

The SILVER STAR



Mercedes-Benz Club of America • Sierra Nevada Section • August 2020



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**AUGUST
 FIRST TUESDAY
 DINNER**
 (SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)



Museum Stroll & Dinner

Members Enjoy Social-Distanced Tour & Outdoor Cantina

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

It was a hot summer's afternoon in mid-July when 20 members of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes®-Benz Club of America gathered at the National Automobile Museum in Reno for a socially distanced stroll. Club members always get free admission to the museum, which has been a treasured piece of The Biggest Little City for more than 30 years. The self-guided tour wound through the expansive museum, taking guests through a timeline of historic cars. Standout Mercedes-Benz favorites included a 1936 Type 500K Special Roadster/Sindelfingen and a 1956 300 SL Sports Coupe Gullwing.

Movie aficionados in the group par-

ticularly enjoyed seeing the 1941 Lana Turner Chrysler Newport Dual Cowl Phaeton, the 1949 James Dean Mercury Series 9CM 2934 Convertible, and the 1953 Chevrolet Master Series CA Phaeton that was originally owned by John Wayne. After perusing the museum at a leisurely pace, many members helped to support the museum by making various purchases in the gift shop. These included mugs, posters, and a few tenacious members even tried their luck purchasing raffle tickets for a 2004 Jaguar XKB Convertible. The National Automobile Museum's annual raffle ticket sales benefit the nonprofit's educational and historical efforts. The winning ticket will be drawn Novem-

(Continued on Page 3)

PRESIDENT'S EXHAUST



Making the Best of It *Times Flies When You're Having Fun*

July has flown by so fast this year, and we have been continuing to fill up our summer with as many fun activities as possible. Vence and I have been spending some time with friends and family while still keeping a safe distance. Traveling by car seems to be the safest way to go, and we are grateful for each and every moment we get to spend with people. One nice thing about the ongoing pandemic is it sure makes us appreciate seeing everyone when we can.

On that note, we are looking forward to seeing you all on August 4, 2020, for dinner at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at The Summit in Reno at 5:30 p.m. Bill Shepherd is hosting this event so be sure to RSVP to him at billshep38@gmail.com or (775) 843-4616.

We had a wonderful time in June at the National Automobile Museum in

Reno. The museum staff certainly appreciated our support and gave everyone a chance to see all the nice changes they have made there. Afterwards we dined at Bertha Miranda's on the patio in tables of four. Dinner was excellent, and even though it was a little warm out, we had a great time visiting with each other while still being able to practice social distancing.

If anyone cares to plan a drive, event, or a dinner in the future, please let someone on the Board of Directors know so that we can help you coordinate it. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Stay safe and healthy until we meet again.

Gail Wells
President



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SIERRA NEVADA MBCA FORMER PRESIDENTS

Marc Dodson • 2011
Gary Dyer • 2012 & 2013
Sherry Avilla • 2014
Don Williams • 2015 & 2016
Gary Dyer • 2017
Bill Shepherd • 2018 & 2019

The Silver Star is the official publication of The Sierra Nevada Section of MBCA, however, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Sierra Nevada Section, MBCA, or its officers.



Museum & Dinner

(Continued from Page 1)

ber 5, 2020, at the museum's 31st anniversary party. Maybe there will be a 2004 Jaguar in the parking lot of our Christmas party in December. We will have to wait and see.

Following the museum stroll, 16 club members crossed the street to Bertha Miranda's Mexican Restaurant and Cantina for dinner and drinks on the outdoor patio. Thankfully, the National Automobile Museum was kind enough

to let the group leave their cars in its gated parking lot. Two longtime members, Michael Garcia and Dee Rose, joined the group and were able to meet lots of new, friendly faces. At Bertha's, authentic Mexican cuisine was enjoyed by all, including tacos, nachos, quesadillas, taquitos, tamales, enchiladas, and much more. Nearly every table had margaritas perched on top, and a few club members enjoyed shots of

tequila. It was a refreshing end to an enjoyable summer evening with friends and fellow car enthusiasts.

The next Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America event is August's First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Bill and Lori Shepherd at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at The Summit in Reno. To RSVP, contact Bill Shepherd at billshep38@gmail.com or (775) 843-4616. 



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Wayne Jarvis

Honoring a Club Member's Long & Fulfilling Life

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor



On Sunday, July 5, 2020, the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America lost a treasured member as Wayne Jarvis passed away. Just shy of his 90th birthday, Wayne lost his 18-year battle with COPD, having endured a strong and tough fight with the relentless disease. Born on October 14, 1930, Wayne was married to his lovely wife, Nancy, for almost 55 years. He lived a long and fulfilling life, tackling everything on his bucket list.

