# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2009 Murano Steps Up

BY KATHLEEN CARR

date for 2009. There are a few key differentiators.

clean new tail design that bears a road feel. resemblance to that of the all-new

terms of quality.

The updated Murano rides on

Blazer Great Dies

continued A from Front

evening in Gleneden Beach near Lincoln City.

lb.-ft. of torque. An Xtronic CVT, When it first launched, the tweaked for quicker shifts and Murano grabbed attention with smoother power delivery, directs cutting-edge styling. Nissan the engine's output to the front or wouldn't make any drastic all four wheels. Standard on LE changes when sketching the up- and optional on S and SL models, the Murano's all-wheel-drive system features a new yaw rate Most noticeable is the new sensor for improved handling and face, set off by dramatic new head- traction and can distribute up to lights that continue the horizon- 50 percent of the engine's power tal line of the updated grille in- to the rear wheels. These improvestead of arching upward into the ments are above and beyond the fenders. Along the sides are wide redesigned, lightweight alumifender flares that drop last year's num suspension system and curves in favor of a knife-edge speed-sensitive steering setup surface. Things wrap up with a that's been reworked for better

The advanced all-wheel-drive and smaller Nissan Rogue cross- system is designed for safety as well as handling, as are standard In an effort to move the Murano stability and traction control sysupscale, the 2009 model gets an tems. Antilock disc brakes are interior more along the lines of supported by electronic brake this unit delivers power quickly what buyers might expect behind force distribution and brake asan Infiniti badge. In general, the sist technology. Front-side and new cabin offers a more stream- side-curtain airbags are inlined flow with fewer varying sur- cluded with every Murano purfaces and textures to break things chase, crucial safety features up. The gauge cluster is now in- that work in conjunction with tegrated into the dash, the center front active head restraints and instrument stack resembles those a rollover sensor to keep occufound in recent Infinitis, and the pants protected in the event of scale aspirations, the 2009 obviously zeroing in on comfort materials take a jump forward in an accident. A tire pressure Murano offers a quiet, subdued and control versus athleticism, monitor is also standard.

an all-new chassis and employs same 3.5-liter V-6 engine as its ing wheel translates the road surthe familiar 3.5-liter V-6, now predecessor, though there's an face to the driver's hands and Murano's cabin are logicallyboasting 265 horsepower and 248 additional 25 horsepower for the offers a modicum of response at placed and easy to use, though



Specifications: 3.5-Liter V-6, 265-hp @ 248 lb-ft. torque, DOHC engine; CVT Automatic transmission, AWD; 18-City 23-Highway MPG; \$29,225. MSRP

and doesn't spend inordinate amounts of time hanging at redline. Even so, we longed for bumps, the Murano is no sport more deliberate response when the throttle was pinned to the floor, and would welcome a sport plow when it's pushed too agor manual-shift mode.

In keeping with its more up-The latest Murano features the keeps the bad stuff out. The steer- Murano delivers.

and less show. Unlike many CVTs, the suspension does an admirable job of maintaining a controlled ride.

Though it's a bit stiff over big crossover, as evidenced by the body will roll and the front end gressively into even moderate corners. Nissan engineers were ride that lets the good stuff in and and viewed in that light, the

All controls within the

driver to enjoy. Manipulating that high speeds. Brakes are always the primary audio and climate power is easier thanks to an up- effective, to the point of some- control knobs are small. Despite graded CVT that offers more go times feeling over-sensitive, and this minor annoyance, we had no problems operating these

systems, including separate heated seat buttons and secondary steering wheel-mounted radio controls. The optional iPod integration with the navigation system is as simple as they come, and the center instrument control center can be understood quickly.

If there's one thing that will seal the deal for prospective buyers, it'll be the 2009 Murano's redesigned interior from its layout to its improved materials, occupants will feel and see refinement. They'll also find comfortable seating, a variety of attractive features, and an exterior package which has been updated just enough to be fresh. A deal breaker might be the lack of third row seating and limited rear cargo area.

The 2009 Nissan Murano has stepped up to the challenge of the demanding consumer.

