

'Transforming transportation' to be discussed in Incline

Dan Sperling will give a talk on Transforming Transportation, Finally: How Three Transportation Revolutions Are Starting To Disrupt Transportation As We Know It on Aug. 11.

The passenger transportation system has seen little innovation since the advent of the Interstate Highway System. That is now changing. The ubiquity of smart phones is enabling the commercialization of a range of new mobility services, led by Uber and Lyft; rapid advances in battery and fuel cell technology are enabling electrification of vehicles; and rapid advances in digital technologies are enabling automation of vehicles. The challenge for policymakers is to direct these revolutions toward the public interest-including in the Tahoe basin.

Registration for this event is required. The program will begin at 6pm with refreshments and no-host bar from 5:30-6pm at 291 Country Club Drive in Incline Village on the campus of Sierra Nevada College.

Seating is open at 5:30pm to guests who have preregistered, open seating starts at 5:50pm, and the program begins at 6pm. A \$5 suggested donation will be collected at the door.

History of Minden focus of 2

events

The founder of the town of Minden – Fred Dangberg Jr. – will come to life next weekend in a Chautauqua performance.

Mike Hall will portray Dangberg on July 23 at the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park.

On July 24, author Steve “Dink” Achard will discuss his book “Lost Legacy of Carson Valley”. Achard is the grandson of Dangberg.

Both events are free and start at 10am.

The park is located at 1450 Highway 88 in Minden. Bring chairs. Dogs are not allowed.

Amazon's old-school book reviewers influence what we read

By Ángel González, *Seattle Times*

In a company driven by engineers and run by algorithms and metrics, Amazon's small group of book editors is an anomaly of sorts. But through the Amazon Book Review and other methods, it's trying to build Amazon's presence and influence in the world of literary culture.

Within the highly automated folds of Amazon's online bookstore, there's a small team of literary types whose main

job is rather old school. They read books, write about them and rank the works according to their qualities, helping readers sift through thousands of offerings while also planting the tech juggernaut's flag in the world of literary culture.

In an engineer-driven company ruled by algorithms and metrics, the Amazon book editors are rare birds. Once in a while, they're misunderstood by authors and publishers who retain a deep suspicion of Amazon.com after years of clashes over the book industry's future.

Read the whole story

Services planned for fallen firefighter from ZC



Jake O'Malley

A **Go Fund Me account** has been established to help with the funeral costs for Jake O'Malley.

The Whittell High School grad was a wildland firefighter for the Bureau of Land Management based out of Winnemucca. While on duty July 10 his engine was involved in a single vehicle accident. O'Malley and his roommate, Will Hawkins, died. One

other firefighter survived.

There will be a memorial service for the two firefighters on July 19 at 1pm at the Winnemucca Events Complex, 1000 Fairgrounds Road.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Jasmine

Jasmine is a beautiful, playful and sweet kitty who is looking for her forever home. She is 6 years old, has lived with other pets and children, and loves attention.

Jasmine greets people with purrs and meows. She would love to have a home to explore and nice quiet places or sunny spots to curl up and nap. She could be happy with other cats if introduced properly.

Jasmine's adoption fee is \$20. Come meet her, you'll fall for her big eyes, lovely markings and friendly attitude.

Jasmine is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services

shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Weekly 'Mark Twain' performances in Incline

Mark Twain can be spotted every Monday in Incline Village.

McAvoy Layne, who has been channeling Twain for years, is putting on The Ghost of Mark Twain at Tahoe on behalf of the local historical society. It is part humor, part historical.

Performances are at 7pm in the Mark Twain Room of the Starbucks Building (899 Tahoe Blvd.). Doors open at 6:3pm. Beverages are allowed, but not food.

Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 800.468.2463.

Money matters: Brexit and your investments

By Rick Gross

The United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union following a referendum known as Brexit was the latest test for investment markets worldwide. The immediate market reaction was decidedly negative, but soon after markets started to rebound, more so in the U.S. than overseas. Investors should be prepared for continued uncertainty related to the Brexit vote, which could contribute to volatility in the days, weeks and even months to come.



Rick Gross

Volatility is nothing new

Significant price swings in the market, both up-and-down, are nothing new. A number of notable events, many arising without much warning, have occurred in recent years causing markets to react. Among them are the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami, a temporary shutdown of the U.S. federal government in 2013 and the dramatic drop in oil prices that began in 2014. These events had an impact on stock markets in the short run, but over time, stocks recovered.

There has been plenty of speculation on what the anticipated exit of the United Kingdom from the EU will mean for the global economy and the financial markets. Yet nobody can

predict with certainty what the future holds. It's important to keep in mind that volatility is a reality for stock investors.

How should you respond to Brexit?

