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green thinking



ELECTRIC bike

Zero Motorcycles plans to begin shipping its high-performance electric motorcycle to customers next week. The Zero S, priced at \$9,950, has a range of up to 60 miles and a top speed of 60 mph. Its lithium ion batteries recharge in about four hours.



CHICAGO leads

Chicago recently unveiled the first solar-powered electric vehicle charging station. The station, which will serve the city's fleet of electric cars, has a solar canopy that charges an underground battery pack.

NWautos Staff

For more, visit NWautos.com/green

TRAFFIC reminder

I-90 bridge express lanes will be closed starting Monday

Expect at least 30-minute delays during peak commute times. Express lanes are scheduled to reopen at 5 a.m. May 23.

Career shift

Local auto technician programs are growing and overflowing

By Cody Ellerd
 Special to NWautos

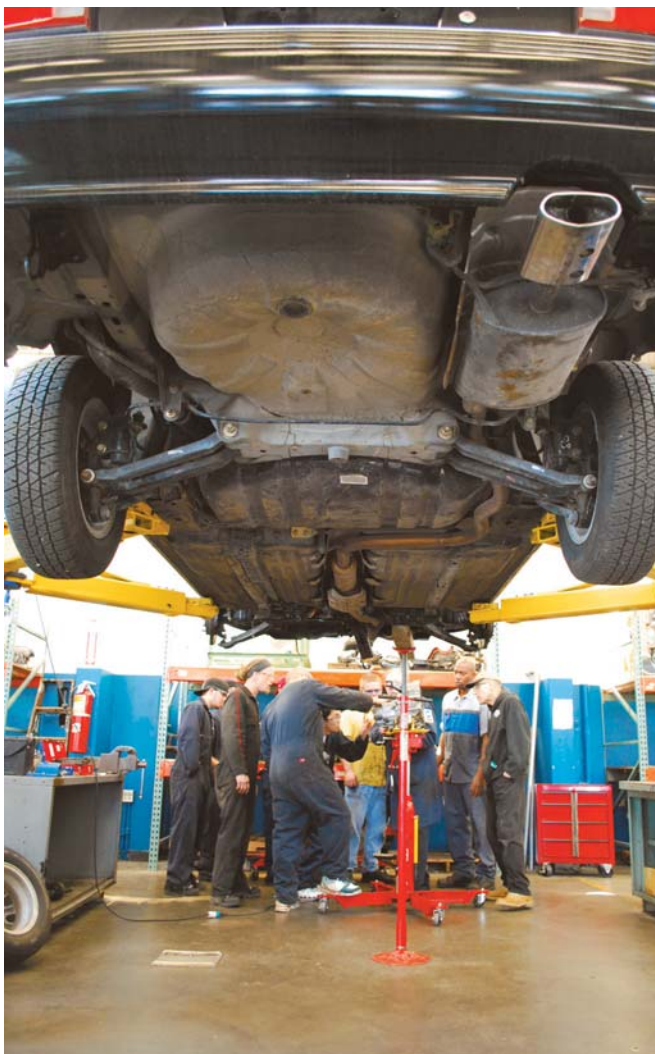
James Lemley is doing it because he has always liked taking things apart to see how they work. Melissa Foster has beauty school as a backup plan, but she's doing it because what she truly wants to do is work for NASCAR. Chad Sarbiewski has little to say about why he's studying to be an auto technician, but two words sum it up just fine: "It pays."

Whatever their reasons, the students now enrolling in automotive training programs are filling the Seattle area's community colleges and vocational schools beyond capacity, and the timing suggests that, yes, it's the economy.

"I've been a teacher long enough that I've been through a few up and down cycles," says Nolan Koreski, an automotive instructor who has been teaching at Lake Washington Technical College in Kirkland for the past 19 years. "When this happens, people want to get into something they perceive as more steady."

When IT was the hot

Continued on page G3



CODY ELLERD
 Automotive technology students at South Seattle Community College get a lesson in transmissions.

CARTalk

with Tom & Ray Magliozzi



Dating advice, Tom and Ray style

Dear Tom & Ray: If a mechanic is not wearing a wedding ring, is that a true indication of his marital status? I think my mechanic is hot, but I'm wondering if he doesn't wear a ring because working on cars would destroy it. I'm also concerned that if he took me up on a date offer, but found he didn't really like me, I'd be out an awesome mechanic. Should I go out on a limb? — Rachel

Tom: Absolutely! You can't pass up the possibility of a lifetime of happiness just because you might have to find a new mechanic!

Ray: You're right about the ring, though. Most mechanics don't wear wedding rings when they work. Mostly because it's unsafe.

Tom: A ring can get caught on things under the hood. And then, when you need to yank your hand away quickly to avoid getting your fingers chopped off by a moving fan blade, you can be in big trouble.

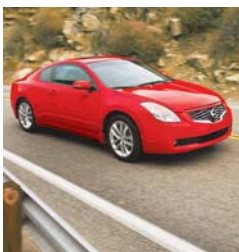
Ray: So, you need another way to determine whether your hot mechanic is available, Rachel. Here's what I'd do: Tell him you've been hearing a little creaking noise when you go over speed bumps. And when he reassures you that it's nothing serious, you say, "So, you'd feel safe letting your wife drive this car?"

