

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Kia Sportage 4X4 The Thinking Persons 4X4

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Behold, the Sportage is back, having undergone a vast makeover. It has the same name, but perhaps that's the only similarity to yesteryear's model. The new Sportage has a completely new and refined interior and exterior design, and a good supply of standard and optional features. It also has a few nice, thoughtful, if small, considerations that could allow the small to well infiltrate the marketplace.

Designed with both young-at-heart and value-conscious customers in mind, Sportage places heavy emphasis on safety. Its long list of standard safety features includes: six standard airbags (two advanced front airbags, two front-seat-mounted side airbags, and two full-length side-curtain airbags); four-wheel disc brakes with antilock brake system (ABS); traction control system (TCS); aluminum trim assist grips, and electronic stability control (ESC).

For even better performance, a powerful V6 engine is available, mated to a four-speed Sportmatic™ transmission. The lightweight, compact, DOHC 24-valve all-alumi-



Specifications: 2.7-Liter 24-Valve 6-Cylinder, 173 hp @178 lb-ft torque Engine; 4-Speed Automatic Transmission Electronic Control On-Demand 4-Wheel Drive; 19-City 23-Highway MPG; \$22,775 MSRP

num 2.7-liter engine generates 173 horsepower and 178 pound-feet of torque. The vehicle performed well in all driving scenarios. It's not the quickest SUV on the market, but it's far from sluggish. And while the Sportage doesn't provide any time-warp sensations, the SUV, while categorized as a truck, accelerated without hesitation as if it were performing with car-like smooth, steady advances.

Kia's four-wheel drive system is a single-range offering. It's electronically controlled with a push-button function on the console. It's designed for all-weather, all-season traction and primarily offered

for on-road situations, not treacherous off-road conditions. The Sportage does have 7.7 inches of clearance and good traction, so off-road trail driving should certainly not be discounted. While on the road, the Sportage offers a comfortable, commanding and surprisingly quiet ride.

Equally impressive, the Sportage's interior and exterior design has a modern contour of near luxury status. The outside of the vehicle has nicely shaped panel corners and the headlights, roof rails and rear spoiler are sturdy yet provide a sleek appearance. It's as if the vehicle was molded after ad-

vancing into strong headwinds.

The interior has the same "feel." The console and other instrumentation are well-positioned and handsome. The console looks simple, yet stylish and surprisingly upscale considering the vehicle's value-for-cost considerations. The Sportage comfortably seats five and the front and rear leg and headroom is surprisingly spacious.

Additionally, the Sportage's liftgate glass can be opened without opening the tailgate. A handy storage compartment and tray are available under the rear cargo area. Additional storage is available with Kia's 'Drop & Fold' rear seating

system.

Speaking of cost, the Sportage EX model has a base price of \$21,400, an appealing amount considering the vehicle's standard options that, in part, include: power windows and locks, heated outside mirrors, AM/FM/cassette/CD/MP3 audio system with six speakers, cruise

control, air conditioning and sunroof. The EX model's luxury package (\$1,300) includes the aforementioned leather seating, heated front seats, automatic headlamps and automatic dimming inside mirror and with a Homelink security function.

With every option available, the Sportage's price is still well under \$24,000. It's a price point that should give the new Sportage best-value consideration in the small SUV market. Like all Kia models, the Sportage is covered by a comprehensive warranty program, which offers unprecedented consumer protection. Included in the package are a 10-year or 100,000-mile limited powertrain warranty; a five-year or 60,000-mile limited basic warranty; and a five-year or 100,000-mile anti-perforation warranty. A five-year/60,000-mile roadside assistance plan is also part of the comprehensive coverage program. If you're on a modest budget but don't want to give up comfort or convenience, the 2007 Kia Sportage is definitely worth considering.

Anchor in Early Stage of Cancer

(AP) -- ABC "Good Morning America" anchor Robin Roberts has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will be undergoing surgery Friday.

Roberts, 46, told viewers about her cancer on Tuesday morning's show.

"I am so blessed that I found this in the early stages, and the prognosis is so promising that my doctor expects me to be flying planes and hanging on to submarines in the middle of the Atlantic and scaling the Mayan pyramids in no time," she said.

Roberts, who is co-anchor of "Good Morning America" with Diane Sawyer, said she examined herself and found a lump on her breast the same day she had done a report on former "GMA" movie critic Joel Siegel, who died of colon cancer last month. The network wouldn't say which breast was affected.

