

# Portland Observer Auto Review

## 2009 Nissan Titan 4X4 Pro 4X *News and reviews on new motor vehicles*

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Nissan Titan gets two noteworthy additions and a host of detail improvements for 2008, delivering more of the truck capability while taking off just enough of the tough-guy truck image to appeal to a broader range of drivers and occupants. New long-bed models have been added, and are longer than most competitors, along with more bed space, payload, and fuel capacity.

Titan's proven and powerful V8 and automatic is the only choice, nothing like this gets good gas mileage and if you have no plans to haul stuff around or tow anything, the Titan will be overkill. If you decide to haul and tow, you'll find the features added for such activities very useful and that it's surprisingly capable for a half-ton pickup.

The 2008 Nissan Titan line has been expanded to include the new long-wheelbase model. More than 25 variants are available. Choose from two cabs (King, Crew), two wheelbases (short or long bed), two- and four-wheel drive, and four trim levels (XE, SE, Pro-4X, LE) in virtually any combination with these exceptions: Pro-4X models are 4WD only, and the King Cab Pro-4X is short wheelbase only. Four-wheel drive adds about \$3000; a long wheelbase adds about \$400, and figure \$2500-\$3000 to move up from King Cab to Crew Cab.



Specifications: 5.6L DOHC 38-valve V8 engine; 5-speed automatic with Tow Haul Mode; 12 City mpg, 17 Highway mpg; \$41384 MSRP

The 2008 Nissan Titan's most notable change is the new long-wheelbase variant that provides a bed length of almost 7 feet, 3 inches on Crew Cabs, the biggest box on a half-ton crew cab pickup; this model also has the largest fuel tank at 37 gallons. Subtle changes to the grille, lamps, bumpers and wheels have softened the edges a bit but Titan's in-your-face attitude is still prevalent. A tow package (up to 9500 pounds) that includes extendable dual-element mirrors

and transmission temperature gauge ranks among the best in half-ton pickups, the locking tailgate is damped and assisted for easy open and close, and available features like the cargo track retention system (bed sides and floor) and storage box in the rear fender ideal for wet tow straps or chains are unmatched in class.

Dash and door panels are easy-to-wipe-off plastic yet no longer give the impression of cost-cutting in materials, and the new instrument layout provides

all the same, complete information but has a more coherent sophisticated look to it. On Pro-4X models the gauges are white-faced, and LE models have enough wood-like creage to fit in a luxury utility.

Titans can be equipped with a six-person bench seat interior or with captain's chairs in front for a five-seat capacity. If you need a full-size pickup with power to perform and plenty of room, the Nissan Titan should be on your shopping list.

# Watching Artists at Work



Robin Bown uses a 2,000 year-old process of painting eggs and ten dipping them in dye.

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many-layered large-scale sculptural installation.

Hague uses her skills to educate and promote an understanding of differences and similarities that can break down the stereotypes and judgments that saturate our lives.

Ming Wei and Shu-Ju Wang who are originally from China paint very differently. Wei paints landscapes in the traditional Chinese tradition, but with a twist, the subject matter is now Oregon. Wang uses her heritage's icons to develop abstract personal imagery in paintings, prints and artist-made books.

Wood turner Marjin Wall grew up in the West Indies. Painters Chris Haberman, Natalie Ball and Adrienne Fritz have Native American roots.

Martin Owino comes from a long line of Kenyan batik artists. He enjoys sharing stories of his homeland, using his batiks to better describe the people and culture of East Africa.

Robin Bown is influenced by designs of Ukrainian Easter eggs and uses the over 2,000 year old process of painting eggs with wax then dipping them in dye.

Five artists have spent time south of our border and are bilingual as a result. They are Tupper Malone, Allen Schmetzler, Lorraine Dowty, Morgan Madison, and Robin Schuett-Hames. Whether you travel by bicycle, car, bus or walk, you will be transported to the land of imagination, craftsmanship and beauty during Portland Open Studios. The event is held over two weekends, Oct. 11-12 and Oct. 18-19.

The \$15 tour guide comes with two tickets for all 4 days, maps to the studios and comes in the format of a handy 2009 calendar. The guides are available at New Seasons, Art Media, Brian Marki Gallery on Northeast Broadway, Gumbo Gallery on North Mississippi. Children under 18 are free. For more information, visit the Open Studios website, portlandopenstudios.com.

# RELIGION

## In Loving Memory

### Josephine Jenkins

Services for Josephine Jenkins were held Sept. 26 at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Affectionately called Jo, she was born May 23, 1925 to K.C. and Mary Virgil in Marigold, Miss.

