

**Hip to be square?**

Mazda's new tall wagon brings on the curves.

PAGE 2



**Guess who's coming back?**

A tribute edition with how much hp?

PAGE 2



**Coming to a brake pad near you...**

Automatic emergency breaking will soon be mandatory on all cars.

PAGE 3



**The area's most complete automotive resource and listings.**

2,743 vehicles for sale inside — plus more than 7,000 online at timesunion.com/cars

# Automotive

[timesunion.com/cars](http://timesunion.com/cars)

**Show 'em off**  
Car show season is here. Can warmer weather be far behind?  
PAGE 3

**TEST DRIVE**

## Rally Flat Blues

### 2016 Hyundai Veloster Rally Edition

DAN LYONS | text and photos  
*Special to the Times Union*

**V**eloster goes from trio to quartet for 2016. Hyundai's compact, front-drive, three-door hatchback is now available in four trim levels: base, Turbo R-Spec, Turbo and Rally Edition.

The latter is the newcomer to the lineup, and also our test drive car for this week. With zero extras and \$825 in destination charges, it had an as-tested price of \$24,775.

The Rally Edition cars are based on the sporting, Turbo R-Spec Velosters.

R-Spec replaces the base model's 132 h.p. 1.6L four-cylinder engine with a turbocharged version of the 1.6L, which is rated at 201 horsepower and 195 lb. ft.

**2016 Hyundai Veloster Rally Edition**  
MSRP: \$23,950 · As Tested: \$24,775

of torque. The package also includes more responsive suspension tuning and steering settings, and a six-speed manual transmission, with a B&M short-throw shifter. An automatic transmission option is only offered on the base model (six-speed, dual clutch) and the top, Turbo (seven-speed, dual clutch).

Rally car's ratchet up the R-Spec chassis tuning another step, with beefier spring rates, dampers and a front stabilizer bar. The addition of a set of Rays 18-inch alloy wheels subtracts a total of 20 lb. from the car's unsprung weight. The black rims, an aero kit and special Rally badging complement the model-



The 2016 Hyundai Veloster Rally Edition is based on the sporting, Turbo R-Spec Velosters. As a limited edition, the company says that the planned production run will not exceed 1,200 units.

exclusive, Matte Blue paint scheme.

The flat, blue finish is hot rod cool. Fiat is the only other carmaker to have offered a matte finish paint option in recent memory. Upkeep issues with flat hues require a committed owner, as they lack the protection of clear coated paints. Bird poop is the bane of such finishes, and water-spotting can stain. That said, the effect is grand: custom and unique, especially in blue, as opposed to the typical shade of primer gray.

The 1.6L twin scroll, turbo four makes its 201 h.p. @ 6,000 rpm. The motor has a high, narrow sweet spot

for max power. Above and below this rpm range, it's an average performer. The turbo four/six speed manual combo is about a mid-seven second car from 0-60.

That's respectably quick, but you'd still be looking at the tail lights of the front-runners in the hot hatch segment. Though the torque peak is at 1,750 rpm, it doesn't feel strong off the line, and the clutch must be feathered for smooth takeoffs on even slight inclines.

Highway cruising is smooth and uneventful. At 75 mph in top gear, it's pulling 2,800 rpm, and sounds composed. All turbo Velosters are

*Continued on page 2*



## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

Times Union Automotive section gives you auto news, Dan Lyons' car reviews, interesting car facts, advice, and just plain fun.

**TIMES UNION**  
The Automotive Section  
Every Saturday in the Times Union.

[www.timesunion.com/cars](http://www.timesunion.com/cars)  
thousands of cars. all local.



PHOTOS © DAN LYONS — ALL RIGHTS RESERVED