



AUTO NEWS



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2024 Mazda 3 Combines Design, Function, and Economy in a Sedan



2024 Mazda 3 (photo from Mazda)

by Bill McCallum

The all-new 2024 Mazda 3 has the 3 things I look for in a "test drive" vehicle, DESIGN, FUNCTION, and ECONOMY.

When it comes to ECONOMY the base MSRP starts at \$24,170. The vehicle I tested was priced at \$31,780 and was loaded with extras. The 2024 Mazda 3 was not bad on MPG either, coming in at 32+ on the highway.

The 2024 Portland Auto Show,

which I attended this year, BUYERS GUIDE, said it best when describing the 2024 Mazda 3. "The 2024 Mazda 3, available in a sedan or hatchback, is a compact car with engaging driving dynamics and a sophisticated design. The Mazda 3 receives a new Carbon Turbo edition, greater connected technology and enhanced suite of standard features. The new Carbon Tech package combines bespoke

exterior styling with refined turbocharged performance. A new 10.25 inch infotainment display is available on select models. The Mazda 3 is offered in seven packaging options with standard front wheel drive and available i-Active all-wheel drive on select models. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility is standard.

The 2024 Mazda 3 deserves a look and a "test drive."

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The Auto News Foundation Presents Scholarships at 12th Annual Legends of Auto Event at Drager's Event Center

by Bill McCallum

I want to thank both Gary Fantozzi, Director of Automotive Programs at Shoreline Community College and Brian Hebert Technical Training Manager at Toyota's Portland Regional Office for finding our two scholarship winners Phaedra Warren and Rashawn Ryalls.

The scholarships were awarded at our first Northwest Legends of Auto Event in November 2023. (see photo on page 25) Over 180 Northwest automotive enthusiasts attended our November event as we honored regional auto dealers, auto museum founders, after market

providers and others.

The Legends of Auto Event was created over 12 years ago in Los Angeles with the support of the Ford Motor Company and the Boeckmann family, owners of Galpin Auto Group. The event was eventually moved to Monterey during the Concours d' Elegance week. (see page 24)

Stay tuned as we expand both our scholarship program and the support of automotive tech schools through out the West during 2024.

Please feel free to donate to the Auto News Non Profit Foundation. (see page 18, 20, 24, 25, 26)

Kevin Iden of Iden's Dealer Services Joins The Auto News Foundation Board of Directors



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

Sun Valley Road-Trip In An All-New 2024 Lexus RX 450h + AWD



2024 Lexus RX 450h + AWD at Sun Valley (photo Auto News) (Story on page 20)

**Auto News
Increases EV
Test Drive Reviews**



Bill McCallum
publisher

As we increase our EV test drives during the coming months: see page 4, BMW i4 eDrive 40 review, page 5 Toyota bZ4x review and the back page Ford Mach E review, my hope is auto-makers consider these 5 facts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Toyota Crown
Platinum Test
Drive Review**



Chris Chung
International editor

I was particularly excited when I heard I’d be driving the Toyota Crown. The Crown nameplate dates back to the mid 1950’s where it began as a mid-size luxury sedan. My father told me stories growing up of how back in the 60’s when he was a child growing up in Mauritius, wealthy businessmen would have drivers that used Toyota Crowns, as the vehicle of choice. He would occasionally muster up enough change to be able to ride in one. However for myself, the Toyota’s Crown nameplate had long vanished from the U.S. (circa 1973) market by the time I was growing up, so the first time I was able to ride in one, was in Japan where many are still used as taxi’s in 2016.

But as of 2023, the Crown has made a comeback. But now not just as any sedan; but as a hybrid, designed to compete with SUVs. With a lifted stance and a sleeker body, the 2023 Toyota Crown Platinum aims to be sporty, luxurious, and practical. But does it succeed in these ambitions?

Performance and Drive

The Platinum model is the performance variant of the Crown lineup. It boasts more power, a six-speed automatic transmission, and a trim-specific adaptive suspension. All Crown models come with a hybrid all-wheel-drive system, but the Platinum stands out with its 2.4-liter turbo Hybrid Max setup, producing 104 hp more than the base powertrain. However, when compared to rivals like the

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**Honda CRV A
Sporty Hybrid
Test Drive Review**



Sally Hanson
editor

America’s best-selling Cross-over Utility Vehicle (CUV) since its launch in 1997 and Honda’s best-selling vehicle since 2017, this year’s sixth generation CR-V line-up was further enhanced by the addition of the Hybrid All-Wheel-Drive Sport Touring model.

The completely redesigned CR-V offers bold styling on the exterior, increased performance, and more space and comfort inside the vehicle. Honda’s new hybrid models feature a new hybrid system for a sportier driving experience. My drive in the CR-V Hybrid AWD Sport Touring edition included a round trip from Seattle over the Cascade mountain pass to the Columbia basin in Eastern Washington. I was hoping to encounter slushy roads in the pass to feel the all-wheel-drive system work its magic, but heavy rain was all I got! My return trip to the wetlands was met by blinding rain where I was able to experience the stability of the CR-V on the road as well as the ease of operating all controls in adverse weather conditions.

continued on page 10

**2024 Mercedes
E350 Test
Drive Review**



Dave Kunz
LA feature writer

The current Mercedes-Benz model lineup is chock-full of SUVs, as is the case with most every mainstream auto brand. But there’s still room for sedans, says the company, especially the iconic E-Class. To that end, an all-new version of the mid-size 4-door has arrived for the 2024 model year.

Visually, it mimics the design theme that debuted on the larger S-Class a few years ago. Smoothed corners, and a very tech-y overall vibe. This newest-gen E-Class is likely to be around for a while, so Mercedes-Benz likely took great pains to ensure that it doesn’t become dated-looking as the generation runs its course.

There was a time when an inline-six was the “small” engine in the E-Class, but for now it’s the top one. The E450 and announced E53 AMG model run a 3.0 liter turbocharged six with all the latest tech. In the E450, that includes a 48-volt mild hybrid system for some extra off-the-line torque and a total of 375 horsepower. It combines with a 9-speed automatic

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**"Best of the
Bay" Event
Winners ...!**



Keith Turner
SF feature writer

In a somewhat surprising outcome, the gasoline-powered Acura Integra Type S overpowered a field dominated by electric vehicles to take home the Best Overall vehicle honors in the inaugural Best of the Bay awards competition hosted by the Western Automotive Journalists.

The competition, which took place in Santa Rosa Calif., featured 13 new models provided by manufacturers that were each driven in 30-minute segments over two days of spirited road testing by a group of autowriters from Northern California who then voted for their favorites in each of five categories.

The high-powered, five-door compact Acura sports sedan, which returned to the automaker’s lineup after a 16-year hiatus, features a 2.0-liter, 4-cylinder engine with six-speed manual transmission producing 320 horsepower. Judges were impressed with the sporty Integra and commented that the Type S is “playful,” “light on its feet,” and the “best overall for driver involvement.”

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Innovative Wind & Solar Tower Debuts at Detroit Auto Show



Jim Trainor
LA feature writer

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

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

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

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

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Connie Peters Interviews Jana Askeland



Connie Peters
feature writer

Jana Askeland, a seasoned professional in sales, marketing, and advertising, has carved a niche for herself in the competitive world of radio and digital advertising. With a focus on catering to local businesses, particularly car dealerships, Jana brings a unique perspective to her role. Growing up surrounded by the car business, thanks to her father's wholesale ventures and her brother's passion for drag racing, Jana developed an innate understanding of the industry.

After college, Jana found her stride in radio advertising and was quick to establish partnerships with local car dealers. Her background not only in marketing but also in the automotive world allows her to empathize with clients, identifying pain points and offering innovative solutions. This dual perspective, both as a professional and someone immersed in the car culture, sets Jana apart in her field.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Jana has embraced her role as a resource for fellow moms seeking advice on family-friendly vehicles. Recognizing the fervor in moms' discussions about the ideal

continued on page 16

Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review



Howard Elmer
truck writer

Every once in a long while release dates for a new class of trucks lines up. This year that class is midsize pickup trucks. For 2023 the GM Twins, Colorado and Canyon are new. Also, the new Ford Ranger is coming this late this year. From Toyota we will also see new Tacoma, though it will probably be released in '24. Of these trucks the Chevrolet Colorado is first out of the gate and I recently had a chance to drive it down in California.

Last updated in 2015, there are significant changes to this mid-sizer, starting with engine choices. There is only one – the 2.7L turbo I-4. The V6 and small diesel option is no more. The 2.7L is matched to a second-generation 8-speed automatic transmission. Despite there being only one engine, it is available in three different outputs.

Output Variant: **2.7L Turbo**
Horsepower: 237
Torque (lb.-ft.) 259
Max Trailering: 3,500 lbs.
Availability: Standard: WT & LT
Output Variant: **2.7L Turbo Plus**

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New Ideas For LA Car Lovers



Jordan Williams
millennial writer

Looking for something easy, free and fun to do on a beautiful Sunday morning in Los Angeles?

Head to Marina del Rey, which boasts one of the world's most beautiful Marinas and The Waterside Shopping Center, 4700 Admiralty Way at Mindanao, for the Classic Cars and Hot Rods Million Dollar Breakfast Club.

Every Sunday morning, from 7-9 AM, right in the parking lot, there is coffee, cars and a fun gathering of car enthusiasts. The club says, "All you need is the love for cool cars to come and enjoy this event".

I have visited on a few different Sundays, finding every Sunday it's a random variety of cars and trucks that attend, or different vehicles each week. For me, it is a fun event to attend with my Dad, especially.

Happy New Year, Millennials and everyone! Make time for a little family fun!

For additional information, visit the website <https://www.free2funla.com/series/million-dollar-breakfast-club/>

See photos on page 12

Jacquelyne Newman Joins Auto News





Jacquelyne Newman
distribution manager

We are please to announce that Jacquelyne Newman has joined team Auto News as distribution manager in the Boise, Nampa, Meridian area of Idaho. It has been reported that Idaho is the fastest growing state in the union and a "hot-bed" for new car sales. Jacquelyne will also be calling on select new car dealers in the area and JACKSON ENERGY headquarters located in Meridian, Idaho. JACKSON is the largest chain of service stations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, & California and part of the Auto News distribution network.

Jacquelyne recently moved to Idaho from Monterey, Ca. and helped us launch the Auto News Foundation at an event in Monterey during the Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance. We welcome Jacquelyne to team "Auto News" as we continue to expand our brand across the U.S.


Jacquelyne Welcome to "Team Auto News"! Bill

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HASELWOOD
VOLKSWAGEN

The Ice Age Is Coming!



Larry Weitzman
EV specialist

BMW i4 eDrive 40 '23 "Test Drive"



Arv Voss
feature writer

Ford's F-150 Short Bed Regular Cab



Harold Allen
Texas feature writer

CES 2024 Automotive Technology



Joyce Chow
entertainment editor

Lexus RX F Sport "Test Drive"



Scot McCallum
feature writer

The reason from the climate communists will be that this current cold wave is caused by global warming. Just wait it's coming. Has anyone been watching the weather across the country? Tennessee is in a deep freeze as is most every state to the north, east and west. Oh, and don't forget about Dalles (and most of Texas), it was 16 degrees yesterday as was most of the panhandle and points south.

If you believe the mainstream press reports every heat wave, every fire (including Lahaina, Maui), every tornado and every hurricane is caused by global warming. I've even read that global warming may be a factor in causing earthquakes as a result of the expansion of the earth caused by the "excessive" heat.

