

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Dodge Grand Caravan SXT is a family friendly minivan. It is a great way for parents and their children to travel as long as you have added some of the optional equipment. The vehicle tested was loaded with lots of fun filled entertainment. The SXT offers a great over all ride with plenty of entertainment to keep the family entertained.

The SXT comes standard with a 3.8-liter V6 that produces 197 hp and 230 lb-ft of torque. Optional is a more modern 4.0-liter V6 making 251 hp and 259 lb-ft of torque. Both SXT engines come with a six-speed automatic. The 4.0-liter V6 makes the Grand

Caravan one of the swiftest minivans available. For 2009, the 4.0-liter SXT gets the sport-tuned suspension setup from Europe's Chrysler Voyager, which improves the van's responsiveness. It has a soft and supple ride that absorbs bumps without disturbing occupants.

The Caravan SXT optional features include a rear DVD entertainment system includes a swiveling second-row flip-down screen. Also optional on the SXT is the Premium Group that adds rain-sensing wipers, automatic climate control, a power-folding third-row seat, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, uconnect Bluetooth phone connectivity



Specifications: 4.0 Liter V6 SOHC engine; Six speed automatic 62TE transmission; 17 city mpg, 25 highway mpg; MSRP \$37,880.

with iPod interface (also a stand-alone option on all trims), and a nine-speaker audio system. The Family Value Group adds second- and third-row sunshades, sliding front center console and remote ignition. Stand-alone options on the SXT include a sunroof, heated front and sec-

ond-row seats, a navigation system with real-time traffic, and Sirius Satellite TV with Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon and Disney Channel presently provided.

Dodge offer the same practicality and livability that made the minivan a popular choice among

families in the first place. Interior versatility and the exclusive Stow 'n Go folding seats are excellent, but they mean sacrificing some second-row comfort, as they use a thinner seat. The Swivel 'n Go seats are a bit gimmicky, and there's not much legroom once they're turned around.

You should think long and hard about the practicality of the Swivel 'n Go seats. They might seem like a great idea, but space around the removable table is cramped, and when equipped with Swivel 'n Go, the second-row seats don't fold into the floor. On the flip side, it would be wise to consider the Stow 'n Go arrangement if you think you'll need to haul a lot of stuff, as it allows for the second- and third-row seats to fold into the floor

The Grand Caravan SXT is a great family vehicle but if they are looking to win over the guys by offering tail gate seating for the tail gate party or the swivel seats in the middle maybe for the card game it will not happen. The younger generation will always be more attracted to the SUV then the mini van it will always have the soccer mom stigma.

Father, Grandfather Remembered

Leo Frank Thornton

Leo Frank Thornton was born in Morrilton, Ark., on March 4, 1923 to Mable Brame Thornton and Frank Thornton. The eldest of five children, he was an exemplary child who set an example for his siblings. It was in his adolescent years that he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He received his education in

public schools in Arkansas and training in the U. S. Army. In 1940, he was stationed at Fort Riley Kansas. He served in the 1st Calvary Division in the days of horseback soldiers. He later served overseas in Italy in the Transportation Corps. He was honorably discharged in 1945.

He returned to Morrilton for a brief period and then moved to Portland to join other family

members. It was here that he met and married the love of his life, Eva Mae Adams. Together they raised 7 children in Portland. He was a devoted family man and a skillful barber in his early career and later retired as a professional butcher.



Frank and his family attended church faithfully and he could be found working diligently wherever needed. He continued to serve the Lord and stayed on the battlefield for over 30 years until recently when his

health began to decline. He went on to be with the Lord on March 25, 2009.

He leaves to mourn, his children, Norah Garfield Patterson of San Diego, Calif., and Johnnie Marie Summers, Willie Deannia Zickrick, Theoskei Lee Patterson, Linda Louise Thornton and Theresa Joyce Thornton-Woods, all of Portland; grandchildren, Keith

Washington, Kevin Washington, John Summers Jr., Abens Thornton, Jeff Summers, Heidi Patterson, Cameron Zickrick, Idris O'Ferrall, Azelle Hall and Iyona Woods; brothers, Charles A. Thornton (Helen) of Columbia, Md., George W. Thornton of Santa Ana, Calif., and James A. Thornton of Belkview, Ill.; his nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, and a host of relatives and cherished friends.