Geo-political events can act as a reminder to review your financial position. At the same time, remember that portfolio decisions should not be based on emotion or speculation about events that have occurred or may happen in the future. Here are steps you can take to stay calm during the next wave of volatility:

- **Assess your risk tolerance.** How did you feel during the most recent downturn? Feeling especially uncomfortable could be a sign that you're taking on too much risk. Make sure you are honest about the level of risk you are willing to accept and position your portfolio accordingly.
- **Diversify your portfolio.** Don't be overly dependent on a single investment or asset class. Owning a properly diversified mix of assets can help you withstand the rough periods in the market.
- **Align your portfolio with your goals.** If you have a longer time horizon to let your money work, it may make sense for you to have more aggressive investments in your portfolio. However, if you're retiring soon or need to tap some of the money you have invested, you may want to shift some assets into less volatile investments.
- **Don't be overly influenced by the headlines.** It's easy to find reports in the media that can scare you away from your long-term investment strategy but put the pundits' opinions into perspective. One thing is for sure – they won't know your personal financial goals and situation.

The most important drivers of your investment success are your long-term goals, the time you have to invest and your

commitment to save as much as you can. You can be certain that there will be more events like Brexit in the future. When they happen, avoid making irrational decisions and stay focused on your long-term strategy.

Rick Gross is a financial advisor and private wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services in South Lake Tahoe.

Road beat: Hyundai Sonata Limited 2.0T



The Sonata 2.0T Sport/Limited fires on all cylinders and then some. Photos/Larry Weitzman

By Larry Weitzman

There are four distinct models of the Hyundai Sonata, the Sonata, the Sonata Eco, the Sonata Hybrid and this new Sonata 2.0T Sport/Limited. Within those four models there are also various trim levels. I tested a version of the 2015 model a year ago and while it is essentially the same vehicle, it is not. Because of a reworked 2.0-turbo engine it now boasts of 245 hp at 6,000 rpm and 260 pounds of twist from 1,350- 4,000 rpm.

Sonata is now in the second generation of its fluidic sculpture (seventh generation overall) and as said before about the new Sonata body, if you like the last generation, you are going to love this new generation. The new grille and front end and new character lines all tie together to make the whole concept flow with each component enhancing the next. And with the wide spaced quad exhaust, it is the best looking Sonata yet, especially the front end (I think I said that already). Coefficient of drag is a low 0.27.

Size-wise, the new Sonata 2.0T is a mid-size outside, but a full-size inside. Wheelbase is 110 inches and length is 191 inches, width and height 73 and 58 inches respectively, perfect mid-size numbers. But inside there are 122 cubic feet of passenger and cargo volume, 106 cubes on the inside and 16 cubes in the trunk. While the new Sonata is one slick design in reality and perception, it's huge on the inside. Remarkable.



Specifications

Price \$35,035

Engine

Four cylinder inline 16
valve 2.0L 245 hp @ 6,000
rpm

260 lb.-ft. of torque @
1,350-4,000 rpm

Transmission

Six speed torque converter
automatic with a semi manual
mode

Configuration

Transverse mounted front
engine with front wheel
drive

Dimensions (Sport)

Wheelbase 110.4 inches

Length 191.1 inches

Width 73.4 inches

Height 58.1 inches

Track (f/r) 62.9/63.1 inches

Ground clearance 5.3 inches

Cabin volume 106.1 cubic
feet

Trunk volume 16.3 cubic feet

Fuel Capacity 18.5 gallons

Weight 3,589 pounds

Steering lock to lock 2.78
turns

Turning circle 35.8 feet

Wheels 18X7.5 inch alloys

Tires 235/45X18

Co-efficient of drag 0.27

Performance

0-60 mph 6.32 seconds

50-70 mph 3.28 seconds

50-70 uphill 4.41 seconds

Top Speed Beyond sanity
Fuel economy EPA rated at
21/31/25
city/highway/combined.
Expect 27-28 mpg in suburban
driving and 36 plus mpg on a
level highway at 70 mph.

While it's engine performance parameters appear to be identical to my last go-round, it is much more responsive to the throttle and its performance, especially in its 0-60 mph, which is now 6.32 seconds shortening the time by almost a full second. There is no lag in this turbo. However, passing times are virtually identical with a 50-70 mph run on the level stopping the Chrondek in 3.28 seconds and the same run up a six percent grade taking 4.41 seconds. Now we have a real performance sedan. Actually, you have to be careful not to stab the throttle as it really responds to significant throttle input in right now fashion and doesn't let up until you do. It's all about that super fat torque curve, 260 pounds of twist starts at just 1,350 rpm.

While EPA fuel ratings are about one mpg lower (21/31/25 mpg city/highway/combined) real fuel economy is up about one mpg over the last test. Overall, including rocket testing, the 2.0T averaged between 27-28 mpg. But in my run to South Lake Tahoe and back to Rescue improved by 2 mpg at 32.3 mpg. Even the 70 mph highway run showed an improvement of almost 2 mpg at 36.5 mpg. Those new 245 horses are really feeling their oats or Hyundai has a better breeding program.