I like the cold. We will get a bigger snow pack as precipitation instead of flowing to the ocean will be captured in the snow-pack. If we are afraid of global warming, why hasn't the state built more reservoirs. We haven't

OUTLOOK:

The future of electric mobility is here now with BMW's i4 eDrive 40 Gran Coupe – a rear motor, rear-wheel drive, 5-passenger, 4-door hatchback. In actuality, it's technically a 4-door sedan in the guise of a sleekly designed coupe with a hatch rather than a conventional trunk. It's neat with no ICE here folks. And, it smokes its gas powered 430i counterpart.

There are those naysayers concerning BMW's focus on the electrification of their sedan lineup. Not to worry – even on the lower end of the spectrum with the i4 eDrive340.

DESIGN:

The i4 is in essence, an EV example of the gas powered 4-Series Gran Coupe. Both display the same longer roofline, frame less door glass and rear liftgate. Rear seat accommodations and cargo access both exceed what any 3-series sedan serves up. Plus, it's absolutely gorgeous.

Looking for a truck that is fun to drive and yet won't break the bank? Well, look at a Ford F-150 Short Bed Regular Cab. But finding a well-equipped regular cab short bed is a challenge. Most are ordered as bare-bones working class models, with lots of plastic, Naugahyde seats and little equipment. They're inevitably white in color, with little more than tires and a steering wheel. The search for mine was long, but inevitably worth it; I found this truck about 100 miles from my house.

The biggest plus is getting one with the 5.0L V-8 engine and a 10-speed transmission. This option gives you good towing ability, and adding the available tow package is a real plus. Mileage yields 20 mpg combined and 25 mpg on the highway; however, I have achieved better than both numbers in my everyday use.

The color is called Avalanche, a blend of white and gray. The interior is a cloth slate; I feel in extreme temperature conditions cloth is a better choice. The 301A

Imagine orchestrating music by driving. Accelerate, slow down, turn left, turn right, the music responds to your driving nuances. Your car becomes an instrument where you can make recorded music live with MBUX SOUND DRIVE, the collaboration of Mercedes-AMG with multi-Grammy winning artist and entrepreneur will.i.am. The world premiere was at CES 2024 in Las Vegas.

It is not a traditional ambassadorship, Mercedes and will.i.am collaborated and created together. They assembled teams of engineers around the world to push technological boundaries through sensors where a car can express audibly how you drive behind the wheel and where you can create live music from previously recorded music with your car as an instrument. By creating a more immersive environment, it levels up and personalizes the relationship and emotional bond between you and your car where every drive is unique.

This is a story about an amazing car and the journey it gave us to the Methow Valley, one of the jewels of Washington State. The Lexus RX F Sport was the perfect vehicle for a trip over the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20). The RX has new design improvements including suspension and this scenic highway provided countless curves to test the RX handling. The 2.4 Liter Turbo Engine with Direct4 All Wheel Drive provided plenty of power and stability up the steep climbs and curves to Rainy and Washington Pass (5476'). The views going both directions over the North Cascades Highway are unbelievable; not just the best in Washington State but one of the best views from any highway in the U.S.

Our destination was Mazama and Winthrop, WA. Winthrop has original Western architecture for every building and includes a real Saloon – Three Finger Jacks. The RX Safety Technology Assist features came in handy parking

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EV (Electric Vehicles) News and Strategies


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

by Bill McCallum

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

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



Bill McCallum tests, Toyota bZ4x EV (photo Auto News)

BMW i4 eDrive 40 "Test Drive"

continued from page 4

MOTIVE FORCE:

Energy is provided by a current excited synchronous AC motor mounted aft and driving the rear wheels. The battery pack is an 81.5 kWh liquid-cooled lithium-ion unit with an 11.0kW onboard charger and the transmission is direct drive. Should one require more performance, there’s also an M50 with dual motors available.

0-60 time is 4.8 seconds (quicker than a Tesla Model 3, with a governed top-speed of 115 mph. Fuel economy is rated at 100 MPGe city, 98 MPGe highway and 99 MPGe combined. Range is 282 miles. There’s an 8-year/100,000-mile high voltage battery warranty.

The i4 eDrive 40 rides on strut suspension up front and multilink out back, with power-assisted four-wheel vented disc brakes

and regen braking. Rolling stock consists of Hankook Ventus S1 245/40R-19 98Y in front and 100Y in the rear mounted on five machine faced “Geo-petal” loops and black painted alloy wheels.

PLEASING GREENHOUSE ENVIRONMENT:

The cabin of the i4 40 is stylish and well laid out featuring a tech-packed curved-display screen **continued on page 19**

Cam Clark Auto Group Acquires Evergreen Ford, Lincoln, Chevrolet

by Tony Rehn

Cam Clark Automotive Group has arrived on the scene in the Northwest with a bang.

Recent US acquisitions include Santa Monica Ford Lincoln, Clark Nissan, Clark Hyundai in California and Montana. These have joined the 11 successful stores in British Columbia and Alberta. They most recently made a big splash acquiring PNW icon stores Evergreen Ford Lincoln and Evergreen Chevrolet. With that, and formal plans to construct the newest Fouchee built, state of the art, twin silo, completely electrified Trustmark Ford and Lincoln Facility, they are clearly here to stay and will create a lasting impact on the Issaquah Valley economy.

Now with a solid base of 10 Ford Franchises, CDJR, Chevrolet, and numerous import stores, Cam Clark is looking to grow.

As we all know, its people first in this industry. We know what teamwork is all about. We are committed to your career growth first and foremost. The old saying of ‘we will help you get what you want’ as we know that is how we get what we want.

After 20+years with Evergreen Auto Group this is the most exciting opportunity to grow with a clear community focused team. From day one, the Cam Clark vision has been to serve the local market with transparency, honesty and integrity with every action we take, and word we speak.

When or if you are considering a career change, no matter what your current level of automotive experience, we need to meet. This is the best ground floor growth opportunity in a family orientated group on this side of North America.

Why We Repeat Stories

by Bill McCallum

For the last 40 years, since we published our first Auto News, readers have asked, WHY DO WE REPEAT STORIES? So, I think it’s time to answer that question. Basically we are a new vehicle publication supported by automotive OEM’s new car dealer groups, and individual new car dealers, (see Cam Clark of Canada story on this page and back page Santa Monica Ford ad.) We have

and will continue to explore other areas of interest such as COLLECTOR CAR AUCTIONS to grow reader interest.

The fact is, only 5% to 6% of the population buys a new vehicle each year. So that means the majority of our readers may only read Auto News when they are in the market for a new vehicle.

That’s why we have maintained a solid distribution network, a direct mail network and a growing digital platform for the last 40 years and repeating stories is an important planned part of our business model.

AUTO NEWS® BYTES

Breaking up with Silicon Valley, VNC Automotive asks if it’s time to uncouple?

There comes a time in many relationships where you question your onward compatibility. Both parties rushed in, carried away by the moment, with little regard for the future. There was a great connection after all. But a great connection by itself, as we know, is not a good predictor of long-term success. When our goals and visions for the future do not align, or are opposed, then we face the sobering decision: do we stay together or breakup? This is the decision facing automakers right now as they reflect on the once heady days of their relationship with Silicon Valley.

Automakers offer their customers a plethora of both interior and exterior options for their vehicles which allow drivers to customise them to their own exacting specifications. These customization can range from optional driver assistance aids to the colour of the leather stitching, but when it comes to the infotainment system, automakers have in recent history been wedded: Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

With Android and iOS both dominating the mobile operating systems’ market share globally[1], it’s understandable that the majority of OEMs want to offer their customers a similar experience and interface to that of their beloved smartphones, allowing drivers to seamlessly mirror their smartphones to the in-vehicle screen.

However, the automotive titan General Motors has recently announced its plans to step away from these two incredibly popular Silicon Valley protocols and phone mirroring in general in its future electric vehicles, instead favouring their own holistically integrated software solution.

Tom Blackie, CEO, VNC Automotive says, “I’ve long believed the vehicle OEMs are grudgingly deploying Android Auto and CarPlay in the absence of anything better. Or that they are at least perceived to be an easy option with negligible cost to the automaker”.

“However, the OEMs are now painfully aware that they are seeding real estate to Apple and Google who are defining the user experience and policing which apps can and can’t be used in the vehicle, whilst also gathering vast amounts of data from individuals and the vehicles”, continues Blackie.

Android Auto and CarPlay are widely favored by consumers, with 79% of car buyers only ever considering purchasing a vehicle that’s CarPlay capable[2], meaning the OEM’s own operating system, applications and features are often overlooked. Their ability to control and curate the in-vehicle experience is therefore limited and they ultimately miss out on potential monetization opportunities of their own.

Not to mention their reputations are on the line if something goes wrong with these systems, as the OEM has little to no ability to fix the issue until Apple or Google release a software update. Hence, it’s totally understandable that the likes of General Motors are looking to remove themselves from this situation. But is it a mistake to completely disregard phone mirroring protocols?

Blackie continues, “although not necessarily Android Auto and CarPlay, phone mirroring technology shouldn’t be completely shunned, but rather the OEMs should look to implement systems that they can fully control – with the ability to tightly integrate with the vehicle systems, enabling car data to be shared with the OEMs proprietary applications, and to allow control of how that data is used and shared between the end user, vehicle and OEM.”

Solutions such as VNC Automotive’s Cobalt Link+ can provide OEMs with total control over how phones can be integrated into an overall vehicle system by providing instantaneous, safe and secure access to smartphone, tablet and other personal device content from the desired vehicle screen.

Due to the popularity of these Silicon Valley owned systems, Blackie advises automakers to consider a phased approach to rolling out their own infotainment solution. “Any such transition would likely need to be a gradual shift to avoid alienating their customer base, whose smartphones are central to daily life.”

“By this, I mean the OEM should run their own solution in parallel with Android Auto and CarPlay. Only when users really experience the benefits offered by the automakers will they be naturally drawn to it and then, and only then, should the OEM remove Android Auto and CarPlay if they want to avoid upsetting their customers”.

“In summary I’d agree with General Motors’s objectives, but question total removal of phone mirroring technology. When they do head off down the path of removing Android Auto and CarPlay my strong recommendation would be to run parallel systems and only remove Android Auto and CarPlay when the end users love their alternative solution”, concludes Blackie.

So, perhaps we could call this a “conscious uncoupling”. Does anybody know a good mediator?

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Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review

continued from page 3

Horsepower: 310

Torque (lb.-ft.) 390

Max Trailering⁴: 7,700 lbs.

Availability: Standard: Z71 & Trail Boss

Available: WT & LT

Output Variant: 2.7L Turbo

High-Output

Horsepower: 310

Torque (lb.-ft.) 430

Max Trailering⁴: 7,700 lbs.

