

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Dodge Challenger SRT8 Limited

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT8 Limited has borrowed heavily from the styling of the original 1970-'74 Challenger, the reborn version sports similar lines and proportions. The 2009 Dodge Challenger is not just a blast from the past it will take you back to with the Hemi V8 power, rear-wheel drive and the right sound roaring from its rectangular exhausts.

This 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT8 has a 6.1L HEMI V8 that is good for 425 growling horses. Hooking that engine up to the optional six-speed manual transmission is a recipe that works well together. The howl

from the engine, the optional 255/45ZR20 rear tires squealing and the 3.92 axle ratio locking everything together will have you blasting from stop light to stop light, while other men and women in Mustangs can only hang their head as you blow past them.

The Challenger handles itself well, with minimal body roll and a surprisingly comfortable ride. Braking is up to the task as well. Large Brembos in the SRT8 are fitted with four-piston calipers and provide abundant stopping power. The brakes also automatically keep their pads closer to the rotors when driving in the wet, lightly wiping the discs off for improved braking in these conditions.

The top-dog SRT8 ups the ante with even more power, black hood stripes, 20-inch alloy wheels, a sportier suspension and steering than the R/T,



Specifications: 6.1 Liter SRT HEMI @ V* engine; Six speed manual transmission; 14 city mpg, 22 highway mpg; MSTP \$44,475.

a limited-slip rear differential, Brembo brakes, xenon headlights, heated side mirrors, leather and faux suede uphol-

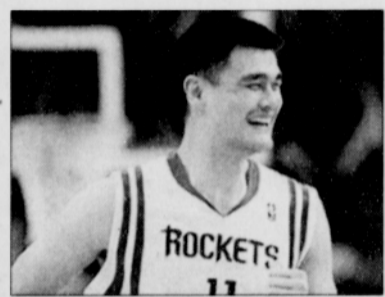
stery, heated front sport seats, cruise control, keyless ignition, Bluetooth, an auto-dimming rearview mirror and a 13-speaker

premium audio system (with six-CD changer, satellite radio, an auxiliary audio jack and steering-wheel-mounted audio con-

trols). Many of the upgraded features can be added on lower trims as options.

The interior features on the 2009 Dodge Challenger SRT8 include a race-inspired interior featuring performance seats with a red accent stripe and added bolstering which keeps customers in place under spirited driving conditions, four-bomb gauges with tachometer and 180 mph speedometer in the center.

The Challenger SRT8 Limited is a modern interpretation of a classic muscle car. I think Dodge managed to put those two aspects together perfectly. It has plenty of power and a great style. It got more looks, stares and thumbs-up than any other vehicle that I have tested driven. The Challenger is exactly what a modern version of an old muscle-car icon should be.



Houston center Yao Ming celebrates a basket against the Portland Trail Blazers in Game Six as the Rockets advanced in the NBA playoffs with a 92-76 victory.

Blazers Look to Next Season

(AP) -- The Houston Rockets blasted their way out of the first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs, advancing for the first time in 12 years with a 92-76 victory over Portland.

Houston's win on Thursday gave them a four-games-to-two victory over the Trail Blazers in the best-of-seven Western Conference series, and sent them into a second-round clash with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Ron Artest scored 27 points and Yao Ming added 17 points with 10 rebounds as the Rockets won for the first time in their last seven first-round series.

"It's a big step for me," said

Yao, who was drafted number one overall by Houston in 2002 and has played on three Rockets teams that lost in the first round.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points and Brandon Roy added 22 for Portland, who were making their first playoff appearance since 2003.

But the inexperience of the young Blazers team showed as Houston turned the final game into a rout.

"This is a great experience for us," Roy said. "All our guys are happy that we had a great season, but they have a bad taste in their mouth because you felt like we could have played better this series."

Mother's Day Concert

Local singer and actress Julianne R. Johnson-Weiss will present "Easy to Love: A Mother's Day Concert," Satur-

day, May 9 at 8 p.m. at the Old Church, located at Southwest 11th Avenue and Clay Street.

For tickets, call 503-449-0910.

Lineup Set for St. Johns Parade

The St. Johns Parade, considered the best neighborhood parade in the city, takes off Saturday, May 9th at noon.

Each year the parade grows in size and draws well over 2,000 spectators.

This year's theme is "Great Moments in History," an appropriate title for a north Portland

neighborhood deep with its own history. St. Johns was its own city until it annexed into Portland in 1917.

Participating in the parade will be local clubs, vintage autos, city of Portland politicians, local dignitaries, horses, bands, small floats, a few surprises and more.

Blues Diva Clears the Air

continued from Front

ers and musicians. But Hornbuckle points to Jimmy Mak's huge crowds to refute those claims.

Hornbuckle also raised the issue of smoking from the stage. She started putting signs on tables surrounding the stage asking for no smoking, and could rely on her hulking husband, who used to play for the Oakland Raiders, to enforce her request.

She's also been known to call people out on smoking when there are children around, and used the stage as a bullypulpit during the Waterfront Blues Festival to call attention to petitions to get smoking banned at the event.

"I don't want to condone it any more. You are imposing on other people's health," said Hornbuckle about the impact of second-hand tobacco smoke.

The singer's advocacy developed into another career. A few years ago she was contacted by the Multnomah County Health Department to take a position working to improve the health of adolescents. She counsels parents on how to broach the topic of sex with their teenagers and helps raise awareness with teenagers about health risks.

