



PG: 2 - Placer Subaru

**PG: 4 - Robert Allen Nissan** 



PG: 6 - Gallatin Volkswagen

# Independent Record

In Partnership with



Montana Automobile Dealers Association

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Vehicle shown with accessory equipment.

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### 2017 SUBARU

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2.0 PRM 5DR OPT11

- Electronic Stability
- Wireless Phone Connectivity



HLD11

### or LEASE \$225.00/mo

36 months/12,000 miles per year

\$0 Security Deposit

\$1,800 Down Payment

\$225.00 First Month Lease Payment

\$2,025.00 Total Due at

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Lease Signing OAC

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### 2018 SUBARU

2.5i OPT01

- Electronic Stability
- Wireless connectivity
- 2018 Safety Award



\$1,759.00 Total Due at

#### Lease Signing OAC

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### **Placer Motors**

#### **By Lacey Middlestead**

American automobile racer, Bobby Unser said, "Success is where preparation and opportunity meet."

The combination of five years of preparation and the perfect plot of dirt led to the opening of Placer Motors' successful new service and parts center in May 2016.

"We're now a one stop shop capable of fulfilling all of our customers' service needs," said owner Erick Anderson.

Placer started unofficially around 1920 and has been operating as a company in Helena for over 75 years. The business has been in the same family the whole time, making Erik the fourth generation Anderson at the helm.

Prior to the opening of their new service facility, Placer Motors had been operating out of the same six-bay center for about 50 years. The new facility more than doubled Placer's capacity and today boasts 16 bays with six service technicians and two lube technicians capable of servicing any make and model of vehicle. It is also the largest Subaru service facility in four surrounding states. Customers visiting the service center are not



only met by the modern looking facade of the building but can now drive straight through the service doors on the west end of the building to park inside. Once a vehicle is finished being serviced, it exits through a door on the east end for a streamlined flow of traffic.

"Our goal is to provide excellent service in a timely manner," said Anderson. "We keep things

#### "Our goal is to provide excellent service in a timely manner."

rotating smoothly through the center." Once inside, customers are greeted by one of the service advisors who then directs them to relax in the spacious customer lounge. The lounge features a large gas fireplace, television, children's play area, and a refreshment area with drinks and snacks.

"We now offer a comfortable and beautiful waiting room for our customers to wait in," said Anderson.

Anderson wanted more than just a flashy new facility for his customers, however. He also wanted the best technicians he could find to repair and maintain every vehicle that drives through the doors.

Heading up Placer's Service Center is John Johnson. Not only has Johnson been with Placer Motors for over 25 years, he was also named Subaru's 2016 Technician of the Year.

"It's really great to have a service manager that knows the car so well inside and out," said Anderson. "He has a genuine concern for the customer and his knowledge of cars is unsurpassed."

Under Johnson are two master technicians— Eric Taffs and Wyatt Wadman. Anderson explained that in order to achieve master status, technicians must successfully complete specialized Subaru training and have at least five years Subaru experience. In 2016, Taffs was also recognized as Motor Age Technician of the year. Anderson shared that a few other technicians are "rapidly" approaching master level status. With Johnson on hand as a resource and mentor, Placer maintains a staff of highly skilled service technicians.

In addition to the new and expanded service area, Placer Motors also now has an expanded parts department headed up by parts manager, Rob Furtney. A better selection of parts is able to be stocked in house which means Placer's technicians can fix vehicles quicker than before. Placer Motor's new service center has not only increased their capacity but also left the business room to grow down the road. With over 75 years under their belt, Placer Motors shows no signs of slowing down. And despite all the changes the business has seen over the past year and a half, their main concern remains on the customers who have supported them from the beginning.

"It's all about the customer," said Anderson. "The ability to take care of our customers, get things fixed right the first time, and send them home confident in the place that repaired their vehicle is what it's all about."



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### **Robert Allen Nissan**

#### By Lacey Middlestead

The Robert Allen Nissan dealership in Helena is in the business of selling cars, but their primary focus from day to day is on their customers. The family-owned dealership, which first opened its doors nine years ago, has flourished throughout the years and today is the largest Nissan dealership in Montana. With a parking lot full of new and used inventory and 44 experienced and friendly staff, customers will have no trouble finding a vehicle that fits their needs and budget.

