

# DAILY NEWS

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## Amped for gramps Hyundai SUV voted #1 for older drivers

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Tell Gramps to ditch that old Packard and jump behind the wheel of a [Hyundai Veracruz](#).

The crossover SUV has been rated the best ride for senior citizens, a study by the [American Automobile Association](#) and the [University of Florida](#) shows.

The car was featured yesterday at the New York International Auto Show at the bustling [Javits Center on Manhattan](#)'s far West Side. More than a million visitors will flock to see a thousand new cars and trucks over the next week despite a challenging economy.

The AAA survey identified 20 features that making driving safer and more enjoyable for the gray-haired crowd.

The Veracruz had all of them, including keyless ignition to help arthritic hands, large and clear dashboard buttons, and heated seats with lumbar support.

Other senior-friendly features include adjustable foot pedals to accommodate shrinking body frames and airbags that deploy gently.

"We've really broken the stereotype of what an old folk's car should look like," said [John Nielsen](#), AAA's director of automotive repair, standing next to a [Ford Edge](#) and a [Honda Element](#).

Despite all those jokes about old people being terrible drivers, University of Florida researcher [Dennis McCarthy](#) said it's a myth.

"Older drivers are among the safest drivers," he said, adding that mature motorists are less likely to speed or drink and more likely to wear their seat belts.

The auto show runs through March 30. Yesterday was the sneak public preview, but the official opening is today. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. and the show floor opens at 11 a.m.