Tom: And if he says, "Well, I don't have a wife," then you say, "OK, would you feel safe letting your girlfriend drive this car?"

Ray: And if he says, "I don't have a girlfriend," you say, "Want one?"

Got a question about cars? E-mail Tom and Ray at cartalk.com.

For more Car Talk, visit NWautos.com/cartalk



TOPten

2009's most fuel-efficient sports cars/coupes

1. Nissan Altima (23 city/32 highway)
2. Audi TT (23/31)
3. Audi A4 (23/30)
4. Pontiac G6 (22/33)
5. Honda Accord (22/31)
6. Volkswagen Eos (22/29)
7. Chrysler Sebring (20/29)
8. Mitsubishi Eclipse (20/28)
9. (tie) Pontiac Solstice (19/28)
9. (tie) Saturn Sky (19/28)

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AUTOstats

1 Where North Dakota's highway system ranks among all 50 states, based on road condition and cost-effectiveness. New Jersey was last.

CTW FEATURES / SOURCE: REASON FOUNDATION

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#1
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 <p>NEW 2009 Ford F150 Supercab "Lariat" Luxury 4x4</p> <p>\$37,075 MSRP \$3,000 FORD REBATE \$1,000 FMCC CREDIT CASH (must finance with FMCC to qualify) \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$5,600 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$25,975 FOK SALE PRICE VIN #FA75852</p>	 <p>NEW 2009 Ford Ranger "4.0 XLT" Supercab 4x4</p> <p>\$24,250 MSRP \$4,000 FORD REBATE \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$2,775 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$15,975 FOK SALE PRICE VIN #A35815</p>	 <p>NEW 2009 Ford Escape "Hybrid"</p> <p>\$30,415 MSRP \$1,000 Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$1,640 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$27,775 3 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #B61376, B61378, B53453</p>	 <p>NEW 2009 Ford F150 Supercrew "FX4 Sport" 4x4</p> <p>\$45,440 MSRP \$3,000 FORD REBATE \$1,000 FMCC CREDIT CASH (must finance with FMCC to qualify) \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$5,965 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$33,975 3 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #A58757, A75493</p>	 <p>NEW 2009 Ford Escape "Sun & Sync" 4x4</p> <p>\$28,030 MSRP \$3,000 FORD REBATE \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$3,055 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$20,975 4 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #B53605, B67394, B67330, B59361</p>
 <p>NEW 2009 Ford Focus 4-Door Sedan</p> <p>\$16,215 MSRP \$2,000 FORD REBATE \$500 FMCC CREDIT CASH (must finance with FMCC to qualify) \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$3,240 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$8,975 2 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #225648, 228064</p>	 <p>"ALL REMAINING NEW 2009 FORD FUSION MODELS, SE, SEL & EVEN SEL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE MODELS \$8,000 OFF MSRP!"</p> <p>EXAMPLE: \$20,635 MSRP \$4,000 FORD REBATE \$3,500 FORD REBATE \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$3,060 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$12,575 FOK SALE PRICE VIN #199603</p>	 <p>NEW 2008 Ford Mustang Convertible "Premium"</p> <p>\$31,400 MSRP \$4,000 FORD REBATE \$1,000 FMCC CREDIT CASH (must finance with FMCC to qualify) \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$4,925 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$19,975 2 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #116121, 142115</p>	 <p>"ALL REMAINING 2008 EDGE MODELS, SE, SEL AND EVEN LIMITED MODELS \$11,000 OFF MSRP!"</p> <p>EXAMPLE: \$34,045 MSRP \$4,000 FORD REBATE \$1,000 FMCC CREDIT CASH (must finance with FMCC to qualify) \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$4,570 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$22,975 FOK SALE PRICE VIN #A86310</p>	 <p>NEW 2009 Ford Flex "Limited" All-Wheel-Drive</p> <p>\$43,515 MSRP \$3,000 FORD REBATE \$500 COLLEGE GRAD \$1,000 Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP Competitive Owner Trade-In Program (Must trade in '06 or newer Chrysler/Dodge/JEEP vehicle to qualify). \$3,540 ADDITIONAL FOK DISCOUNT</p> <p>\$35,475 2 @ FOK SALE PRICE VIN #A48297, A84296</p>

Subject to prior sale. Photos for illustration purposes only. All advertised prices/payments exclude government fees and taxes. A dealer documentary service fee up to \$50 may be added to the sale price. *Must finance through Ford Motor Credit. 1. Must be a 1998 or newer Superduty. **Subject to credit approval. ***All full time college students/recent college or trade school graduates must admit proof at time of sale and subject to Ford Motor Company approval. First time buyer rebate not compatible with College Grad rebate. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. *Excludes Mustang and Hybrid. All sale vehicles offered as equipped may have blemishes. Expires 5/4/09. Limited 1 ed unit per family. Retail customers only. All vehicles sold in as is condition. *Family Plan price vehicles only, new F150-F350 models. **Must own a non Ford/Lincoln/Mercury vehicle to qualify for an additional 1000 Ford rebate on select models. See dealer for requirements. ***Must have owned a '98 or newer Ford F150/F250 to qualify for up to \$800 Rebate on select F150/F250 models. See dealer for requirements. *Monthly payments are subject to 72 mos. at 4.75% APR, tax and license down. On approval of credit.

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