Availability: Standard: ZR2

(with a max trailering of 6,000 lbs)

This engine strategy (one engine, three outputs rather than

three separate engines) is just one example of a production streamlining I noted in the new Colorado. Another example, that was instantly obvious, was the 11.3-inch center stack screen. This single screen comes in every version of the Colorado; from WT to top-of-the line ZR2. So rather than changing up screens based on trim level – a single screen makes production easier. In fact, throughout the truck, I noted items that were common on all trims. In conversations with engineers on site I hypnotized that

the pandemic shortages and shipping issues caused them to review how and where they sourced parts from. The response was yes, to keep the lines running without interruption they had eliminated potential bottlenecks by limiting the number of build variations. Another big change is a move to a single chassis model – crew cab, short box model. Whatever you order, that's the body your truck will be built on. All these changes add up to a simpler build in the factory – which, (hopefully) also

continued on page 7



Chevrolet Colorado (photo Howard Elmer)

Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ) Present "Best of the Bay" Awards



Western Automotive Journalists (photo Keith Turner)

continued from page 2

The Integra was one of the few gas-powered models entered in the competition and the only one to win an award. Electric vehicles dominated the voting in four of the five categories, with Genesis winning two awards while Hyundai and Mercedes-Benz took home honors in one category each.

Winning "Best Sedan" was the Hyundai Ioniq 6, a sleek-looking, five-passenger all-electric sedan with more than 300 miles of EV range. Judges commented that the Ioniq 6 is a "quiet, fast EV that

feels close to a luxury sports car without the eye-watering price."

A double victory was declared for the all-electric Genesis GV70 sport utility vehicle as it garnered the most votes in two categories: "Best SUV" and "Best EV." One judge commented, "I don't understand what alchemy Genesis used to create the GV70, but it's probably the smoothest, most comfortable EV – no, vehicle – I've driven."

Winning the "Best Technology" award was the all-electric Mercedes-Benz EQEAMG which

impressed judges with its flashy, high-tech interior glass information screen that stretches across the entire width of the vehicle. Judges' comments noted the Mercedes' "amazing mix of style, performance and technology." Also, "If this is the future," one judge noted, "then the future's going to be fun."

A host of impressive models were also named as runners-up in each category, including the Hyundai Ioniq 5, Ioniq 6 and Mercedes EQE tied for runners-up in the "Best Overall" category and the all-electric Lexus RZ 450e in the "Best SUV" category. Impressive high-tech features gained praise from judges such as the Hyundai Motor Group's in-dash blind spot camera system and Lexus' "magic sunroof" that goes from clear to cloudy with the touch of a button.

Here is the complete list of winner and runners-up:

continued on page 7

Soul, electrified.

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

Experience true electrified performance.
The Taycan Turbo S.



Is It Time To Visit New Power Sources?

continued from page 3

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

Can operate independent of grid

"The Wind & Solar Tower is more than merely an EV-charging device simply linked to today's electric charging grid; it goes beyond because unlike all other charging systems, it can function independent of the grid or be supplemented by the grid.

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

Renewables are key to survival

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



PORSCHE

Keith Turner a WAJ (Western Automotive Journalist) Reports on the..."Best of the Bay" Awards

continued from page 6

2023 Best of the Bay Winners
 Best Overall: Acura Integra Type S
 Best Sedan: Hyundai Ioniq 6
 Best SUV: Genesis Electrified GV70
 Best EV: Genesis Electrified GV70
 Best Technology: Mercedes-Benz AMG EQE SUV
2023 Best of the Bay Runners-Up
 Best Sedan: Acura Integra Type S
 Best SUV: Lexus RZ
 Best EV: Mercedes EQE SUV
 Best Overall: Tie between the Hyundai Ioniq 5, Hyundai Ioniq 6, and Mercedes AMG EQE SUV

Best Technology: Hyundai Motor Group's blind spot camera system, and the Lexus RZ's "magic" sunroof.

Thank you to the manufacturers who participated in this inaugural event and thank you to the Western Automotive Journalists for putting it all together. We'll see you again next year!

Keith Turner
 Auto Review Producer/Writer
 Global Auto News (reaching over 500,000 industry experts weekly)
 Carguy Drives on YouTube (more than 25K subscribers)
 Member: Western Automotive Journalists (WAJ).
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The Balancing Act in the Transition to EV's ... The Ice Age Is Coming!

continued from page 4

built a major reservoir in about 50 years, yet our population has doubled.

In years past I have written about the limited utility of electric cars or EVs. They have limited ranges (recent tests have revealed how grossly overstated they are, especially trucks, long refueling times, limited refueling sites and they are much more expensive than their conventional ICE (internal combustion engine) counterparts. And because of government dictates and mandates, they are getting more expensive as production ramp ups have raised the price of the elements and compounds that are required to manufacture batteries and related components.

Now dealer inventories of EVs are growing, doubling in size because dealers can't give them away. China is also suffering from a glut of unsold EVs. People don't want them even with huge government tax credits of \$10,000 or more, tax credits that you and your neighbors get to pay so rich EV buyers can feel virtuous. EV tax credits will go down in history as one of the greatest wealth transfers from the poor to the rich.

How does the government sell EVs? By selling you quickness. The Tesla Plaid goes zero-60 mph

in 2.9 seconds. It's faster than a Ferrari. What they don't tell you if you do it more than three times, the system can overheat and go into limp mode or you just lost 40 miles of your 300-mile range. And that 300-mile range goes down to 200 miles if you drive over 70 mph. Now you start sweating bullets looking for a charging station and when you find one, hope it's not occupied and/or broken down as over 30 percent are in California.

If the playing field had been level from the beginning without the latest government EV push with tax credits, penalties, mandates and subsidies, EVs would not be in dealer lots. They would have been voted out by people's buying decisions, kind of a repeat of 1901, when in a free market, EVs had 38 percent of the automobile market. But by 1905 and still with crank starters on ICE cars, EVs were down to 5 percent of the market and by 1911 when the electric starter was introduced by Cadillac, EVs were sold in department stores next to the buggy whips.

But the aforementioned cold wave has shown the stupidity of EVs. As I wrote ten years ago, EVs don't work well in cold temperatures. In Chicago where temps are at or near zero (and continued on this page (ABOVE))

The Balancing Act in the Transition to EV's As... The Ice Age Is Coming!

continued from same page (BELOW)

across more than half the U.S.) EVs won't charge and won't operate as the batteries lose about 50-75 percent of their operating ability. Electrons don't flow when it's cold so batteries (which create power by a flow of electrons) just shut down. There were videos of people pushing their Teslas because the cars won't operate in frigid temperatures and they won't charge. Diesel tow trucks

were having a field day.

Think of the ramifications upon our country because the government has banned ICE vehicles. During cold waves, the country will shut down, no deliveries of food, market shelves are bare, doctors can't get to the hospital (neither can you), ambulances don't work, don't go looking for warm clothing (you can't anyway as you EV won't work), no one can get to their jobs at factories, offices of paperwork don't get

processed and the country shuts down, all because our government wants total control of the population and total power. That's one way to achieve it.

Considering the cold, bleak future, maybe the American public should be praying for global warming. You don't have to, as Global Warming is the biggest hoax since Hitler proclaimed the Germans as the master race. And how many tens of millions did that kill?

Chevrolet Colorado Test Drive Review

by Howard Elmer

continued from page 6

keeps costs and wait times in check.

The 2023 Colorado lineup is re-engineered with three distinct chassis setups for everyday tasks and off-road adventures:

Standard: WT, LT and Z71 trims
 2-inch Factory-Lifted, Wide Stance: Trail Boss

High-Performance 3-inch Factory-Installed Lift & Wide Stance: ZR2

All models are built on a new chassis that gives the 2023 Colorado a 3.1-inch-longer wheelbase than the current Crew Cab/short box model. A shortened front overhang contributes to a more aggressive stance and significantly improves the truck's approach angle.

Within the trim packages there is also a shift. First, the Trail Boss version is built off the work truck trim – this makes for a much more affordable, yet distinctly competent off-roader. In fact, I expect this will be the meat of the market. The Z71, which has long been considered Chevy's mainline off-roader has migrated to a milder, luxury package. Now at the top of the ladder is the ZR2; a legit dirt brawler that will cost you - with all the expensive add-ons like a 3-inch lifted suspension and upgraded Multimatic DSSV dampers.

The interior on the Colorado has been fully updated. A common layout runs through each trim model which I found made the WT nicer than before, while the upscale Z71 adds just enough to the interior appointments to set it apart. As you'll see in the photos the sheet metal has also been bent to create an angrier look on the Colorado. It's a striking design and certainly attracts attention. In fact, this seems to be the current trend – though I'm sure why every new truck needs to look pissed off.

New and Enhanced Electronic Technologies include Colorado's new 11.3-inch-diagonal infotainment screen is the gateway to new and innovative technologies – especially when trailering or driving off-road.

Other features:

Customizable and configurable screens

Segment-first available Google built-in. With Google Assistant, Google Maps and Google Play you get access to hands-free communications, live traffic updates and more.

All-new Off-Road Performance Display: an available app that monitors real-time off-road performance with different readouts for Overlanding (altitude and GPS guidance), Terrain (pitch, roll and tire pressure) and Baja (g-force, wheel slip indicator and transfer case status) driving situations

Up to 10 camera views accessible on the infotainment screen – including a segment-first available underbody camera on Z71 and ZR2.



Chevrolet Colorado (photo Howard Elmer)

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Bring A Trailer and Pennzoil Partner to Deliver Enhanced Content, Incentives and Exclusive Experiences

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

About Pennzoil

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

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

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

Ford F-150 Test Drive Review by Harold Allen



Ford F-150 (photo Harold Allen)

continued from page 4

package adds an 8-way power seat, electronic AC temperature control for both driver and passenger, Sync 4™ with enhanced voice recognition and Sirius XM 360L™. The engine option costs \$2,335.00. The trailer tow package is an additional \$1,325.00, while a camera with 360-degree view adds \$765.00. The camera is a great idea for trailering, especially at the campsite.

Functional standard items are plentiful with a dash that tells you everything you will ever need to know, from tire pressure to mpg info, and includes BLIS cross traffic alert, keyless entry, post-collision braking with pre-collision assist W/AEB, rear camera view and Ford Pass Connect with 4 G™. The sound system and navigation are enhanced with a large screen, and it comes with Apple CarPlay.

Driving is a breeze and good overall performance is outstanding. And worth a mention: You are not breaking the bank. Out-the-door this truck was \$47,335.00 plus the usual dealer adds, which included heavily tinted windows, a spray-in bed liner and all-weather floor mats.

One other thing of note, especially with the approach of winter: This regular cab short bed pickup will fit in your garage. And in Texas, where next spring you can count on hail damage, it is a blessing.

Keep in mind that lots of trucks on the market are spiraling to \$100K today. Keep in mind that lots of trucks on the market are spiraling to \$100K today. This is a great truck, unless – of course – you need to haul more passengers in your everyday use. For this person – and my personal use – it is outstanding.

Harold Allen
TAWA and MPG Member

INSIDE VIETNAM AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

How does Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City serve as a two-way gateway connecting the Vietnamese auto market to the world?

With its rapid economic growth and strategic reinforcement of its automotive supporting industries, Vietnam is becoming an increasingly compelling destination among firms eyeing international expansion. Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City sheds light on this transformation, highlighting the country's potential as both an enticing market and a production hub. The show will return to the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC) from 20 to 22 June 2024. It stands as both the ideal gateway into the country as well as relevant international markets, with specialised zones and a varied event programme that provide first-hand insights into the country's growing automotive industry.

Ms Fiona Chiew, General Manager of Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd, elaborates: "Bringing Automechanika into Vietnam was a strategic decision based on the potential we were seeing and continue to realise in the automotive market."

