

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2009 Nissan Armada LE 4x4

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Armada seats up to eight people and is available in either rear- or four-wheel drive. Class leading towing capability comes from a 317-hp 5.6-liter V8 mated to a five-speed automatic. A Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV) version of the V-8 is available, giving drivers the choice between gasoline or E85. Standard safety features include electronic stability control, active head restraints, side curtain airbags, and anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist. Seat-mounted side-impact airbags for the front seats are standard on the LE trim, optional on SE.

Nissan uses the same 5.6-liter, V-8 engine in the 2009 Armada that powers the Titan pickup. It is a flex-fuel engine, capable of running on E85. With output of 317 horsepower and 385 lb.-ft. of torque, there is more than sufficient power to motivate the nearly 6,000 lbs. of curb weight that makes up the Armada. Likewise with the five-speed automatic overdrive transmission, which is electronically controlled and has tow and haul modes. The transfer case can be switched from two-wheel



Specifications: 5.6 Liter DOHC V8 Engine; 5-Speed Automatic transmission w/Tow Haul Mode; 12 City, 18 Highway MPG; \$50,810.00 MSRP

drive to automatic to four-wheel drive high and low. The V-8 engine performs well and the automatic transmission performs flawlessly, with no hunting on long uphill climbs. The engine pulls strongly from just above idle all

the way to redline, with plenty of torque for passing. Engine noise is muffled at cruising speed, but under acceleration the V-8 produces a nice growl

Cruising along city streets or on the freeway the ride is comfort-

able; big bumps are absorbed well and pavement seams aren't beating their way into the cabin. Steering is heavy with vague on-center feel, but it's stable in long sweeping turns. In the mountains, the SUV won't trick you into

thinking it's a car, but it deals with the twisty sections without issues, for a large SUV. The Armada is at its best on the interstate, where it can cruise along.

The 2008 Armada's spacious interior is one of the vehicle's

strong points. Up front are large, comfortable leather seats, with eight-way power adjustment plus manual lumbar for the driver, and six-way power adjustment without lumbar for the passenger. The seats themselves are firm with good support for the lower legs. There's a fold-down arm rest on the in-board side of each seat and it's well padded, while the armrests on the doors are noticeably less plush. Dual-setting heated seats warm up quickly. The leather-wrapped steering wheel has cruise control buttons on the right side and audio and telephone buttons on the left. The leather-wrapped wheel is heated and has manual tilt, but doesn't telescope because the Armada has adjustable foot pedals instead. Head and leg room are plentiful, and getting in and out of the front is made easier because of running boards and assist handles above the doors and on the windshield pillars. One bonus found in larger vehicles is a spacious second row, and the Armada delivers as much, with plenty of head and leg room.

The Armada has the power and size to accommodate whatever owner's ask of Nissan's flagship SUV.

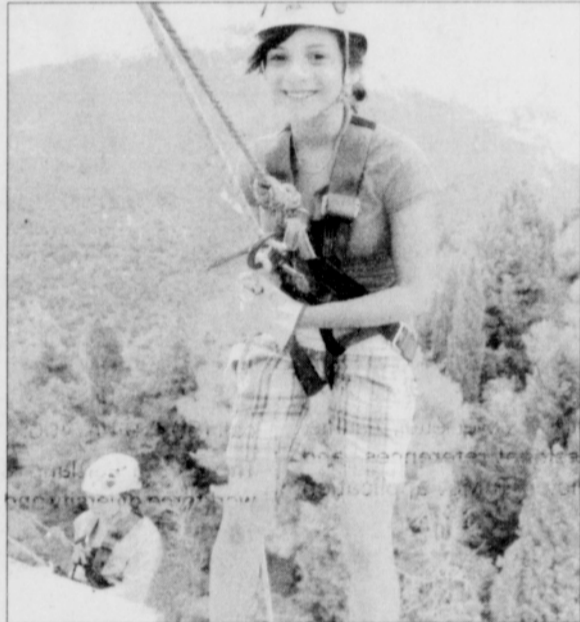
## Student Ambassador Expands Horizons

Josephine M. Gamez Reyes, a student at Ockley Green Middle School in north Portland, just returned home from a 20-day People to People Student Ambassador Program to Italy, France and Spain.

Gamez-Reyes traveled with a delegation of 40 students, participating in activities such as rappelling off a 100 foot tower in Assisi, Italy, doing a service project in France, learning to make paella and playing soccer in Barcelona, Spain.

"It was a very rewarding experience and I wouldn't trade it for the world," she said.

Gamez-Reyes was specially selected to participate in the educational program and is completing the academic



credit requirements related to the program's culture and heritage excursions.

