

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## The Edge of Bold American Design

BY KATHLEEN CARR

It's not surprising that the CUV market is the hottest segment in the industry right now. Boomers are downsizing out of big SUVs, fuel prices are scaring folks into vehicles with better mileage, young families are demanding efficient vehicular packages for their varied lifestyles, and, of course, manufacturers can develop CUVs from existing car platforms with minimal costs.

Ford introduces the Edge in response to the growing demand in the CUV buyers market. The Edge is a 5-passenger, crossover sport utility vehicle, which answers the call for a roomy vehicle with utility and style.

The Edge comes from Ford's freshest new car, Fusion, but it adds lots of content and functionality. Most importantly is the all-new 3.5-liter V6, a high tech, high content, aluminum engine with 265-hp and 250 lb-ft of torque. Ford has done



**2007 Ford Edge-Sel Plus AWD:** 3.5-Liter, 256-hp DOHC V6 Engine; 6-Speed Automatic Transmission; 17-City 24-Highway MPG; \$36,580 MSRP

an admirable job of powering the Edge. The engine is smooth, quick and has a nice high-tech sound on heavy throttle. Mated with a new 6-speed automatic transmission the Edge musters enough punch to hurry the Edge to 60 mph in 7.6 seconds and through the quarter-mile in 16.0 seconds at 87-mph.

Our Edge SEL Plus was loaded with goodies, among them the Vista

Roof, a dual port design moon roof measuring 27.3 by 29.4 inches, which tilts up or slides open. Stargazers, this is the roof for you. Other options on our tester included: DVD-based navigation with the Audiophile sound system with I-pod capability, sporty 17-inch wheels, a 3500-pd maximum capacity towing package, Sirius-Satellite radio, heated seats, and more. Sur-

prisingly what we found to be missing was third-row seating option.

The interior is all about functionality. The rear seats fold flat as does the passenger seat in the front allowing for the ability to transport cargo up to 8-ft. long. The center console between the front seats has 12 configurations, including one that allows the storage of a laptop. Ford visions the automo-

bile as the customer's third most important place next to home and office and every effort has been made to allow the drivers to be connected to the world.

Standard safety features for all Edge models include seat-mounted side-impact air bags for the front seats and side curtain airbags with rollover protection for both rows of seating, the mandated front airbags,

anti-lock brakes with AdvanceTrac electronic stability control and a tire-pressure monitoring system.

The Edge features Ford's newly rediscovered bold, American design. The big chrome grille is placed well forward and has wide chrome slats that merge into the relatively small headlights at each side. The high hood is short as the windshield rakes forward providing a sporty profile. With flared fenders, large wheels, a tall 'athletic' stance, high shoulder lines, dual exhaust with chrome tips, a crisp spoiler for the rear roof, give the Edge some edginess without being controversial.

The 2007 Ford Edge SEL Plus AWD, has surprisingly dynamic sport handling, the new V-6 feels eager to please. With clean styling, attractive interior, functionally adequate interior space and comfortable road manners, the Edge fits the crossover template perfectly. Although admittedly we were disappointed with the less than impressive fuel efficiency; overall Ford's newest contender in the crossover market, the brawny and aggressive looking Edge delivers! This slick new Ford raises the stakes in the crossover game.

# RELIGION

## Working for the Common Good

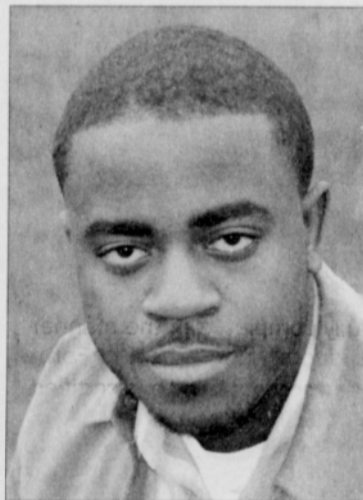
Local churches, activists celebrate 5 years of help for the needy

Four hundred leaders from Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good, a broad-based organization of 33 congregations, unions and community groups, celebrate five years of organizing for common good at the Concordia University gymnasium, 2811 N.E. Holman, Wednesday, May 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"We have many victories in

our first five years," says Pastor Terry Moe, MACG leader from Redeemer Lutheran Church. "But we still have work to do broadening the membership and training more leaders."

The group is partnering with the Black Parent Initiative to shrink the achievement gap in our schools and address multiple pressures on families which make it more difficult for chil-



Charles McGee

dren to succeed in school.

"We recognized early on that for this to be truly successful we had to engage other communities as we begin to boldly build power in our community," says Charles McGee, a co-founder and executive director for the initiative group.

Annette Hunt, a leader with BPI from Rehoboth World Healing Center will tell her story to demonstrate how parents can take control of their family's future when they are nurtured leaders.

## Churches Give Sanctuary to Immigrants

Helping those unjustly treated

(AP) -- An effort being billed as a new sanctuary movement for immigrants is loosely based on a 1980s movement in which churches harbored Central American refugees fleeing wars in their home countries.

As religious leaders from different faiths across the nation announced the initiative May 9, the

Rev. Donna Schaper of Judson Memorial Church defined it as "providing spiritual, moral, sometimes material and sometimes legal assistance to people who are either unjustly detained or deported."

ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice declined to say whether agents would attempt to arrest others who take sanctuary in churches.



Anglican ministers in Los Angeles bless the family of an immigrant facing deportation during a ceremony declaring Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church a sanctuary from immigration authorities.

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## Obituaries

### Donations to Pay for Funeral



Tonya Taylor

Tonya Taylor died May 13, 2007. She was born Dec. 10, 1966, the daughter of Darnell Taylor. Her sister was Karen Taylor who died in a house fire earlier this year on Northeast 15th and Prescott.

Friends and family are hosting a car wash this weekend to raise donations for funeral expenses.

The event will be held at Yam Yam's, 7339 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., from 10 a.m. to

7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Donations can also be made in care of Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel, 2736 N.E. Rodney Ave. or by calling the chapel at 503 281-4891.

### In Loving Memory Janet Whitesides

A celebration of live service was held 7 in Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Portland for Janet Whitesides, who died April 26 at age 72. Janet Fuller was born May 7, 1934, in Portland, where she lived all her life. She graduated from Jefferson High School and was a community agent for Portland Public Schools, as well as an admissions clerk for Legacy Emanuel Hospital. She was a member of the church.

Survivors include her son, Duane; daughter, Kimberli; brothers, Gene Fuller and Jerry Fuller; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Remembrances to the church. Arrangements by Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home.

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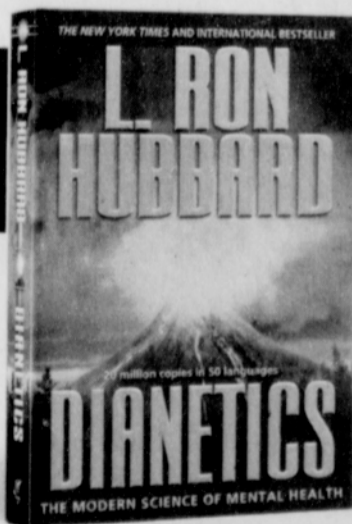
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