

Portland Observer Auto Review News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Ford Escape Hybrid Limited FWD



Specifications: 2.5L I4 Atkinson cycle engine; ECVT automatic transmission; 34city mpg, 31 highway mpg; MSRP \$29,645.

The Escape Hybrid is the most fuel-efficient model, but it's also the heaviest, by 300 lbs. It uses a new, larger 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine linked to an electric motor. The net result is virtually guilt-free acceleration similar to that of a V6. As a full hybrid, the Escape Hybrid can provide truly guilt-free operation by running solely on electric power in low-load conditions. The Hybrid uses a continuously variable transmission, also known as a CVT that optimally matches the power and gearing. Standard safety features include front and side airbags for the front seats and side-curtain airbags that cover both rows, four-wheel disc brakes, ABS and tire pressure monitoring. The Hybrid also offers a convenient AC outlet for powering small devices such as a laptop.

Besides the powertrains, the structure of the Escape has been beefed up through increased use of high-strength steels in the frame rails, A-pillars, and cross members. With

the newly added rear anti-roll bar taking over most of the body-control duties, Ford engineers were free to retune the rear shocks and springs to focus more on ride quality and handling. Driving away the updated models felt quieter and more solid than the older units which almost sounded tinny by comparison. On the hybrid, Ford wanted to eliminate the horrible, spongy actuation for the regenerative brakes so they would feel more in line with regular hydraulic brake systems.

Ford has succeeded; in fact, the hybrid's brakes are leaps and bounds better.

The '09 Escape is available with Ford's next-generation navigation-and-infotainment setup that includes Sync and available Sirius Travel Link, the latter of which offers real-time weather radar maps, sports scores, and movie listings. Travel Link also does a whole bunch of other cool stuff such as locating the cheapest and closest gas stations and linking with the navigational system to get you there, or hooking up with your cell phone to make restaurant reservations. The system will let you watch a DVD (while parked, of course), rip MP3s to the 10-gig hard drive, and upload family photos to use as wallpaper.

Inside, the Escape is as comfortable as ever for someone 72 inches tall. You should be able to fit three kids in the back or three adults for shorter trips. With the second row of seats up, there is 28 cubic feet of space available. Fold them

down (taking time out to remove the headrests), and you end up with 66 cubic feet of storage. Ford rates maximum towing capacity at 1,000 pounds, properly equipped.

Just because you can never be too green, the seats are stuffed with soy-based foam, rather than your run of the mill petroleum-derived cushy stuff. They are also upholstered with recycled fabric, which may or may not include material donated from clothes worn by Al Gore during his "An Inconvenient

Truth" tour. Personally, I'd go with the option of fresh from the cattle farm leather. I'm told bovine exhaust is the real culprit behind global warming anyway.

The 2009 Escape Hybrid offers buyers an earth-friendly alternative to regular SUV's. Its hybrid system provides reduced emissions, increased mileage, while still providing all the normal useful SUV features. Purchasing a hybrid vehicle also offers extra incentives at tax time (\$3,000 according to Ford's website).

State Farm®
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Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Michael E Harper Agent

We moved to our new location at:
9713 S.W. Capitol, Portland, OR
503-221-3050
Fax 503-227-8757



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Marriage and Bachelorhood

Andrew Foster and Stephanie Heuston star in 'Company,' Stephen Sondheim's classic and groundbreaking musical about the difficulties of marriage and bachelorhood. Directed by Corey Brunish with shows Friday and Saturday at 8 pm. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through March 1 at the Scottish Rite Center, 1512 S.W. Morrison St.



Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program Open Enrollment 2009

Final Registration
Sunday, March 8, 2009 2pm - 5pm

For New and Returning Members and Mentors

3800 NE Mallory
Portland, Oregon

Applications will be available to download at our website on www.eteamz.com/Leisurehourjrgolf/



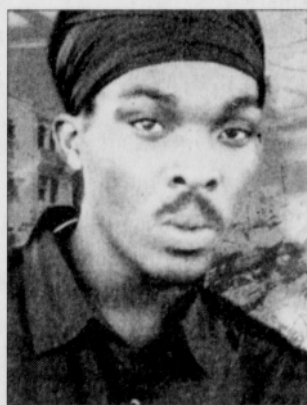
Fee for Jr. Golfers Age 7 - College
\$15.00 for 1 Child per Family
\$25.00 for 2 Children per Family
\$40.00 for 3 Children per Family
\$55.00 for 4 Children per Family

Fee for Mentors
\$20.00

Additional Fee for Uniform Per Person
\$25.00 which includes Hat and Shirt

If you have any questions, please call

(503)936-8568 Debbie Moaning
or
(503)320-0123 Angie Harris



Anthony B
Jamaican "Fire Man"
Anthony B will bring his political message and Reggae sound to Portland during a performance Fri-

Jamaican 'Fire Man'

day, March 6 at 9 p.m. at Berbaty's, 10 S.W. Third Ave.

Anthony B uses sharp lyrics to confront injustices to the poor and oppressed. He has performed in the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Africa.

Tickets are available at Berbaty's and online at ticketweb.com.

Images, Journals Bring Fresh Focus

The lives of 12 orphaned girls from Africa are authentically revealed through the photographic images and journals they share in ZoomUganda, on display through Thursday, March 5 in the Buckley Center Gallery on the University of Portland campus, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

ZoomUganda brings a distant community into sharp focus through the eyes and thoughts of a dozen orphans living in the southern Uganda community of Matala, where

more than half of the children have lost one or both parents to a devastating HIV epidemic.

Created by Julie Resnick, ZoomUganda is sponsored by the Harambee Centre, a non-profit organization based in Portland that connects people in the U.S. with people and cultures of the African continent.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds from ZoomUganda benefit St. Andrew's Secondary School in Matala.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

THE SPINA COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

Part 8. CONSTIPATION: The backing up of body's sewage system.

Q: Nothing has ever really helped my constipation. What can Chiropractic possibly do?

A: As a natural form of healing, there is much a Chiropractic and the improved lifestyle we recommend can do to remove the immediate distress and long term health hazards of constipation. But before we begin, you should understand that constipation takes two approaches. The first is the tight, sometimes painful feeling in the lower back area. The second and more insidious type is what we call "hidden constipation." This is when we seemingly move our

bowels regularly, but never completely eliminate everything in our colon (large intestine). This causes the colon to back up and spread toxic poisons throughout the body. This can lead to everything from sinusitis to allergies to arthritis. Chiropractic can help to alleviate this problem by gently turning nerves back on in the colon and small intestine. It is not uncommon for a patient to have

two, three or even four bowel movements after the first adjustments on his or her spine. A man with FBSS (failed back surgical syndrome) went home and had 12 bowel movements that night. And he claimed he wasn't even constipated! Whatever questions you might have about health and healing, you'll find that Chiropractic is often the answer. Call us for an appointment today.

Flowers' Chiropractic Office
2124 NE Hancock,
Portland Oregon 97212
Phone: (503) 287-5504

Advertise with diversity in
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033

Peninsula Little League 2009

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-14)
visit our website at: www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague
Registration available on-line beginning January 15, 2009

Softball Program

Level	Ages
Minor	8 - 10
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 14

Questions contact:
Mark Washington -
503-288-0033
markw@portlandobserver.com

Items to bring to sign-ups:
Birth Certificate
Proof of Address
Doctor Insurance Info
Player Fee

Regular Sign-ups
\$64/T-Ball, \$74 All other levels
This fee includes the pepperoni fund raiser. Sell one bag of pepperoni and get \$24 off fee. Each bag contains 24 sticks

Peninsula Park Community Center
700 N Portland Blvd
Saturdays:
February 7, and February 14
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursdays:
February 5, and February 19
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Registration forms can be completed in advance by downloading from our website.

Baseball Program

Level	Ages
T-Ball	5 - 6
Farm	7 - 8
Minor	8 - 10
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 14

Questions contact:
Jjay Lincoln -
jlnks@gmail.com

Little League Baseball. Incorporated does not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference or religious preference.