Wayne graduated from the University of Southern California with a de-

gree in industrial engineering. He was a partner in a CPA firm in Los Angeles, California, and later worked as a private-industry CPA. A United States Army veteran, Wayne served in the Korean War and spent some time overseas. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, as well as his children, Jennifer, Bret, and Patricia.

At Wayne's request there was no service or celebration of life following his passing. Instead, his wife finds it more appropriate that his friends toast to him at 5:00 p.m. one night, preferably with Wayne's drink of choice: scotch. If you wish to make a memorial contribu-



tion in his memory, please donate to a charity of your choice. Nancy appreciates the club's thoughtfulness but assures us that she has more food than she can possibly eat at this time, so she does not need the wonderful cooks in the club to provide her with any more. 🚗

Happy Birthday

We Celebrated the Birth of the Automobile in July

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

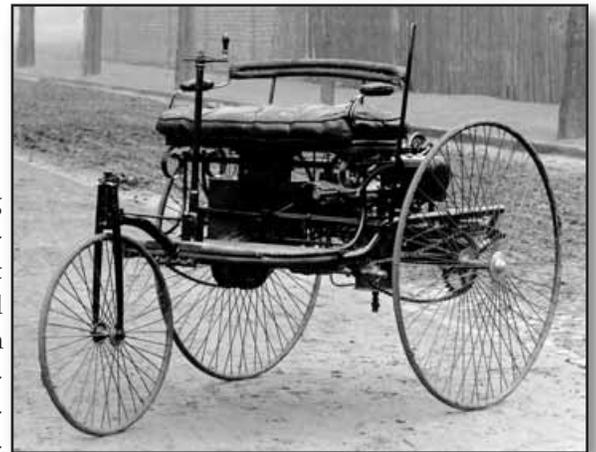


In Germany in the 1870s, Karl Benz was working diligently to develop a gasoline-powered two-stroke piston engine. By the following decade, he had turned his attention on inventing a motorized vehicle that was propelled by an internal combustion engine. In 1885, his work paid off, as he built the Benz Patent-Motorwagen, widely regarded as the world's first production automobile. Awarded a German patent in January 1886, the Benz Patent-Motorwagen was unveiled to the public on July 3, 1886, at the Ringstrasse in Mannheim, Germany. It came with a price tag of 600 imperial German marks.

The two-seater Benz Patent-Motorwagen used a single-cylinder four-stroke engine with trembler coil ignition. The engine, also known as the Benz 954 cc, produced 3/4 horsepower and weighed just 220 lbs. It had an

open crankcase and drip oiling system, as well as a more modern pushrod-operated poppet valve exhaust. Benz employed an integrated approach when he was developing his Patent-Motorwagen, meaning the engine, chassis, and drive components were exactly matched to each other and formed a single unit.

Bertha Benz, Karl's wife, financed the development process with her sizable dowry. She was also keenly aware that Europe needed to know about the Benz Patent-Motorwagen, and she had a brave idea to gain publicity. In August 1888, Bertha, along with her 14-year-old son Richard and 15-year-old son Eugen, took the Benz Patent-Motorwagen on its first long-distance trip to demonstrate its feasibility. Without her husband's knowledge, they rode from Mannheim to her maternal hometown of Pforzheim, Germany, a trip that



clocked in at 121 miles. Every two years, a parade of antique automobiles recreates the historic journey of the world's first long-distance internal combustion automobile road trip.

Although the Benz Patent-Motorcar quickly evolved into its more modern iterations, this incredible invention changed and formed the way the world travels. The automobile's patent, originally submitted to the Imperial Patent Office in Berlin, Germany, is now part of the UNESCO world documentary heritage program and is on display as part of the Memory of the World program. 🚗

Ambition2039

Mercedes-Benz Pledges to Go Carbon Neutral

by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry

The European Union aims to be climate-neutral by 2050, meaning that it would have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This transition would include all parts of society and economic sectors, including power, mobility, buildings, agriculture, and forestry. This, of course, includes automobile manufacturing. Mercedes-Benz, however, has announced an incredible goal of reaching a carbon-neutral status within two decades. The Mercedes plan has been given the name *Ambition2039*, which is a nod to the year the carmaker plans to accomplish its goal.

