

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2007 Range Rover Sport Supercharged

“Mud-Slinging with Style”

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Range Rover raised the stakes considerably for 2007, when it came to its flagship model.

The 2007 Range Rover Supercharged interior is more like what you'd expect from a car pushing a six-figure price tag. From the inside, the leather and cherry wood-trimmed 2007 Range Rover is about as sophisticated and as far from an “off-road warrior” as you can get. The “supercharged” cabin is reminiscent of a plane cockpit, with an enormous center console to operate the “technoluxuries” onboard such as: touch screen, voice activated GPS navigation; Bluetooth hands-free phone integration; a 14-speaker surround-sound audio system; rear-seat DVD system; and triple-zone air-conditioning.



**SPECIFICATIONS:** 4.2 liter 390-hp aluminum alloy V8 engine; 6-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with CommandShift (Normal, Sport, and Manual Shift Modes); permanent four-wheel drive; four wheel electronic Traction Control (4ETC); two-speed electronic transfer box with electronic center differential; \$74,000.00 MSRP.

Years of schlepping through waist-high mud, clambering down hills, fording rivers, and generally having a good old off-road time gave Land Rover an enviable reputation in the 4x4 world. Then came the age of the SUV, where comfort trumped off-road performance and the mall parking lot became the most arduous terrain that immaculately waxed 4x4s had to negotiate. Range Rover has long dominated the world

of luxury SUVs, becoming the ride of choice for movie premieres and executive parking lots.

The 2007 Range Rover Supercharged is equipped with some serious performance credentials. We decided to challenge the heart of this “off-road warrior” by returning it back to its family roots, back to basics, back quite literally to the clay in which its parents' reputations were fashioned. Sure, we

had couple of reservations before plunging this “technoluxurious-automobile” into the muck and rubble of an off-road course. The 2007 Range Rover Supercharged is the first model to include Terrain Response, a system to “boost off-road prowess” by adapting engine, transmission, suspension, and traction controls for different off-road conditions.

We just had to see how it worked

in practice. To test whether or not the system is worth its stripes, we took the sophisticated, Range Rover through the paces off the asphalt and onto the rocks, gravel and muck that constitutes a “4x4 play area”; kind of like we were about to go mud wrestling in a tuxedo. All reservations to the wind, we dived headlong into the various terrains. The Range Rover's dynamic stability control ensured that the wheels retained traction even when we tried to accelerate quickly and the car stopped smoothly, even under sharp braking. We were even impressed by the smooth comfort of the ride while we went jouncing over steep ridges. The Range Rover was equally comfortable traversing the sand pit: floating over the sand without once losing traction.

Without fail the Range Rover confidently gave a stellar performance negotiating the challenging terrain, even the mud pit could not defeat this “high-tech-off-road warrior.” The 2007 Range Rover Supercharged conquers road challenges and provides safe passage with safety features such as front-rear park distance con-

trol (PDC), alerting drivers to obstacles through a series of beeps. Other standard safety features include a backup camera, tire-pressure monitoring system and bi-xenon headlights with power washers. Highway driving in the 2007 Range Rover is a safe comfy pleasure.

The 2007 Supercharged conjures up a walloping 400 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque. The glory of the supercharger quickly becomes apparent once above 2,000 rpms. Push the gas pedal down hard enough to engage kick down and the turbo comes to life with a turbine-like whine, catapulting the tachometer from mid-2,000 up to around 5,000 rpms, and the bulky Rover into the territory of sport sedan.

The bottom line is the 2007 Range Rover Supercharged is an SUV that talks the talk and walks the walk. Its sumptuous interior is dripping with luxury and tech features. When this “off-road warrior” hits the mud, its all out fun! On or off the asphalt, it blows most of the competition away.

## Bell Takes Reins as Youth Advocate

continued ▲ from Metro

development and implementation of service programs in federal, state and local settings.

Most recently she served as chief operating officer for Multnomah County. Prior to that, she was

deputy director of Multnomah County's Department of Community and Family Services. Her community service background includes serving as co-chair of the Portland House of Umoja board of directors, as a member of the Portland Public Schools Multicultural/

Multiethnic Task Force, chair of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission and a Governor's appointee to the State Community Corrections Advisory Board.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara

and Master's degree in government with an emphasis on public policy studies from Claremont Graduate University.

When her new responsibilities begin on Jan. 2, she can be reached at 503-378-6250 or iris.bell@state.or.us.

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## TriMet Free on New Year's Eve

- All TriMet buses and MAX will be free beginning at 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve. In addition, there will be extra service on MAX Blue and Yellow light rail lines, running more often and later into that night.
  - MAX Blue and Yellow lines will run 15-minute service until 1 a.m., and then 30-minute service between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m.
  - Late-night riders can catch a final westbound Blue line train and eastbound Yellow line train from Pioneer Courthouse Square at about 3 a.m.
  - The airport MAX will run every 15 minutes, with the last train leaving downtown Portland around 10:40 p.m., and leaving the airport at 11:37 p.m.
  - On New Year's Day TriMet MAX and buses will run on Sunday schedules, and regular fares apply.
- For complete schedules, visit [trimet.org](http://trimet.org) or call 503-238-RIDE.

## Minority Outreach Boosted

continued ▲ from Metro

cific Bell and Pacific Northwest Bell. Burnette has a Bachelor's degree in behavioral psychology from Reed College. She is a lifetime mem-

ber of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs.

PDC is the city's urban renewal agency, providing housing, development and economic development programs.

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## Breaking Barriers to Owning a Business

continued ▲ from Metro

United Way. The DBA operates under the umbrella of the East County One Stop, which has compiled the help of more than 40 agencies in support of the center, but Ough expects it to become self-sustaining after the grant expires.

Ough and the association's three staff members hosted a grand opening in October, and have had much to celebrate since their client list has exceeded initial expectations with a list of nearly 70 entrepreneurs and growing.

With a solid base, the DBA is currently compiling a directory of all Oregon agencies that support persons with disabilities - a sea of information that Ough says is nearly impossible to navigate.

"There are tons of agencies, and 99 percent of them offer social services," she said. "But our one-percent focus is to be the business service for people with disabilities. That's our common denominator." Take Sarah Bourne for example.

She was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder more than a decade ago. As a child she fell in love with the intricacies of handiworks when her grandmother taught her to sew, and these days she quilts for 10 to 12 hours each day.

OCD is not a disability Bourne wears on her sleeve, but nonetheless it has helped shape her chosen occupation while acting as a barrier to developing a business plan to launch a quilt shop with a storefront.

Like Erickson and his art, Bourne was referred to the DBA by the state vocational rehabilitation division. Now Ough and staff are working with Bourne to develop and review a business plan and determine the projected cash flow, sales and expenses needed to break even.

"We don't let [our disabilities] overcome us, but [the DBA] have been a humongous help," Bourne said. "They show us how to help ourselves."

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## Annual MLK Mass

The African American Catholic Community of Oregon invites the public to the annual Memorial Mass to celebrate the memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mass will talk place Saturday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. at Saint Mary's Cathedral, NW 18th and Couch St. Archbishop John G. Vlazny will serve as celebrant and homilist.

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