagnostics and repair, body and paint, as well as tyres and wheels will be prominently showcased. Advanced components, smart tyres, lightweight wheels, advanced maintenance and inspection for new energy vehicles, infotainment electronics, and highperformance upgrades reflect significant advancements in automotive technology for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

Responding to the expanding scope of the automotive sector, "Automotive +" launches as a defining theme for 2026, woven through both the exhibition and fringe events. The principal centres around how vehicles can collaborate with emerging technologies and more to create an intelligent mobility infrastructure. With Innovation4Mobility serving as the key platform for this concept, focus will be placed on how fields such as AI, new energy solutions, hardware-software integration, and robotics are coming together, exploring what this means for the next generation of vehicles.

Slate Auto – Start with a Blank Slate... Then Add What You Want

by Jordan Williams

continued from page 3

range. An additional battery can be purchased to boost the car to a 250 mile range.

The company states at any time, even after you own the vehicle, you can add and "swap" accessories using its Slate Maker feature.

The car maker so far offers one color, "slate". You can paint -or wrap- the car any color you would like, Jeff Jablansky, company representative added in a November 2025 interview with Rich DeMuro @ktla Los Angeles.

Slate trucks are made in the USA and the company is hiring with most jobs based in Michigan and Indiana.

In conclusion, Slate believes buyers should call the shots/pick what they want to make the utilitarian Slate truck theirs, without paying for features they do not want or need. Jablansky stated that there have already been 10,000,000 configurations within the Slate Maker creative process.

Do you like their concept? Have you placed an order? I would love to hear from you.

Slate has close to 200,000 followers on Instagram and states it has received over 100,000 reservations/orders. Deliveries are planned for late 2026. For those interested, you can check them out on IG.

International Auto News

Chevrolet Trax LT: Low Price, Plenty of Car . . . . . !

continued from page 2

If you want an even lower starting price, check out the Trax LS trim, which starts at $21,700.

The LT also doesn't look like an economy special. The Midnight Edition gives this black Trax a particularly handsome appearance, with black wheels, black exterior trim, black badging and a black grille. It's more sinister than you might expect from a vehicle whose primary mission is probably going to involve grocery runs and commuting to work or school.

Inside, Chevrolet has done an impressive job of making the Trax feel modern. There's an 11-inch infotainment display with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto (yes, those features still exist in GM models), along with an 8-inch driver information display. The interior also offers automatic climate control, remote start and a six-speaker audio system.

The LT Convenience Package adds some welcome touches, including heated front seats and a heated steering wheel. There's also a power sunroof on this particular vehicle.

Safety equipment is another strong point. The Trax includes Chevrolet Safety Assist features such as automatic emergency braking, forward pedestrian braking, lanekeeping assistance, following-distance indication and automatic high beams. This example also adds adaptive cruise control, rear cross-traffic alert, blind-zone monitoring and rear park assist.

The Trax isn't perfect. Front-wheel drive is the only configuration here, and the three cylinder engine isn't going to win many drag races. But that's missing the point. This is a small crossover designed to deliver inexpensive, practical transportation with enough technology and style to keep you from feeling like you bought the cheapest thing on the lot.

And that three-cylinder engine? After spending some time with the Trax, you may stop thinking of it as a compromise. You might even start wondering why you ever thought three cylinders weren't enough.

The 2026 Chevrolet Trax 1LT is an appealing combination of low price, useful technology, good fuel economy and distinctive styling. At a starting price of $23,200, it offers an affordable entry into a new crossover market that isn't getting any cheaper.

Keith Turner is a Northern California-based auto journalist and author of the book Broke with Benefits - Becoming a Man through Life, Love, Loss and Free Cars! Check out his video reviews on Carguy Drives on YouTube.



Chevy Trax LT (photo by Keith Turner)

What makes the (VW) Volkswagen Jetta a Staple . . . . !

continued from page 4

and quality over time. Perhaps what has made the Jetta a consistent standout is its combination of sleek design and precise engineering, even across transformations.

Particularly among young people, the Jetta offers the "perfect first car" that has the desired modern technology (Apple CarPlay as perhaps the most coveted), a clean design that doesn't feel pretentious, and relative affordability compared to similar models. Anecdotally, every young person I know with a Jetta makes the most of the swift drive, updated infotainment system, and simple practicality.

Two years after a redesign in 2025, the 2027 Volkswagen Jetta brings a variety of updates while maintaining the same elegant aura. Drivers can expect Volkswagen's AI-assisted Premium Speech chat bot (specifically in the S and Sport models), keyless entry, and push-button start.

Whether you are still driving an early generation Jetta, or you decide to give the newest model a chance, this car is sure to keep you speedy, safe, and mobile for a long time. As I move onto other makes and models, I will always be grateful my first car was a Jetta.





Vintage Vehicle Collections

Auto News Foundation Introduces TAP Tuition Assistance Program

by Bill McCallum, Publisher/ Founder

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

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

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

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

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

Shelby 2026 F-250 Super Baja To Be Introduced At B/J Auction

continued from page 3

gauges, embroidered floor mats, and billet racing pedals.

This exciting new truck has an MSRP of $159,795, included is a fully loaded Lariat Ultimate 4x4, F-250 Super Crew chassis with a 6.7L Hi Output Power Stroke® engine, which has an estimated MSRP of $97,000. The truck comes with a three-year, 36,000-mile warranty. The powertrain warranty from Ford Motor Company remains intact.

Manufacturing starting this month with distribution throughout North America; the public debut will take place at the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Palm Beach, April 16-18 at the South Florida Fairgrounds.

There will be only 250 of this limited production offered through select Shelby Performance dealers across the United States. Each truck will be documented in the official Shelby Registry and owners will become members of Team Shelby, the official enthusiast club.

