Portland Observer Auto Review

2008 BMW Mini Cooper

The Uniquely Individual Mini

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Engineered by BMW, the new 2008 Mini Cooper is one of the most interesting looking cars on the road today. This is the reason Mini Cooper dealers have been kept hopping busy filling orders for this hot little sport sedan. The brainchild of auto designer Frank Stephenson, the Mini offers performance and style in a compact package that's a natural alternative to the giant, gasguzzling SUVs of today.

The new 2008 Mini Cooper comes in two models - the barebones Cooper (our test model), and the same engine that roduces 172 hp offer add-on spats, or fenders, that complete reinvention. Inside the more sophisticated Cooper S.

packs quite a punch. The Mini and a six-speed automatic with ates the vehicle's compact size. hatchback and convertible come manual shift control is optional. powertrains. The Cooper hatch- all 2008 Mini Cooper performanceback comes with a newly designed with a top speed of 124 mph, the car 1.6-liter four-cylinder that produces can go from zero to sixty in less than 118 horsepower and 114 pound-

tures a turbocharged version of the On the outside, the new models MINI's iconic shape didn't need a wheels, there's a noticeable im-



Specifications: 1.6-Liter 16-Valve 118-hp @ 114 lb-ft. torque 4-Cylinder engine; 6-Speed manual Getrag transmission; 28-City 37-Highway MPG; \$21,450. MSRP

and 177 lb-ft of torque. Both come For a tiny car, the Mini Cooper standard with a six-speed manual, nine seconds. Truly unbelievable!

Still, everything about the 2008 The Cooper S hatchback fea- Mini Cooper comes back to looks.

differ from the color of the car itself, Cooper has more obvious changes, creating a contrast that accentu-

with completely different Finally, of course, there's the over- differences between the 2008 MINI trols, and a Start button. Cooper and the first-generation car. The headlamps blend into the body better, the rear side glass panels are in front with a central-arm rear axle, a little more tapered, and the shoulders on the rear fenders are slightly wheel-drive cars. Even on the sportmore pronounced. Good thing: the tuned suspension with 17-inch

including a slimmer center stack of controls, a much bigger speedom-It takes an expert to pick out the eter that now contains audio con-

The 2008 MINI Cooper's suspension teams MacPherson struts an unusual design for small frontNews and reviews on new motor vehicles

new electric power steering is pretty good as far as these systems go, but there's an artificial feel that's contrary to everything else about

The cars also offer a sleek look that includes rear support pillars behind the exterior glass, a look that's lost with the more conventional C-pillar. Inside, this alternative look continues with dashboard visibility. toggle switches, a typical feature of don't come standard.

power-assisted steering, and cornering brake control. Passive featem, advanced crumple zones, and six standard airbags. All told, the Mini has earned a four-star safety rating from the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration, and a "Best Pick" designation from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Long rides will be much more comfortable in the 2008 MINI Cooper, thanks to better seats. Three levers let drivers and pas-

provement in ride response. The sengers maneuver their seats into optimal positions, as does the telescoping steering wheel. The sculpted seatbacks give rearseaters marginally more room for knees, even though interior dimensions haven't changed. The backseat remains a place for occasional riders in a good mood. Even without passengers, rear headrests cut into straight-back

The base Cooper hatchback classic British cars, and spherical comes standard with 15-inch alloy air vents. Racing gloves and silk wheels, a selectable Sport setting scarf are two Mini accessories that for steering and accelerator response, full power accessories with Surprisingly, for a car as small as auto up/down windows, air-condithis one, the 2008 Mini Cooper toy-tioning, leatherette premium vinyl sized car offers a number of active upholstery, multicolor mood lightand passive safety features. Ac- ing, a tilt-telescoping leathertive features include four-wheel wrapped steering wheel, a trip comantilock brakes, electro-hydraulic puter and a six-speaker stereo with CD player and auxiliary audio jack.

The 2008 MINI Cooper is one of tures include a crash sensor sys- the most popular cars on the market, in terms of buyers competing for each one. Discounts are unheard of and resale values are high!

Mini is one of the few brands that encourages its customers to customize and special order their cars. Take the time to wade through the options and make a MINI that's uniquely your own. But don't let its carefree attitude and cute looks fool you. It's one extreme machine that is like nothing else out there.

EL OBSERVADOR

Coca Production Expands

A worker uproots coca shrubs

in the northwester Colombia's

state of Antioquia. Guarded by

counter narcotics police officers

and the army, more than 200

peasants are eradicating coca

crops in the region. (AP Photo)

more remote areas where it is harder

to obtain the chemicals needed to

half of Colombia's coca comes from

He noted, however, that almost

make cocaine,

campaign of coca fields in Taraza,

during a manual eradication

U.S. fights \$5 billion war on drugs just 10 of the country's 195 municipalities. "Just like in Afghanistics."

(AP)—Colombia's coca crop the basis for cocaine - grew by 27 percent last year, the United Nations reported last week, calling the increase "a surprise and a shock" given major U.S.-funded eradication efforts.

Eradication of the crop in Colombia, the world's No. 1 cocaine-producing nation, has been the cornerstone of a multibillion-dollar U.S. aid package.

Coca cultivation was also up 4 percent in Peru and 5 percent in Bolivia, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime reported in its annual

It estimated cocaine production in the Andean region was stable, however, at about 994 metric tons compared to 984 metric tons in 2006.

