

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Nissan Versa 1.8 S HB

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Drive Big. Park Little.

Forget big SUVs. Never mind about hybrids. The next hot market for cars is shaping up to be compacts. New entry-level cars are hatching almost as quickly as gas prices are rising at the pump. Not so long ago buying cheap and small meant you got cheap and small. Times have changed, today it doesn't necessarily mean either. Many automakers are launching new models high on design and long on fuel economy. Nissan's new Versa might be the biggest bargain of them all in more ways than one. The Versa, meaning versatile space, is the first joint platform development between Nissan and Euro partner Renault. It's already on the road in Japan and other parts of the world, badged as the Tilda. The Versa is built on Nissan's advanced "B" platform, an international design,

which represents its entry into the subcompact market. Nissan is hoping with the Versa launch in the U.S. market to reach the "Echo Boomers" offspring of the Baby Boomers, although Nissan is sure buyers will come from all age groups.

The Versa design and engineering teams found a way to put a big interior in a small car. The design of the Versa places a priority on interior roominess, with a high quality interior and comfortable, stress-free environment. Even a six-footer shouldn't feel cramped in the impressive Versa. We found the Versa to provide ample leg and headroom for all passengers sitting in the backseat. Versa's versatility really shines when it comes to carrying the goods. There's a generous 17.8 cubic feet of cargo space with the rear seats in place. Fold them down and you've got 50 cubic feet, which is almost as much space as



Engine: 122-HP 1.8 Liter, 4-Cylinder ULEV rating (ultra low emissions)
Transmission: 4-Speed Automatic
MPG: 28/city 35/highway
MSRP: \$ 15,000.00

you'll find in a big SUV. This proves the concept of "Drive big. Park little."

Park the luxury SUV in the garage during the week and save big bucks with the Versa, a solid fuel-efficient "micro-big-on-luxury" ride. The real joy though comes when its gas tank costs half as much to fill as it would for a big SUV, and you get just as much distance for less money. No wonder the Versa is considered a luxury vehicle in Japan.

Having more zip than most, with 120-hp under the hood, this little jewel is a real player on the market. The Versa's handling is tight and responsive, and the brakes provide excellent stopping power. The Versa is nimble and well-balanced, fun to drive and doesn't make you feel like you're in a subcompact. Nissan provides solid standard safety features such as tire pressure monitoring, dual-stage front airbags; front side-

impact airbags, side curtain airbags and front seat active head restraints.

Versa started life as a more upscale product than its competition. I am happy and thankful that Nissan brought it here "as is" instead of stripping it of personality and features to justify cost.

Nissan claims the Versa is a "no compromises" vehicle. The new Versa allows small car drivers to have it all in one attractive, affordable package without sacrificing roominess, comfort, style, fuel efficiency or high quality. Versa provides great value without compromise.

Obituary

In Loving Memory

Sunrise -- Feb. 25, 1936
 Sunset -- Dec. 9, 2006



Anna English

Funeral services for Anna English will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006 at 11 a.m. at Cathedral of Praise, 1821 S.E. 39th Ave. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. at Willamette National Cemetery.

Anna Christine Dobson was born Feb. 25, 1936 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She married Marvin English Jr. on Dec. 18, 1954 and retired from the Crown Zellerbach/James River paper mill in Camas, Wash. after 23 years of service as a machinist.

Anna was a beautiful woman inside and out. She worked hard for her family. She gave of herself selflessly, loving her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She enjoyed spending warm and sunny days sitting on her front porch, caring for her flowers and welcoming family and friends as they stopped to visit. From the same home of 38 years, she was well liked and loved by neighbors. She always had a smile for all who passed her way.

She was the rock and strength of her family and will be missed as the main woman of their lives.

Preceding her in death was her mother and father, Lillian Dobson and Alfred Banks; and a brother, Charles Dobson.

She is survived by her husband; three daughters, Victoria Patterson, Kimberly English and Tracy Velasquez; a son: Marvin English III; four grandsons, seven granddaughters, a great-grandson, eight great-granddaughters; two sisters, Virginia Harrell and Janice Stewart; a cousin, Sidney Jones Jr.; her son in-laws Gerald F. Patterson and Ricky Velasquez; and a host of brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

Better Community was Activist's Dream

continued from Metro

about the Buffalo Soldiers, the all black regiment of the U.S. Army from territorial days. His great great granduncle Henry O. Flipper was the first black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1877, and the first African American officer in the regular Army.

He was president of the National Buffalo Society Historic Society. As part of the local Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, he oversaw the creation of a pin honoring York, Captain William Clark's black "manservant" who accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back as part of the Corps of Discovery.

Margaret Wright worked with Flipper in the Humboldt Neighborhood Association. She said he raised the neighborhood's profile in the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

State Sen. Avel Gordly remembered him as an "activist, community builder and intellectual," calling him a "leader in his own right in every meaning of that word."

Up until his death, Flipper worked as director of auxiliary services at Clark College in Vancouver.

Barbara Kerr, the director of communi-

As part of the local Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, [Carl Flipper] oversaw the creation of a pin honoring York, Captain William Clark's black "manservant" who accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Pacific Ocean and back as part of the Corps of Discovery.

cations and marketing for the school, called him "a wonderful man who will be deeply missed."

A native of New Orleans, Flipper spent most of his early years in St. Louis. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Sangamon State University in Springfield, Ill. He earned an MBA in Marketing and Finance from the University of Illinois.

He worked for the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Commission before teaching economics at Lewis-Clark State College in Clarkston, Idaho. After moving to Portland in 1991, he was regional manager for the Northwest Capital Network and president and CEO of the Oregon MIT Enterprise forum.

Flipper's background also includes work in the media. While working at the

University of Illinois, he launched a public television station for the university. He hosted a weekly radio show in Peoria, Ill. and started a radio station in Springfield.

Survivors include his wife, Annette Albright-Flipper; son Joseph of Clarkston, Wash.; daughters, Monica of New Orleans and Natalie of Lewiston; stepsons, Nathaniel Albright of Denver and Christopher Albright of Portland; stepdaughters, Deanna and Jessica Albright of Portland and Ruby Albright of Vancouver; mother Maurine Flipper of Mill Valley, Calif.; sister Cassandra Flipper of Greenbrae, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Remembrances may be made to the Carl Flipper Children's Education Fund in care of Annette Albright-Flipper at Bank of America, downtown Vancouver branch.

PROJECT NO: 78,104

A NEW PLACE TO PLAY.

It's been more than 30 years since Oregonians have gotten a new full-service state park, but that's about to change. In the summer of 2007, 1,755 acres of hilly forestland between HWY 26 and Vernonia will become "Stub" Stewart Memorial State Park. The purchase of this new parkland was made possible with Oregon Lottery profits. They also helped to build the park, which will offer 80 campsites; trails for hiking; horseback riding and mountain biking; a cabin village; a horse camp; a hike-in camp for backpackers; a sheltered picnic ground and a hill top observation tower for sightseeing and stargazing.

State parks are some of Oregonian's favorite places, which is why they voted to use money generated by Lottery games to take care of the ones we have and add new ones. And Buying new parkland is just one of the ways Oregon wins when Oregonians play. Lottery profits also go to economic development, education and watershed enhancement across the state.

itdoesgoodthings.org



It does good things