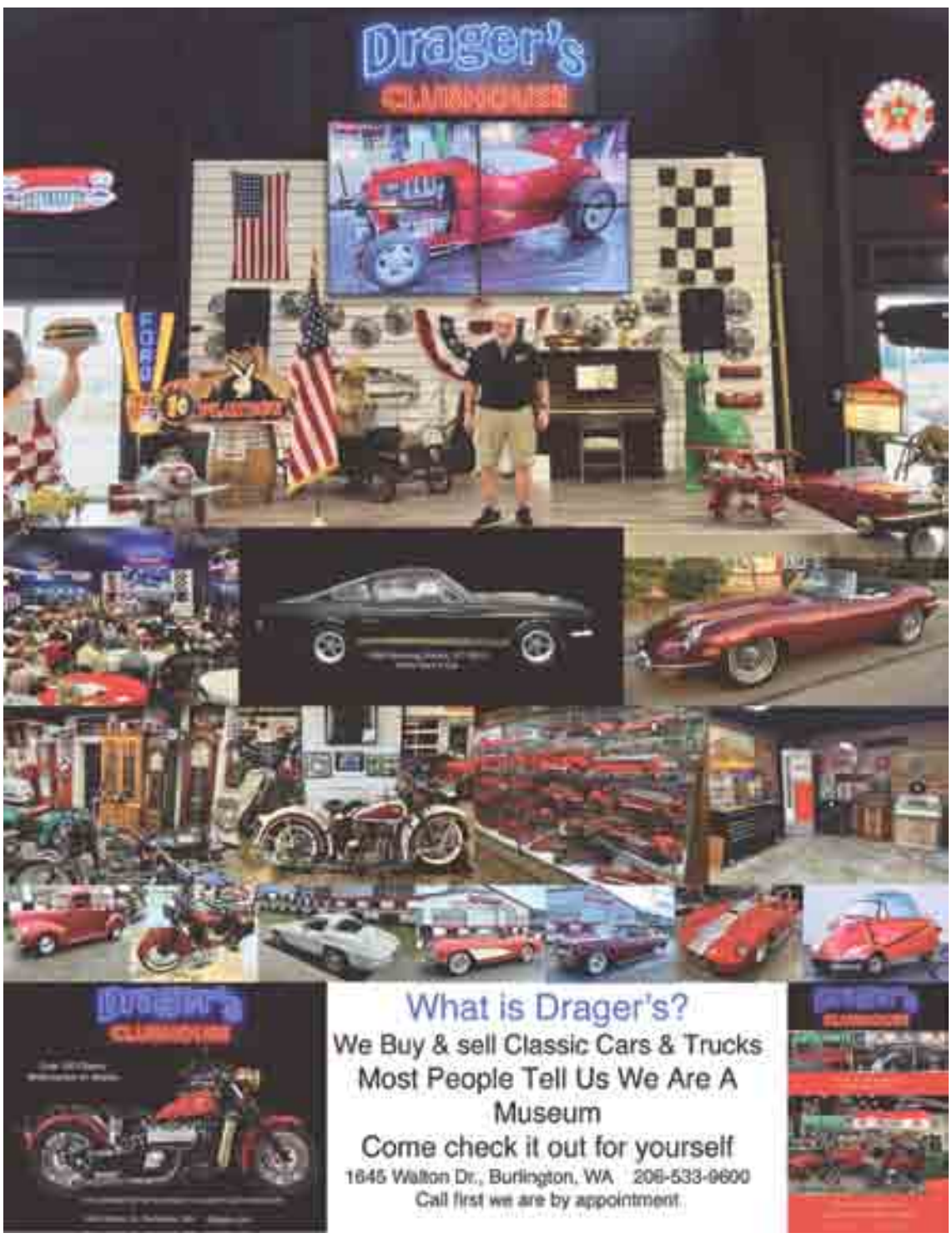


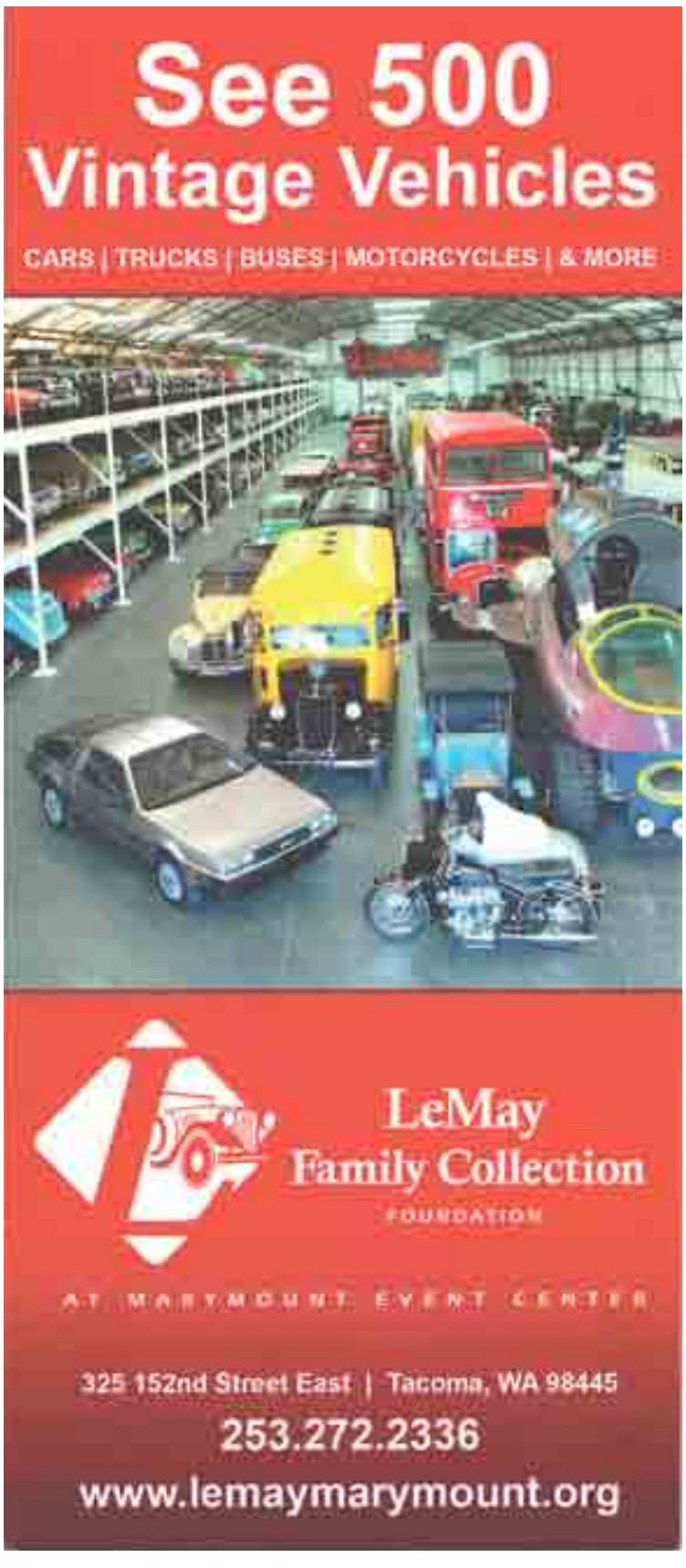
Shelby Lariat F-250 Super Crew Baja to be introduced at Barrett-Jackson

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AUTO NEWS

From Around the U.S.



Three Northwest Families Win "Top Awards" at Monterey Concours d' Elegance . . . . . !

Four NW car collector families won award trophies for their entries at the 2026 Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. They are:

• Jon & Kim Shirley, Medina, WA. Winning the CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY for their 1949 Ferrari 166 MM Touring Barchetta

• Bruce McCaw, Bellevue, WA. Winning the Charles A. Chayne Trophy for his 1938 Tatra T77A Limousine

• Bruce McCaw, Bellevue, WA. Winning the Grand Turismo Trophy for his 1961 Ferrari 250 GT Sperimentale Pininfarina

• Bill Hart, Carnation, WA. Winning the Dean Batchelor Trophy for his 1954 MG R2 Ken Miles "Flying Shingle" Special

• Kevin Bischoff, Vancouver, WA. Winning the Lincoln Trophy for his 1942 Lincoln Continental Darrin Cabriolet



World Famous Artist, Kayla Allen Yakub represented Auto News on Sunday at Monterey Concours d'Elegance

continued from page 2

Sally's Drive Revolution 2026 Story

presentations by manufacturers' reps and gain more information from the reps about their products.

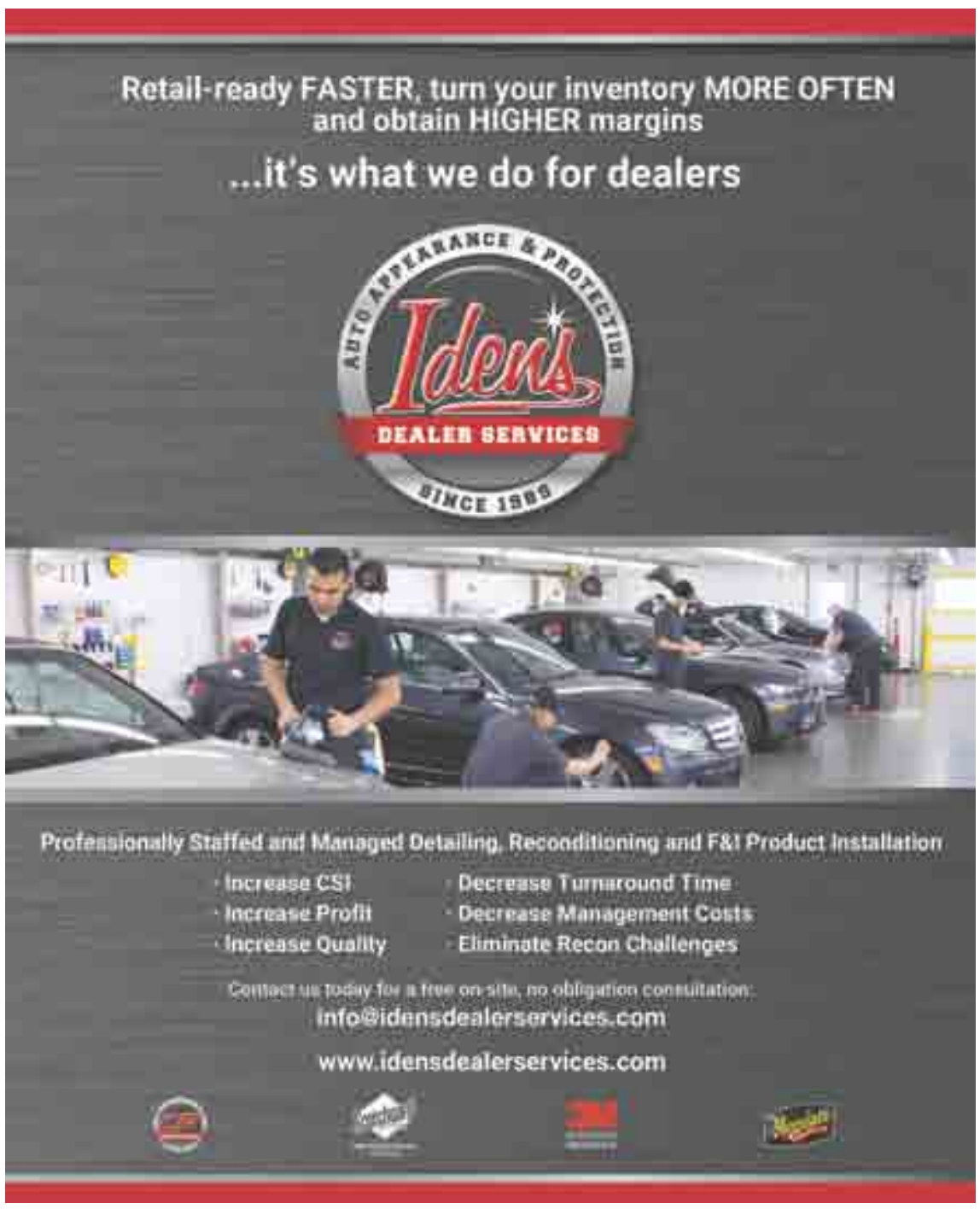
Five entries with hybrid powertrains trains included the 2026 Honda Prelude, 2026 Jeep Cherokee Overland 4x4, 2027 Kia Telluride HEV X-Line SX Prestige, 2026 Mazda CX Hybrid Premium Plus, and 2026 Toyota RAV4 PHEV GR Sport. Priced between $43,000 and $61,000. The Honda Prelude sport coupe in a beautiful Boost Blue exterior color offers a perfect balance of driving and handling with excellent fuel economy of 44mpg. The 2027 Kia Telluride sport coupe and after driving the Ram, I carefully climbed out of the very tall truck with gigantic all-terrain tires and then drove the almost ground-level 2026 Mazda Miata convertible. Kia's 2026 K4 Hatchback GT-Line Turbo and 2027 Seltos X-Line SX AWD, Hyundai's 2026 Venue SEL, 2027 hybrid is the first hybrid Telluride joining the ICE Telluride after six years into production featuring three-row seating. Compact hybrids complete the group with the RAV4 PHEV being the only plug-in hybrid in this section.