She attended several orientation meetings with program leaders and fellow delegates to learn about the destination and prepare for the journey.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People in 1956 believing that ordinary citizens of different nations could make a difference where governments could not.

People to People ambassador Josephine M. Gamez-Reyes, a student at Ockley Green Middle School, rappels off a 100-foot tower in Assisi, Italy.

## Lorenzo Thornton

was born April 14, 1941 in Birmingham Alabama to Willie and Frances Thornton. Lorenzo passed away on Saturday August

2, 2008. Lorenzo past away on Saturday August 2, 2008. Lorenzo was the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Thornton. Mr. and Mrs. Thornton and his sister Patricia Sanders and his nephew Patrick Sanders preceded him in death. Lorenzo worked in his early years as a cook for the Multnomah Athlete Club in Portland. He retired after 25 years of service from Chevron Oil. Lorenzo was a devoted and

loving father and grandfather. His passion were fishing, hunting, mush ball, and he was die hard Portland Trailblazer Fan, Chicago Bears and San Francisco 49er's fan. Lorenzo is survived by his life long girlfriend Alice Chaney, his daughter Kimberly Thornton, step-son Brian Woods, and step-daughter Andrea Woods. Lorenzo and Alice have five loving grandchildren, Brian X, Joceyson, Daylen, David and Zyon. Brother Leroy Thornton and Sister Glenda Anderson. Three nieces and 5 nephews and a host of family and friends who loved him. Lorenzo's Memorial Service will be held Saturday September 6, 2008. It will be held matt Dishman Community Center, located at 77 NE Knott St. at 1:30pm.



## In Loving Memory

### Willie B. Holloway

Willie B. Holloway was born Jan. 22, 1961 to Jessie Lee Waters-Holloway and Rufus Holloway in Picayune, Miss.

In 1963, the family relocated to Portland where he attended Boise Grade School, Roosevelt High School and the Job Corps.

He accepted the Lord at an early age. In 1979, he met Sherry Lewis, a companion, friend, and wife of more than 29 years.

He held several jobs, but his most recent employment was as a host at LV's Sports Bar Restaurant and Lounge (Twelve 22) where he enjoyed greeting



## Obituaries

people, laughing, talking and being in control.

He was an amateur boxer in 1968 and liked to use his talent to protect others. He had a big heart for people and lots of love. On a hot summer day, you often could find him in Dawson Park under a tree, playing cards and dominoes, just kicking it with friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Jerome Powell. He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife; a daughter, Naomi Carruthers-Holloway; a son, Willie Dontae Holloway; and a granddaughter Brianna Bohlen; two sisters, Mary Elaine Holloway and Geraldine Holloway-Crain (Lester); two brothers, Rufus Holloway Jr. and Jimmy Lee Holloway (Sheri); and many other family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Aug. 25 at Philadelphia Full Gospel Missionary Baptist Church with interment in Columbian Cemetery. Arrangements by Terry Family Funeral Home.

## Mother, Grandmother Remembered

### Opal Ruth Roberts-Jordan

Opal Ruth Roberts died Aug. 21, 2008 in her home surrounded by her loving family as she went home to be with the Lord. She was 82.

She was born in Joplin, Mo. on March 18, 1926 to Allie Dora Taylor and Harvey C. Taylor. She married William M. Roberts and Willie Jordan.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Diane Jordan; a sister, Dorothy Pace; and brothers, Harvey, Bennie and Charlie Taylor. She leaves behind six surviving children, William Roberts, Kenneth Roberts, Juanita Jordan and Sandra Jordan Graham, all of Portland; Yvonne Roberts Stubbs of Eugene; and Nadine Jordan of Denver; sisters, Edith Smith and Alberta Mack; brothers, Igusta, Sylvester and Deaustin Taylor; a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a great-great grandchild and other family members and friends.

A memorial service was held on Aug. 28 at Highland Christian Center, 7600 N.E. Glisan St. Arrangements by Terry Family Funeral Home.



## Enjoyed Rapping, Fashion Christopher Richardson

Christopher Darrell Richardson was born on Jan. 7, 1987 in Los Angeles, to the union of Carol Fultz and Darrell Richardson.

He enjoyed rapping, singing, family functions and fashion. He loved to look good. He also had a sense of humor that would make you laugh uncontrollably.

He leaves to cherish his memories his son Christopher D. Richardson Jr., mother Carol Fultz; father Darrell Richardson; brothers Antonio Daniels, Jamico Harris and Romello Harris; sisters: Erica Daniels and Karyzma Harris; grandmother Dorothy Watts; other relatives and host of friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel

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