According to Kenny Simpson, executive manager, helping customers find the perfect vehicle comes down to assessing their wants and needs and then pairing those with a vehicle that fits comfortably in their budget. For Simpson, the most rewarding part of his work is helping clients navigate the purchase of their very first new vehicle. "That's a pretty cool thing to be able to share in," said Simpson. Robert Allen Nissan also offers a quality selection of pre-owned and certified preowned vehicles. What exactly are certified pre-owned vehicles? Take all of the things that make a Nissan a good vehicle like the style, performance and added features and add in the confidence of a thorough 167 point inspection, a CARFAX Vehicle History Report, and a 7 year/1000,000 mile limited warranty. To qualify for Nissan certified pre-owned status, vehicles must be less than six years old with less than 80,000 miles on the odometer and have a clean non-branded title. Robert Allen's certified pre-owned vehicles give you that extra boost of confidence you need to finalize the purchase

you've been wanting.

In addition to the quality vehicles they sell, Robert Allen Nissan also offers a Warranty Forever program to their customers. Under this program, all qualifying vehicles under 100,000 miles come with a lifetime powertrain warranty at no cost to the customer. This includes both new and used vehicles. All the more reason to purchase and maintain a vehicle through the dealership.

*"We're in the business to create relationships over a lifetime."* 

smoothly. All of their technicians are certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and are capable of working on any make or model of vehicle.

Over the last nine years, Robert Allen Nissan has continued to grow in both size and success as a dealership, but it never forgets that it owes its achievements to the community surrounding it. As a way to say thank you to the Helena community for its support of the dealership over the past year, Robert Allen Nissan has also recently been holding a giveaway through their Facebook page and giving away tickets to a private screening of Star Wars: The Last Jedi on December 15.

At Robert Allen Nissan the customer comes first followed by the vehicle. The staff dedicate themselves to taking care of each and every one of their customers and building lasting

Robert Allen Nissan extends its high standards to its service department as well, which prides itself on providing exceptional service in a timely manner. From oil changes to transmission replacements, the service staff are committed to keeping your vehicle running relationships with them.

"We're in the business to create relationships over a lifetime," said Simpson. "It's not just about a onetime sale."



To you and yours, we wish you the Joys of the Season, and a New Year filled with many paths to happiness.



you'll probably pay too much.

From Everyone at Robert Allen Nissan

3135 Prospect Ave. Helena MT 59601

406-442-2886

I WANT A CAR FOR CHRISTMAS | 12-21-2017

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### Gallatin Volkswagen VOLKSWAGEN goes electric

To help consumers move past the whole diesel engine debacle, Volkswagen has announced its ambitious goal to offer 20 rechargeable hybrid or fully electric models worldwide by 2020. The manufacturer also aspires to be the world's foremost supplier of electric vehicles by 2025, aiming to sell a million units each year.

The first fully electric Volkswagen car to hit the North American market is the e-Golf, whose 35.8-kWh lithium-ion battery has an estimated range of 124 miles. The fun-to-drive e-Golf is powered by a 134-horsepower electric engine with 214 lb.-ft. of torque. To make the e-Golf stand out from other Golf versions, designers have redesigned the bumpers and wheels in addition to installing front and rear LED lights.

One of the most-awaited models this fall is the second-generation Tiguan, which was released in Europe last year. For the North American market, the Tiguan's frame features a wheelbase that's 4.37 inches longer than its European counterpart. The 2018 Tiguan is 10.7 inches longer than its predecessor, which translates into a more spacious interior for both passengers and cargo. The standard engine is a turbocharged 2.0-L 4-cylinder that outputs 184 horsepower and 221 lb.-ft. of torque.