The seven entries in the internal combustion engine (ICE) category offered a wide selection of vehicles that ranged from 12 to 31 mpg, priced from $24,000 to $108,000 and varying in size from very small to really big. The size of the vehicles was very obvious when my drive preceding the Ram 1500 TRX SRT was a low to the ground Dodge Charger Scat Pack Plus and 2026 Acura Integra A-Spec Tech rounded out the ICE group.

Fuel economy and driving range were definitely an important factor in judging the Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs). Fuel economy figures for BEVs are listed as MPGe which stands for miles per gallon equivalent. This unit of measurement for an electric car's energy consumption level compares with gas-powered vehicles' consumption. Varying from 78 to 129 MPGe with driving range from 222 to 386 miles when fully charged, the fuel savings charts for a five year period for many of these vehicles approach $5000. The eight BEV entries were 2027 Genesis GV69 Magma, 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 5 AWD, 2026 Lexus ES 350e Luxury, 2026 Lucid Gravity, 2027 Mercedes CLA250+ Electric, 2026 Subaru Trailseeker, 2026 Toyota bZ

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Auto News Newspaper available at Baja Cantina in Carmel Valley!



AUTO NEWS

From Around the U.S.





Pat Armstrong Ford – Serving the Greater Wenatchee Valley

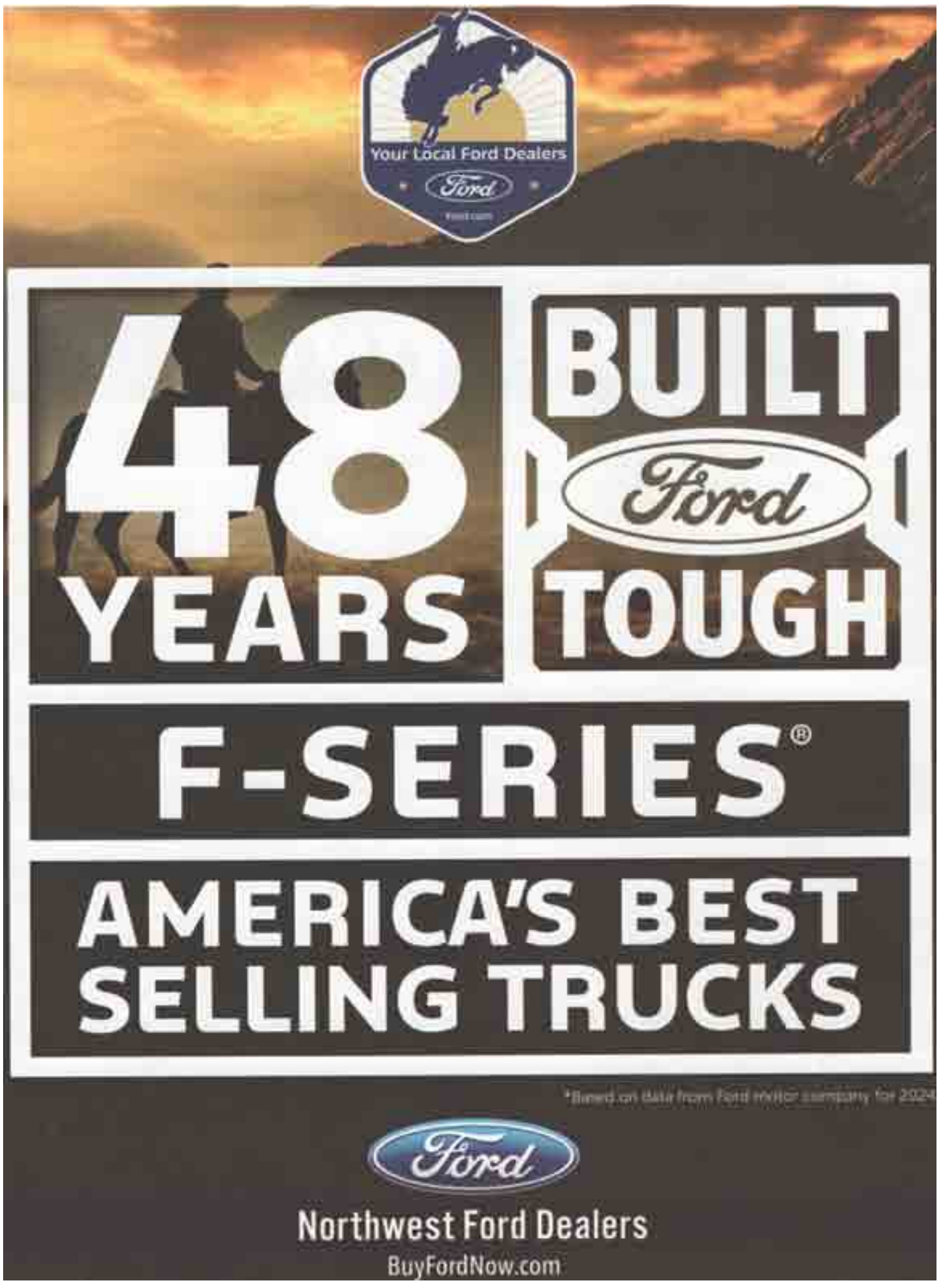
For decades, Pat Armstrong Ford has been a trusted name for drivers throughout the Wenatchee Valley and across Eastern Washington. Built on a reputation of straightforward pricing, customer care, and community commitment, the dealership continues to serve generations of families who return year after year.

Founder Pat Armstrong believed that a dealership should operate with the same values that define the Wenatchee community itself—hard work, integrity, and treating people fairly. That philosophy still guides the store today. Customers know when they visit Pat Armstrong Ford they will find a team focused on making the buying and ownership experience simple and transparent.

Located in the heart of the Greater Wenatchee Valley, the dealership proudly offers one of the region's strongest selections of new Ford trucks, SUVs, and adventure vehicles, including the legendary Ford F-150 and the iconic Ford Bronco lineup. Whether customers need a capable truck for work, an SUV for family travel, or a vehicle ready for Northwest adventure, Pat Armstrong Ford delivers.

One of the dealership's most unique advantages is its Lifetime Limited Warranty, offered on qualifying vehicles. From big repairs to small ones, customers enjoy added peace of mind long after they drive off the lot.

Pat Armstrong Ford also proudly reminds buyers that they beat Westside prices every day, giving Eastern Washington values to customers through out the northwest.



The Used Car Advantage Hiding in Plain Sight

by Tony Rehn

continued from page 4

line. Others are wholesaled because the cost—or risk—of bringing them up to standard is too high. That decision tells you something: established dealers understand that the wrong used car can cost far more in reputation than it ever produces in gross profit.

Certified Pre-Owned vehicles raise the standard further. Manufacturer backed programs typically include age and mileage limits, extensive inspections, warranty protection and, in many cases, roadside assistance. Buyers aren't merely purchasing a vehicle; they're purchasing additional accountability.

That accountability has become even more important in the AI-search era. Consumers no longer ask only friends and neighbors where to shop. They ask Google, ChatGPT and other platforms to evaluate dealerships using reviews, complaints and years of online history. A franchise dealer's reputation is examined—and summarized—in seconds. They cannot afford the down side of offering a high risk used car.

Of course, a recognizable sign on the building or strong AI referral, doesn't replace due diligence. Buyers should still review the inspection, service history, warranty terms and market pricing. Most franchise dealers supply all of the above right online. Transparency is an AI requirement.

But here's the insider's takeaway: purchase price is only one part of a used vehicle's value. Known history, proper reconditioning and a reputable local business standing behind the sale can be worth considerably more than saving a few dollars up front.

The cheapest used car is rarely the least expensive one to own.

Tony Rehn Sr. is COO of Bidacar.com and president of TLR Automotive, Inc.

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SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Genesis GV 80 3.5T AWD

Genesis brand is growing BASE across the U.S. The GV 80 has been a "top seller in most markets in their Luxury line-up.

BASE PRICE: $59,195 *
TYPE: MID-SIZE SUV
ENGINE: 3.5 T
HORSEPOWER: 300 hp
MPG: 26 combined

Honda Passport T/S Elite

Honda's market share in the United States has been Increasing this year. Passport appeals to the OFF-ROADERS with add-ons.

BASE PRICE: $52,450 *
TYPE: MID-SIZE SUV
ENGINE: 3.5-LITER V6
HORSEPOWER: 255 hp
MPG: 23 highway

Honda Pilot AWD Elite

Honda has 2 winners in the Mid-size SUV segment the Passport and the three row Pilot. Room for all and the MPG and power for road-trips.

BASE PRICE: $53,495 *
TYPE: MID-SIZE SUV
ENGINE: 3.5-LITER V6
HORSEPOWER: 285 hp
MPG: 25 highway

Honda Ridgeline Trailsport

Honda's Ridgeline MID-SIZE truck has been a success. The TRAILSPORT with new features is priced right for those looking for a value based truck.

PRICE: $49,995 *
TYPE: Mid-Size Truck
ENGINE: 3.5 liter V6 VTEC
HORSEPOWER: 280 hp
MPG: 23 highway

Toyota Sequoia AWD Hybrid

The Toyota Sequoia is the BIG-DADDY in the large SUV category. More room for ROAD-TRIPS and now available in the hybrid.