The first step in making the fleet carbon neutral is by decarbonizing the factories that produce the luxury automobiles. Demonstration plants have been launched in order to test how a carbon-neutral future would roll out for the company. Factory 56 at the existing Sindelfingen, Germany, plant is already powered by renewable energy, and Mercedes hopes to use the same technology in the rest of its European plants by 2022. The roof of Factory 56 is covered with a photovoltaic system, supplying the workshop with self-producing green electricity. Factory 56 will set the standards for worldwide automobile production, for all manufacturers, not just Mercedes.

THE FUTURE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF DAIMLER AG, OLA KÄLLENIUS, PRESENTED THE CORPORATE STRATEGY FOR AMBITION2039.



Furthermore, Mercedes is also incorporating recycling into its decarbonizing plans. Part of *Ambition2039* includes having up to 85% of the company's vehicles recycled. Mercedes is researching ways to recycle lithium-ion batteries, as well as collaborating with suppliers and waste-disposal partners to initiate appropriate recycling and disposal strategies. This recycling initiative also includes raw materials, and will encompass four stages: reuse, repair, remanufacture, and re-materialize.

While much of a Mercedes automobile is designed, produced, and assembled in house, the company does rely on a few contractors to manufacture specific parts. Part of the decarbonizing plan, however, would include contract stipulations that require outside manufacturers to reduce carbon usage. "From 2022, the production of our Mercedes-Benz plants in Germany will operate as carbon neutral. Thereby, we completely forego coal-based electricity and obtain our electrical energy from only renewable sources," explained Markus Schäfer, Member of the Board of Management, Daimler AG Group.

Part of the company's new vision for climate change mitigation is its recently unveiled EQC generation of electric cars. While the EQC line is made up of passenger vehicles, Mercedes has announced plans to incorporate greener powertrains into its entire commercial fleet, which includes trucks and buses. In fact, by 2030, Mercedes aims to have all-electric models or hybrids make up more than 1/2 of its total car sales. Building fewer combustion engines will help Mercedes reach its goal of drastically cutting its carbon footprint over the next couple decades.

This plan also includes the Mercedes-Benz Formula One racing team. "I think that by Mercedes making a change and taking action, others will react and do the same thing," said six-time Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton. "I'd like to think we've been the catalyst in that movement." Mercedes is certainly setting the pace for the global sprint to carbon-neutral production, and is on track to win the race. 🏁

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An Evil Automobile

Is the Mercedes-Benz 600 Grosser History's Most Evil Automobile?

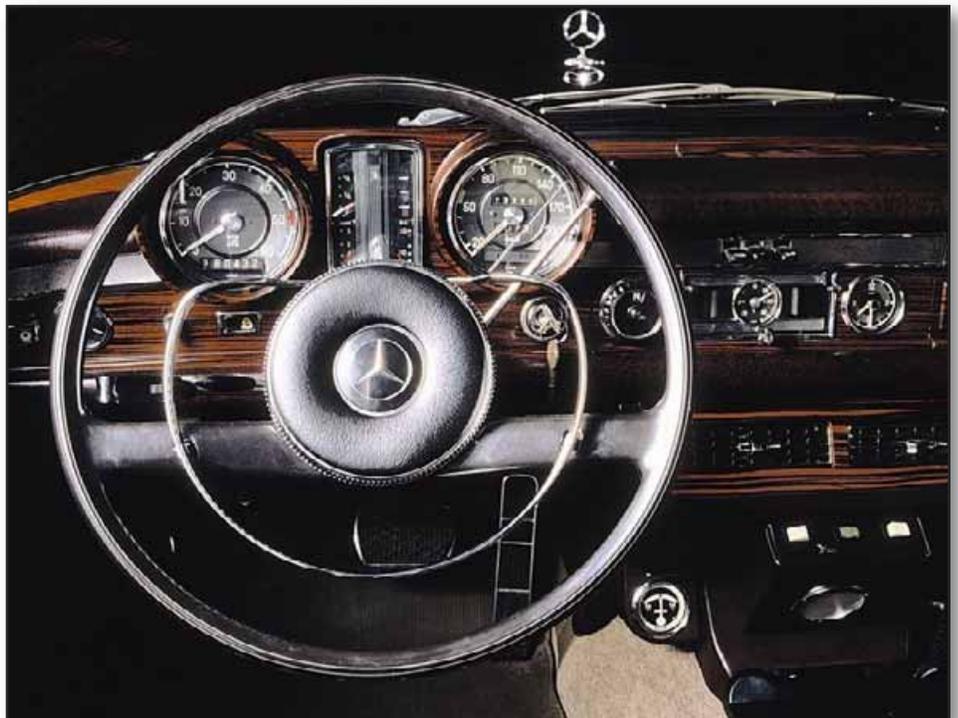
by Ali Turner, Reporter for the Automotive Industry



What makes a car evil?