Another much-awaited release is the all-new Atlas. This 7-seat SUV, which sits between the Tiguan and the Touareg hierarchically, was designed specifically for the needs of North American drivers. It's assembled on the new MQB modular platform, which allowed engineers to position the engine laterally. Despite its impressive size, the Atlas is light enough to be powered by a turbocharged 2.0-L 235-horsepower 4-cylinder engine. Alternatively, the AWDequipped Atlas comes with a 276-horsepower 3.6-L V6. Given the right equipment, this powerhouse can haul up to 5000 pounds.



The Volkswagen e-Golf





The 2018 Volkswagen Atlas



### GALLATIN VOLKSWAGEN 8340 HUFFINE LANE • BOZEMAN, MT

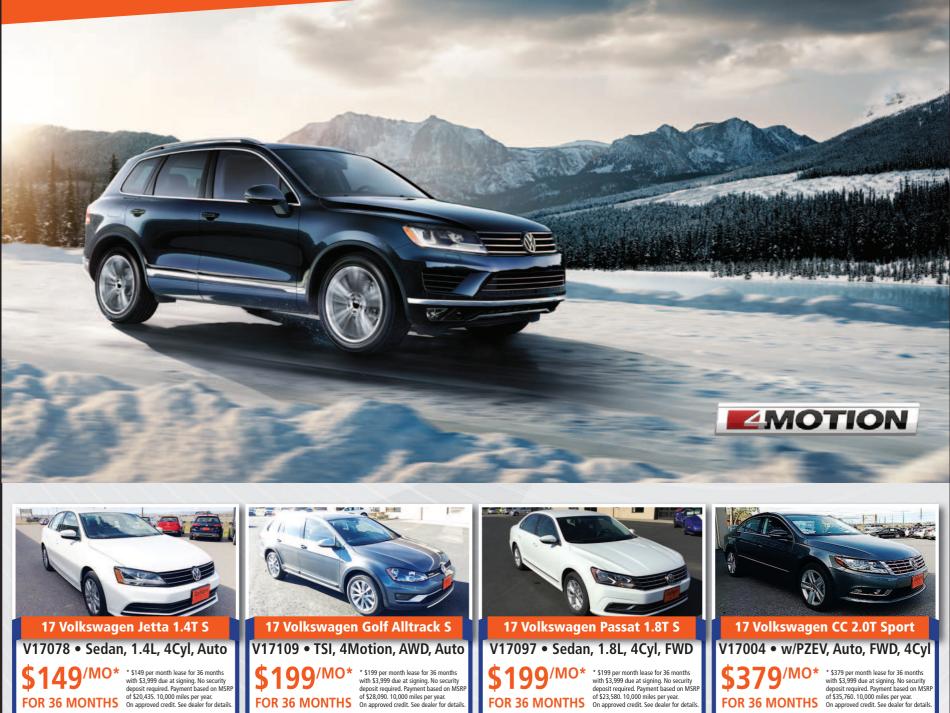
Merry Christmas from all of us at Gallatin Volkswagen!

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## BUYING A NEW CAR CHECKLIST

#### **1. SET YOUR BUDGET**

Determine the amount you can afford to pay every month. Keep in mind

#### **3.TEST DRIVE THE CAR**

A test drive is essential in order to assess the vehicle for comfort, blind spots,

that a bigger down payment will help you significantly lower your monthly payments. Don't forget to take into account all the other expenses involved in owning a car: fuel, maintenance, insurance and annual registration costs.

#### 2. DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT AND NEED

Which model best suits your requirements: are you planning on starting a family soon, or you already have children? You'd like to be able to carry heavy loads when necessary? Your main priority is fuel efficiency? Think about whether you need an automatic or manual transmission and air conditioning or a backup camera. Decide which features are essential for you and which ones are luxuries you can do without. quality of ride and the engine's pep. Ideally, you should test the car at night and during the day, in the city and on the highway. Tip: try a few cars to compare them, and ask someone to go along with you for a second opinion.

#### 4. NEGOTIATE

Did the test drive convince you? You now need to agree on the price. Ask all the questions you can think of and make sure you understand what the price includes. If you buy a used vehicle, check its history and have it inspected by an independent mechanic to avoid having any unpleasant surprises later on. The details are settled and you're ready to shake hands? Read over all sales documents before signing them. Then, once your car is properly insured, you'll be ready to hit the road.

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