BASE PRICE: $81.565 *
TYPE: Large SUV
ENGINE: Twin-Turbo V6 Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 437 hp
MPG: 22 highway

Toyota RAV4 GR Sport

Toyota RAV4 Hybrid is one of the MOST POPULAR vehicles in TOYOTA'S line-up. Priced right, Fun to drive, Lots of safety Features. Try a "Test Drive."

BASE PRICE: $48,500 *
TYPE: Plug-In Hybrid
ENGINE: 2.5 L 4 cyl.
HORSEPOWER: ECVT
MPG: 37 combined

LEXUS LX 700h

The Lexus LX 700h is a leader in SUV Luxury Class. The Hybrid Model has everything you would want or need in a SUV.

BASE PRICE: $115.735 *
TYPE: SUV-Luxury Hybrid
ENGINE: 3.4L V6
HORSEPOWER: 457 hp
MPG: 22 highway

Hyundai Ioniq 5 EV

The Hyundai Ioniq 5 EV leads in Hyundai's complete line-up of SUV's. Lots of safety features and technology add-ons. We suggest a "test drive"

BASE PRICE: $ 48.575 *
TYPE: SUV - LUXURY EV
ENGINE: Dual Electric
HORSEPOWER: ETRAC
MPG: 98 combined - MPGe

Hyundai Tucson PHEV LTD



The Hyundai Tucson Compact SUV is a leader in this class. The PHEV offers both style, extra room, with great value & top MPG "A top seller."

BASE PRICE: $48,300 *
TYPE: Compact SUV
ENGINE: 4 cyl. Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 231 hp
MPG: 77 combined - MPGe

Hyundai Sante Fe Hybrid



Hyundai has done a great job of producing a wide range of HYBRID SUV'S offering great MPG, value and "easy-to-use" Tech Features, I.e., the Sante Fe

PRICE: $36,400 *
TYPE: Mid-Size SUV
ENGINE: Turbo-4
HORSEPOWER: 231 hp
MPG: 36 combined

* All information listed "AS TESTED"

autonewsonline.com/showcase reviews

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Mazda CX-50



The Mazda CX-50 is a top-seller. With the Hybrid version added to the mid-size SUV group, Mazda has another value based SUV with top MPG.

BASE PRICE: $40,450 *
TYPE: Mid-size SUV
ENGINE: 2.5L Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 219 NET hp
MPG: 38 combined

Mazda MX-5 RF



If your looking for a "fun-to-drive" Sports Car the MAZDA MX-5 is for YOU. The retractable hard top model is perfect for NW weather. We suggest a "test drive"

BASE PRICE: $38,450 *
TYPE: Sports Convertible
ENGINE: Skyactive 2.0 liter
HORSE POWER: 181 hp
MPG: 34 highway

Toyota Corolla Hybrid



The Corolla is Toyota's all-time "BEST SELLERS" & with the Hybrid Model added to the line-up Toyota reaches a new group of younger based value buyers.

BASE PRICE: $30,302 *
TYPE: Compact Cars
ENGINE: Hybrid 1.8L 4 cyl
HORSEPOWER: 300 hp
MPG: 50 combined

Toyota 4-Runner Hybrid



The "Top Selling" Toyota 4-Runner is a favorite of "off-roaders" and now with the Hybrid version even more buyers prefer the Toyota 4-Runner.

BASE PRICE: $67.700 *
TYPE: SUV HYBRID
ENGINE: 2.4L I-MAX
HORSEPOWER: Turbocharged
MPG: 24 highway

Toyota Tacoma



The Toyota Tacoma is another All-time "Best Seller" for Toyota. (See front page story for a detailed review on the truck. We suggest a "test drive."

PRICE: $33,740 *
TYPE: Mid- Size Truck
ENGINE: Turbo 4
HORSEPOWER: 326 hp
MPG: 23 highway

Volkswagen Golf GTI SE



The VW Golf is one of the most Popular cars in their line-up. Priced right and a MPG rating that saves at the pump. We suggest a "test drive"

BASE PRICE: $39,080 *
TYPE: Compact Car
ENGINE: 2.0L
HORSEPOWER: 241 hp
MPG: 32 highway

* All information listed "AS TESTED"

autonewsonline.com/showcase reviews

Ford Expedition Tremor Offers Real Off Road Capability

The 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor takes everything people love about Ford's full-size SUV and injects it with genuine off-road capability. If the standard Expedition is built for family road trips and towing duty, the Tremor is built for families who don't stop when the pavement ends.

Off-Road Muscle Meets Full-Size Comfort

Under the hood, the Expedition Tremor packs Ford's 3.5-liter EcoBoost twin-turbo V6, producing a healthy 440 horsepower and 510 lb-ft of torque. That's serious power for an SUV this size, and it shows. Acceleration is strong and confident, especially when merging or passing, and the 10-speed automatic transmission keeps things smooth and responsive.

This isn't just a cosmetic package. The Tremor gets real off-road hardware:

- Unique suspension tuning
- Increased ground clearance
- 33-inch all-terrain tires
- Trail Control (low-speed off road cruise control)
- Rock Crawl mode
- Steel skid plates protecting critical components

The front end features bold orange Tremor accents and tow hooks that make it clear this isn't your typical suburban hauler.

Big on Space, Bigger on Capability

Inside, the Expedition Tremor remains every bit the full-size SUV. There's generous seating for up to eight passengers, with ample legroom in all three rows. Cargo space is massive — perfect for road trips, camping gear, or hauling sports equipment.

Technology is modern and intuitive, highlighted by a large center touchscreen with Ford's SYNC system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and a fully digital gauge cluster. It feels high-tech without being overwhelming.

Towing remains a major strength, with capacity that can exceed 9,000 pounds when properly equipped. Boats, trailers, or toy haulers are well within its comfort zone.

How It Drives

Despite its size, the Expedition Tremor drives with surprising composure. Steering is light enough for daily use, yet stable at highway speeds. On rough terrain, the suspension soaks up bumps impressively well for such a large SUV.

It's big — there's no hiding that — but Ford has done an excellent job making it manageable.

Final Thoughts

The 2025 Ford Expedition Tremor is for buyers who need full-size SUV practicality but want real off-road credibility. It blends power, technology, towing strength, and trail capability into one commanding package.

If you want an SUV that can haul your family in comfort during the week and tackle mountain trails on the weekend, the Expedition Tremor is hard to ignore.

WOMEN in the AUTO WORLD

Women in the Auto World

WOMEN in the AUTO WORLD

Previously Featured: "Women in the Auto World"

Lyn St. James – Indy Race Driver
Felicia Fields – Ford HR VP
Mary Barra – GM CEO
Michelle Christensen – Acura Design
Lisa Copeland – FCA Dealer
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Courtney Kramer – Auto News
Amber Geissler – Reaction Motorsports
Monika Kalenski – MEK Magnet
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Nancy LeMay – LeMay Family Collection
Muffy Bennett – Car Collector
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Monterey Touring Vehicle (MTV) Heather Gardner
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Toyota of Marysville – Ladies at Work
Dana White – Chief Comm. Officer - Hyundai N. America
Rita Case – Rick Case Auto Group
Connie Peters – Automotive Writer

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation Receives $100,000 Impact Grant from Hyundai Hope on Wheels® for Pediatric Cancer Research

The Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation has received a $100,000 Impact Grant from Hyundai Hope on Wheels to support the pediatric cancer program at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

The grant was presented to Adriana Trabal Yulfo, M.D., in support of the hospital's pediatric oncology program during a Hyundai Hope on Wheels ceremony.

The event brought together patients and families from Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, representatives from the hospital foundation, Hyundai leadership, local Hyundai dealers and hospital staff to celebrate a partnership spanning more than two decades. Since its inception, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has awarded more than 20 grants totaling $1.55 million to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation, funding pediatric cancer research and advancing care for children and families affected by cancer.

"Year after year, Hyundai Hope on Wheels continues to make a profound difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families," said Kelley Morris, President of the Memorial and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundations. "This generous investment strengthens our ability to deliver world-class care while advancing research that leads to better treatments and improved outcomes. We are honored to partner with an organization that shares our unwavering commitment to giving every child facing cancer the hope for a healthier future."

During the ceremony, patient Isabella Depestre shared her personal journey and message of hope. She reflected on being diagnosed with cancer at age 15 and described how the care team at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital supported her through treatment, helping her find strength during the most difficult moments and believe in her future.

"When a child is diagnosed with cancer, life changes in an instant," said Dr. Trabal Yulfo. "While treatment is our focus, caring for a child with cancer involves multidisciplinary care. This gift allows us to support teams who make an extraordinary difference during one of the most challenging times in a family's life. Here at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, we are committed to delivering exceptional care to every child who walks through our doors, and partnerships like this make this mission possible."

Following the check presentation, patients participated in Hyundai Hope on Wheels' signature Handprint Ceremony, leaving colorful handprints on a Hyundai vehicle that will travel across the country to raise awareness for pediatric cancer. Dr. Trabal Yulfo also invited patients to add their handprints to her Hyundai Hope on Wheels lab coat. Each handprint symbolizes the courage, resilience and determination of children battling cancer and serves as a reminder of the ongoing need for research and support.



