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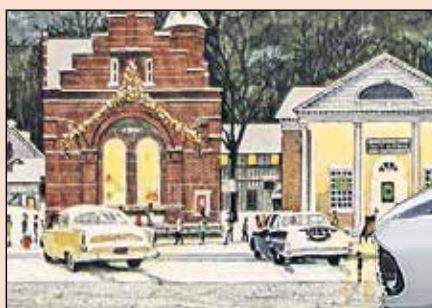
Chevy charges up its COPO Camaro racer.

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Vintage cars bring a holiday classic to life.

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Put on the brake!

Aston Martin's special edition Vanquish turns heads.

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What's behind GM's job cutting?

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TEST DRIVE

Motor Matters

2019 Ford F-150 4x4 SuperCrew

DAN LYONS | text
Special to the Times Union

The biggest news for the 2019 Ford F-150 is found under the hood. The motor menu has expanded to include a turbocharged 3.0-liter diesel V-6 option. Making 250 horsepower @ 3,250 r.p.m. and a beefy, 440 lb.-ft. of torque @ 1,750 r.p.m., the Power Stroke turbodiesel is expected to return 22 miles per gallon in the city, 30 on the highway, and 25 combined. Thirty mpg's is impressive for a full-size pick-up, though a bit less so in 4x4 trim (20/25/22).



Diesel aside, the remaining engine choices start with the base 3.3L V-6 (290 h.p. @ 6,500 r.p.m., 265 lb.-ft. @ 4,000 r.p.m.), followed by the 2.7L EcoBoost V-6 (325 h.p. @ 5,000 r.p.m., 400 lb.-ft. @ 2,750 r.p.m.), the 3.0L EcoBoost V-6 (375 h.p. @ 5,000 r.p.m., 470 lb.-ft. @ 3,500 r.p.m.), and a 5.0L V-8 (395 h.p. @ 5,750 r.p.m., 400 lb.-ft. of torque @ 5,500 r.p.m.).

2019 Ford F-150 4x4 SuperCrew

MSRP: \$28,155 - \$67,135

Still on motor matters, Limited trim level F-150s get the 3.5L EcoBoost V-6 this year. Formerly reserved for the F-150 Raptor, the sixth and final engine option is rated at 450 h.p. @ 5,000 r.p.m. and 510 lb.-ft. @ 3,500 r.p.m.). A six-speed automatic transmission is standard on the 3.3L, while all other engines are paired with a 10-speed automatic.

Limited tops the trim level ladder for F-150 (\$67,135). The next rung down is Platinum (\$53,920), followed by Raptor (\$52,855), King Ranch (\$52,390), Lariat (\$41,700), XLT (\$34,160) and XL (\$28,155).

My test truck was fitted with the 3.5L EcoBoost, which was a \$600 option. It's smooth and responsive; well suited to driving and towing. Fuel economy estimates for the 3.5L with 4WD are 17 miles per gallon city/23 highway/19 combined. I averaged 17 mpg's in about 400 miles of driving, with a 60/40, highway/city split. That's consistent with my experience with various EcoBoost engines in various Ford products over the years. They tend to be very good performers, though they undershoot their EPA mileage estimates.

F-150 can be equipped to pull up to 13,200 lb. The 10-speed automatic transmission has a tow/haul mode,



THE 2019 FORD F-150 comes in three different cab configurations: regular, SuperCab (smaller back doors) and SuperCrew (above) which is fitted with four full-size doors. It's also offered with six engine options and three bed lengths.

which is useful for maintaining control, especially when descending a grade. Onboard sensors improve the driver's control by optimizing downshifting for engine braking. Trailer sway control is standard. A rear view camera with dynamic hitch assist is available, as is an integrated trailer brake controller.

That said, most of the time, most trucks are driven with little or no cargo. But their suspension is built to be able to handle heavy loads. As a result, pickups tend to ride better when they're at least partly loaded. While overall ride quality is good, rough roads can make things a little jittery in the cabin when running with an empty bed.

Cornering is stable, but (consistent with the vehicle height and a pickup's job description) not sporty. Winter

driving comes with the understanding that — even with power applied through all wheels — a 4x4 pickup is light in the tail. Some strategically placed sandbags (in the box, near the wheel wells), can go a long way to counteract that truck-typical condition.

The Ford F-150's motor menu has expanded to include a turbocharged 3.0L diesel V-6 option.

F-150s are offered in three cab configurations — regular, SuperCab (with smaller, rear-hinged back doors), and SuperCrew, which is fitted with four full-size doors. The three cabs are complemented by three bed lengths: 5½-foot, 6½-foot

and 8-foot. The longer two are offered on regular and SuperCab, while the shorter two are available on the SuperCrew. Regardless of size, the pickup boxes can be outfitted with a variety of options (e.g. covers, dividers,

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