

# Portland Observer Auto Review

## 2006 Lincoln Mark LT 4x4

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Mark LT addresses the Blackwood's shortcomings by being heavily based on the Ford F-150 pickup, which can be a good or bad thing depending on how you look at it. On the good side of things, the Mark LT is built on the most refined truck platform with a cabin that is quiet. It feels like it belongs in a luxury line of vehicles. On the other hand it does not stand out enough

from the F-150 body style to give it the bling-bling style.

It comes with Am/Fm 6-Disc CD w/MP3 audiophiles sound system, power doors, windows, seats, automatic headlights, electric temperature controls, real ebony wood trim, and leather everywhere at no extra cost. That's not bad for around \$43,000, significantly cheaper than the Escalade competitor. Options include a DVD player, reverse sensors, power moon roof, however if you choose the moon roof then you can not get the DVD player and plenty of truck accessories like skid plates and chrome bed rails.

The Mark LT's suspension feels just like that in the F-150, which is a good thing.

It offers a nice compromise between stability and smoothness, feeling connected to the road but never too bouncy or harsh. In the performance department, this new Lincoln doesn't disappoint, as its 5.4-liter Triton V8 engine makes 300 horsepower and 365 foot-pounds of torque, which is less than the huge V8 in the Cadillac competition but more than most buyers will ever need. Compared with the Caddy, what the Lincoln's engine lacks in brute power it makes up for in refinement, offering a smoother, quieter experience when you step on the gas.

All in all, the Mark LT is a huge improvement over the Blackwood and perfect for people who want a truck for practicality,



comfort and style, and it's almost sure to be much more popular as a result. Better yet, its base price is even less than a high-end version of the F-150—the Lariat King

Ranch Edition with four-wheel drive. **Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$47,605; Engine: 5.4L - 3V SOHC; Transmission: 4-speed automatic.**



Brett and Andrew, ages 8 and 4

## Brothers Await New Family

Brett and Andrew are sweet boys who have had a rough start in life. Although currently in separate foster homes, they see each other weekly and have been able to salvage a positive brotherly relationship.

Brett is adorable and on the go. He loves to socialize, run hard and play outside and spend time on the ranch with his foster father. He has been able to make friends and is showing good aptitude in school.

Andrew treasures his visits with his brother. He also loves building and tinkering, helping out or attending fun social outings, like parties and parades.

These siblings need continued patience and understanding as they recover from their past. Despite the obstacles, they are already showing much promise. There will be many adventures in parenting these boys.

Brett and Andrew are among the approximately 300 Oregon Children available for adoption through the state, generally because of abuse and neglect.

For more information on the availability of these children for adoption or how to become a foster or adoptive parent, contact the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 503 542-2392 or the Oregon Department of Human Services at 1-800-331-0503.

## First Generation Students Excel

continued ▲ from Metro

lack the time and financial resources to fully support the high costs of medical degrees, although they are willing and supportive of their children's ambitions.

The socioeconomic status of very many minorities is unfortunately dragging a lot of them down, Garcia said.

One product of OHSU's special guidance and assistance is Salvador De Cruz, a young Phillipino student pursuing a medical career.

De Cruz admits that without the OHSU diversity center, it would be hard for him to reach his dreams.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Lesley Garcia, the multicultural center director at Oregon Health Sciences University serves as a mentor and advisor to OHSU student Salvador De Cruz.

## Free Walk-In Glaucoma Eye Tests Available

Devers Eye Institute at Legacy Health System will conduct free eye testing this month as part of National Glaucoma Awareness Month. The screenings will test for glaucoma and other serious diseases of the eye.

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. It is associated with elevated

eye pressure and near sightedness.

High-risk groups for Glaucoma include African-Americans, the elderly and people with diabetes. The screening process is painless and takes only a few minutes to complete. No appointment is required and everyone is welcome to receive the free eye screening. "Although there is no cure for glaucoma, early

detection leads to earlier treatment which can significantly delay or stop further visual loss, said Dr. G. A. "Jack" Cioffi, chief of ophthalmology and ophthalmology research at Legacy's Devers Eye Institute.

Regular exams are recommended every 1-2 years for those over 65 and every 2-4 for ages 40-64.

Testing periods are as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Building 2, 1040 N.W. 22nd Ave.; Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, 501 N. Graham Street; and Tuesday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Legacy Mount Hood Medical Center, on 24800 S.E. Stark St.

## Retired Judi Pitre Honored



Portland housing advocate Judi Pitre (center) is thanked for her 33 years of service in the Housing Authority of Portland by Portland Mayor Tom Potter and HAP Board Chair Kandis Brewer Nunn.

Judi Pitre who retired from Housing Authority of Portland after 33 years of service, was honored by Portland Mayor Tom Potter, HAP Board Chair Kandis Brewer Nunn and others.

Pitre dedicated her career to serving those who are less fortunate and has touched many lives in the process.

"She has run almost every operation in the agency and improved all of them during her

tenure. She was the voice of calm, reason, and yet of action, that helped bring the community together to find solutions to the deep social problems at Columbia Villa," said a HAP spokesperson.

## Youth Leaders Meet Saturday

Portland's Urban League will hold its 4th Annual African American Youth Leadership Conference on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus, in the Terrell Hall, at 705 N. Killingsworth St.

The program will include a keynote address by Rev. Dr. W.G. Hardy Jr., a panel discussion and workshop sessions on such topics as Investing In Yourself (self-discovery), Investing Your Money (financial literacy), Movin' On Up (col-

lege preparation) and Investing In Your Community (civic engagement).

Pre-registration is advised. A free continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, call 503-280-2642.

## Forum on Medicare Part D Program

Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 N. Portland Blvd., will host an informational meeting with representatives from Multnomah County Aging and Disability on the Medi-

care Part D prescription drug program with time for questions and answers.

The session is open to the public with no appointment necessary.

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I made life better

Edith and the other nurses and professionals at Legacy Emanuel Hospital are making life better. Whether performing a complex surgery or comforting someone in need, they are improving life in our community... every day.



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For more information or physician referral, please call 503-335-3500.  
www.legacyhealth.org



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