Dawn Quaranta, vice president of Palm Beach operation, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital; Marc Riley, chief operating officer, Rick Case Automotive Group; Adriana Trabal Yulfo, M.D., Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital; Mike Donahoo, senior manager of corporate social responsibility, Hyundai Southern Region; Fred Whitt, regional general manager, Hyundai Southern Region; and Ashley Kozich, director of corporate philanthropy, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital Foundation

Rick Case Kia Sunrise Honored as Exclusive Member of Kia America's President's Club

President and CEO Rita Case recognized for exceptional customer service and sales success

Kia America has named Rita Case, president and CEO of Rick Case Automotive Group, as one of only 50 dealers in the United States to earn a spot in the brand's prestigious President's Club. Selected from a network of nearly 800 retailers, the Kia President's Club recognizes dealers who have achieved the highest sales performance and delivered exceptional customer satisfaction. This is the seventh year in a row that Rick Case Kia Sunrise has received President's Club honors.

"I am very proud to represent the Kia brand. Rick Case Automotive Group not only has a Kia dealership in Sunrise, Florida, but we also have one in Atlanta, Georgia," said Case. "It's always an honor to receive recognition for the hard work my team and I put in every day. We take pride in our customer satisfaction, which leads to our sales success. We treat customers as our friends. This builds a longstanding relationship of trust and loyalty."

Kia America continues its remarkable momentum as the brand achieved its eighth consecutive year of retail sales growth in the U.S. in 2025. "Last year marked significant milestones in the continued growth of the Kia brand in the United States, and on behalf of the Kia family, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Rita Case and the staff at Rick Case Kia for their unwavering dedication to exemplary sales performance and outstanding customer satisfaction," said Seungkyu (Sean) Yoon, President and CEO, Kia N. America and Kia America.



Rita Case with Kia executives and Jimy Contreras, general manager Photo courtesy: Rick Case Automotive Group

This milestone also represents the brand's highest ever U.S. market share, underscoring the contiued consumer demand for Kia's diverse model lineup Adding to this momentum is the all-new 2027 Kia Telluride, featuring its first-ever available hybrid powertrain and expanded X-Pro capability, marking the next chapter for Kia's flagship three-row SUV.

As part of Kia's commitment to helping those in need and supporting local communities, the brand's "Accelerate the Good" Dealer Match program contributed more than $4.7 million to non-profits nationwide in 2025. Together, Kia America and its dealers provided assistance to those affected by a wide variety of issues from childhood cancers to homelessness and hunger, to natural disaster relief and environmental causes.

Locally, South Florida Kia Dealers donated $150,000 last December to Feeding South Florida, the leading hunger-relief organization serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. This donation supports Feeding South Florida's mission to end hunger in the community by providing immediate access to nutritious food, innovative programming and advocacy efforts. The organization serves food-insecure individuals across its quad-county region, including children, seniors, veterans and single parents. For every $1 donated, four nutritious meals are provided to those in need.

Monterey Car Week Preview

continued from page 2

cept" or development model. The real deal.) Its model year will be 2029; as I said, quite a ways out.

What I can tell you is that previewing it in California, even if it weren't Car Week, was a smart move. I have to imagine this vehicle will sell very well here, especially in areas where Mercedes-Benz already has a lot of customers. Think Newport Beach, Napa Valley, Beverly Hills, and yes, even the Monterey Peninsula. Here's another little hint: it will not be inexpensive. Mercedes has some excellent new offerings at the lower tiers of their price ladder, but this will not be on those tiers.

So, my lips are sealed, of course. But it will be fun to say to everyone at some point, "Oh, I already saw that, back in 2026 in fact." I look forward to that, and I also look forward to next year's Monterey Car Week. A place to honor the automotive past, and sometimes get a special look at the automotive future.



Dave Kunz at the Mercedes-Benz dispay (photo Dave Kunz)



Car Collections

November Auction: Classic Cars, Hollywood History & a New Generation of Collectors

The collector-car market is experiencing an exciting generational shift. Today's buyers are increasingly looking for the cars they remember from their youth—the cars they grew up seeing in the driveway, dreamed about in high school, or watched in movies and on television. That changing passion is bringing a whole new generation of enthusiasts into the hobby.

That spirit is on full display at Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions this November 20–22 at the Palm Springs Convention Center.

Our upcoming auction features an incredible mix of classics, muscle cars, exotics and unique collector vehicles. Highlights include a 1972 Chevrolet Corvette Convertible with a 454 big block, a 1982 Porsche 928 with the rare 5-speed manual transmission, and, for fans of Elvis Presley and Hollywood history, a 1968 Chrysler Imperial Convertible that was Elvis Presley's car in the 1968 film Live a Little, Love a Little.

These cars represent more than just horsepower and styling—they represent memories. For longtime collectors, they **continued on page 21**



McCormick Auction LOT 236 1982 PORSCHE 928

2026 Light-Duty Pickup Trucks for Supply Pro

by Howard Elmer

continued from page 6

GM

For 2026 Chevy introduces a "Custom" package, a "Plus" package and added features like the Multi-Flex tailgate, and a "Premium" package that includes Super Cruise, head-up display, and a mid gate. Chevrolet will also offer its popular off-road Trail Boss trim as part of the 2026 Silverado EV lineup. With a 2-inch lift, the Trail Boss has 24% higher ground clearance compared to the base Silverado EV. The coil suspension system is uniquely tuned with a hydraulic rebound control system.

RAM

Ram 1500 Ram charger: This extended-range electric vehicle (EREV) uses electric motors for propulsion and features an engine that acts as a generator. It's still supposed to arrive in 2026 – however they have dropped the Ram charger name along with the death of the all electric REV.

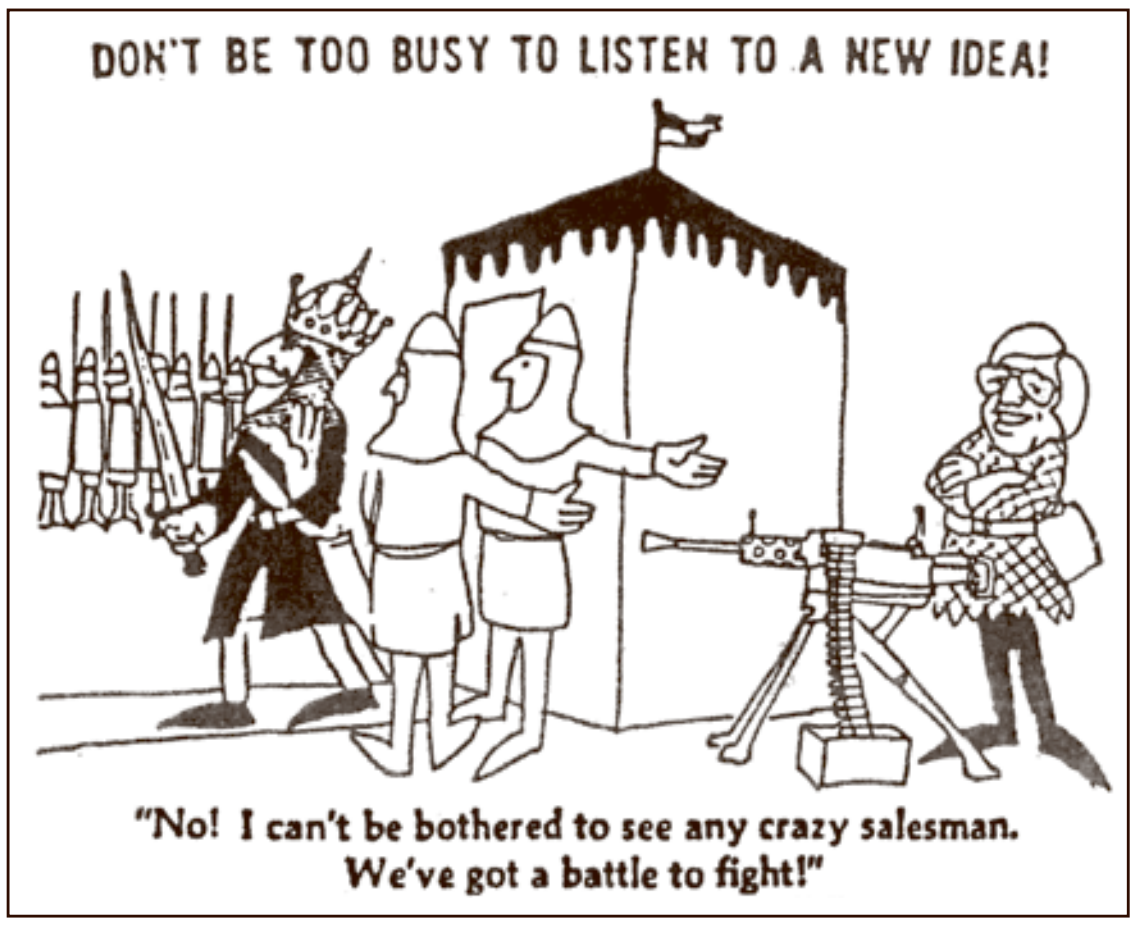
FORD

Ford's Lightning – the all EV truck – is dead. However, in the next 12 months. Ford Motor Company will build the next generation of the F-150 Lightning which (like the RAM) will be an extended range electric truck – utilizing a gas engine to charge the battery.

This EREV will offer the best of both worlds: the seamless, instant power of an electric powertrain and the freedom of a generator-backed estimated range of more than 700 miles.

Unlike a traditional hybrid, the F-150 Lightning EREV is propelled 100 percent by electric motors. This provides rapid acceleration and quiet operation — while eliminating the need to stop and charge during long-distance towing. Like the current F-150 Lightning, the nextgen version will also offer exportable electricity that can power everything from work sites to camp sites to homes during a power outage.