Now entering its sixth edition, the show draws upon the Automechanika brand's fifty-year legacy and network of 13 associated trade fairs and 130 partner organisations worldwide. Through leveraging the brand's international standing and reach, we have created a common platform for firms to capture Vietnam's unique market opportunities. Used by 41 countries and regions in the previous edition, we expect the scale of the 2024 show to increase."

The upcoming edition expects to welcome over 500 exhibitors across 15,740 sqm of indoor and outdoor space.

Why is Vietnam an appealing market?

Vietnam has garnered attention among global manufacturers for its cost competitive manufacturing capabilities and as a rapidly expanding consumer market in its own right. Projections indicate that by 2025, between 800,000 and 900,000 vehicles will be added to the country's car ownership each year, increasing to approximately 1.5 to 1.8 million vehicles by 2030[1].

Acknowledging this rising demand, the Vietnamese Government has initiated a series of policies intended to strengthen its supporting industries, a term used to denote suppliers of key materials, parts, and components used within subsequent stages of the production process. By improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the larger manufacturing ecosystem, these industries not only reduce lead times and logistic costs, but also enhance the sector's resilience in the face of supply chain disruptions.

The measures, which include increased loan availability and financial support, a heightened focus on worker training, and stricter quality inspection standards, aim to improve the quality and output of domestically produced parts and facilitate their integration into global value chains[2]. While primarily targeted at fortifying the domestic industry, these policies offer a more favourable environment for foreign enterprises to source, collaborate and invest in, thereby raising the country's profile as a production hub.

Regionally tailored market insights

The event will feature a variety of specialised zones designed to reflect the country's distinct market conditions. Notably, the Automotive Manufacturing, Transformation & Automation Zone will investigate significant trends in manufacturing, including AIoT, 3D printing, novel materials and more. As a part of this, it will evaluate the preparedness of Vietnamese suppliers for digital integration and industrial automation, providing valuable context for companies seeking to engage with the region.

INSIDE CHINA AUTO NEWS BYTES

by Bill McCallum

Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou 2023 closes, witnessing a significant jump in industry participation

The 8th edition of Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou (AAG) concluded on 13 October 2023 at the Poly World Trade Expo Center (PWTC Expo) in Guangzhou, with an increase in both exhibitor and visitor numbers. This year's fair fully embraced the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, showcasing the latest advancements in the region's automotive industry. Throughout the three-day show, the enhanced fringe programme successfully fostered connections between various sectors of the automotive industry and other related industries.

Key figures of Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou 2023:

- 1,035 exhibitors (69.7% growth)
- 50,000 sqm across four exhibition halls
- 31,329 visitors from 57 countries and regions (44.5% increase)
- 30 fringe events

Mr Xia Wendi, Chairman of China National Machinery Industry International Co Ltd remarked: "China has been the global leader in car sales for an impressive 13 years, presenting both opportunities and challenges for the country's auto aftermarket. Since its inaugural edition in 2015, AAG has become a highly influential exhibition dedicated to South China's automotive aftermarket. In recent years, the show has actively embraced the prosperity of the Greater Bay Area, serving as a comprehensive platform for product showcases, technological exchange, and information sharing. In doing so, AAG effectively promotes the advancement of China's auto industry, aligning with the national strategy of the Great Bay Area."

Mr Jason Cao, Principal Consultant of Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co Ltd, expressed his delight in witnessing a significant growth in both exhibitor and visitor numbers. "The accomplishment not only signifies the creativity and vitality of China's car market, driven by supportive policies, but also represents a milestone as the exhibition leveraged the industry resources of its two organisers." Mr Cao added: "I believe that as the industry continues to evolve, AAG will continue to shoulder a responsibility of fostering the expansion of the automobile industry in South China and the Greater Bay Area. We are committed to offering a high-quality business platform, catering to the growing demand for personalised, intelligent and diversifying product needs within the auto industry."

Auto Aftermarket Guangzhou (AAG) is jointly organised by Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co Ltd and China National Machinery Industry International Co Ltd. The next edition of the show is set to be held from 28 to 30 August 2024.

For more information, please contact Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd on + 852 2802 7728, visit www.aag.org.cn, or email auto@hongkong.messefrankfurt.com.

Auto News Introduces All-New QR Code





International Auto News



Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix Announces Partnership Bonhams|Cars To Host Live Auction At This Year's Race

Major new partnership confirmed between the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND PRIX and prestigious international collector car auction house Bonhams|Cars

Bonhams|Cars will present a live auction in front of the podium and on the track at the Miami International Autodrome on Saturday night at this year's race with Managing Director of Bonhams|Cars, Maarten ten Holder leading the auction

Fans will be able to enjoy the display of contemporary, modern supercars and Formula 1 race cars around the Miami Campus during the weekend of May 3-5, 2024

Managing Director of Bonhams|Cars, Maarten ten Holder and the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND PRIX 2023.

South Florida Motorsports (SFM), the organizers of the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND PRIX 2024, are delighted to confirm a new partnership with prestigious international auction house, Bonhams|Cars, to present a live auction during the weekend of this year's race.

The live auction will take place directly on the track in front of the podium on the south side of the Miami International Autodrome on Saturday, May 4 for invited guests as well as Bonhams|Cars clients and car collectors. Approximately 25 collector cars will be driven on to the racetrack for the auction and will be showcased around the Miami Campus during the weekend for race-going fans to view.

Embracing the car culture of Miami and wider South Florida region, Bonhams|Cars will present a collection of top-tier supercars and legendary Formula 1 race cars for this newly formed partnership between the prestigious auction house and the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND.

"We are thrilled to be able to announce our new partnership with Bonhams|Cars," said Tyler Epp, President of the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND. "The community of fans and collectors in Miami have a strong passion for all types of cars, old and new, so for enthusiasts to have the opportunity to own one of the items in this special lot will add further appeal to a busy weekend of on-track action at this year's FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND.

"We are delighted to announce our partnership with the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND that combines the high-energy of Formula 1 competition with the vibrancy of the city of Miami," said Maarten ten Holder, Bonhams|Cars Managing Director, who will be leading the auction. "Formula 1's popularity continues to surge in the US, as does

car culture in Miami, making this the perfect marriage; we expect the auction of contemporary and modern supercars to tap into this enthusiasm. This collaboration celebrates the passion that fuels car lovers and collectors – from experiencing these vehicles being pushed to their limits on the track to the pride of owning a piece of automotive excellence."

Bonhams|Cars is part of the Bonhams global network of auction houses: a network with an unrivalled global reach and the ability to provide specialist support at a regional level around the world — and a name that's been synonymous with expertise and quality for hundreds of years. Bonhams|Cars hosts 17 live auctions annually, participates in all the significant concours around the world, and presents unique

continued on page 24



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



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Around the Track – Racing News



All-New Toyota Prius Hybrid Tours Monterey

My recent test drive of the all-new Toyota Prius during Monterey “Car Week” generated some interesting comments like: Wow, I like your car, who makes it? How long has Toyota been making the Prius?

If the Prius gets 52 mpg and offers a plug-in model why would anyone buy an EV? (see PHOTO on front page)

The 2023 Toyota Prius offers an all-new design, is priced at \$34,465 (as driven), and offers 7 Safety & Convenience features including Blind Spot Monitoring w/Rear Cross-Traffic Alert. The 2023 Toyota Prius deserves a “test drive”. (photo below)

A Sporty Hybrid Makes Its Debut in Honda's CR-Vs New Line-Up

by Sally Hanson, Editor

continued from page 2

The hybrid power train consists of a two-motor hybrid system with a 2.0-liter DOHC 16 valve with Intelligent Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control (iVTEC) inline 4 cylinder engine delivering 204 horsepower and is paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT). The CR-V hybrid offered ample power on the highway as well as excellent maneuverability on city streets. The EPA fuel economy is 37 mpg average with 40 mpg in the city and 34 mpg on highways.

The sporty exterior styling of the new CR-V includes a bold gloss black honeycomb front grille and grille bar with sport stainless steel dual finishers under the grille and

in the rear around the dual exhaust. 19-inch black alloy wheels with 235/55 all season tires made the Canyon River Blue Metallic color CR-V that I drove an attractive CUV. Sport gloss black door mirrors, roof rails, and rear spoiler trim are also part of the sport package.

The wheelbase of the new CR-V is 1.6 inches longer than the previous model making the overall length of the vehicle about 4 inches longer. The width has added just a half an inch. The ground clearance in the sport touring model is 8.2 inches. These figures make the classification of the CR-V more of a Comfortable Runabout Vehicle than a Compact Recreational Vehicle.

The interior of the CR-V is quieter and more comfortable than its predecessor. It features the most cabin and cargo space in the model's history. It has 33.2 cubic feet of cargo space with the rear seats up and 69.7 cubic feet with the rear seats down.

The rear seating reclines as well as offering a fold down 60/40 split seat. Leather trimmed seats with orange stitching are an attractive addition. The nine-inch color touch screen is my favorite interior enhancement. It is simple to navigate and offers great visibility with rear view camera activation.

The Honda CR-V has an even brighter future ahead with the production of an all-new hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) based on the all-new Honda CR-V starting in 2024 in Maryville, Ohio. The new CR-V-based FCEV will mark North America's first production vehicle to combine a plug-in feature with FCEV technology in one model, which enables the driver to charge the onboard battery to deliver EV driving around town with the flexibility of fast hydrogen refueling for longer trips.

This zero-emissions vehicle will contribute to Hondas previously announced goal to make battery-electric vehicles (BEVs) and FCEVs represent 100% of its global auto sales by mid twenty-first century.



Denise (Team Auto News) with All-New Toyota Prius Hybrid during Monterey Car Week (photo Auto News)



Honda's CR-V Hybrid All Wheel Drive Sport Touring is part of the completely redesigned sixth generation CR-V and is parked by the Mukilteo Lighthouse.

2024 Toyota Crown "Test Drive"

continued from page 2

Volkswagen Arteon SEL Premium AWD, the Crown Platinum lags in speed tests. Yet, for everyday driving, the Crown offers a robust performance, especially in its Sport+ mode, which provides a confident and neutral driving experience.

Design and Comfort

The Crown Platinum's design is unique, combining the aesthetics of a sedan with the feel of an SUV. Inside, the car offers ample space, with more headroom and legroom than some of its competitors. The interior materials are of high quality, with the Platinum trim featuring standard leather. The 12.3-inch digital gauge cluster and central touchscreen are appropriately sized for the interior, and the vertical phone charger in the center console is a thoughtful touch.

Fuel Efficiency and Practicality

One of the main selling points

of the Crown is its fuel efficiency. While the Platinum model isn't the most efficient in the Crown lineup, it still leads its class in fuel economy. The car's spacious design, combined with features like a heated steering wheel, rear seats, and an 11-speaker JBL premium sound system, make it a comfortable and practical choice for daily use.

Conclusion

The 2023 Toyota Crown Platinum is a unique offering in the market, blending the characteristics of a sedan with the advantages of an SUV. While it might not be the sportiest or the most luxurious car in its price range, it offers a distinctive look, impressive fuel efficiency, and a comfortable ride. The real question remains: Will sedan enthusiasts and potential SUV buyers be drawn to the Crown's unique proposition?

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All-New Toyota Crown (photo Auto News)



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Jacquelyne Newman Joins Auto News as Distribution Manager for Southern Idaho



Jacquelyne Newman with Lexus RX450h in Boise, Idaho with Auto Mall in Background (photo Auto News)

Lexus RX 450h + Luxury SUV Out Performs Competition on Sun Valley Road Trip by Bill McCallum

by Bill McCallum

When I started thinking about my annual road trip from Seattle to Sun Valley and back between Christmas and New Year my first thought was, request a Lexus AWD SUV.

