

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009

Toyota Venza

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Venza is Toyota's new entry into the growing car-based SUV segment. Unlike Toyota's other crossover SUVs, it does not feature three-row seating like its competitors, however its advantage is in the cargo space and family-friendly utility.

The Venza falls in between two Toyota products, it is the same length as the Camry sedan, shares the Highlander crossover's width and ride height, and is 5.5 inches taller than the Camry and 4.7 inches shorter than the Highlander. Like those two vehicles, the Venza offers four- and six-cylinder engine choices. In terms of interior space, the five-passenger Venza provides a bit more spread-out space than the Camry, but it lacks the Highlander's third row. Its 70 cubic feet of maximum cargo capacity is obviously way bigger than its sedan sibling but is far short of the Highland

The 2009 Toyota Venza's performance lives up to its car-like underpinnings, offering a



Specifications: 3.5L V6 DOHC 24V w/dual VVT-i; 6 speed automatic ECT-I w/sequential drive; 18 city mpg, 25 highway mpg; MSRP 38,493 (\$29,250 w/o optional equipment).

smooth ride and decent handling for a wagon. It does not have the sportier precision in handling but overall it's responsive and crisp. Its V6 engine has enough power and is matched

with a six speed automatic transmission.

The Venza front cabin has a sleek center console and the location of the climate controls frees up space between the seats

for a large bin covered by cup holders and a smaller bin designed for iPods and other small devices. There's another compartment designed specifically to hold Blackberrys, other PDAs

and MP3 players. The audio and climate controls are a new design for Toyota, but they remain user-friendly. A high-mounted LCD screen shows trip computer and climate control information

along with the optional back-up camera display.

The availability of Toyota options on the Venza (mostly grouped into packages) include a power tailgate, a rearview camera, a sunroof, keyless ignition and entry, HID headlamps, a power passenger seat, leather upholstery and steering wheel, wood trim, heated front seats, heated mirrors and a windshield wiper de-icer. (premium package \$4,345) and an entertainment package 13-speaker surround sound audio system with Bluetooth and satellite radio is also available. It can be ordered separately or bundled with the optional voice-activated touchscreen navigation system or the rear-seat DVD entertainment system (\$2,590).

The Toyota has a remarkable new product in the Venza. Yes it just another crossover vehicle. The Venza that we reviewed had the Premium package including leather seats, wood grain trim giving the interior a luxury style. This is a vehicle that you could drive for long distance as well the seat lumbar was excellence. I think that the overall vehicle is better than it competitors, however the family that may need that third row seat may pass this by.

Obituary

In Loving Memory

Sally Denise Williams

Sally Denise Williams was born in Biloxi, Miss. on Dec. 1, 1917 to James and Mamie White.

At an early age, she moved to LaGrande, Ore. with her father, who worked for the railroad. She later moved to Portland where she met and married James Levi Williams Jr. in 1946. From this union two children were born, Judith and Mark.

During World War II she was a member of the USO YWCA African/American Women's Choir in Portland which performed for black servicemen at the now Billy Webb Elks Lodge in north Portland.

Sally worked hard her entire life and was active in her church. She loved to work in her yard planting a variety of beautiful flowers and shrubs, vacationing at the coast and shopping.



She also was an avid bowler and participated on the Cosmos League, sponsored by Jenkins Auto at Amato Lanes in the early 1970s. In 1975

when she and her husband moved to Vancouver they continued bowling in a league. James preceded her in death in July 1976.

Sally was an excellent cook and loved entertaining, nothing gave her more joy than to share her various recipes with family, friends and neighbors. It was not unusual for her to have the entire family over for Sunday dinner from time to time. Family was a central focus for her and she never hesitated to be there for all of them no matter what.

All that knew her remember how if you stopped by for a visit and were hungry, the pots and pans would rattle in the kitchen and out would come a delectable meal.

Sally retired in 1995 from the employment of Earle Chiles Foundation, and was able to spend time caring for her two oldest great granddaughters which filled her heart until she became ill.

