

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2009 Ford Flex-Limited AWD

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2009 Ford Flex is an all-new midsize SUV. This boxy 4-door wagon shares some of its basic design with Ford's Edge and Taurus X crossover SUVs and is available in three trim. At first look of the vehicle you see the Scion from the front and the rear you might think the BMW Mini Cooper. The box like style and the oversized feeling will over power one at first but by contrasting roof and body colors and use of exterior chrome accents. Flex seats either six or seven on three rows

of seats. Power comes from a 262-hp 3.5-liter V6 mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission. Available safety features include ABS, traction control, antiskid system, front side airbags, and curtain side airbags. Some of Flex's other features include a rearview camera, power lift gate, voice-activated navigation system with real-time traffic and weather updates, four-panel glass roof, and refrigerated center console. Other available features include Ford's Sync, which is a voice-activated system that controls some cell phone and MP3 player functions, and a cap less fuel filler.

The sheer mass makes the Flex a remarkable highway



Specifications: 3.5L V6 engine; automatic overdrive transmission; 16 city mpg, 22 highway mpg; MSRP \$43,120

cruiser. So silent your brain forgets which exit you were supposed to get off at, so stable and solid that if the big blue Ford badge wasn't adorned on the steering wheel, you'd swear you were driving a luxury vehicle. Its two-and-a-half tons of heft help make it a pleasure on the freeway, but on winding

back roads, it's a handful; at least its low center of gravity helps the Flex handle better than most CUVs

The Flex is a fine vehicle in which to be a passenger. The conventional doors open wide, the step-in height is low and there's a generous gap behind the front seats so even adults

can easily take a seat. The sliding second-row seats afford 40.5 inches of legroom. The window glass is blacked out in every trim level; however for the individual that is a small might find it hard to look out the window. Taking a Sunday we found that those adults that are over 6 feet tall found the sitting and leg room to be excellent, no more knees to the chest in the back seat. Those who get the privilege of the way-back third row will find a useful 38.7 inches of legroom when they get there. Unique interior features will include programmable lighting that allows the owner to decide which interior LED lights illuminate, and when. The Flex will also offer Ford Sync, a voice-activated communications and entertainment system developed with Microsoft. It inte-

grates mobile phones and digital media players and can include a hard drive with space for up to 2300 songs. The multi-panel Vista Roof extends a glass skylight over all three rows of seats.

Also available is a real refrigerator that can chill drinks rather than simply keep them cold. Ford claims its cool box will chill seven 12-ounce cans, four half-liter bottles or two 20-ounce bottles from room temperature to 41 degrees in two-and-one-half hours, or 40 percent faster than a conventional home refrigerator.

Safety features in the Flex will surpass most minivans. All variants will come with front-impact airbags, side-impact airbags for front passengers and curtain-style head-protection airbags for all three rows of seats.

## In Loving Memory

### Jimmie Green

A memorial service for Jimmie Green, who died on April 2, 2009, after courageously battling congestive heart failure, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 10 at Caldwell's, Hennessey, Goetsch and McGee Funeral Home in northwest Portland. Graveside services will follow at Willamette National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

He was born in Ratio, Ark on Aug 18, 1923 to Harrison and Annie Mae Green. He joined the Navy in 1941 and served proudly on the USS Hydra.

After World War II, he went to work for the VA hospital and worked there until he retired in



1983. He joined the US Army Reserves in the 1950s and served honorably until he retired in 1981. He lived a very good life after his retirement, enjoying gardening, traveling and being with his family and friends.

Jimmie met and married Almeta Cole in 1948 and they were married for 41 years. She preceded him in death, along with a daughter Sheila Green and son Steven Cole.

He is survived by daughters Gail Green of San Dimas, Calif., Donna Green Nickelberry and husband Nolan of Seattle, and Debra G. Roper and husband Gary of Portland; his sister Jessie Tate of Portland; an aunt Margaret Brooks of San Diego; 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and a whole host of nephews and nieces.

The family request that remembrances can be made to Urban League Multi-Cultural Senior Center, 5325 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Portland.

## Celebration of Life

### Daniel Baldwin

A memorial service for Daniel Baldwin will take place at Bossanova Ballroom, 722 E. Burnside, on Sunday April 12 from noon to 3 p.m. to celebrate the life of a beloved member of Portland's motorcycle and music community.

Baldwin died March 28 while riding his motorcycle after being struck by a drunk driver. He was known as "Hippy Dan" amongst his friends and Flying 15 Motorcycle Club members and "Quality Dan" by the music community that supported his band Power of County.



Full of compassion, creativity, inspiration, love and curiosity, he enjoyed being in nature, whether it was on his motorcycle, building trails, playing music around a campfire, or just soaking up the beauty of the outdoors.

The memorial service will be a kid-friendly event with music and a potluck. An open mic will encourage members of the music community to bring instruments and join in the festivities.

Baldwin was born on March 11, 1966 to Warren and Eleanor Baldwin of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He is survived by both parents and his sister, Ruth Churak.

Donations can be made through a memorial previously set up for Baldwin's grandfather, the Norman H. Nye Memorial Scholarship in Engineering fund at the University of Akron, Department of Development, Akron, OH 44325-2603.

# 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  
De La Salle

#### 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  
De La Salle

#### 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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