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Portland Observer Auto Review

2009 Dodge Journey SXT AWD A curious, but satisfying, Journey

BY KATHLEEN CARR

They say that a journey of cargo area. 1,000 miles begins with a single step on a long road back to profitability comes in the form of the all-new 2009 Dodge Journey.

While the Journey is an all-new design, the strong family resemblance to other Dodge products is unmistakable. That said, we think the Journey's long angled beltline, steeply slanted rear glass, and available 19-inch alloy wheels give it a noticeably sleeker look than its siblings. The designers have managed to achieve a nice balance between sophisticated and sporty.

Not to be outdone, the engineering team added several useful details including rear doors that open a full 90 degrees to make it easier to get kids and car seats in and out of the back seat. A rear liftgate made out of a lightweight composite that makes opening and closing the back hatch less of a struggle

While the Journey's exterior is appealing, it's inside where you'll find the many small differences that we think give it an edge on the competition. For starters, an available built-in child booster seats here mean parents and grandparents can avoid the hassle of swapping the kids' seats from one car to another.

The Journey's interior is also an example of just how many useful storage bins can be crammed into one vehicle. There are open trays and covered bins nearly everywheré you look, including underneath a front passenger seat cushion that flips forward to reveal a perfect hiding place for a purse or radar detector. There's a handy under-floor storage compartment back here too, plus a slick reversible cargo floor with plush carpeting on one side and a tough easy-to-clean plastic surface on the other.

Finally, some of the Journey's

able LED flashlight built into the

The Dodge Journey is availstep. For the newly independent able with a V6 engine that deliv-Chrysler Corporation, that first ers adequate power but is far from the best in the class. The V6, which is standard in all but the base model, offers plenty of

loss of traction. When that hap- complement of airbags to help pens, the electronically-con- soften the blow. In addition to shifts power to the rear wheels to keep the vehicle moving.

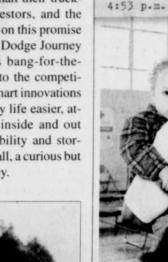
Chrysler has been upgrading the list of standard safety features on its vehicles in recent years and the Journey is no ex- view camera that's included ception. To help keep you out of with either one of the available trouble, the Journey gets four- MyGig hard disk-based audio power for around town, a 3500- wheel ABS brakes with a "brake systems. There are also two

trolled system automatically multi-stage front airbags, all Journey models feature side-impact airbags and head-protecting side-curtain airbags that cover all three rows of seats.

Most significant is the rear-

economy, until sensors detect a harm's way, the Journey has a full ing experience than their truckbased SUV ancestors, and the Journey delivers on this promise very nicely. The Dodge Journey features serious bang-for-thebuck compared to the competition, countless smart innovations to make everyday life easier, attractive styling inside and out with cargo capability and storage galore. Overall, a curious but satisfying journey.

News and reviews on new motor vehicles



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cent passing punch.

The SXT uses Chrysler's 3.5liter V6. It makes 235 horsepower in the Journey and it puts its power to the wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission with Dodge's AutoStick manual shiftgate. Properly equipped, a V-6-powered Journey will tow up to 3,500 pounds.

tronic stability control system, which recognizes an impending skid or potential rollover situation and automatically takes corrective action, is also standard. A relatively new feature here is

with and one without a GPS navigation system. Both feature a 30-gigabyte hard disk that can hold up to 2,400 songs. The Journey has an optional iPod, interface. Bluetooth the system's ability to minimize hands-free cell phone connecthe trailer sway that can occur tivity and a 115-volt household when towing in heavy cross- type power outlet, a rear-seat winds. Last but not least is the DVD video system are also

pound towing capacity, and de- assist", a sophisticated elec- audio versions available, one



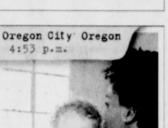
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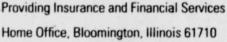






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innovative details include a beverage cooler in the glovebox, optional all-wheel-drive system. sure monitoring system. lighted front cupholders in the The power is routed to just the center console and the recharge- front wheels for better fuel sufficient to keep you out of to provide a more pleasant driv-

The SXT is offered with an government mandated tire pres- available.

If the above technology isn't overs is that they're supposed

503-221-3050 The whole idea behind cross-Fax 503-227-8757

Head Start Kids at Pumpkin Patch



Students from Albina Head Start attend a Pumpkin Patch Party sponsored by the Bungalow Rose Floral & Gift Shop, 7545 N.E. Sandy Blvd.



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Albina Head Start students, their teachers and parents enjoyed some Halloween fun during a recent Pumpkin Patch Party at the Bungalow Rose Floral & Gift Shop at 7545 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Also in attendance was family advocate for Albina Head Start, Inc., Craig Vaughn and some of his family and friends.

The children played games, made hand-crafted pumpkins with construction paper and tissue, made autumn leaf refrigerator magnets with glitter, sang songs, and received candy, snack treats, caramel corn, apple cider, a balloon and a pumpkin.

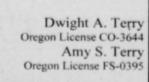
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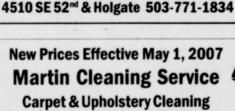
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