Why? Because Lexus is the “official vehicle” of the Sun Valley Lodge. Second, AWD is important when traveling through “The Blue’s” outside of Pendleton, OR during the winter and Third a Lexus SUV has been a favorite of mine for room, ride, and range.

My Matador Red Mica 2024 Lexus RX 450h+Luxury SUV was

the best pick ever for my annual road-trip.

We averaged over 35 MPG on the trip and there was more than enough room for my son Scot’s and my ski gear. We didn’t need the AWD because of the lack of snow but we were able to get a day of skiing at Warm Springs in Sun Valley on “man-made” snow. Wow! AI invades the ski slopes!

If you follow some of my other vehicle reviews (see page 14) you will notice I stress the safety features in vehicles. Not because I

am worried about my driving, but defending myself from the growing number of other bad drivers on U.S. highways.

That being said my 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ offered over 15 standard safety features including: Lane Tracing Assist, Curve speed management, Blind spot management, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and more.

The 2024 Lexus RX 450h + Luxury AWD deserves a “test drive” at your nearest Lexus Dealership.

Lexus RX F Sport Test Drive Review

continued from page 4

in Winthrop’s shopping district which has outstanding stores, restaurants and lodging. There are many attractions in Winthrop and Mazama which is about 14 miles from Winthrop. In Mazama you must stop into the Mazama Store which sits at the base of Goat Peak and Goat Wall, a popular rock climbing destination. And drop into the Public House, the new Pub in Mazama, for some great food and beverages. A must see just outside of Winthrop is driving up to Sun Mountain Lodge. The Lexus RX sound system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility had country music playing as we drove around Patterson Lake and up to the Lodge. The view from the bar deck at Sun Mountain Lodge while you sip your favorite beverage and enjoy five-star food is something you must experience.

Next we drove over to Bear Creek Golf Course in Winthrop which AAA has called “a hidden gem.” For avid golfers, you might

be familiar with Desert Canyon and Gamble Sands—two amazing golf experiences in eastern Washington. On your next golf outing, you must stop and play Bear Creek golf course which has spectacular mountain views from multiple tee boxes. It is a par 72 full size course with three challenging par four holes. Ash and Linda Court have owned the course for many years and the course was built by Ash’s father, Herman Court. The picture you see in this article was on the course which is in the finest shape I’ve seen in my 40 years of playing it. This is due to the new Course Management team led by Bart & Rick Northcott. The course has amazing staff including Angie Andrew, Deb Hardy, Dorothy Mitchell, Laurie Myers, Regina Wallenberg and the Ground keepers. This is course that will challenge accomplished golfers, and is also super fun for the average golfer who wants to play in the sun and see amazing views.

We drove the RX on many back roads with incredible vistas with

very little vibration or noise due to the solid Lexus design. There are countless activities in and around Winthrop in addition to golf including excellent fishing (stop in at the Outdoorsman for gear and advice), hiking, camping, swimming and rafting in lakes/rivers, waterskiing, jet ski, shopping, horse-back riding, ATV options, rock climbing and in the winter this area is one of the top cross-country ski and snowmobile destinations in the entire U.S. I always enjoy having breakfast at the Rocking Horse Bakery in Winthrop and reading the Methow Valley News, one of the top-rated newspapers in our entire state.

My suggestion is stop into a Lexus dealership and buy the Lexus RX F Sport SUV. Then contact the Winthrop Visitors Information Center at 509-996-2125 and ask about all the fantastic dining, shopping and recreation options available including many hotel, motel and B&B accommodations to fit your budget. Enjoy your trip!

Lary Coppola, Publisher, Past President of NWAPA, and Friend of Auto News Passes in Fall of 2023



Lary Coppola (photo Dee Coppola)

Los Angeles Car Lovers Find Classic Cars & Hot Rods at the "Million Dollar Breakfast Club" on Sunday Mornings (See story on page 3)



Million Dollar Breakfast Club Members Tour Cars on Display (Story on page 3)



Million Dollar Breakfast Club Members Tour Cars on Display (Story on page 3)



Technology



Los Angeles Car Lovers Find Classic Cars & Hot Rods at the "Million Dollar Breakfast Club" on Sunday Mornings (See story on page 3)

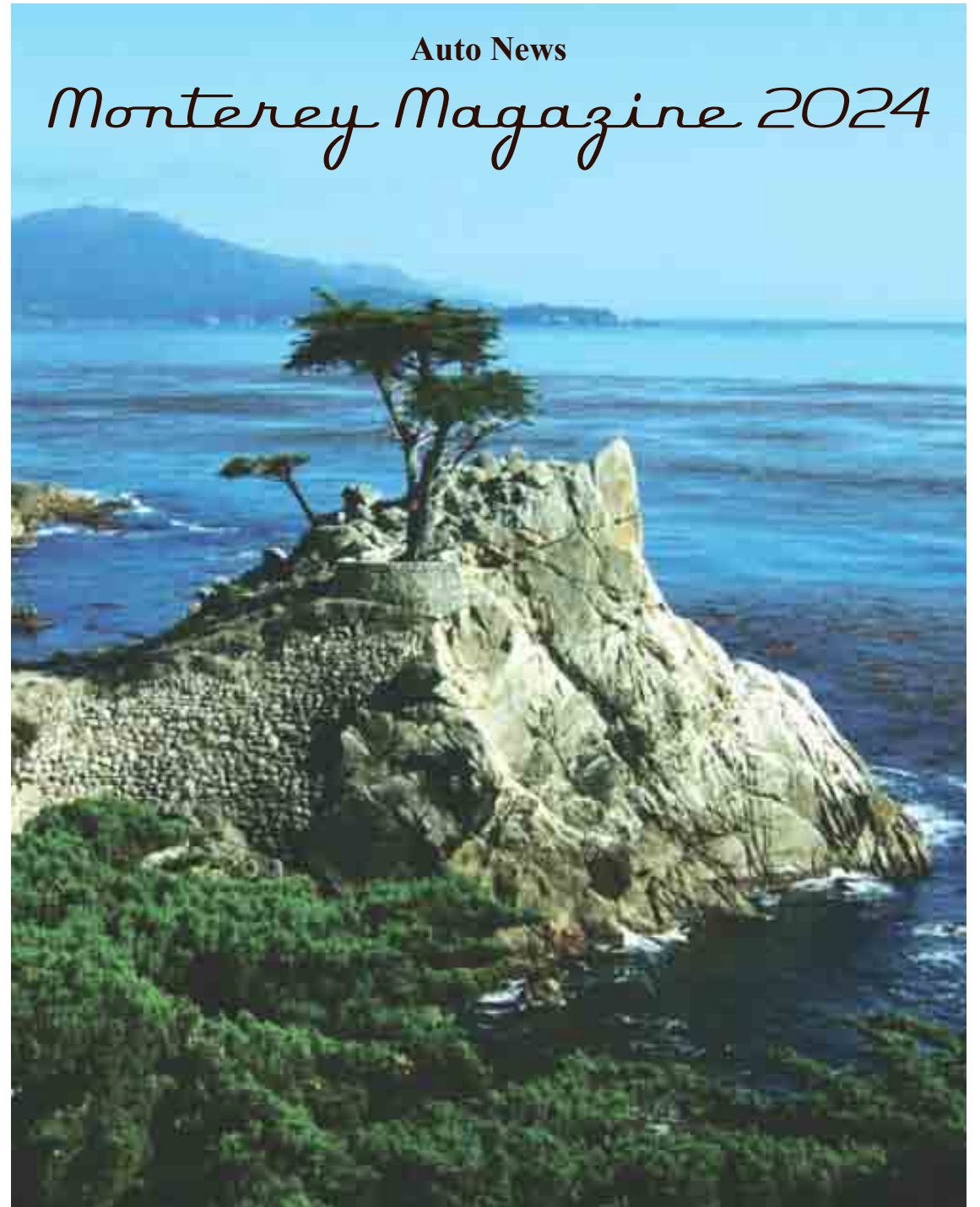


Million Dollar Breakfast Club Members Tour Cars on Display (Story on page 3)



Million Dollar Breakfast Club Members Tour Cars on Display (Story on page 3)

Auto News To Publish a Monterey Magazine During Summer of 2024



Auto News

Monterey Magazine 2024

Monterey Magazine first published in 2022

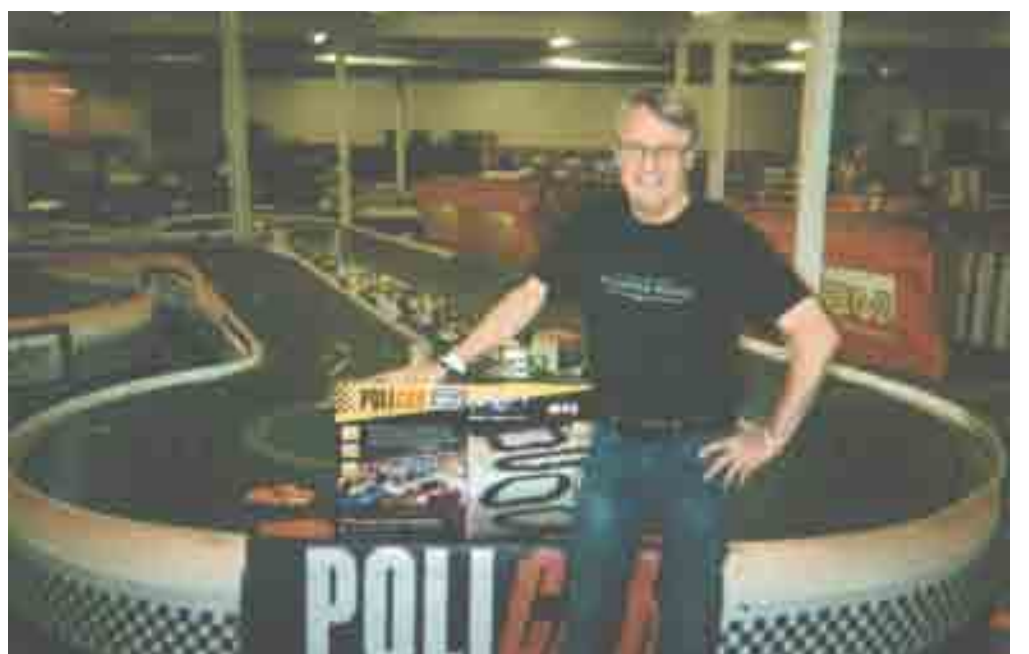
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Alan Smith, Scale Racing Center Owner, Demonstrates PoliCar Slot Car Starter Kit at his Center in Tacoma

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

by Bill McCallum

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

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

CES 2024 in Las Vegas Features New Technology

continued from page 4

“I believe in a world of music. This is going to one of those things that alters how artists create. Fans of the music ... will have a better engagement and experience and relationship with the song,” shared will.i.am in a roundtable with Markus Schäfer, Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG.