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## Ask Deanna! Real People,

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19-city Statewide Summer Tour. The cause of his

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Lincoln County Medical Examiner. A Depoe Bay

Fire Department spokesperson said he appeared to

## **Dear Deanna!**

biggest-hearted."

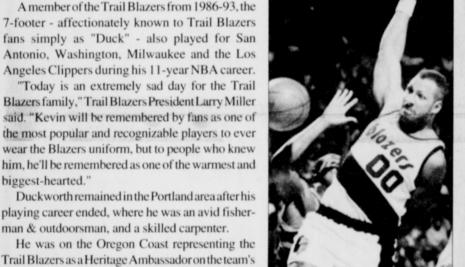
I had a date with my boyfriend but he never showed up. The funny thing is I couldn't reach my girlfriend either. There's a rumor they're messing around but other than her number being on hispager and the disappearing act. I have no proof. She said they're friends but he says she likes him. What's going on? -- Kerri; Omaha, Neb.

## Dear Kerri:

Helen Keller could see this one coming. There's something fishy going on. Other than an emergency your friend's number shouldn't be on your man's pager. Don't play games. Go ahead and ask both of them about it. You should know them well enough to tell if they're lying. They have two different stories going so expect two different lies. Life is too sweet for drama so eliminate them both and keep it moving.

## Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend is pressuring me to co-sign for a car loan because his credit is messed up. I don't feel secure doing this because our relationship "isn't all that" if you know what I mean. He hasn't put aring on my finger and he doesn't pay his bills on time. I love him but not enough for bad credit. Donna; Great Falls, S.C.



Portland Trail Blazer center Kevin Duckworth slams home two points in a Dec. 23, 1990 contest. (AP photo)

Blazers from San Antonio in exchange for Walter One season later, the 7-foot center was thrust into the spotlight because of injuries to Steve Johnson and Sam Bowie. Duckworth responded by averaging 15.8 points and 7.4 rebounds per

A second-round draft pick of the San Anto-

nio Spurs out of Eastern Illinois University in

1986, Duckworth was only 14 games into his

NBA career when he was acquired by the Trail

game, establishing himself as a pivot presence instrumental in Portland's emergence as one of the NBA's dominant teams.

Duckworth remains the 10th leading scorer and rebounder in Trail Blazers history, compiling averages of 13.6 points and 6.3 rebounds in 527 games. During his tenure, Trail Blazers teams compiled a record of 356-193 (.648).

"This is a devastating loss," said Traci Rose, Trail Blazers vice president of community relations. "To this day, Duck is adored throughout this state and remains a brother to his teammates and to Trail Blazers staff. We will forever miss our beloved 00."

Information on memorial services will be announced as it becomes available. Duckworth is survived by his mother and sister.

#### late from work. They have been for any. If your man comes home Don't sign anything for him exfilling up my head with stuff and late, and he says he was working-

#### payments, you'll be ruined. No dial on the telephone and checked your friends. When your girlmore credit, hard to open a check- his pockets for phone numbers. friends start trying to cause ing account and what happens if His behavior hasn't changed but drama, stop them dead in their you want a new car? The best my friends keep trying to contracks. If they keep at it, tell them

forcing you, then I smell a rat and it? -- Paranoid; Bronx, N.Y. you should too.

## **Dear Deanna!**

Dear Donna:

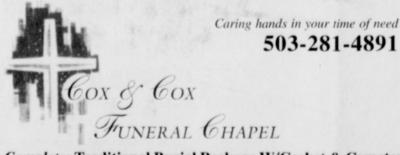
making me suspicious about my

cept a greeting card. If you get have successfully led me to think --trust him. You are borrowing this car for him and end up behind he's having an affair. I followed trouble and setting your marriage the eight ball—stuck with the him in a different car, pushed re- up for a downfall by listening to thing you can do is steer him to a vince me he's messing around. I to get lost so you can keep your credit counselor because if he's can't find anything. Am I losing marriage happy and healthy.

## Dear Paranoid,

Two of my friends have been things like playing Inspector Gad- S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 get. If your spouse doesn't dis- Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: husband because he comes home play signs of infidelity don't look www.askdeanna.com

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: Grow up and stop doing childish askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264





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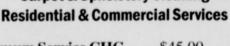
vision to help others.

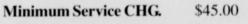
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