

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2010 KIA Forte EX

The new 2010 Kia Forte is good enough to compete against Honda and Toyota. Not only did Kia change the name from Spectra to Forte, it's an upgraded version from what was once a bargain bin vehicle.

Kia is actually a very competitive sedan, from its 156-horsepower base engine to its impressive fuel economy. The interior is pleasant, too, with a clean dashboard layout, plenty of standard features on most trim levels, and decent-quality materials. The EX gets a 2.0-liter four-cylinder good for 156 hp and 144 pound-feet of torque. A five-speed manual transmission is standard and a four-speed automatic is optional. Ordering the EX's Fuel Economy package changes out the four-speed auto for a more efficient five-speed automatic.

The Forte is fitted with fairly standard hardware -- an independent front with

MacPherson struts and a stabilizer bar, plus a torsion beam rear with struts and coil springs. It strikes a nice balance between comfort and sport feel.

The Forte is a four-door compact sedan available in LX, EX and SX trims. Standard equipment on the base LX includes 15-inch steel wheels, a six-way-adjustable driver seat, a tilt steering column, Bluetooth connectivity and a four-speaker CD/MP3 audio system with USB and auxiliary audio jacks. The EX adds air-conditioning, full power accessories, a six-speaker layout for the sound system, cruise control and a 60/40-split folding rear seat with a center armrest and adjustable rear headrests. The EX has an expanded range of options, including a sunroof, 16-inch alloy wheels and leather upholstery with heated front seats. A Fuel Economy package adds a five-speed automatic trans-



Vehicle Specifications: 2.0L 16 valve DOHC CVT 4 cylinder engine; 4 speed automatic transmission; 25 city mpg, 34 mpg; MSRP \$19,290

mission, electric power steering, low-rolling-resistance tires and aerodynamic en-

hancements. In the past, Kia made its mark as being the brand with the

cheapest cars, however consumers are taking another look at Kia vehicles. The Forte is fi-

nally going to be able to compete with the top manufacturers such as Honda and Toyota.

Aviation Interest Soars Flight instructor keeps up on demand

Larry Altree, Portland Community College Aviation Science instructor and the program's chairperson, is experiencing a take off of another kind -- enrollment.

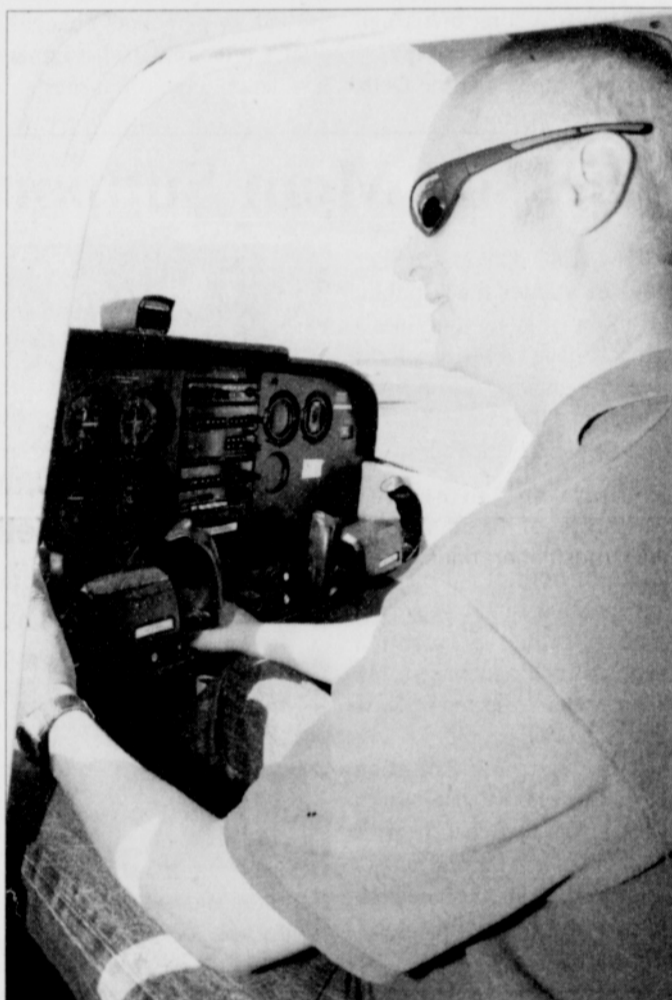
Full-time equivalent enrollment in Aviation Science has more than doubled from this same time last year, skyrocketing by more than 114 percent. Altree said that many of his courses for fall are almost full.