It’s “beyond a dream come true” for will.i.am who dreamed about getting out of the ghetto and having a Mercedes one day. In his vision, it’s all part of a renaissance of creativity with a community of music makers that changes how we make music and listen to music. As an artist, will.i.am outgrew dreaming of just music to how he could transform lives especially in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

Being a little skeptical, I was wondering how much was concept vs. reality and was able to experience a test drive in a Mercedes-AMG EQE sedan. “I Gotta Feeling” by The Black Eyed Peas was one of the 16 different MBUX SOUND DRIVE tracks available with a quick swipe on the dashboard. I could literally hear how I was driving through the pulse, tone, and volume with beats and whooshes of sound. It was so immersive it became a visual painting of an audio journey created by my driving. Exhilarated from the drive, my appreciation of the driving experience will never be the same. Getting behind the wheel of an AMG with MBUX SOUND DRIVE for more than a test drive can’t come soon enough, but mid-2024 is quickly approaching.

SHOWCASE REVIEWS

Honda Ridgeline Trailsport



The All-New Honda Ridgeline Trailsport offers new features for off-roaders and the “Overland” crowd with its tuned suspension, all-terrain tires and underbody protection.

BASE PRICE: \$44,980 *
TYPE: Pickup
ENGINE: 3.5 liter VTEC V6
HORSEPOWER: 280 hp
TRANS: 9 speed AT
MPG: 23 highway

Hyundai Tucson Limited



The Hyundai Tucson is the brands best selling model with 10 safety features and a 10.3 inch touch screen, a test drive is recommended.

BASE PRICE: \$38,910*
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 185 hp
TRANS: 8 speed AT
MPG: 29 highway

Hyundai Tucson XRT AWD



The Hyundai Tucson is available in 8 trim lines blue, Hybrid, Limited, N Line, Plug-in, SE, SEL and XRT. Its a best seller for Hyundai.

BASE PRICE: \$35,575 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 187 hp
TRANS: 8 speed AT
MPG: 29 highway

Lexus NX 350h Luxury



The Lexus NX 350h Luxury is the most fuel-efficient SUV in the Lexus line-up with refined driving performance, innovative design and advanced technology.

BASE PRICE: \$48,795 *
TYPE: 4-door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter Hybrid
HORSEPOWER: 240 hp
TRANS: 8 speed CVT
MPG: 37 highway

Toyota RAV 4 Prime



The 2024 Toyota RAV 4 offers a choice of gas, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid with the return of the Woodland edition an all-time best seller.

BASE PRICE: \$46,210 *
TYPE: 4 door SUV
ENGINE: 2.5 liter 4 cylinder
HORSEPOWER: 203 hp
TRANS: 8 speed CVT
MPG: 94 mpge

Toyota Tundra HV 4x4



The 2024 Toyota Tundra offers an off-road package with new power trains and a new multi media system with an 8” or 14” touch screen.

BASE PRICE: \$60,625 *
TYPE: Crew Cab Pickup
ENGINE: I-Force Max Turbo V6
HORSEPOWER: 437 hp
TRANS: 10 Speed AT
MPG: 22 highway

* All information listed “AS TESTED”

autonewsonline.com/showcase-reviews



Car Collections



McCormick's 76th Palm Springs Exotic Car Auction Results

McCormick's Palm Springs Exotic Car Auctions, a longstanding name in the classic car auction industry, boasts higher sale rate and dollar sales from previous year. The highly anticipated gathering took place February 23rd, 24th and 25th, resulting in the sale of 204 out of the 336 timeless automobiles that crossed the auction block.

Among the standout lots that contributed to the success of the auction were:

1. Lot 457: 1987 Buick GNX. This iconic 1987 Buick GNX stole the spotlight, achieving a sale price of \$109,180.

2. Lot 264: 1958 Chevrolet Corvette. The classic allure of the 1958 Chevrolet Corvette was evident as it fetched an impressive \$98,580. A timeless design with a modern twist, this vintage beauty resonated with bidders who recognized its one of a kind look.

3. Lot 453: 1969 Mercedes 280SL. The 1969 Mercedes 280SL proved its timeless elegance, commanding a final bid of \$94,500.

Next event is scheduled for November 22nd, 23rd & 24th

Mecum's Glendale 2024 Auction Sale Totals \$54 Million with 942 Vehicles Sold

Mecum auction's most recent event at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona March 5th thru 9th saw overall sale totals eclipse \$54 million as 942 classic and collector vehicles hammered sold throughout the 5 day auction

event. Headlined by the L88 Corvette (Lot S143). Top sales results at the auction included a variety of American-built favorites from Chevrolet, Ford, Dodge, and Cadillac.



1958 Chevrolet Corvette (Lot 264) at McCormick's

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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



Connie Peters
writer

Connie Peters Interviews Jana Askeland

continued from page 3

SUVs for various family needs, she decided to turn her knowledge into a hobby. Starting with short social media videos, Jana has expanded her reach to longer YouTube content and a dedicated website. Her genuine approach, including showcasing the ups and downs in her videos, resonates with her growing audience.

Married to a chiropractor from Iowa, Jana and her family, including two elementary school-aged boys live in North Carolina. Her daily driver, a 2023 Hyundai Palisade, reflects her practical and aesthetic considerations when it comes to vehicles.

Despite her success, Jana remains down-to-earth, acknowledging the challenges of juggling her content creation with a full-time job and family responsibilities. She embraces the authenticity of her reviews, opting for a more aesthetic and functional evaluation rather than delving into intricate details. Jana's journey, marked by passion and authenticity, reflects not just a career but a genuine commitment to helping others find their perfect match in a new vehicle.

Find Jana online at realmomcartours.com



Jana Askeland (photo Connie Peters)

2023 Ford Bronco Everglades Test Drive Review by Chris Chung

The 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is a testament to Ford's commitment to delivering rugged, off-road ready vehicles, encapsulating the perfect blend of vintage style and modern performance. With the iconic Bronco name resurrected, the Everglades trim stands out for its robust off-road capabilities right out of the box.

Featuring an air snorkel, the Everglades trim breathes efficiently even when the air thickens with dust, snow, or water, ensuring the engine's optimal performance. This feature becomes a game-changer in off-road conditions,

reinforcing the Bronco's go-anywhere attitude. The snorkel, combined with raised air vent plumbing for the axles, transfer case, and transmission, increases the safe wading depth from 33.5 inches to 36.4 inches. This enhancement allows the Bronco to traverse deeper waters without risking damage to vital components, thus inviting enthusiasts to conquer challenging terrains and minor floods with confidence.

In addition to these, the Everglades trim includes a heavy-duty modular Ford Performance bumper, equipped with a Zeon

10-S Warn winch and protective safari bar. Whether it's recovering from a difficult spot or helping another vehicle out, the winch is a valuable tool in the off-road toolbox. The interior isn't left behind either, with marine-grade vinyl seats designed for easy cleanups after adventurous days of mudding or dusty trail rides.

On the road, the Bronco Everglades offers a fun, albeit bumpy ride. It's no silent cruiser, but it's not meant to be. It's a joy to drive, even when the trails get rough. The vehicle's G.O.A.T (Goes Over Any Type of Terrain) modes, including Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery, Sand, Mud/Ruts, Rock Crawl, and Baja, make it adaptable to a variety of terrains. The Bronco Everglades is a vehicle that demands respect, both on and off-road, and its performance doesn't disappoint!

With a multitude of off-road-ready features, the 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is not just another SUV. It is a capable, fun-to-drive off-roader that stays true to the Bronco heritage while pushing the boundaries of what is possible in an off-road vehicle. With the Bronco Everglades, Ford has not only resurrected an icon but has also redefined off-road adventure.



2023 Ford Bronco Everglades Off-Road (photo Chris Chung)

Mercedes E350

continued from page 2

transmission, and the 4MATIC all-wheel drive system is now standard across the board.

There's also the E350, which gets a 255 horsepower 2.0 liter turbocharged four-cylinder, also with the mild hybrid system. That's what my test car had, and aside from sounding a bit thrashy under hard acceleration, it's a fine little engine. As a bonus, it returns EPA fuel economy numbers of 24 city and 33 highway.

The other cool feature of the new E-Class is the optional MBUX Superscreen. This is essentially one long LCD display running from the center of the dashboard all the way over to the right-side A-pillar. With this, the front seat passenger gets his or her own dis-

play screen. Apps and videos can be utilized there, without disturbing the attention of the driver. The larger center screen also allows for apps to be used while the car is parked, notably meeting apps like Zoom. There's even a dashtop camera for that use.

That and other option packages (Mercedes-Benz is famous for those, as are other luxury makes) can really send the sticker price climbing. My E350 test vehicle started out at a reasonable-sounding \$62,300. But it had nearly \$20,000 worth of options tacked on. The Superscreen, air suspension, Pinnacle trim, a gorgeous set of 21" AMG wheels, and a few other things shot the bottom line north of the \$80,000 mark when all was said and done. The more powerful E450 starts at \$68,100 and goes upward from there.



2024 Mercedes E350 (photo Dave Kunz)

Auto News To Increase EV "Test Drives" as Automaker OEM's Struggle with the EV Transition

As we increase our EV test drives during the coming months: see page 4, BMW i4 eDrive 40 review, page 5 Toyota bZ4x review and the back page Ford Mach E review, my hope is automakers consider these 5 facts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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File Photo

1960 Mercedes Benz 220 SE Coupe

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BMW i4 eDrive 40 "Test Drive" Review by Arv Voss

continued from page 5

with touch-screen functionality. Controls and switchgear are user friendly with learned familiarity adding to comfort and convenience. Connectivity and Infotainment

AS TESTED:

My test Bimmer i4 40 wore a Tanzanite Blue exterior finish and sported a Canberra Beige and Grey interior. The base price was set at \$55,400. While optional extras elevated the total to \$68,270. Options included: the Dynamic Handling Package, Driver's Assistance Pro Package, Shadowline Package, M Sport Package, Parking Assistance Package, Premium Package, and Acoustic Protection.

PERFORMANCE:

Driving the i4 eDrive 40 is both exhilarating and pleasurable based on one's mood. It is fast, smooth and the handling may be adjusted to satisfy various scenarios in terms of ride quality and steering

response. Yes it costs more than the 430i, but it certainly seems worth it

THE FINAL ANALYSIS:

If you're in the market for an ideal electric vehicle, try on the "Ultimate Driving Machine" – (hold the ICE) and give the BMW i4 eDrive 40 Gran Sport Coupe a go on the road or track. You won't be disappointed.

SPECIFICATIONS:

BMW i4 eDrive 40
 Base Price: \$55,400.
 Price as Tested: \$68,270.
 Motor Type and Size: Current excited Synchronous AC with liquid-cooled lithium-ion battery pack 81.5kWh and 11.0kW onboard charger.
 Horsepower (bhp): 335 @ 8,000-17,000 rpm
 Torque (ft./ lbs.): 317 @ 0-5,000 rpm
 Transmission: Direct Drive
 Drive Train: Rear Motor – Rear Wheel Drive

Suspension: Front - Struts
 Rear - Multilink
 Brakes: Power-assisted four wheel vented discs
 Tires: Hankook VentusS1 evo3 – 245-40R-19 98Y front (100Y Rear)

BMW i4
 Wheelbase: 112.4 inches
 Length Overall: 185.5 inches
 Width: 72.9 inches
 Height: 57.0 inches
 Curb Weight: 4,699 lbs.

