

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Nissan Titan 4X4 SE "The Titan is One Tough Truck"

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2007 Nissan Titan 4X4 SE is one big truck. The hulking Titan is the he-man of full-size pickups. The 2007 Nissan Titan is an American truck. Yes, it is the first ever full-sized pickup from a company whose world headquarters are located outside of North America. The Titan was designed in California, and assembled in Jackson, Miss. Not surprisingly, the Titan earned top honors in the Large Pickup segment of the J.D. Power's APEAL (Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout) study.

The Titan is boldly styled. Its blocky head-on view, with its twin sloping chrome bars angling down across a bee-comb radiator, presents an intimidating appearance in rear-view mirrors, a look that's simple and direct. The big fender flares give the look of a rugged-

outdoor-enthusiast. Lots of chrome up front catches the eye with boldness. The rock-solid 2007 Nissan Titan commands respect on-or-off the road.

This bad boy can tow up to 9,500 pounds; pretty impressive for a 1/2 ton truck. The Titan is a serious truck. The 5-speed automatic transmission is responsive, quickly downshifting whenever needed. The transmission features Tow/Haul mode to reduce unnecessary shifting and heat buildup. The 4WD Titan offers shift-on-the-fly capability through an electronically controlled part-time transfer case. Simply turn a knob to shift from two-wheel to four-wheel drive, and it can be done while driving.

Driving the 2007 Nissan Titan is a pleasure. The Titan has brilliant throttle response. Its power train is



SPECIFICATIONS: 5.6-Liter, 32-Valve Endurance V-8 engine; 5-Speed Automatic transmission w/ Tow/Haul Mode; Shift-on-the-Fly 4WD System; 13-City mpg. 18-Highway mpg.; \$38,255 MSRP

perhaps the most responsive among the full-sized pickups with comparable engines. The Titan always feels alert and wide-awake, like it started the morning with a double espresso. The V8 delivers quick acceleration performance, whether launching off the line or pulling a quick pass speed. Offering up an impressive and enthusiastic 0-60 in 7.2 seconds, it isn't a

whisper-quiet engine, but has a deep exhaust note that sounds exceptionally powerful and pleasing when accelerating.

The 2007 Titan offers expressive styling and extends to clever innovations and options that include a factory applied spray-in bedliner, a C-channel tie-down system for securing cargo and accessories, and a stash box integrated into the

driver's-side rear fender for storing a tow hitch or other small items. The rear doors on the King Cab open nearly 180 degrees for quick access. A dampened assist reduces effort when opening and closing the tailgate, which automatically locks when closed. The Crew Cab has a power retractable rear window with privacy glass and an electric defroster.

The 2007 Nissan Titan provides power, payload, performance and innovation in a stylish package at a decent price. The 2007 Nissan Titan is one tough truck built for endurance through the ages.

SPORTS

Local Rap Group Hosts NBA Party

The local rap group Can't Be Caught will host a citywide 'Return to Portland' party for former Portland Trailblazers Rasheed Wallace and Dale Davis, founder and chief executive officer of W.A.R. Records.

The 21 and over party is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 at the Vintage, 318 S.W. Third Ave. beginning at 9 p.m.

Since signing with Davis' label in 1997, Can't Be Caught has



Rasheed Wallace



Dale Davis

recorded three albums, including their most popular CD titled 'My City,' a 2000 release that did well

locally and nationally.

Most recently, the four-member group consisting of LB, Luck, Shoat and Bugz, made a cameo appearance in the nationally released film "Playa's Ball" in which Davis was executive producer. The movie featured some of the best talent in Hollywood, including Allen Payne of "Jason's Lyric", Elise Neal, D.L. Hughley, co-star of the popular Hughley show and Treach of the popular

1990s rap group Naughty By Nature.

In addition, Can't Be Caught is one of the first musical groups to launch Blingtunes, the latest technological invention to incorporate an MP3, voice recorder and radio into a jewel encrusted necklace.

Plans to host a Portland premiere of Playa's Ball are underway and the group's fourth CD, titled 'Time to Eat' will be released this summer.

Blazer Front Office Shaken Up, Seahawks Executive Takes Over

(AP) -- Portland Trail Blazers president and general manager Steve Patterson abruptly resigned Thursday after owner Paul Allen refused to renew his contract.

The move came with the Trail Blazers in next-to-last place at 24-34, a season after they had the worst record in the NBA.



Steve Patterson



Tod Leiweke

Tod Leiweke, chief executive officer of the Seattle Seahawks, will take over while a full-time replacement is found. Allen, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft, also owns the Seahawks.

Patterson had been the team president since 2003 and became the GM after John Nash was fired last May.

Leiweke said the search for

a new president and general manager would begin immediately.

Leiweke also will become the CEO of a newly formed management company, Vulcan Sports & Entertainment, which will oversee both the Trail Blazers and Seahawks organizations.

He will retain that position after the new management for the Blazers is in place.

Magic Johnson to Speak at PSU

Basketball Legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be the featured speaker at Portland State University's annual Simon Benson Awards Dinner on Monday, March 19 at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

A reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner and entertainment is at 7 p.m.

The Simon Benson Awards Dinner celebrates Pacific Northwest pioneers in philanthropy. This year's dinner will honor Sharon and Robert Miller and Jane



Earvin 'Magic' Johnson

and Robert Morrow.

Johnson, one of the National Basketball Association's "50 Greatest Players" has re-

defined himself as a businessman who focuses his efforts on revitalizing neglected communities.

Sponsorships, tables and individual tickets for the event are available by calling Meg Chuprevich at 503-725-8212, or by e-mailing events@pdx.edu for more information.

Schools Earn Tourney Spots

Jefferson and Roosevelt high schools enter the quarterfinals of the state 5A Boys Basketball Tournament at McArthur Court in Eugene.

Roosevelt has a 1:30 p.m. game Wednesday against Churchill and Jefferson has a 6:30 p.m. contest against Corvallis.

In the 6A Boys Tournament, Grant High School faces South

Medford on Thursday at 8:15 p.m. at McArthur Court.

Jefferson is also represented in the Girls 5A championships. The lady Democrats play Hermiston at 3:15 p.m. Thursday at the Chiles Center on the University of Portland campus in north Portland.

In the Girls 6A tournament, Lincoln plays Southridge at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Chiles Center.

Stopping Domestic Violence

continued from Metro

was given in his treatment programs.

The most important factor in Gary's treatment was accepting accountability for the things he'd done.

"A man needs to become accountable for his own actions without trying to justify them or blame someone or something else," he said.

Since beginning recovery, Gary has had to cope with his share of challenges. While he was still in treatment, his victim died of cancer only two months after being diagnosed.

"We'd worked through a lot of our issues by then," he reflects.

"I'd made amends with her and we were rebuilding our relationship. We'd probably be married by now...I think of her as my wife—she was my soul mate."

Gary is proud to have celebrated his second anniversary of sobriety on Feb. 18. He says going through the program has changed the way he feels about himself: his self-esteem has increased because of his personal growth. He emphasizes the daily commitment to recovery.

"I look at this as an opportunity to let other men know that if they love someone and they love themselves enough, they will become accountable and seek help for their problem—it's out there if they want it."

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