



Meet the Beetle's... replacement?

PAGE 4

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PAGE 5



Fatal fail

Self-driving accident calls technology into question.

PAGE 4



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Is Detroit too cold to hold an auto show in?

PAGE 3

TEST DRIVE

## Three, 2.0

### 2018 Subaru XV Crosstrek Premium

DAN LYONS | text  
*Special to the Times Union*

Irony can be quite ironic. Just the other week, I was grouching in this space about the gradual disappearance of manual transmissions in modern autos.

Then, I slid into the driver's seat of this week's test drive, and found three pedals. Surprised was I, and happily so. The new six-speed manual transmission is standard on Subaru Crosstrek 2.0i (MSRP:\$21,795) and 2.0i Premium (\$22,595) models. An also-new Continuously Variable Transmission can be had on those two trims for an additional \$1,000. The CVT is standard equipment on the \$26,295, 2.0i Limited.

Introduced five years ago, Crosstrek has established itself as the third best seller in the Subaru lineup. It's classified as a subcompact crossover, and competes with vehicles like the Honda HR-V, Jeep Renegade and the Mazda CX-3. Crosstrek has been redesigned for 2018. The second



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURER

**CROSTREK** is the subcompact crossover introduced by Subaru five years ago, competing with the Honda HR-V, Jeep Renegade and the Mazda CX-3. Crosstrek's 2.0L four-cylinder engine adds four horsepower over last year's model.

ful of comparables cited above, Crosstrek's max stowage space is second only to HR-V. The split, rear seatbacks fold to a flat floor, and the loading liftover height is low. Integrated roof rails give you the foundation for additional, topside storage options.

So much for stuff. As for people, they fare well as well. The new version gains 1.1-inches of rear seat leg room (now 36.5-inches). That's also second best among its peer group, trailing HR-V (39.3-inches). Inboard storage spaces are numerous (glove box, door pockets, console cubbyhole and covered bin), and small.

As before, controls are happily uncomplicated, including rheostat dials for HVAC functions and a straight forward approach for sound system setup. Speaking of sound and media, Subaru's Starlink multi-

media systems (6.5-inch touchscreen on 2.0i and Premium; 8-inch on Limited) is compatible with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

The option sheet includes a premium sound system (eight-speakers, 432 watts, harmon-kardon) but only as part of a package and only on Limited models.

A suite of active safety features which Subaru calls Eyesight is offered as part of option packages for Premium and Limited models. Eyesight includes adaptive cruise control, lane departure and sway warning, lane keep assist, pre-collision braking and throttle management. Blind spot monitoring — an always useful safety feature — is standard on Limited, optional on Premium (via packages) and not offered on base models.

*Continued on page 4*



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