Sally's Drive Revolution Story

continued from page 12

Woodland, and 2026 Toyota C-HR XSE AWD. Attention to detail in all the Battery Electric Vehicles is impressive. Large display screens, retractable door handles, ambient lighting, and extraordinary fit and finish on the interior are just a few features included in the SUVs, and luxury sedans in this category.

Results of the 2026 Drive Revolution winners will be announced in the Holiday Issue of Auto News because tabulation was held up due to hanging chads, the Postal Service or a digital screw up!



2026 Lucid Gravity finds it namesake at a Vancouver, WA coffee shop during the test drive at NWAPA's Drive Revolution. Photo by Alex Salaices

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BUSINESS

THURSDAY'S CLOSE

DOW 52,064.10 -316.56 -0.60% | NASDAQ 26,081.73 -171.62 -0.65% | S&P 500 7,591.70 -44.66 -0.59% | GOLD -$53.50

General Motors to open new Seattle office next year in Denny Triangle

by Bill McCallum

On Friday September 11, 2026 the Seattle Times (Seattle's Daily Newspaper) featured the following story on it's business page. "General Motors to open new Seattle office next year in Denny Triangle" Did I know this was happening? No !

Was I surprised ? No ! According to the article "The office will be home to teams working on digital products, autonomous vehicles, IT, human resources and marketing". The team will also focus on recruiting AI (artificial intelligence) engineers.

SORRY GM !

IAM NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME !! And this message to all OEM'S ..... !!

1- It was just a few years ago all OEM's were knocking on Microsoft's door seeking tech support !

2- Where did Ford find a new CEO when they needed help ! Seattle, Washington

3- Seattle/Bellevue is the home of Global Auto News & www.autonewsonline.com "The largest and fastest growing consumer auto newspaper in the U.S., distributed for 45 years"

4- Who won the Super Bowl last year. Seattle Seahawks !!

Slot Car Racing Europe vs. U.S.

continued from page 6

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!!

BRM Slot Cars & SCALE RACING Celebrate 10th Annual Event "24 Hours of Tacoma" with International Teams from Europe



Alan Smith (canter) Kicks Off BRMS "24 Hours of Tacoma"



Alan Smith Scale Racing Center's wife Audra (left) & daughter Julia at Event

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

Book Reviews

Broke with Benefits: Life Behind the Press Car

For more than 30 years, Keith Turner has been writing about cars. He has driven hundreds of new vehicles, from basic family transportation to six-figure luxury automobiles. He writes for Global Auto News and other publications, attended new vehicle introductions and spent much of his adult life doing what many people would consider a pretty good job: getting paid to drive new cars.

There was only one small problem: He was often broke.

Turner could be sitting behind the wheel of a $100,000 automobile and still be wondering whether he had enough money in the bank for the next tank of gas. He could be handed the keys to a luxury car that cost more than some houses, then go home and worry about an overdraft fee.

That wasn't the plan. It was simply the way his life turned out.

That contradiction is what makes Broke with Benefits — Becoming a Man through Life, Love, Loss and Free Cars! more than another memoir by an automotive journalist. For Global Auto News readers, it offers a look at the person behind the byline and at a career in automotive journalism from the inside.

Turner has never considered himself a stereotypical "car guy." He doesn't spend his spare time memorizing horsepower figures or arguing about quarter-mile times. His interest has always been more practical: How does a car work for the people who actually have to live with it? Is it comfortable? Is it useful? Does it make sense for a family? And, ultimately, is it worth the money?

That perspective has shaped more than three decades of automotive writing. Raised in Ohio, Turner became an editor on a Pulitzer Prize-winning team and later built his own career covering automobiles after the Sacramento Union closed. He adapted as newspapers changed, automotive journalism changed and the way people consumed information about cars changed.

His life took some remarkable turns away from the automotive world, too. In 2012, he worked behind the scenes of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, trading car reviews for the intensity of a national political campaign.

The bigger stories, though, happened at home. Turner writes about unemployment, financial uncertainty, marriage, fatherhood and family. He writes about losing his brother and the hole that loss left behind. He writes about finding his soulmate and discovering that love can arrive — or deepen — when you least expect it.

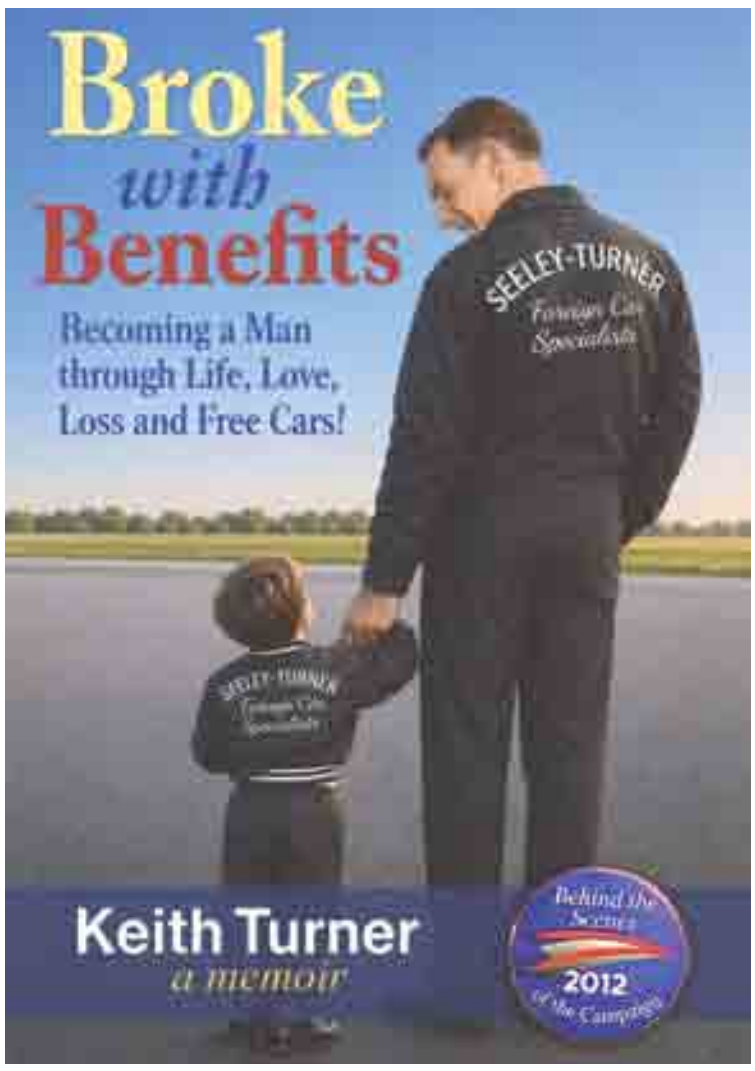
Then came a serious health crisis that forced him to think about what mattered and what might be left unsaid. It finally convinced him that if he didn't tell his stories now, he might never get the chance.

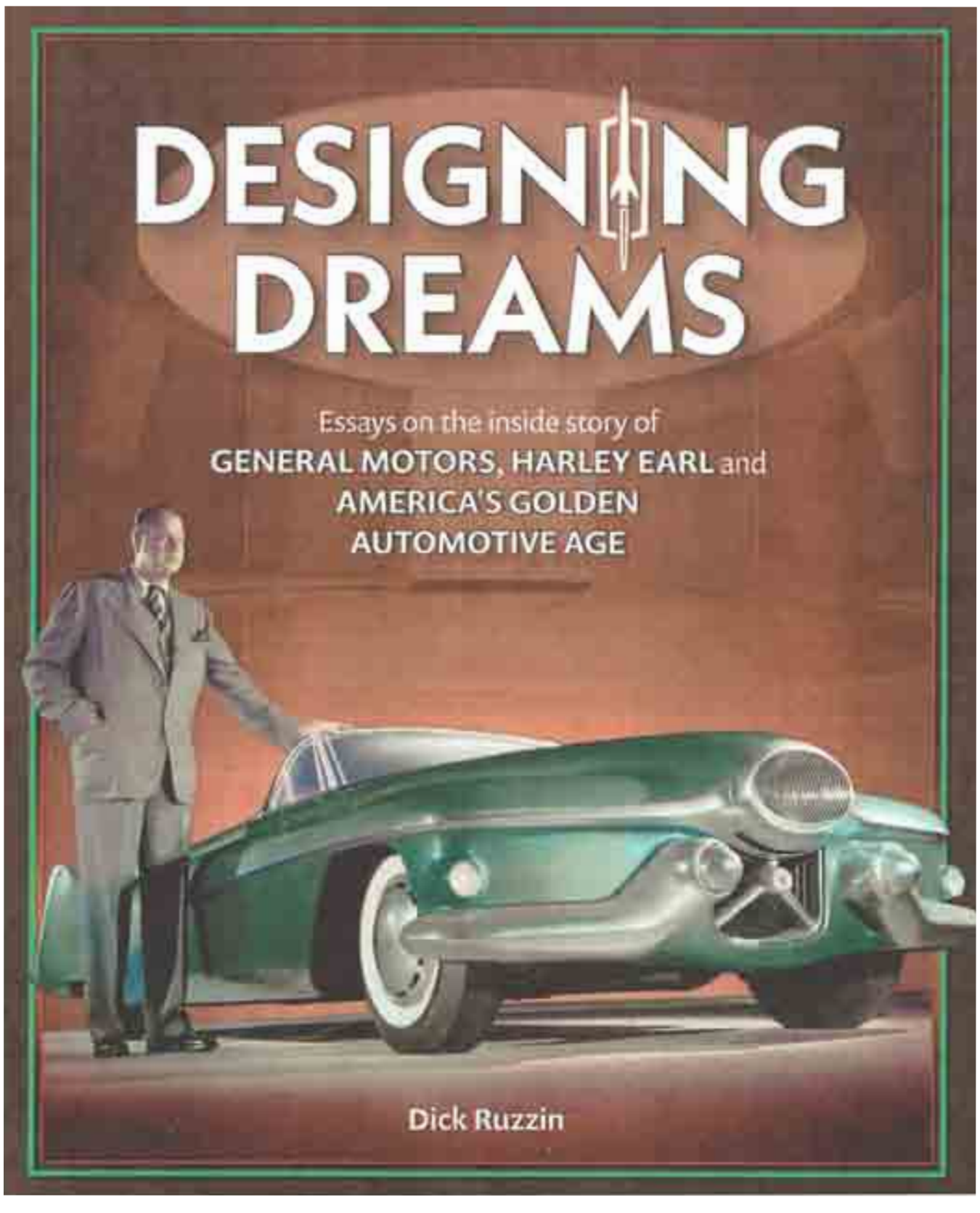
So, he did what writers do: He started writing.

