

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2006 Kia Rio5 SX



BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Kia Rio is all-new for 2006. The Rio has been a benchmark for subcompacts the past few years, and its re-design is all the more momentous as the new Rio models join a wave of exciting new subcompacts that are hitting the streets.

It gains 3.5 inches of wheelbase and 1.6 inches of rear leg room vs. the 2001-2005 generation. The sole engine is a

110-hp 4-cyl. A 5-speed manual transmission is standard, a 4-speed automatic is optional. The SX handled nimbly without too much body lean or sloppy handling. It is a little rough going over bumps in the road.

Styling for the Rio5 exterior package features a raked windshield, pronounced wheel arches and an aggressive prow with sweeping cor-

ner headlamps and a grille with black mesh insert. The rear of the Rio5 is distinctive with backup lights that wrap around the taillights and almost look like part of the body.

The base Rio sedan (\$10,570) comes strictly with a manual transmission, wind-up windows and manual door locks. There's no radio or air conditioning, no power steering. But it comes with the same six airbags and safety features found on all Rio models. The Rio5 SX hatchback comes with a manual transmission (\$13,500) or five-speed automatic (\$14,350). The SX hatchback has some sporty additions that include a leather wrapped steering wheel and

gear knob, metal grain trim, metal pedals, rear roof-mounted spoiler and lower profile tires on 15-inch alloy wheels.

I found the Rio5 SX to be enjoyable with its hatchback versatility and sporty/luxury touches. It was not the fuel economy vehicle that one might expect from a compact vehicle of this size. It has a great price tag for those looking for a vehicle with a great warranty and an affordable payment.

Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$14,350; Engine: 1.6L 14 16 valve; Transmission 5-speed automatic.

Exploring the Workings of Congress

Local student serves as U.S. Capitol Page

De La Salle North Catholic High School student Nakera Johnson finished her month-long duties as a congressional page in Washington D.C. last week and will return to Portland with a unique perspective on how the nation's laws are made.

Johnson was nominated by Congressman Blumenauer and served in the U.S. Capitol for one month this summer.

"I was very pleased to have Nakera representing my office and the Third Congressional District of Oregon this summer," said Blumenauer. "I am confident she served the Congress well and hope she enjoyed this unique opportunity."

Johnson, the daughter of Kalavina and Nyla Johnson of northeast Portland, recently completed her sophomore year at De La Salle North Catholic High School where she has a 3.8 grade point



U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., welcomes De La Salle North Catholic student Nakera Johnson to his offices as a Congressional Page.

average.

She is a member of St. Jude Church and Brother and Sister's Keepers' Focus Group and volunteers with Loaves & Fishes, the Salvation Army and Me'Rae's Hair Salon. She also worked as an office assistant at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt.

As a congressional page, Johnson lived in the official Page Residence Hall near the Capitol in Washington, D.C. She worked on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives during the time when Congress is in session, where she had a front row seat for the political debates that shape the country's policies, including the reauthorization of the landmark Voting Rights Act. Her internship came at a very busy time on Capitol Hill, with Congress in session nearly every weekday of the month.

The Congressional Page Program is a demanding one that requires highly motivated and committed students, but it is also tremendously rewarding and exciting.

Economic Empowerment Promoted

PDX Confidential, a group of minority professionals will host DEED: Diversity Economic Empowerment Day, a conference to celebrate diversity, explore individual skills and develop leadership in this global economy, Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower, 921 SW 6

Ave. The organization's first annual event, titled "Setting the Table" is about providing opportunities and allowing those who are interested to find ways to strengthen what the skills they already have, bringing them to the table for their organization, family and them-

selves. Special emphasis will help Gen-X'ers become leaders in their communities, preparing for the "baton passing" from Baby Boomers.

The conference takes place from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., followed by a Masquerade Ball at 6 p.m. Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Mayor Tom Potter

have proclaimed Sept. 12 as the Official DEED day for the city and entire state.

Special thanks also go out to DEED's major sponsors: Fred Meyer, Nike, the Portland Development Commission, Diamond Financial Group, The Portland Trail Blazers and the Portland Observer.

Miss Teen Prepares for Finals

With help from supporters

Miss Oregon Teen Kelci Rae Alberti-Flowers of Portland is preparing for the Miss Teen USA Pageant with the help of local supporters. The competition takes place Tuesday, Aug. 15 in Palm Springs, Calif. with a live broadcast airing at 9 p.m. on NBC-TV.

Flowers makes state history as the first African American to be selected as Miss Oregon Teen. She will begin her senior year at Benson Technical School, majoring in radio communication.

By identifying her talents, the non-profit, grass-roots organization Northwest Country Community Outreach is helping Flowers, by requesting financial donations to help send her to the national pageant. The organization strives for social balance, self-motivation, inspiration and education for teen society.

You may send contributions by check or money order to Flowers in care of NWCCO, 4606 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd, Suite A, Portland, OR 97211. Contributors can also stop by the



Kelci Rae Alberti-Flowers

offices to make donations by Visa or MasterCard, Monday through Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m.

Books About Diversity

Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Whites - If You Don't Make Waves, You'll Drown: 10 hard-charging strategies for leading in politically correct times.

Interracial America: Opposing Viewpoints. Global Values 101: A short course.

CQ: Developing cultural intelligence at work - Affirmative Action: Racial preference in black and white.

What Makes Racial Diversity Work in Higher Education: Academic leaders present successful policies and strategies - Making Diversity Work: 7 steps for defeating bias in the workplace.

Special Garden Opens to Public

The award-winning Oregon Burn Center Garden, located on the campus of Legacy Emanuel Hospital, 3001 N. Gantenbein St., is open to the public during the August "Summer in the Garden" event.

The garden is typically closed to the public, but during this free event community members are invited to enjoy the shady, serene space.

On Monday, Aug. 7 visitors can watch artist demonstrations, take garden tours, receive information from the Oregon State University Master Gardener program and enjoy nature crafts by Legacy Horticulture Therapy students.

The garden is accessible from the iron gates across from Emanuel Hospital's emergency department. For more information, call 503-413-6507.

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