Colombian cocaine production failed to keep pace with coca planting because police pressure forced an interruption in the growing cycle, Gen. Oscar Naranjo, chief of Colombia's police, told reporters.

"These young crops, the new ones, are less productive," Naranjo told a press conference in Bogota.

He said that eradication programs also are pushing coca farmers to

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

4946 N. Vancouver Avenue, Portland, OR 97217

24 Hour Good Neighbor Service®

Ernest J. Hill, Jr.

503 286 1103 Fax 503 286 1146

ernie.hill.h5mb@statefarm.com

State Farm®

palities. "Just like in Afghanistan, where most opium is grown in

provinces with a heavy Taliban presence, in Colombia most coca is grown in areas controlled by insurgents."

In all, 99,000 hectares, or 382 square miles, of coca cultivation were found in Colombia last year, up from 78,000 hectares in 2006, the U.N. said. It estimated total cultivation last year in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia—the world's three principal sources of coca - at 181,600 hectares, or 701 square miles

Last year, Colombia's drug police sprayed herbicide on 160,000 hectares of coca and manually eradicated another 50,000 hectares.

Washington has spent more than \$5 billion in Colombia over the past seven years to combat both a long-running insurgency and the world's largest cocaine industry, a business that helps fund a five-decade

armed conflict.

Some Democrats in the U.S. Congress are criticizing the heavy military focus of U.S. aid to Colombia.

Mexico Tackles Rising Food Prices

(AP) - Food manufacturers Calderon, flanked by representa- ment from rice farmers to sell their have promised Mexico's govern- tives of Mexico's business cham- crop at 10 percent below internament to freeze prices on more than bers. "This reflects the commitment 150 food products to help families of Mexican businessmen to the

President Felipe Calderon announced last week that prices for goods such as cooking oil, flour, canned tuna, fruit juices, coffee, ketchup and canned tomatoes will remain

cope with rising costs.

"This is a mea that will positively and

fixed until Dec. 31.

price stability." The Mexican leader has blamed high food costs on

rising global energy prices, soaring food demand in China and India and the use of corn for etha-

country and to

tional market prices and last year imposed price caps on tortillas, Mexico's staple food.

He also announced small monthly cash subsidies to 26 million poor Mexicans, about a quarter of the population. The cash payments of about 120 pesos (\$11.6) a month are expected to cost about \$433 million.

Mexico's central bank said annual inflation rose to 4.95 percent in May, the fastest pace in more Calderon had than three years, led by the swelldirectly benefit the finances of eliminated import barriers on wheat, ing costs of food oils, rice, wheat millions of Mexicans," said corn and rice in May, won an agree- products and corn tortillas.

Anti-Immigrant Measure Challenged A broad coalition has formed or pass a law which will take control hinder the ability of children to

to educate voters of the consequences Initiative Petition 19 would have on Oregon's children and economy.

The unfunded mandate termed "English Language Instruction" would prohibit teaching a publicschool student in a language other than English for more than two years. This November, Oregonians will have the choice to reject

away from local school boards, families and educators.

have spent years in refugee camps coming to Oregon," said Kayse in English. Jama of the Center for Intercultural Organizing.

other states have been shown to

learn English. In California, a recent study revealed that, six years "Many of these children suffer after an anti-bilingual education from economic hardship and some measure's passage, just onequarter of Hispanic pupils could with no formal schooling before expect to be reclassified as fluent

Last year, there were 62,084 students enrolled in English language Similar measures passed in development programs in Oregon school districts.

Advertise with diversity in the Hartland Observer Call 503-288-0033 ads@portlandob server.com

MPUS 7 Day Pass Open 7 days a week, M-F 1-9 pm, and Sat/Sun 12-5

Family owned/operated.

Extremely Competitive Monthly Membership Rates! "It's NEVER too late to get in shape!!"

4545 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. PDX, 97211 503.288.4717



Paul A. Neufeldt 503-875-1695 panndrw@yahoo.com

Graphic Design • Company Identity • Web Design Logos • Signage • Ad Design • Outdoor Events

Quality Design and Business Support

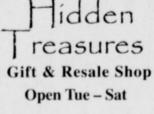
\$ TOP CASH \$ FOR ANY JUNK CAR, TRUCK OR VAN







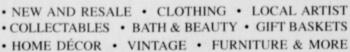
Call Driver Direct-Ask for Ron 503 975-5301 or 503 663-2211 30545 Hwy 212, Boring, OR



MARGIE BOOKER **PROPRIETOR**



503-281-0927



1703 NE Alberta Portland, Oregon 97211

Bring this ad to receive \$2 off your purchase of \$10 or more

Enjoy Fishing on the beautiful Snake River in Richland, Oregon **House for Rent**

Snake River Richland, Oregon

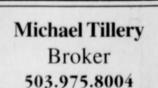
Three bedrooms, sleeps 8 + Full kitchen, Cable, Washer and Dryer Rent Daily or Weekly

Bob's Guide Service available

"Bob knows where the fish are!"



More info call Lionel @ 503.933.0200



michael@bridgetownrealty.com

Please call me, your neighborhood specialist, for any of your Real Estate needs. My success is built on a commitment to quality service.