Broke with Benefits isn't a traditional automotive book. There are no horsepower charts or five-star ratings. Instead, it takes readers beyond the vehicle and into the life of the guy evaluating it.

The cars were the backdrop. The career was the ride. The real story was everything that happened between the destinations.

Broke with Benefits is currently available on Amazon and Walmart.com.





Step into the world where cars became dreams on wheels.....!

At the centre of this compelling collection of essays is the 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado – a revolutionary front-wheel-drive luxury car that remains an icon of design and innovation. As one of its designers, Ruzzin provides an insider's perspective on its creation, offering a rare glimpse into the radical ideas and creative energy behind this automotive masterpiece.

Illustrated with over 100 sketches and images from General Motors Design archives, this book explores the passion, artistry, and precision behind automotive design. It captures the essence of a unique profession that combines function with form, producing cars that are both practical and beautiful.

Designing Dreams is more than a history of car design – it's a celebration of the people, ideas, and innovations that made the automobile a defining symbol of American ingenuity. Perfect for car enthusiasts and design lovers alike, this is a journey into the heart of creativity and the Golden Age of the American automobile.

ISBN: 9781836440017

UK £24.99
US $29.99

www.veloce.co.uk



Auto News Foundation



Palm Springs Collector Car Auction Scheduled: Nov. 20, 21, 22

continued from page 17

bring back a familiar era, while for younger buyers, they offer the opportunity to own the cars that shaped their automotive dreams.

And there's nothing quite like experiencing that excitement live and in person. With hundreds of cars crossing the block, the energy of an audience, and the thrill of competitive bidding, our November auction offers an experience you simply can't get from an online sale.

Add in the stunning setting of downtown Palm Springs, California, and you have the perfect destination for a collector-car weekend.

Join the excitement November 20–22, 2026, at the Palm Springs Convention Center for great cars, great memories and the excitement of a live collector-car auction.



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(see page 24 & 25)

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.

TRAVEL the U.S.

Time to Start Traveling "Again"

TRAVEL the WORLD

AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale Donates $130,000 to Arizona Nonprofits in Day of Giving

$120,000 to fund a rebuild of the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents community park; $10,000 to support a Make-A-Wish Arizona pediatric cancer patient from Phoenix Children's Hospital

AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale donated a combined $130,000 to two Arizona nonprofits during a day of giving led by General Manager Sara Bishop.

The morning ceremony, held at the AZAFAP community park, featured the presentation of a $120,000 check, the largest single contribution that AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale has presented to the organization.

"Friday marked a meaningful milestone in our 12-year partnership with AZAFAP and our long-term commitment to driving out cancer through Make-A-Wish," said Bishop. "From investing in the rebuild of this community park to creating a memorable camping experience for Elsa and her family, we are proud to help make a lasting impact across the Phoenix community."

The event included the unveiling of architectural renderings for the new park, remarks from AutoNation, Subaru and AZAFAP leadership, and family-friendly activities for the families in attendance. The donation builds on a 12-year partnership between AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale and AZAFAP that has now totaled more than $230,000 in donations. Over the course of the partnership, the store has served as the lead sponsor of AZAFAP's annual back-to-school shoe drive, helping hundreds of children receive new shoes each year, and has supported the organization's Operation Warm jacket distribution and its annual holiday bike and toy drive.

"AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale is one of the most consistent and generous partners we have. For more than a decade, Sara and her team have shown up for our families," said Lynn Fox-Embrey, Treasurer of the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents. "This investment will transform our community park into a space where our foster and adoptive families can come together for years to come."

The afternoon ceremony, held at the AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale store, marked a $10,000 donation to Make-A-Wish Arizona with a celebration for Elsa, a 7-year-old pediatric cancer patient from Phoenix Children's Hospital. Sara and her team hosted a camping-themed party, inspired by Elsa's wish to go camping with her family. "We are grateful to Sara and the AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale team for providing a day of joy for Elsa," said Fran Mallace, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Arizona. "Donations like this are essential to our mission and will help us bring her wish to life, giving Elsa the chance to reconnect with nature and make new memories with her family."

These donations reflect AutoNation's ongoing commitment to the communities it serves and to driving out cancer through its DRV PNK initiative, which has raised more than $50 million for cancer-related causes to date.

About AutoNation, Inc.

AutoNation, one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States, offers innovative products and exceptional services as part of a portfolio of comprehensive solutions for our customers and their automotive needs. With a nationwide network of dealerships strengthened by a recognized brand, we offer a wide variety of new and used vehicles, customer financing, parts, and expert maintenance and repair services. Through DRV PNK, we have raised over $50 million for cancer-related causes, demonstrating our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our Associates, Customers, and the communities we serve. Please visit www.autonation.com, investors.autonation.com, and www.x.com/autonation, where AutoNation discloses additional information about the Company, its business, and its results of operations.

Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents

The Arizona Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents (AZAFAP) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting foster, adoptive, and kinship families throughout Arizona. AZAFAP provides advocacy, education, resources, and meaningful connections to help families navigate the unique journey of caring for children impacted by foster care. Through statewide events, family support programs, training opportunities, and children's basic needs resources, AZAFAP works to strengthen families, build supportive communities, and create positive experiences for children and caregivers alike.

About Make-A-Wish® Arizona

Make-A-Wish Arizona grants life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Together with generous donors, supporters, staff and volunteers, Make-A-Wish delivers hope and joy to children and their families when they need it most.



Event 1 – at the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents (AZAFAP) Community Park:
20 – Sara Bishop, General Manager at AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale, unveils plans for the new AZAFAP Community Park.
21 – AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale executives are joined by executives from Subaru for the presentation of a $120,000 donation to AZAFAP.
23 – AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale, Subaru, AZAFAP leaders and families with donation check and community park rendering.



Event 2 – at AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale event with Make-A-Wish Arizona
46 - AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale is joined by representatives of Subaru, Make-A-Wish Arizona and Phoenix Children's Hospital for the presentation of a $10,000 donation.
33 – Wish Kid Elsa, a 7-year-old pediatric cancer patient, and her mother enter the AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale store for a camping-themed celebration.
36 – Sara Bishop, General Manager at AutoNation Subaru Scottsdale, surprises Wish Kid Elsa and her family with gifts.





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Daisywagen Service has served the Seattle area since 1980. Daisywagen is a family run business and Larry Dreon's daughter Candace Hopkins recently took over the company. Daisywagen is the premier independent Volvo service specialist in the Northwest. With six employees and seven service bays, Daisywagen can work on 20 to 25 cars a day.

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Jennifer Biggs recently Honored as a "Legend of Auto"

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NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION

GLOBAL AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION

"Reaching Out To Community Colleges Across The Nation, with Automotive Programs To Attract A Younger Generation To Enter The Automotive Industry"

(See Story on Page 25)

Auto News Foundation

Methow Valley, WA Tech Students Experience Olympus Rally Up Close . . . . . !



Matt Kennedy, (center) with Tech School Students at Olympus Rally (photo Auto News)

Students from the Methow Valley School District Auto Program recently stepped out of the classroom and into the world of professional rally racing during a multi-day field trip to the Olympus Rally in Western Washington.

Led by Automotive Instructor Matt Kennedy, the trip included a visit to the LeMay Museum, tours of South Puget Sound CC's automotive, machining, and welding programs, and multiple Olympus Rally events. Students met rally legends including Travis Pastrana, Lia Block, and former WRC driver Jari-Matti Latvala while exploring race cars, service areas, and speaking with drivers and mechanics.

We caught up with Matt Kennedy after the trip and he stated: "Overall we had a great trip. The goal was to get students out of town to get exposure to a part of the automotive industry that most of us do not see on a regular basis. The students learned a ton about rally racing, how to get involved and how to access this sport as a driver/co-driver or a mechanic. I heard so many thoughtful questions from the students during our trip. There is a ton of excitement about the trip and we are hoping to go again next year."

The experience continues the momentum of Methow Valley's growing automotive program as many students recently earned ASE certifications and are continuing their education through automotive technical programs and apprenticeships across Washington.

