

FROM PAGE A1

ENDERS:

continued from page A1

Well, that’s kind of where I’m at. I really enjoy what I do.”

Enders owns about eight vehicles, including some project cars that are not finished. He said his favorite is a ’57 Chevy pickup he bought six months ago that is about “ready to hit the road.” He completely tears down some vehicles and works on them from the frame up, but he said the pickup was actually in good condition when he bought it.

The largest project he has ever done was using three cars to create a highly customized ’46 Mercury Coupe.

“It was a pretty elaborate project,” he said. “It took us about a year to get it done. Most conversions or street rods or whatever take anywhere from six months to a year. It just depends on how fast the customer wants to shell out money buying parts and paying for labor.”

These projects range in price from \$8,500 to \$50,000 or even more depending on what the customer wants, he said.

Enders said one of his favorite jobs was working on a Ford Mustang — for two different customers. The first wanted the car set up for racing, and the second purchased it without a motor and had



SEAN HART PHOTO

**Jerry Enders admires the trophy he won for Best Muscle Car at the A.C.E. Car Show Saturday in Echo. Enders entered a 1962 Ford Falcon Ranchero, a car with a pickup bed, which he said was not actually a muscle car.**

Enders return it close to stock.

“I got to do it both times, so that was pretty fun,” he said. “I already knew the car.”

Despite years of working on many top-notch gas-powered automobiles, Enders said his favorite car to drive was actually a Tesla Model S electric vehicle. He was able to drive one last year

at a weeklong electrical vehicle conversion convention in Missouri, and he was impressed.

“It’s quite an automobile: all electric, no gas, no sounds, just absolute acceleration and about a 250-mile range,” he said. “They’re an amazing automobile. They’re also horribly expensive. I’ll never own one, but it was fun to drive one.”

Enders said the convention was a unique experience, and he eventually hopes to convert one of his street rods to electric power.

“I’ve been a gearhead all of my life and certainly have been a proponent of gasoline-powered vehicles, but I really think it’s time we took a look at where we’re going and what we’re going to leave for the next group of people that are going to inherit this mess,” he said. “Electric is a pretty good alternative.”

HAWKINS:

continued from page A1

is the car that I’ve always had, and this is what I’ve done with it and how I’ve taken care of it and just wanted people to see it and enjoy it, because I enjoy it.”

Hawkins said he cleaned the car up for the show and has only made a few minor repairs through the years. It still has its original paint and seats, and he said he only has to maintain it to keep it in good shape. He stores it in a shop with a car cover, he said, but drives it several times a week.

“I go down (Highway) 395, and people are thumbs-upping and saying, ‘Nice car,’ ” he said. “What use is it to have a car like this if you don’t go and drive it? You can put a \$10,000 paint job on it and sit it in the shop and look pretty, but unless you can get out and drive it, how do you enjoy it? Every time I get into this, it brings a smile to my face. It reminds me of some younger times, but it also gives an appreciation for something that has lasted 43 years, and you don’t find that a lot.”

Hawkins said his custom model features factory cruise control and air conditioning, and he bought the car from a coworker in 1985 for \$2,300. He said he



SEAN HART PHOTO

**Perry Hawkins explains what’s under the hood of his 1972 Pontiac Le Mans GT Custom Saturday at the A.C.E. Car Show in Echo.**



SEAN HART PHOTO

**Perry Hawkins has owned this 1972 Pontiac Le Mans for 30 years, but the A.C.E. Car Show Saturday in Echo was the first show he has entered.**

would probably never sell it and plans to enjoy it as long as he can.

“I love classic cars, and I love muscle cars,” he said. “That’s the era I grew up in. When I was in junior high, the muscle cars were it. The GTOs, the Le Manses, the Chargers, the Challengers,

you know, even the big block Camaros — they had the style, they had the body lines, and that’s what appealed to me was how they looked, how sleek the design was on them. Even to this day, you can see a lot of these cars are going back to those old-style looks.”

A.C.E. Car Show Best Muscle Car

Jerry Enders won Best Muscle Car at the A.C.E. Car Show Saturday in Echo with his ’62 Ford Falcon Ranchero. He said the “car with a pickup back half” isn’t really a muscle car, but it was able to hold up a soapbox-style cart he outfitted with a small engine. Enders said the Ranchero was a “\$300 piece of junk” when he bought it. After about 400 hours straightening the body, rebuilding the front suspension and transmission, working on the motor, painting it and applying a bed liner, he is now selling it for \$6,500. “It’s just a fun rig to drive,” he said. “There just isn’t that many of them left. They’re really kind of rare.”

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Healthy Back Habits for Caregivers - CONCLUDED

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 3:30PM

Many adults spend a considerable portion of their week caring for aging parents, relatives, friends, or other adults. According to the results of a recent study, the stresses and strains of providing care to an ill loved one may take a considerable toll on the mental and physical health of care-givers — including their back and spine health. Learn healthy back habits to keep you safe.

Elder-Friendly Living: Modifying Your Home for Safety

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 3:30 PM

No matter when the older person’s home was built and regardless of whether it is modern or traditional in style, it likely was designed for young adults and their families. As adults age their homes also grow older, but most are not updated to accommodate the resident’s changing needs. Home adaptation or modification can provide friendlier elder living so older occupants may continue to life safely in the comfort of their home.

Know Your Numbers

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 3:30 PM

Are you at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other chronic diseases? Learn about the numbers and what they mean for various screenings to stay in control of your health. We will talk about cholesterol, blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) numbers and more.

For more information or to RSVP, call us at (541) 276-1987 or visit us today!

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A circular logo featuring a stylized profile of a person's head facing right, with a small 'P' inside the circle.

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