Obituary

The Portland Observer presents The 4th Annual Joyce Washington Classic 2009

Joyce Washington Scholarship 2009 Women's All-Star Teams

Home Team (Gray)

Head Coach: Floyd Hall

PLAYERS

Jude Schimmel
Shoni Schimmel
Mariah Ladd St.
Denaya Brazzle
Ariel Reynolds
Kristen Swim
Mikayla Elliott
Hannah Munger
Bailee Jurgenson
Aliyah Green
Shan' nice Story
Zoie Sheng
Marin Hobson

HIGH SCHOOL

Franklin
Franklin
Mary's
Jefferson
Jefferson
Franklin
Franklin
Newberg
Franklin
Jefferson
St. Mary's
St. Mary's
Franklin

Visiting Team (Blue)

Head Coach: Dennis Carline

PLAYERS

Kay Phosakham
Tyrisha Blake
Jacque Shaw
Monique Carlson
Krystal Forthan
Razja Goodman
Diamond Ferguson
Kiarra Berry
Maddy May
Brittany Raz
Mia Robinson

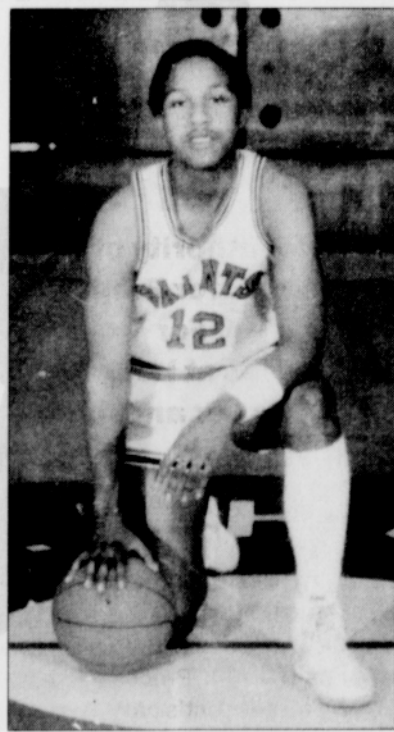
HIGHSCHOOL

Benson
Jefferson
Grant
Roosevelt
Jefferson
Cleveland
Benson
Grant
Cleveland
Cleveland
DeLaSalle

Women's Coach of the Year:

Cecille Moses Franklin High School

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR BASKETBALL GAMES



In memory of Cory Neal Washington, 1965-1991

Joyce Washington Scholarship 2009 Men's All-Star Teams

Home Team (Gray)

Head Coach: Michael Harper

Assistant Coach: Paul Kelly

PLAYERS

Terrence Jones
Larry Richards
Derrick Hayes
Nick Kunis
Vlad Bahjak
Max Snodderly
David Jordan
Dominique Gilles
Tyrone Phillips
Ryan Robertson
Ashton Murdock
Donta Harris

HIGHSCHOOL

Jefferson
Roosevelt
Wilson
Franklin
Franklin
Franklin
Roosevelt
Marshall
Jefferson
Wilson
Roosevelt
DeLaSalle

VISITING TEAM (BLUE)

Head Coach: Michael Holton

Assistant Coach: Michael Mangum

PLAYERS

JD Esters
Mike Moser
Michael Holton JR
Mike Fendall
Damarcus Davis
Terrell Manley
Perry Dinyain
Joe Owen
Anthony Holton
Lucas Shaw
Jack Hollowell
Zachary Minden

HIGHSCHOOL

Lincoln
Grant
Sunset
Grant
Benson
Roosevelt
Benson
Cleveland
Sunset
Grant
Cleveland
Cleveland

Men's Coach of the Year:

Pat Strickland, Jefferson High School

Come see the best of high-school basketball players! Be there to support your school!

May 9th at Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 N. Kerby, Portland

Doors Open at 3:00 p.m. • Dunk Contest at 3:30 p.m.

Girls Classic at 4:30 p.m. • Boys Classic at 5:30 p.m.

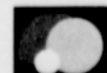
Tickets can be purchased at The Portland Observer (4747 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd.)

\$5 for adults, \$2 for kids (age 7-17) & Seniors. *Kids 6 and under free.

Proceeds raised go to the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund

For information, call Mark Washington at 503-288-0033 or Floyd Hall at 503-804-9504

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