In the early 1940s, she and her family moved to Portland so her parents could obtain World War II employment in the shipyards. This was when she met Willie B. Jenkins, a young military gentleman at the USO, and shortly thereafter, they were united in marriage.

She retired from Emmanuel Hospital where she worked as a surgery assistant. She was known affectionately by her colleagues for a beautiful,



warm smile that she wore to work every day.

She was a loyal friend and her treatment of others made a lasting impression. When she said something, she meant it and often with some surprising words of wisdom. Friends and family spent many of days sitting around the table listening and laughing to her stories from childhood.

She enjoyed each and every grand child and always kept tabs on what they were doing. She also loved sports and watching her favorite teams compete in basketball, baseball and football.

She was preceded in death by her husband. She leaves to cherish her memory her sister, Nettie Friday of Los Angeles; her children, Dorothy Dawson, Earline Penson, Willie B. Jr., Yvonne, Don, Joanne, Carol, Carl, Dwayne, and Terrell Jenkins; a step daughter, LaTonya; 19 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and many other family members and close friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

## Blessing of Animals

In honor of St. Anthony, the patron saint of the animal kingdom, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, 1535 N.E. 17th Ave., will hold their annual blessing of animals on Sunday, Oct. 5.

There will be two services, one at 9 a.m. geared toward families and another at 10 a.m., at which small animals may be brought into the sanctuary. Following the service at 11 a.m. there will be a blessing for all animals and pets in the courtyard.

## Home Going Celebrated

### William 'Bill' Bentley Sr.

Services for William "Bill" Bentley Sr., who died Sept. 17, 2008, were held Sept. 24 at Corner Stone Church of God in Christ in northeast Portland.

He was born Sept. 11, 1924 to Bee Bentley Sr. and Underree (Howell) Bentley in Stephenville, Texas.

He joined the United States Army in 1943, fought battles in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. During his tour of duty, he was decorated with five bronze stars and three overseas bars. He also was a champion in the heavyweight division of the United States Army boxing team.

He married Clara B. Lewis in Stephenville on Aug. 18, 1945. The



family returned to Portland in 1957, which was the location where he was discharged from the Army. He moved to Denver in 1961 where he joined the King Baptist Church and became a member of the deacon board, sang in the choir and taught Sunday school.

He loved hunting, fishing, playing bid whist and dominoes (bones) with his friends and family.

He was preceded in death by both his parents and 9 siblings. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of Portland; a sister, Odell Phillips of Stephenville; two sons, Wayne and William; six daughters, Barbara Bentley, Patricia Beasley, Lois Williams, Erma Johnson, Valerie Bentley and Delores (Gary)

Clark; 24 grandchildren; many great grandchildren and other family members, loved ones and friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

# Obama: A Drum Major for Change

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Our economy needs sharp-minded Americans like Sen. Obama. We need a president that will put America back to work again and support that labor with tax cuts for working class Americans.

Our economy needs a president with the fortitude to regulate Wall Street with systems of checks and balances to ensure the near fatal collapse of the stock market does not become a reoccurrence. We need a president with thoughtfulness and foresight surrounded by sharp-minded advisors. We need a president that will listen before they take action.

The educational community needs Barack Obama. He believes that teachers should be paid higher salaries for the important work that they perform by impacting young lives on a daily basis.

We need a president that supports college tuition breaks for

people entering the field of education and commit to teaching for several years. Senator Obama understands that America needs some of its best and brightest citizens to enter the field of education. To compete globally in the 21st Century, quality education is a must and quality teachers are in demand.

The health care community needs Barack Obama. In a country with the world's highest standard of living all Americans should have access to quality health care regardless of economic, educational or social status.

As with education, Obama supports alternative ways of covering college tuition for people entering the field of medicine. He believed that by the end of his first term as president, this nation will be headed in the direction of health coverage for all Americans.

On the world stage, the U.S. foreign policy under the Bush administration has compromised

the trust of America in the eyes of the world community. Many countries worldwide have quietly sanctioned America through "economic misdirection". The devaluation of the dollar versus other currencies is not an accident. It is a direct of President Bush's global missteps and inconsiderate foreign policies.

Senator Obama has shown a willingness to talk with our partners in the world community. And communicate with world leaders regardless of our differences. America cannot afford to continue on the path of isolation. We must change our course and work with the world community to carve out a new direction for our nation.

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was a drum major for peace, Sen. Barack Obama has become a drum major for change.

America needs Barack Obama! Jimi Johnson is member of the Jefferson High School Alumni Association.

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