You could say the Mercedes-Benz® 600 Grosser is evil by association. Some of the most notoriously heinous and villainous dictators have owned the ultra-luxury car, including Saddam Hussein, Papa Doc Duvalier, Chairman Mao, Kim Jong-il, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, and many more. It's worth noting that many celebrities, arguably not evil, have owned the 600 Grosser as well, including Coco Chanel, David Bowie, Eric Clapton, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis Presley, Hugh Hefner, Jack Nicholson, Pope John Paul VI, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Beatles. I guess Paul McCartney wasn't a fan?

Only 2,677 were built between 1963 and 1981, with the majority of them being short-wheelbase models. It was first introduced at the Frankfurt International Auto Show in 1963, replacing the Adenauer 300. With its production coming to a halt in 1981, the 600 Grosser, which means grand in German,



marked the last ultra-luxury model that Mercedes produced in an unbroken timeline since 1903. Some car aficionados consider the Mercedes-Maybach S-Class to be a successor to the 600 Grosser, but the price point is much

lower despite having similar bespoke touches that aren't available in the standard S-Class.

Competitors to the 600 Grosser during its day included the Rolls-Royce®

(Continued on Page 8)



LEFT: LIBYAN RULER MUAMMAR GADDAFI.
BELOW: KING FAHD BIN ABDULAZIZ OF SAUDI ARABIA
& EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK.



An Evil Automobile

(Continued from Page 7)

Silver Cloud III, Silver Shadow, and Phantom V, as well as the Bentley S3 and Lincoln® Continental Lehmann-Peterson. The 600 Grosser has three options: short-wheelbase model, which is best for the owner-drivers; long-wheelbase model; and limousine model, of which the last two were meant for chauffeurs, as they came with central

dividers inside the car. Pricing started at \$20,000 in 1965, or \$152,000 in today's value, and it was the most expensive car of its day.

An evil man, or woman, needs an intimidating car to help keep up their nefarious reputation. You can't be responsible for the systematic destruction of your people and drive a Datsun.

These evil leaders needed a big, evil-looking car to match their big, evil personalities. The Mercedes 600 Grosser was a monster of an automobile at almost 21' long, nearly 6,000 lbs., and was powered by a 6.3-liter V8 engine. Even the ubiquitous Mercedes logo star on the hood is 20% larger, to compensate

(Continued on Page 9)

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ABOVE: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC EMPEROR JEAN-BEDEL BOKASSA. BELOW: NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG-IL.

An Evil Automobile

(Continued from Page 8)

for the sheer massiveness of the chassis.

The 600 Grosser had many features that could be considered tailor-made for the dictatorial type. It had the ability to cruise at 100 mph, and it had a top speed of 135 mph. Fleeing a crime scene never looked so luxurious. A revolutionary 2,200 psi hydraulic pump operated the car's self-leveling air suspension, power disc brakes, seats, trunk, windows, and sunroof, and also opened the doors. Hundreds of feet of hydraulic tubing made for an extremely smooth ride, even over dirt, gravel, and uneven terrain.

The engine-driven hydraulic system dispersed customizable power throughout the car. For example, riders could press the switch lightly to raise or lower the window slowly, or they could use the 3,200 psi and press the switch hard and have the glass shoot up into its socket. With the same amount

of force as an industrial pressure washer, the glass could take a limb off. Surely that would come in handy when you're a detested dictator driving through perilous areas.

The 600 Grosser had a normal 1960s Mercedes-sounding horn, but it also employed a twin-tone horn powered by compressed air that was so loud it could shatter granite. For those that needed more protection from the proletariat, Mercedes armored 41 of these vehicles for unexpected uprisings. This included not only armored plating, but also bulletproof glass.

Known now for its wicked fan base, the Mercedes 600 Grosser is a true ex-



ample of the marriage between wealth and power in the mid-20th century. In addition to its powerful hydraulics and impressive speed, other fun amenities dazzled the interior, including a mini-bar with a center-console fridge. While its hyperbolic history precedes its name, the exclusive 600 Grosser is an intoxicating addition to the Mercedes-Benz lineup.