For Hornbuckle, the issue of health awareness is deeply personal. Her father, a Pentecostal preacher, died from colon cancer. She said he should have been having more checkups with the doctor, which might have slowed the disease, and wants African Americans to be



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Linda Hornbuckle is thankful she can take to the microphone in a clean air environment. The blues diva was a big promoter of improving the health of local musicians by banning cigarette smoke from jazz clubs and restaurants.

aware of the particular health risks they face.

"That drove me even further to raise awareness in my community," she said.


Hornbuckle credits her father for helping her develop her eclectic sound. She recalls her father driving her to Grant High School in the 1960s. Her father regularly listened to the local country station since it was the only place to hear gospel music. As the car approached school she became frustrated with her father's refusal to turn the volume down, so as not to embarrass her and her siblings as they approached school. Her father turned around and told her, "One thing you better do is you better learn to appreciate everything and learn something from it."

"Don't limit yourself to anything," is the lesson she took away from the experience.

During a Last Thursday on Alberta Street, Hornbuckle sits with perfect posture at Original Halibut's. She is surrounded by a keyboardist and guitarists. She gently slaps her leg in time, as she throws her head back and

shuts her eyes when hitting a high note.

The crowd steadily trickles in and the applause grows louder. Instead of cigarette smoke, the scents are of fish and chips and organic India Pale Ales.



Happy Birthday George Kelley

Obituaries

World was his Catwalk

Zech Pinder

Zech Pinder lived his life with outrageous flair. The world was his catwalk, and on the runway of life, he stomped! The longtime artist and decorator could make you smile in the midst of tears. He was a favorite at auctions and fundraisers, including his own "pig parties," held on the anniversaries of his heart surgery to commemorate the animal valve that extended his life.

He moved to Portland in the mid 1990s and worked decorating Lloyd Center Mall during the holidays. He was a long time decorator for C.C. Slaughters nightclub and was employed in recent years at the Fox and Hounds Pub. He was an accomplished creator of oil paintings in the style of Jackson Pollock. Jewelry and fashion were also favorite hobbies. He loved his many cats and organized and hosted numerous charitable events to benefit the Oregon Humane Society.

Zech passed away in his sleep on April 20, 2009, at the age of 50. He was born Nov. 14, 1958, in Niceville, Fla., to Norma and Charles Fisher.

Survivors include his partner, Russell Howell of Portland; mother, Norma Coleman of Denver; step-mother, Hazel Fisher of Springfield, Mo.; four sisters, Cheryl Salomon and Kristian Evans of Colorado; and Elyse Gotham and Barbara Fisher both of Missouri; a brother, Ryan Coleman, also of Denver; several aunts and uncles; and long time friends.

A celebration of his life was held April 25.



In Loving Memory

Cartez Penix at 100

Cartez Penix was born Jan. 6, 1909, to George and Fannie Penix in Bearden, Ark. He was the youngest of 12 children and the last survivor.

He was baptized at age 16 at Mt. Aerie Methodist Church in Arkansas. As he grew up his mama gave the nickname of "Bow" which stuck with him to this day, he has several nieces and nephews that call him "Uncle Bow."

Cartez married Floy Gibson in 1934 and one child was born to that union. Cartez had strong work ethics and traveled to Missouri, Calif. and Nevada before settling in Vanport City, Ore. in 1944 with his wife and daughter.

He owned and operated a small grocery store for 10 years, and worked at W. L. May Co. for about 25 years. His wife of 34 years passed away in 1969. Cartez was a member of St. Andrew United Church of Christ under the leadership of the late Rev. Cortlandt Cambic when it merged with Ainsworth United Church of Christ. He was a faithful member and served on the board of trustees, and also served on the usher board.

He married Shelly Mae Blanton in 1979 and continued to work well into his 80s hauling scrap iron. When he departed this life on April 24, 2009, he was the patriarch of six generations.

Cherishing his memory and celebrating his life are his wife Shelly Mae; his daughter Carolyn (Charles) Hinton; his step-son Benny Blanton; his granddaughters: Sandra (Michael) Robinson, Janice Minor and Barbara Hinton; his step-grandsons: Quincy Blanton, Quinton Blanton and Quindrae Blanton; his great-grandchildren: Demond Harris, Alnishea Minor, Alfred (A.J.) Minor, Chailen Burton, Shamiqa Hinton and JaRacia Minor; 13 great-great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

He also leaves behind nieces and nephews that supported him with love during his last days: Jean Scott, Joann (Andrew) Childs, George Thrower and Billie Jean Smith, all of Portland and Vancouver; as well as many other family members, friends, church members and neighbors.

Our dear beloved Cartez will be missed more than words can say. His services were held May 1 at Ainsworth United Church of Christ. Memorial gifts can be made in his memory to the Ainsworth UCC Cambic Scholarship Fund.



New Prices Effective May 1, 2007

Martin Cleaning Service
Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Residential & Commercial Services

Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00

Carpet Cleaning

2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area

Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00
(Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area • Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs) \$25.00 (With Other Services)

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa \$79.00
Loveseat \$59.00
Sectional \$109 - \$139
Chair or Recliner \$35 - \$49
Throw Pillows \$5.00
(With Other Services)

**See Flyers for Additional Prices
Call For Appointment
(503) 281-3949**