Fuel Capacity: 0- electric
 EPA Mileage Estimates: 100 MPGe mpg city - 98 MPGe highway / 100 MPGe combined - Range
 0 - 60 mph: 4.8 seconds



BMW i4 eDrive 40 (photo Arv Voss)

Shelby American Introduces Its Latest Generation Shelby Raptor, Its Most Polished Off Road Super Truck Ever

Shelby American, a wholly owned subsidiary of Carroll Shelby International Inc. (CSBI:PK), has announced the latest generation Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor, the most polished off-road truck ever offered by the company. The 525-horsepower truck is now available in limited quantities through official dealers nationwide.

"Shelby American and Ford Motor Company have a tremendous history of working diligently together on high performance cars and trucks for enthusiasts worldwide," said Joe Conway, CEO of Shelby American. "We're excited to continue that important legacy. The future is bright as our companies continue evolving the product line, so the public has even more choices for world-class Shelby vehicles

through Ford dealer showrooms."

The latest vehicle in the lineup builds upon Shelby American's rich legacy.

"Carroll Shelby established Shelby American in 1962 and immediately pulled ahead of every automaker, just as he did on the track while a race car driver," said Gary Patterson, president of Shelby American. "An important part of his legacy was the idea of a high-performance street legal truck, which his team pioneered in the 1980s. When Ford introduced the first F-150 Raptor in 2010, Shelby began building super trucks based on that incredible vehicle. Our latest generation achieves handling, ride and power levels no one could envision when Shelby American started on this trail."

In 2021, Ford introduced a fully redesigned F-150 Raptor that boosted its off-road capability with all-new five-link rear suspension featuring improved wheel travel and electronically controlled shocks along with upsized wheels and tires. The re-engineered running gear features extra-long trailing arms to better maintain axle position on rough terrain, a Panhard rod and 24-inch coil springs. Next-generation FOX™ Live Valve™ internal bypass shocks with state-of-the-art electronic control technology offer position-sensitive damping adjust ability.

The high output 3.5-liter EcoBoost® V6 engine delivers strong low-end torque for maximum towing and increased payload capability. The suspension design

combined with more sophisticated engine management software means the truck can put more torque to the rear wheels for quicker starts off the line, faster acceleration and better throttle responsiveness while still delivering comfort, stability, handling, control and traction at speed.

The interior was completely redesigned to elevate the owner experience with style, comfort and utility. The truck features enhanced materials, new color choices and more storage. The new Ford Shelby Raptor has standard over-the-air updates and a new connected experience that can deliver potential features like shareable digital trail maps. There is also SYNC® 4 with cloud-connected navigation and voice search and the FordPass mobile app to check on the truck remotely and more.

"The Ford F-150 Raptor and Shelby version of the truck have improved every generation," said Vince LaViolette, Shelby American Vice President of Operations and Chief Designer. "The latest Shelby Raptor boasts its best suspension system ever, giant 37-inch off-road tires on aluminum forged wheels, functional off road bumpers and LED lighting for any occasion. It makes impressive power, can stay cool in the most severe environments and look handsome while doing it."

The all-new 2021-2022 Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor delivers the rugged capabilities needed for outdoor adventure. The heavy-duty suspension and underbody were built to withstand the toughest conditions with its race-proven FOX Live Valve system. The suspension provides a smooth and comfortable feeling on pavement with aggressive control and stability at high speeds off-road.

Shelby American worked closely with partners like Fox, Ford Performance and Whipple to create its vision of the truck. Leveraging the new capabilities of the Ford Raptor, it has more power, refinement, technology and handling capabilities.

For 2021, the Shelby Raptor

features new and better handling underpinning, 75 more horsepower, an additional cooling package and an exterior with rugged all-American styling. The Shelby Raptor strikes an imposing stance with its robust bumper system, bed chase rack system carrying a pair of spare alloy 18-inch wheels wrapped in 37-inch high-performance tires, functional fresh air hood, Shelby stripes and badges. Inside, the Shelby American theme continues across the leather seats, dashboard and floor mats.

"The Shelby Raptor has every creature comfort the new F-Series truck provides," said Patterson. "And it has the capabilities to back up its bold looks. From skimming sand dunes to maneuvering the asphalt jungle, it's by far our most polished off-road truck to date."

The Shelby Ford F-150 Raptor, including the truck, start at \$124,820 MSRP. The truck is available through select Tuscany and Ford dealers in North America. Each vehicle from Shelby American has a Shelby serial number that will be documented in the official Shelby Registry. The cars come with a 3 year/36,000-mile warranty including powertrain. Individuals interested in Shelby vehicle can visit their local dealer or go to (<https://www.shelby.com>).

*Horsepower ratings based on use of 93-octane fuel



Auto News Introduces All-New QR Code



Auto News Foundation Honored Ten NW Legends in November



Sun Valley Road Trip in a 2024 Lexus RX 450h+

by Bill McCallum

When I started thinking about my annual road trip from Seattle to Sun Valley and back between Christmas and New Year my first thought was, request a Lexus AWD SUV.

Why? Because Lexus is the "official vehicle" of the Sun Valley Lodge. Second, AWD is important when traveling through "The Blue's" outside of Pendleton, OR during the winter and Third a Lexus SUV has been a favorite of mine for room, ride, and range.

My Matador Red Mica 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ Luxury SUV was the best pick ever for my annual road-trip.

We averaged over 35 MPG on the trip and there was more than enough room for my son Scot's and my ski gear. We didn't need the AWD because of the lack of snow but we were able to get a day of skiing at Warm Springs in Sun Valley on "man-made" snow. Wow! AI invades the ski slopes!

If you follow some of my other vehicle reviews (see page 14) you will notice I stress the safety features in vehicles. Not because I am worried about my driving, but defending myself from the growing number of other bad drivers on U.S. highways.

That being said my 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ offered over 15 standard safety features including: Lane Tracing Assist, Curve speed management, Blind spot management, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and more.

The 2024 Lexus RX 450h+ Luxury AWD deserves a "test drive" at your nearest Lexus Dealership.



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Pirelli PZero Trofeo RS Is Born: The Most Sporting Tire In The Road Car Range Yet

Designed As Original Equipment For Supercars To Offer Performance On The Track And Safety On The Road

Pirelli presents the PZero Trofeo RS: the latest version of the semi-slick tire designed for carmakers aiming to highlight the performance of their most sporting models. Pagani Automobili was the first to request a specific version of the new tire for the Utopia: its latest hypercar.

The new tire was born as the technical evolution of the P Zero Trofeo R and distinguishes itself by its position in the marketplace. The P Zero Trofeo R was originally designed as an aftermarket tire to improve on-track performance, while the P Zero Trofeo RS is primarily intended as original equipment, giving manufacturers the chance to

supply cars that are already primed for a sports driving experience.

This new generation of semi-slick Pirelli tires offers even more performance in dry conditions, as well as extra consistency. When the tire is being used most intensively, performance is maintained longer to allow for more speed and safety over several different track sessions: a result obtained thanks to Pirelli's extensive experience in the top categories of motorsport. The materials, especially in the tread pattern compound, make full use of this know-how, adapting it to both road and amateur track use. As this tire is original equipment for hypercars and supercars

homologated for the road, Pirelli's engineers also focused on safety in wet asphalt conditions.

Pirelli's research and development department applied a series of innovative technologies to the P Zero Trofeo RS, developed thanks also to the company's engagement in top-level motorsport. These are available from an on-demand portfolio, to reach the targets defined by manufacturers for each specific model. Examples include **Multi-compound Tread**: a technology that allows tires to be personalized to complement the individual characteristics of each car by matching them to different tread pattern compounds from Pirelli's Prestige

catalogue. For the Pagani Utopia, P Zero Trofeo RS tires are capable of elevating performance in extreme sports driving compared to the P Zero Corsa, without compromising the balance of the car or the feeling experienced by the driver. This mission was accomplished thanks especially to the selected compounds. For the rear tires in particular, the most performance-focused compounds were chosen to deliver speed and safety on the track as well as ease and predictability on the road.

Another innovation that Pirelli's engineers had at their disposal was **Virtual Geometry Development**, which allowed them to assess a huge number of different profiles and footprints through virtual modelling, in order to define the reaction of the tire to driver inputs with maximum precision. This virtual development process was used extensively for the Pagani Utopia, before the first physical prototypes were driven on track. Work was done on the contact patch in particular, to offer the ultimate in grip and control.

The new Pirelli P Zero Trofeo RS is already available for the cars using it as original equipment, and will be available in the future for a wide range of aftermarket tires. The P Zero Trofeo R will remain available in a specific selection of sizes.

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Automotive Legacy: The Tom Scott Collection of Mercedes, Benz, and Mercedes-Benz

Destined for the Goodwood Festival of Speed sale this July with a chance to preview the headline motor car in Paris

Debuting in Paris this February, Bonhams|Cars is delighted to announce an impressive collection of Mercedes, Benz and Mercedes-Benz motor cars.

The Tom Scott Collection comprises nine motor cars held for over three decades in the same family and preserved to the highest standards. The focus of the collection is almost exclusively Mercedes, Benz, and Mercedes-Benz, showcasing Tom Scott’s interest in this historic marque. The collection is expected to realise in excess of £4,500,000.

The collection will be offered at Bonhams|Cars’ renowned Goodwood Festival of Speed sale in the UK on Friday 12 July, 2024.

Highlighting this remarkable selection is the

1928 Mercedes-Benz 26/120/180 S-Type Tourer.

Enthusiasts and potential buyers will have the unique opportunity to preview this gem in Paris this February. The S-Type will first be showcased at Bonhams|Cars ‘Grandes Marques du Monde à Paris’ Sale in the Grand Palais Éphémère from 31 January – 1 February, then at Rétromobile, Paris’ annual classic car show, at Bonhams|Cars’ stand (located @ 1J051) from 1 - 4 February.

A highlight of the Tom Scott Collection, this car also formed part of the legendary C. W. P. ‘Peter’ Hampton Collection for

many years. Very much the definitive supercar of its day, the low-slung 6.8-litre straight-six S-Type, with its screaming ‘Kompressor’ (supercharger) engaged, is of the type that would propel the likes of factory team driver Rudolf Caracciola to many victories for Mercedes-Benz against the might of Alfa Romeo, Bentley, and Bugatti.

This example, chassis no. 35985, was delivered new to a Cecil Harcourt-Smith, via British Mercedes-Benz Ltd., in December 1928. It was subsequently raced by the Duke of Grafton and ultimately acquired in 1960 by noted collector Peter Hampton.

The collection was assembled and curated by Tom Scott Senior who, along with his brother Tim, built a hugely successful business in the construction industry. Upon the sale of the business in the 1980s, Tom Snr. would pursue his twin passions of horology and collector motor cars – specifically those of the Mercedes-Benz marque. Upon Scott Snr’s death in 2012, the collection remained in the family and came under the management of Tom Jnr. who continued to ensure the motor cars were maintained in the purpose-built climate-controlled motor house.

Bonhams motoring department has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the Scott family, stretching back to the days before Brooks merged with Bonhams James Knight, consultant to Bonhams|Cars, remembers meeting Tom Snr. at the 1991 Lord’s Cricket Ground auction sale in London, whereupon he acquired the ex-Peter Hampton S-Type – now the star of the collection on offer. “It gives me great pleasure and much pride to represent the Scott family interests and support them with the dispersal of this impressive collection.

We anticipate much interest in these ‘fresh to market’ motor cars that will no doubt attract global participation”.

The Tom Scott Collection represents some of the finest road cars built, from the S-Type to a trio of ‘300s’ – a

1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, a

1962 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, and a

1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SC Cabriolet.