WELCOME NEW SIERRA NEVADA MBCA MEMBERS...
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ITEMS OF INTEREST

The National Automobile Museum

Sierra Nevada MBCA is a Proud Sponsor of This Great Museum Here in Reno



Here in Reno, we're lucky to be home to one of the top-rated auto museums in the world, The National Automobile Museum. Your Sierra Nevada MBCA Section is a proud sponsor!

What does that mean to you? Well, since your club is the sponsor of a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing on prominent display at the museum, all of our members get special benefits:

- Members get free admission into the facility, plus a 50% discount for any guests, during normal business hours.
- Members can request free guided tours of the museum, subject to the availability of the tour guides.

• Members receive a 10% discount at the National Auto Museum gift shop. Besides automotive books and car memorabilia, this also includes the full line of Meguiars Automotive cleaning products that are sold through the gift shop.

The museum has our member list on file, so just tell the cashier your name and that you're a member of the Sierra Nevada Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. You'll get your free museum admission and discount at the gift shop.

The National Automobile Museum is located at 10 South Lake Street in Reno, (775) 333-9300.

Sierra Nevada MBCA Name Badges

We encourage all members to wear their MBCA name badges to all Sierra Nevada section meetings and events. WHAT???

You don't have a Sierra Nevada name badge? Right now you're probably thinking, "How can I, a mere mortal, achieve the level of prestige and acclaim of those that proudly display their Sierra Nevada MBCA name badges for all to see?"

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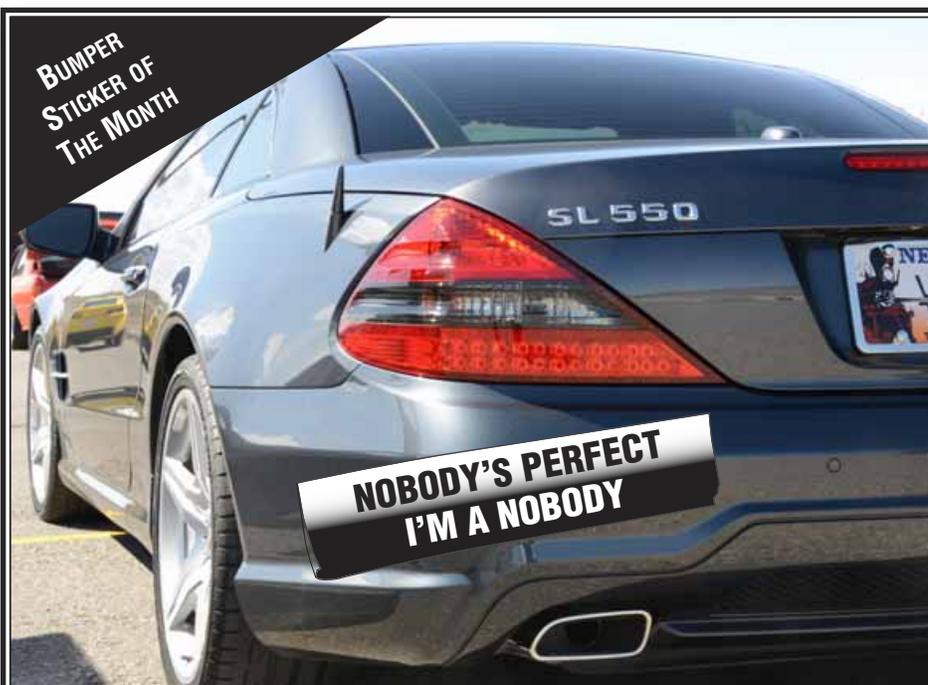
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Be sure and order the magnet-backed version.



EVENTS

August 4, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Bill & Lori Shepherd, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse at The Summit, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Bill Shepherd at billshep38@gmail.com or (775) 843-4616

August 25, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Drive & Dinner, hosted by Marcus & Christy Dodson, Fox Brewpub, Carson City, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marcus Dodson at marcus@dodsonpublications.com or (775) 997-9901

September 1, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

October 6, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Karen & Lloyd Gash, Napa Sonoma Plumgate, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Karen Gash at karinmrich1946@icloud.com or (775) 851-1439

October 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Overnight Drive & Wine Tasting to Nevada City, California, hosted by the Board of Directors, Date To Be Determined

November 3, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

December 1, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, hosted by Marc & Sue Dodson, Sasquatch Tavern & Grill, Verdi, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Marc Dodson at marc.v.dodson@gmail.com or (775) 771-1080