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FOUNDATION

501(c)(3) NON PROFIT

"Finding Tomorrows Technicians for New Car Dealers"

About the Auto News Foundation

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

Donation Tiers

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

"Biggs Rover" Tier Up to $1,000	**"Drager" Tier** Up to $2,500	**"Doug Ikegami" Tier** Up to $5,000	**"Rita Case" Tier** Up to $10,000
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		*Recognition Plaque & Honor Roll Scarf	Recognition Plaque & Honor Roll Scarf
	Two Tickets to next Legends of Auto Event	Two Tickets to next Legends of Auto Event	Two Tickets to next Legends of Auto Event
		*Special Acknowledgement at Legends of Auto Event	*Special Acknowledgement at Legends of Auto Event
		*Artical about you or your Business on Auto News Website	*Artical about you or your Business on Auto News Website and *Print Publication
			Collector Museum Tour

***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.

2026 Polestar 4 "Test Drive Review"

Too many functions live inside the touchscreen, including some basic climate and vehicle controls. Like many modern EVs, there's a learning curve that may frustrate less tech-savvy buyers and navigating the touchscreen menus while driving can be tedious.

Range is respectable rather than class leading. The EPA rates the Dual Motor at 280 miles, with charging speeds up to 200 kW on DC fast chargers. In real-world driving, expect something closer to the mid-200s if you fully enjoy all head-snapping 544 horsepower – and you will.

Pricing for this Pilot-equipped tester lands around $67,400 including destination. Considering the performance, design and premium feel, it stands for decent value in today's luxury EV market.

The Polestar 4 isn't perfect. The camera mirror won't be for everyone. The interface can occasionally overcomplicate simple tasks. And some rivals charge faster or travel farther.

But very few EVs feel this cohesive.

The 2026 Polestar 4 Dual Motor succeeds because it doesn't merely chase Tesla. It dares to be something else entirely: stylish without being flashy, fast without being juvenile and futuristic without losing its humanity.

Keith Turner is an auto writer based in Northern California. Check out his video reviews at Carguy Drives on YouTube.
Keith Turner
Auto Review Producer/Writer
Global Auto News
(reaching over 1 million industry experts online, in video and in print)
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Auto News Foundation

Auto News Foundation Presents "TAP"© Awards To NW Students At An Event



Sylvee Madson, a TAP recipient accepts Award from Alan Smith owner of Scale Racing Center at a Northwest Legend of Auto Event in the Spring of 2025 (photo Auto News)

Top 4 States With Automotive Tech Programs

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

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

2. California continued
13. Skyline College
14. Universal Technical Institute (UTI)
15. WyoTech

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

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

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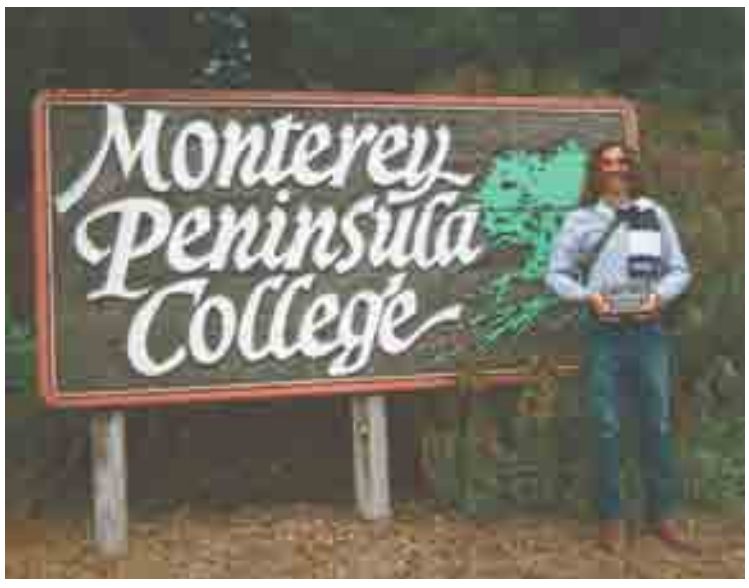
Two TAP© Awards presented during Monterey "Car Week"



Isabel Lopez (left) and Dan Brigantino receives TAP Schlorships in Monterey (photo Auto News)



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



Dan Brigantino First TAP Award recipient receives Second TAP Award during "Car Week" 2025 in Monterey

Shoreline
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Auto News Foundation Presents "TAP" Awards to Monterey Peninsula College Tech Students during 2026 Monterey "Car Week".....!

On August 13, 2026 we celebrated the "20 Year Reunion of Legends of Auto" during Monterey "Car Week." This year we honored Sam Pack, Ford Mega Dealer from Texas, Elena Ford, founding Ford Family member, John Clinard, Veteran Ford West Coast PR Manager and Gary Williams Auto News Feature Writer and a close friend of ours who passed last fall.

We also created a new annual event entitled "Dealer of the Decade", honoring Beau Boeckmann, Los Angeles mega dealer; Rita Case, Florida mega dealer, Sam Pack, Texas mega dealer and Greg Penske, U.S. mega dealer.

Sam Pack (see page 1 photo) with his family and management team in the audience made an INSPIRING ACCEPTANCE speech on how important the auto industry is to the U.S. economy and how his team has given back to his community and the state of Texas.

The evening concluded with the presentation of two TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) checks presented to Monterey Peninsula College Automotive Tech School students Isabel Lopez (first of 3 checks) and Dan Brigantino (third of 3) (see page 1 photo) from the AUTO NEWS 501 (c) (3) NON PROFIT FOUNDATION

Thank you for reading Global Auto News Issues: FALL, WINTER, HOLIDAY, SPRING SUMMER, MONTEREY and online @ www.autonewsonline.com

ALSO see photos on page 5, 12, & 25)

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Kayla Allen Yakob represented Auto News at Concourse d' Elegance 2026



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by Bill McCallum

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

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

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

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

AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION

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



Legends of Auto Gala Event attendees at dinner during presentations at previous event in Monterey, CA

Honored Members of Legends of Auto

George Barris*
Beau Boeckmann
Bert Boeckmann
Bob Bondurant*
Sandra Button
Rita & Rick Case*
Corky Coker
Frank Corrente
Tom duPont
Vic Edelbrock*
Ryan Falconer
Jim Farley
Mark Fields
Henry Ford Family
Galpin Group Family
Ken Gross
Dan Gurney*
Lee Iacocca*
Craig Jackson
Lyn Hiner
Lyn St. James
Parnelli Jones
Ed Justice Jr.
Jay Leno
Ken Lingenfelter
Keith Martin
Barry Meguiar
Bruce McCaw
Dana Mecum
Tim McGrane
Bruce Meyer
Peter Mullin*
Roger Penske
Pierre Ford Family
Stewart Reed
Steve Saleen
Carroll Shelby*
Danny Sullivan

SEE - www.LegendsofAuto.com

*Departed Legends

Rita Case, C.E.O. of Rick Case Auto Group was recently honored as a "Dealer of the Decade" during "Car Week"



Rita Case with Legends of Auto Award at Rick Case Auto Group Headquarters honored in Monterey

Lyn Hiner, Artist, Honored



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

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.*

Foundation Donations by check mailed to:

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Ford Explorer Tremor "test drive"

continued from page 2

40 with it folded, and roughly 84 with everything flat. The third row is genuinely usable. At 5'7" I had legroom back there, along with vents, reading lights and USB-C.

Inside, the 13.2-inch touchscreen and 12.3-inch digital cluster are quick and sensibly laid out. The Ultimate Package adds a fixed moonroof, ambient lighting, a 14-speaker Bang & Olufsen system and multi contour massage seats. They are lovely. I still would not check the box.

It drives with real composure, on pavement and off it.

The Catch

8.7 inches is modest for something wearing an off-road badge. The EcoBoost returns 17 mpg city, 22 highway and 19 combined, which is not staggering in 2026. And that big moonroof does not open.

Final Thoughts

This one is for the active family of five that camps, skis, and occasionally tows a small trailer. It will take you where you need to go comfortably and with composure.

PROS

- Genuine off-road hardware, not an appearance package
- Composed and easy to drive on road and off
- One of the better third rows in the segment
- 84 cubic feet of cargo space with the seats flat
- Strong value at the $48,465 base price
- Trail lights and the 360-degree camera earn their keep at night



2026 Ford Explorer Tremor (photo Chris Chung)

10 Years in the Making: Evergreen Ford's New Issaquah Facility Set to Open March 2027

After more than a decade of planning, development, and overcoming challenges, Evergreen Ford is finally set to open its brand-new Issaquah location in March 2027.

The project has been years in the making, with development efforts and permitting discussions dating back well over 10 years. Now, the long-awaited state-of-the-art Ford and Lincoln facility is nearing reality and promises to dramatically expand Evergreen Ford's ability to serve customers throughout the Eastside and greater Seattle region.

We recently caught up with Sean Bell, COO of Cam Clark Automotive Group and General Manager at Evergreen Ford, who shared his excitement about finally bringing the project to completion.

"We are so excited to be bringing this to completion in Issaquah with over 10 years in development," Bell said. "Big thank you to Dan Rowe, the previous owner, for all the challenges he overcame with the new location. We wouldn't have been able to do it without him."

The new facility will feature over 50 service bays, significantly expanding service capacity for Ford and Lincoln customers.

"We will finally have the facility to allow us to best take care of our guests, including the most amazing Lincoln location," Bell added.

Evergreen Ford says preparation for the move has already been underway for over a year, and the dealership is actively hiring both technicians and sales staff ahead of the opening.

"We have bays for technicians NOW – we need salespeople now!"

The opening marks one of the most significant dealership developments in the Pacific Northwest in recent years and represents a major investment in the future of automotive retail and service in Issaquah.





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（See Page 5 Photo）