If you don't think cars have improved, here is a car with a full-sized interior that can accelerate from 0-60 mph in six seconds, carry five basketball players in sublime comfort and go down the road achieving 35 mpg plus. In 1957, in the middle of the horsepower race (which began in 1951 with the first Chrysler hemi of 180 hp which set the Speed weeks' record of

117 mph) you could buy a Dodge D-500 with a 325 cubic inch V-8, producing 285 gross hp that the dean of automotive writers, Tom McCahill ran 0-60 mph in 8.7 seconds and returned about 17 mpg on the highway. At about a \$3,500 purchase price you got an am radio with power steering and power brakes. No A/C and only one (left) side view mirror. Think about the equipment you get on this Hyundai, everything is power, it is probably safer than the Battleship Missouri, has built in TV cameras, has a panoramic sunroof and on a race track it would be crossing the finish line at Laguna before the Dodge made it to turn 8 (the Corkscrew) and while the price maybe 10 or 11 times more, the real cost in present dollars is far less. With proper maintenance, the Hyundai should be good for 300,000 miles, while the Dodge would be at the shredders at about 100,000 miles if you were lucky.

Speaking of Laguna Seca, this Hyundai can change directions with the best of them. For 2016, Hyundai has returned the suspension. Already a good handler with its 63-inch track quick and quick (2.8 turns lock to lock) steering, you can add on 18X7.5 inch alloys shod with some serious 234/45 rubber. Yes, it dances through the twisties with the best of them, mild understeer with a flat profile. Most drivers will never use 70 percent of this 2.0T Limited's cornering power.

As to ride quality it's about perfect, just slightly on the firm size. With no float it can do large undulations perfectly and absorb sharp bumps without any harshness or jarring. Couldn't ask for more. And with the engine spinning right at 2,000 rpm at 70 mph, you certainly will be able to hear a church mouse if there is one because of the otherwise silence.

Safety is all over this Hyundai. Four-wheel ventilated disc brakes, you need a calculator to add up the airbags and count the electronic safety devices that act as an intervention for bad driving behavior or judgement including the emergency braking system, lane departure warning, blind spot detection, rear cross traffic alert and rear view camera. Panic stops

from 40 mph were achieved in an excellent 42 feet. Headlights were excellent.

With the 2.0T Limited comes a sporty leather interior with contrasting piping on the seat edges. The soft light gray leather is comfortable and the define seat bolsters and wings were a bit wide for me, maybe I need to eat more. But that doesn't deny their comfort. Rear seating is massive as this is a true five passenger sedan. Not only is the trunk massive, so is the gas tank at 18.5 gallons.

Instrumentation is complete and easy to use as is the radio, HVAC and the NAV. Some manufacturers think that dazzle and complexity outweigh simplicity of use and good, tasteful design.

Pricing for this limited 2.0T which has no options is \$34,075 plus \$125 for the carpeted floor mats. The train ride from Montgomery, Alabama assembly plant will add \$835 making the totally \$35,035. This car comes so well equipped it even has standard rear side window shades. You won't find that in that Dodge D-500 at any price, nor will the Dodge have disc brakes or any of the electronics which in the Dodge consists of weak sealed beam headlights, turn signals, a floor dimmer, brake lights, possibly a 12-volt battery, an am radio and one low fidelity speaker.

Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.

Lost ski wear becomes clothing for homeless

By Drew Himmelstein, J Weekly

When Corinne Hindes was 11, she saw a man in her hometown of Walnut Creek wearing nothing but a T-shirt and a pair of ripped jeans on the coldest day of the year. She had started to notice the homeless people in her area that year, but seeing this man enduring the cold without warm clothes stuck with her.

She was also pretty sure she knew how to help.

Hindes, now 16, had been an avid skier since her parents taught her the sport at the age of 4. She was a member of the ski team at Kirkwood Mountain Resort, and she had noticed that high-quality parkas, gloves and cold weather gear routinely sat in the resort's lost and found, left behind by tourists unlikely to return and claim them. She and a fellow ski team member, Katrine Kirsebom, asked if they could donate the items to the homeless; thus, Warm Winters, a nonprofit that engages youth volunteers and ski resorts in 12 states to donate their lost-and-found items to the homeless, was born.

Read the whole story

Virgil Earp to be personified in Chautauqua event

Larry Ford will become Virgil Earp in a Chautauqua event July 20 at the Dangberg Ranch in Minden.

Earp and his brother, Wyatt Earp, arrived in Tombstone, Ariz., in June 1881, where Virgil was appointed city marshal. This is where the gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place. In 1904, the brothers joined in the boomtown of Goldfield, Nev.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, free for 16 and younger and are available **online**. Unless sold out, tickets will also be available at the gate. The show starts at 6:30pm.

Other Chautauqua performances include "Stephen Tying Mather: First Director of the National Park Service" Aug. 10, "John Muir in Person" Aug. 24, and "Mary Pickford" Sept. 7.