Other highlights include the first supercharged Mercedes model, a 1924 Mercedes 10/40/65 Sport Tourer 10/40/65 Sport, that once formed part of the Rolf Meyer collection and a 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL Pagoda that was delivered new to the Channel Islands and, as such, has covered less than 13,500 miles from new.

The Tom Scott Collection includes:

- 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen, Three Wheeler Replica, high quality edition produced by John Bentley.
- Ex-Rolf Meyer Collection, 1924 Mercedes 10/40/65 Sport.
- Ex-Robert Arbuthnot, Edward Mayer, CWP Hampton, 1928 Mercedes-Benz 26/120/180 S-Type Sports Tourer.
- Ex-Warner Brothers President John Calley, 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SC Cabriolet.
- 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing, original Rudge wheel example.
- 1962 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, late series, disc brake example.
- 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280 SL Roadster with Hard Top, Channel Islands since new and just 13,215 miles recorded.
- 1971 Mercedes-Benz 280 SE 3.5 Cabriolet, rare right-hand drive example.
- 1937 Morgan 4/4 Roadster.

See: CES Story on pages 4 and 14



Artist will.i.am with influencers McKenzi Brooke and Nick Bencivengo at CES 2024 in Las Vegas (photo credit: Sylvia Hernandez)

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(See Story on Page 25)



Auto News Foundation



Auto News Foundation



Jeri Drager Event Host (See page 15 Ad) Receives Award from Irena, Team Auto News (photo Auto News)

Formula 1 Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix Announces Partnership with Bonhams| Cars To Host Live Auction At This Year's Race

continued from page 9

selling opportunities at international events.

After two races, the FORMULA 1 CRYPTO.COM MIAMI GRAND PRIX has quickly established itself as an event that combines luxury hospitality, exciting racing and fan-focused experience and now serves as the unofficial kick-off to the summer motorsport season. Entering its third year, Miami has been chosen as one of only six venues to host an F1 Sprint in 2024, meaning an extra race will be held on Saturday — guaranteeing three days of competitive Formula 1 action. Miami will also host a round of the dynamic new F1 Academy, the junior series created to find the next female F1 star.

Auto News Foundation Board Member Sally Hanson's Experience

by Sally Hanson

It's been 20 years since the Northwest Automotive Press Association (NWAPA) began a scholarship program that offered scholarships to college students majoring in Communications with a possibility of becoming automotive journalists. NWAPA has awarded \$76,000 to 52 students at five Oregon and Washington universities since 2003.

NWAPA is a group of writers and broadcast journalists most of whom live and work in the Northwest and many have national venues. Several of the Auto News writers are members of the organization. For over 25 years NWAPA has sponsored and organized a contest to choose the Family Sport Utility Vehicle of the year. The winning vehicle is one that best reflects all the necessary components that makes it especially compatible with our climate and topography. About 15 years ago, NWAPA began another annual event called Run to the Sun. This event features roadsters and sports cars that members drive on a two-day road trip through winding roads in Oregon and Washington. A few years later we began the Drive Revolution which gives journalists a behind the wheel survey of advanced technology "green" vehicles and it gives automakers the opportunity to detail the technology around these products. NWAPA members have the opportunity to drive vehicles that provide "0" tailpipe emissions — including all electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and fuel cell models.

These events have provided the funding to NWAPA that make our scholarships possible. Through the scholarship program, NWAPA recognizes the importance of encouraging, promoting, and supporting the profession of journalism and communication to future generations whose career goals might lead to promoting public awareness of the automotive industry.

The first scholarship was awarded in 2003 at the University of Washington's Department of Communications. I was selected to head-up the scholarship program under the leadership of Bill McCallum, who was president of NWAPA at that time. It was the organization's goal to expand the program to include two universities in both Washington and Oregon. In 2005 we included Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow School of Communication — which has since become the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. A couple years later we offered a scholarship at the University of Oregon and then we added Portland State University to our program. An Oregon member of NWAPA joined me to manage the scholarship distribution in Oregon and the organization decided to include Pacific University's Department of Communications instead of the University of Oregon.

Establishing a good working relationship with the Development Coordinator in each of the University's Department or College Communications is essential. This is important because we have submitted guidelines for our

continued on page 25

Foundation QR Code



Foundation QR Code



About the Auto News Foundation: "Time To Donate"

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

Donation Tiers:

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



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Auto News Foundation



Auto News Foundation Presents Scholarships and Honors Northwest Legends at Drager's Club House on November 18, 2023 in Burlington, WA



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

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



Ben Melcher, a Toyota Instructor from Regional Office at Shoreline Community College (photo Auto News)

by Christopher Chung

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

We recently had an oppor-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sally Hanson's Scholarship Experience

continued from page 24

scholarship to be awarded on a set of criteria such as academic merit, financial need, and a candidate who might pursue a career in the communications field with an emphasis on automotive, consumer products and/or mechanical or technical products. Unfortunately, there has been a high turnover rate in the Development Coordinator field at universities, so I have found it necessary to re-explain the scholarship, its guidelines, and arrange the funding differently sometimes annually. Funding an endowment would eliminate the need to arrange to send off the scholarship money annually, but my suggestion to create endowments fell to deaf ears with our organization.

Seeking a recipient of our scholarship who specifically has the goal of becoming an automotive journalist is like searching for a needle in a haystack! When we asked the membership of NWAPA, we found the large majority of the members did not major in communications in college (like I did) and no one planned to become an automotive journalist (including me). While we have awarded 52 scholarships, I have only seen a byline of one.

Another organization that I belong to has just funded an endowment at Washington State University's School of Nursing to be awarded to someone in that program who plans to become a geriatric nurse in the state of Washington. Who knows how that will turn out — the recipient may decide they don't like old people, want to move out of state and become a hermit!

I have discovered that working to award scholarships is more than finding the perfect recipient — it is tremendously fulfilling to encourage and support someone who has found a passion they can work at, enjoy and make a living.

"The Glendale Community College Automotive Program is preparing the next generation of automotive technicians and will have the support of the AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION."

Glendale Community College-Glendale Arizona: Of all the community colleges we have visited in the last three months Glendale Community College has the best automotive curriculum. Lyle Clark, program director, working with Susan Campbell Dean of Career & Technical Education have created the "poster child" of programs that all schools should follow. (see photo)

They offer three of the best automotive OEM programs in the U.S. The Automotive Service Education Program (ASEP) sponsored by General Motors and Chevrolet, GMC, Buick, & Cadillac dealerships. The Automotive Student Service Education Training program (ASSET) sponsored by Ford Motor Company and Ford and Lincoln dealerships. The Mopar College Automotive Program (MCAP) sponsored by Chrysler, Jeep, Ram, and Dodge dealerships.

With over 70 new vehicles on the ground donated by automaker OEM's as working models, a 2 person parts department with over 500 catalog pages of parts, and the equipment to work on every vehicle including EV's the Glendale Community College Automotive Program is preparing the next generation of automotive technicians and will have the support of the AUTO NEWS FOUNDATION.

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by Bill McCallum

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

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

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

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



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

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Legends of Auto Celebrates 12 Yr. Anniversary



(Left to Right) Bill McCallum, Auto News Publisher/Founder, Dan Brigatino, Scholarship Winner, Luk Blackwell (Pierre Ford), Steve Saleen, Jason Anucinski (Pierre Ford), Beau Boeckmann, Pat Bondurant, Barry McGuire, Lyn St. James, John Kraman (Mecum Family) and Rita Case **Congratulations to Rita Case – 2024 Time Dealer**

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Ford Bronco Everglades Test Drive

The 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is a testament to Ford's commitment to delivering rugged, off-road ready vehicles, encapsulating the perfect blend of vintage style and modern performance. With the iconic Bronco name resurrected, the Everglades trim stands out for its robust off-road capabilities right out of the box.

Featuring an air snorkel, the Everglades trim breathes efficiently even when the air thickens with dust, snow, or water, ensuring the engine's optimal performance. This feature becomes a game-changer in off-road conditions, reinforcing the Bronco's go-anywhere attitude. The snorkel, combined with raised air vent plumbing for the axles, transfer case, and transmission, increases the safe wading depth from 33.5 inches to 36.4 inches. This enhancement allows the Bronco to traverse deeper waters without risking damage to vital components, thus inviting enthusiasts to conquer challenging terrains and minor floods with confidence.

In addition to these, the Everglades trim includes a heavy-duty modular Ford Performance bumper, equipped with a Zeon 10-S Warn winch and protective safari

bar. Whether it's recovering from a difficult spot or helping another vehicle out, the winch is a valuable tool in the off-road toolbox. The interior isn't left behind either, with marine-grade vinyl seats designed for easy cleanups after adventurous days of mudding or dusty trail rides.

On the road, the Bronco Everglades offers a fun, albeit bumpy ride. It's no silent cruiser, but it's not meant to be. It's a joy to drive, even when the trails get rough. The vehicle's G.O.A.T (Goes Over Any Type of Terrain) modes, including Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery, Sand, Mud/Ruts, Rock Crawl, and Baja, make it adaptable to a variety of terrains. The Bronco Everglades is a vehicle that demands respect, both on and off-road, and its performance doesn't disappoint!

With a multitude of off-road-ready features, the 2023 Ford Bronco Everglades is not just another SUV. It is a capable, fun-to-drive off-roader that stays true to the Bronco heritage while pushing the boundaries of what is possible in an off-road vehicle. With the Bronco Everglades, Ford has not only resurrected an icon but has also redefined off-road adventure.



2023 Ford Bronco Everglades Off-Road (photo Chris Chung)

Ford Mach-E Electric Vehicle Sales Are Growing With New Incentives

by Chris Chung

In 2019, for the first time ever, the Mustang had an SUV trim. That SUV, was the Mustang Mach-E. Being an all-electric vehicle, the Mach-E features stellar performance numbers and thus its name was created as a nod to the iconic Mustang Mach 1, a high performance variant of the Mustang that was first introduced in 1969. I recently had the opportunity to test drive a 2023 Mach-E GT on loan from Bill Pierre Ford in Lake City, and I must say the performance this vehicle had absolutely blew me away.

Under the hood, the Mach-E GT features a dual-motor setup

that produces a combined 459 horsepower and 612 lb-ft of torque, allowing for a 0-60 mph time of around 3.5 seconds. This impressive acceleration is complemented by a top speed of 114 mph, making the Mach-E GT a true performance vehicle that will blow the doors off of most IC cars.

The Mach-E GT also boasts a range of up to 270 miles on a single charge, making it practical for everyday use and longer trips. It supports fast charging, allowing for up to 61 miles of range in just 10 minutes of charging time. I thoroughly enjoyed the fuel savings during my week with the Mach-E.

Inside, the Mach-E GT is spa-

acious and comfortable, with a modern and high-tech cabin featuring a large touchscreen display and a variety of driver-assist and safety features. The Mach-E GT also comes with a host of standard features, including a B&O sound system, wireless charging, and heated front seats.

Overall, the 2023 Ford Mustang Mach-E GT is a compelling electric SUV that offers impressive performance, practicality, and cutting-edge technology. If you're in the market for an electric SUV that delivers a thrilling driving experience, the Mach-E GT is definitely worth considering.



Tony Rehn Jr. (left) with Tony Rehn Sr. and Ford Mach-E (photo Auto News)

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