Sally leaves to celebrate and remember her life, daughter Judith Ann Pitre (Arnold), son Mark James Williams (Donna), grandchildren

Kevin Tanner-Pitre (Angela) of Sacramento Calif., Anthony Dion Pitre (Casey), William Ryan Pitre, Tyrone David Pitre, Rukiya Drostes (Nick) and Brandon Mark James Williams; 15 great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Mom we love you dearly and will miss you forever. Your selfless nurturing, generosity and guidance will always be remembered by us and all who knew you.

We would like to thank the staff at Discovery Nursing and Rehab center for helping to make Mom's last few years comfortable. The dignity and respect given to her and support to the family is truly appreciated. Also, we would like to thank Kaiser Hospice staff for support of the family and making mom's homecoming a peaceful one.

Services will be held on Friday, July 24 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 400 S. Andresen Rd., in Vancouver. Arrangements entrusted by Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

33rd Appreciation Service



Bishop Artice L. Wright

"Favor For Your Labor"

(Hebrews 6:10 & Proverbs 12:2a)

Join us as we appreciate and celebrate true servants and labors for the Lord. Emmanuel COGIC United and the Portland community have been blessed with many outstanding leaders in the Christian community but none more committed and enduring than our leaders.

Bishop Artice L. Wright and supervisor Maggie Wright has proven to be a leadership union that is unwavering steadfast labors on the battlefield for the Lord.

Bishop Wright has preserver for 50 plus years proclaiming the gospel in this community. He's currently the presiding Jurisdictional Bishop for Pacific Northwest Region. He has been ably assisted by his helpmeet First Lady Maggie Wright, Regional/National Supervisor for Women's Department COGIC United Emmanuel COGIC United, who together with the Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries, Bishop H.L. Hodge has joined together to honor and celebrate in an extended appreciation celebration.

This auspicious occasion will take place on Friday July 24 at 7 p.m. and Sunday "The Official Day," July 26 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Emmanuel COGIC United, 4800 N.E. 30th Ave. A "special banquet" is also scheduled for Saturday, July 25 at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. at King's Temple Christian Center, 4744 N.E. 15th Ave. For reservations at \$25 each, please contact Bishop Hodge at 503-334-6239.



Supervisor Maggie Wright

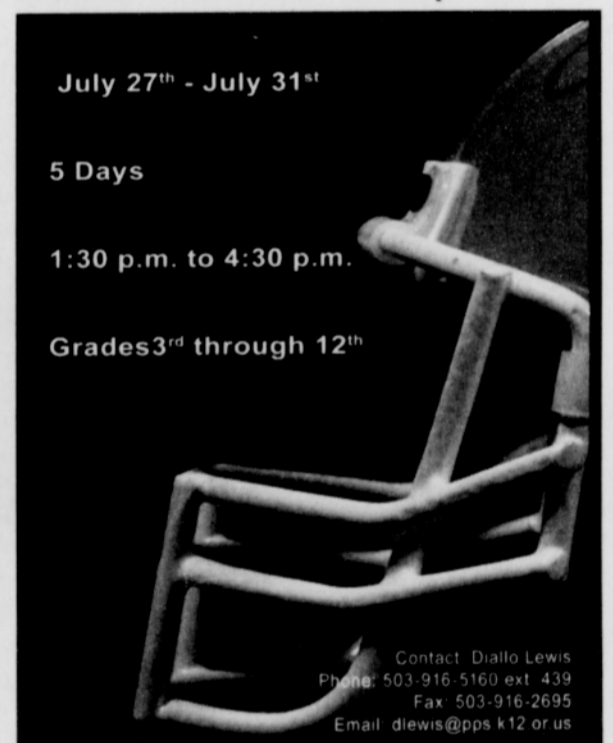
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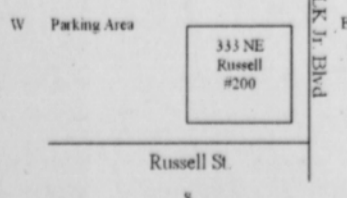
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