December 16, 2020: Sierra Nevada MBCA Christmas Party, hosted by Ray Rich, Brick's Restaurant & Wine Bar, Reno, Nevada. To RSVP, contact Ray Rich at rayrich@sbcglobal.net or (775) 560-9592

January 5, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

February 2, 2021: Sierra Nevada MBCA First Tuesday Dinner, Location To Be Determined

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Checking Out

Exiting Life in a Less-Than-Stellar Manner

by Marcus Dodson, Newsletter Editor

(Editor's Note: The following story may have absolutely nothing to do with Mercedes or automobiles, but we feel it's interesting nonetheless. If you have a humorous or interesting story you would like to submit for this column, call us at (775) 997-9901.)



Life is fleeting, and all it takes is a momentary lack of judgment to end the process prematurely. Sometimes, judgment isn't even involved. If you ever hear anyone say, "Hold my beer and watch this," get ready to dial 911.

🔴 *New Carrollton, Maryland:* Officials found a dead body mysteriously crumpled at the bottom of an escalator at the local Amtrak® station. With no idea what caused the accident, they watched the CCTV cameras. The recording showed a man running up the down escalator shortly after midnight. When he reached the top, no doubt out of breath, he lost his balance and tumbled backward, falling all the way down the moving stairs and hitting his head at the bottom. Pieces of clothing were found stuck in the escalator when news crews arrived on the scene, and fabric may have been a factor in the fumble. No trains were running at the time of the tumble.

🔴 *Andaman Islands, India:* John Allen Chau, a self-proclaimed world explorer and Christian missionary, was killed by the very tribe of natives he was offering eternal life. According to the BBC in India, Chau bribed six fishermen to ferry him to the off-limits island so he could offer the Sentinelese tribe gifts of scissors, a soccer ball, and

Jesus. The young man paddled to the island in a kayak and was immediately attacked by arrows, but continued walking. The fishermen then witnessed the natives tying a rope around his neck and dragging his body along the shore. They were clearly rejecting his gifts. The tribe, the most isolated on earth, has taken a well documented, zero-tolerance approach to visitors since a British occupation almost wiped them out during the 1800's. Chau's remains were unrecovered.

🔴 *Wellington, New Zealand:* Howard Miller, a professional welder, ignored high-school basic chemistry in favor of a timesaving invention. Miller was helping a friend weld an exhaust pipe onto a classic Holden Kingswood sedan. He arrived at the garage shed with an experimental welding kit that included an LPG bottle, similar to a propane tank, in which he had mixed both components that make up oxy-acetylene welding gas: acetylene and oxygen. Professional welders know that these components are kept in separate tanks because, when combined, they burn hot enough to cut metal. It was a time-saver, but an accident waiting to happen. Miller's friend took one look at the device, recognized the danger, and repeatedly warned that it was crazy. The friend ran out of the shed while Miller, undeterred by a bit of panic, attached a torch head straight onto the bottle and lit the welding tip. Without a regulator, the flame crept back into the bottle and the inevitable explosion flattened the shed, which also contained about 20 liters of paint thinner and gasoline. The force of the explosion was so intense it

shattered the windows of neighboring properties.

🔴 *Wanaquer, New Jersey:* A man died in a vehicle fire after he drove around barricade cones and onto live power wires. The person in question was on his way to his father's house to shovel the driveway. After the second storm in a week, hundreds of thousands were left without power. Utility crews worked overtime to deal with downed trees and electric lines and traffic congestion frustrated motorists along the highway. Not wanting to lose time, one genius simply navigated around bright orange traffic cones warning motorists of a hazardous downed wire. Officers arrived to find the vehicle fully engulfed in flames. A live power line was sputtering in the roadway near the vehicle. The fire totally gutted the car, and the driver was pronounced dead at the scene. Ironically, the deceased was employed as an electrician.

🔴 *Odisha, India:* Driving home from a wedding, Prabhu Bhatara idled the car on the roadside to relieve himself in the woods. From a squatting position he spied an injured bear. Obviously, a great photo op... so he proceeded to take a selfie of himself with the distressed animal. Meanwhile, the passengers in his car pulled out their mobiles to record the carnage. As he neared the bear, the passengers advised him against his plan. Bhatara, however, was determined to get that selfie. Once he was within reaching distance, though, the bear was not as injured as it appeared and lunged forward, pinning Bhatara to the ground, "killing him on the spot," according to Forest Ranger Dhanurjaya Mohapatra. 🚗