"Interest is up," Altree said. "With this economy as people encounter downsizing in their own industry they are thinking of investing in a career they can be passionate about rather than a career for the money. There is nothing like a layoff to wake them up that working just for money isn't the best way to go. This fall, our beginning classes will be at capacity and we already have waiting lists."

In addition to fixed wing aircraft, PCC partners with Hillsboro Aviation to teach helicopter aviation and graduates often get mid-level jobs flying for tour companies, fire-and-rescue operations, off-shore oil production and the timber industry. Classes are offered at the Rock Creek Campus (17705 N.W. Springville Road) and Southeast Center (2305 S.E. 82nd and Division). Students can fly out of either Hillsboro Airport or Hillsboro Aviation's facility at the Troutdale Airport near Gresham.

Altree, a third-generation pilot whose grandfather flew planes in World War I and father for commercial airlines, said Chapter 33 of the new GI Bill has funneled even more students and interest his way. He estimates about three-quarters of the calls he gets are post-9/11 vets asking about the program seeking to capitalize on the bill.

"(The new GI Bill) has had a positive impact on my enrollment; the vets are a huge part of our enrollment surge," said Altree, the 2009 recipient of the Rock Creek Campus Gordon Galbraith Award for community



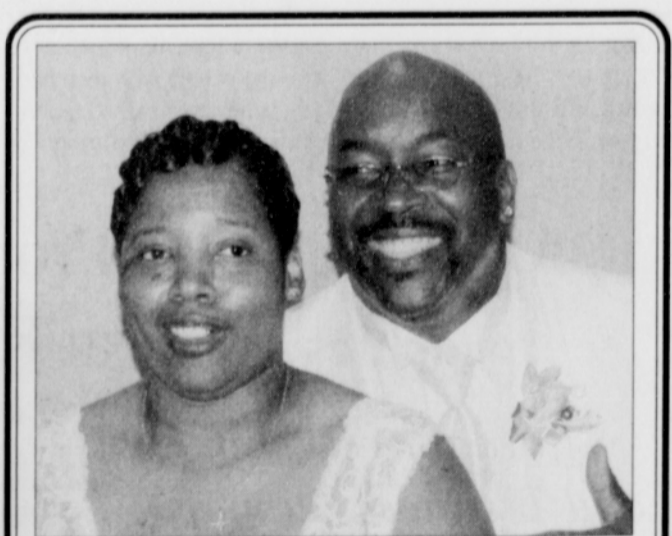
North Portland resident Larry Altree is an aviation instructor at Portland Community College.

service. "It covers college costs like tuition and fees; the vets are really excited about that. We offer affordable flight training across the spectrum to those who haven't flown before and have been put into active service."

Altree, who lives in the St. Johns neighborhood of north Portland, sees his charge as turning out all of his graduates, whether vets or not, who are ready to be safe, competent pilots. But he doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk. He hopes to spend his Galbraith award money of \$1,500 to buy

materials and equipment for the school's two flight simulators to benefit his students' learning.

"Judgment, decision making skills, attitude -- that's what will keep my students safe," he said. "There are so many variables in flying. When an airline pilot takes off he or she has to fly in any conditions that are legal and safe. It takes extraordinary focus and discipline. The amount of responsibility that you are shouldered with is unmatched. People trust their lives and the lives of their families to airline pilots."



Congratulations

Penny (Leneatha) and Anthony 'Tony' Mims were married on Saturday Aug. 22 at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

Happy Birthday Audry Washington

Chiropractic Auto Injury Clinic, PC

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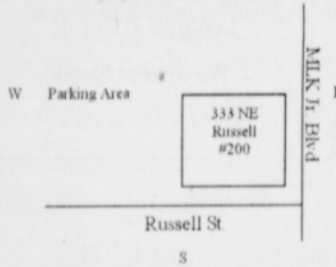
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