Roberts, who is single, said there is no history in her family of breast cancer.

She has been a contributor to ABC's morning program since 1995 and was the newsreader before being named in May 2005 as one of the show's anchors.

Former ABC news anchor Peter Jennings announced on "World News Tonight" in April 2005 that he had lung cancer. He never appeared on the air again and died four months later.



Robin Roberts reporting live for ABC.

Food Bank Chili Warning

continued ▲ from Metro

botulism cases. Castleberry's has posted a complete list of the recalled products, including some dog foods, on its Website.

Swallowing even tiny traces of botulinum can be lethal, which is why any questionable canned food should not be opened.

Symptoms of botulism include double or blurred vision, dropping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing and muscle weakness.



LeRoy Williams

Nov. 23 1933 - July 23, 2007

Services for LeRoy Williams will be held Friday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. at Cox Funeral Home, 2736 N.E. Rodney Ave.

Mr. Williams was born in Goldsboro, N. C. He moved to Baltimore, Md. and joined the U. S. Navy in 1950. After four years of serving his country, he joined the U. S. Army in 1954. After retiring from military service in 1955, he moved to Portland and worked at various other jobs.

During his years in Portland he met and married Patricia Ann Mitchell. Both had children from previous marriages, which they successfully blended into a close-knit family, something of which LeRoy was forever proud.

More than a few friends, as well as his children, commented that LeRoy could "curse you with the best of them," but would be sitting chatting with them over a beer five minutes later. They also knew he would stand by them in adversity and always be a trusted friend. LeRoy had wisdom beyond his years, many relatives joked about him having nine lives.

Due to failing health in 2001, LeRoy moved to Dallas, Texas in 2003 to be closer to his daughter and grandchildren. He passed away at Temple Veterans Hospital in Temple, Texas. He may be gone, but he certainly isn't forgotten -- and never will be. He was from an era when a handshake or his word was a bond, and his friendship was everlasting.

Dramatic Weight Loss Explained

Star Jones tells of gastric bypass surgery

(AP) -- Star Jones Reynolds skirted questions about her dramatic weight loss for years, saying only that she had undergone a medical intervention. That intervention, it turns out, was gastric bypass surgery.

Reynolds, 45, says she was "intentionally evasive" when people asked how she'd dropped 160 pounds in three years. She had gastric bypass surgery in August 2003.

She writes about her weight loss in a first-person essay in the September issue of Glamour magazine, on newsstands Aug. 7.

"Everything about me was already so public (mostly my own doing -- talk about dumb!), so of course everyone wanted to know what I had done," she writes. "I was also terrified someone would have a tragic result after emulating me without making an informed decision with her doctor."

"But the complete truth is, I was scared of what



Star Jones Reynolds

people might think of me," she continues. "I was afraid to be vulnerable, and ashamed at not being able to get myself under control without this procedure."

Keeping her decision private made her a hypocrite, she says, because she had been so outspoken about her firing as co-host of ABC's "The View" last year.

Reynolds, who weighed 307 pounds at her heaviest, says her "out-of-control behavior" began around her 40th birthday in 2002. Feeling lonely, she turned to food for comfort and gained 75 pounds over the course of 17 months.

"I used to look in the mirror and take pride in my figure, but that was when I was legitimately a full-figured woman," she says. "I'd gradually gone from full-figured to morbidly obese."

Sisters Await Adoption

Krystal is happiest when on stage. Paige is introspective, but will happily accompany her sister on her musical adventures. Both girls are creative, fun-loving and very endearing.

These children are one of approximately 300 Oregon children available for adoption through the state, generally because of abuse and neglect.

Whether it's singing in the school band or performing Karaoke, Krystal enthusiastically showcases her talents for others. Paige is blossoming in leaps and bounds. Artis-

tically inclined, she is becoming much more successful in school.

In their early years, Krystal had to take on responsibilities beyond her years. Paige is striving to become more focused and expressive with her feelings. Counseling, positive boundaries and stability are making a world of difference in the lives of these sisters.

Krystal and Paige are precious sisters whose gifts and capabilities significantly outweigh their challenges. An adoptive family will be thrilled to welcome Krystal and Paige home.



Krystal and Paige, ages 12 and 8

For more information on the availability of these children, or on how to become a foster or adoptive parent, contact the Special Needs Adoption Coalition at 503-542-2392 or Department of Human Services at 1-800-331-0503

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