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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" NEW CENTER NEWS

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Warner Bros. Sets Up Used Car Lot on Oakland Campus

The current "buzz movie" being filmed in metro Detroit is one that landed at the Oakland University campus in Rochester over the last couple of weeks.

Informally it has been called "the Tornado movie" by locals who are working as part of the film crew, but its formal name is actually "Black Sky."

The Warner Bros. film crew at OU had wrapped up shooting segments on the OU campus last week, although the film crew will be shooting elsewhere in southeast Michigan through the end of September.

"We're here (at Oakland) because of all of the open spaces," said film publicist Tammy Sandler, who is representing Warner Bros. for the production.

"We built a used car lot and office. The 'tornado' came through and wiped out all the cars."

The Warner Bros. film crew was shooting with several different units set up in OU's south, commuter parking lots near Squirrel Road and Pioneer Dr.

A visit to the main set following shooting revealed a still-standing building with signage that read, "Radomski Auto Sales, New and Used. Financing. Largest Selection of New and Pre-Owned."

There were a dozen or so used

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



On the set of "Black Sky" in the OU parking lot last week.



Kelsey Kobylarek, left, and Erika Nieman.

Metro Area Community College Students Land Roles in 'Black Sky' as Extras

How about a hand for Macomb Community College students Kelsey Kobylarek and her sidekick, Erika Nieman?

The women are undergraduates at MCC's Warren campus

and there last week they talked about how they landed roles in the "Black Sky" movie being filmed on Oakland University's campus. Kobylarek is a sophomore at MCC and she will trans-

fer to OU in the fall of 2013. She and Nieman are budsters from their high school days at Warren Mott a few years back.

"I was in the tornado scenes," Kobylarek said of the OU filming,

which included scenes where each young woman portrayed a high school student in a moment where the tornado blew through the school. That scene was filmed at a local middle school.

Autos Aim to Talk with Road Environment

by Gerald Scott

Ten or 15 years from now when the "connected vehicle" infrastructure is in place and working in a practical sense, perhaps Aug. 21, 2012 will be viewed as the turning point.

That is, that was day that the U.S. Dept. of Transportation and its many Motor City partners – including GM and Ford – kicked off the so-called "Safety Pilot" project, an ambitious \$25 million federal program designed to finally prove out the promising vehicle-to-vehicle, and vehicle-to-infrastructure technology.

"This really is a big deal," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in his remarks at the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) in Ann Arbor, the host entity for the Smart Pilot project.

"Today is a big moment for automotive safety. This cutting-edge technology offers real promise for improving both the safety and efficiency of our roads. That is a winning combination for drivers across America."

Indeed, the ambitious Safety Pilot program promises that nearly 3,000 cars, trucks and buses equipped with "connected" Wi-Fi technology to enable vehicles and infrastructure to "talk" to each other in real time to help avoid crashes and improve traffic flow will begin traversing Ann Arbor's streets as part of this year-long, safety pilot project.

Safety Pilot is described as the largest road test to date of connected vehicle / crash avoidance technology.

Conducted by UMTRI, the road test, or model deployment, is a first-of-its-kind test of connected vehicle technology in the real world. For the V2I portion of the

program, 73 lane-miles of Ann Arbor roadway have been instrumented with 29 roadside-equipment installations.

The transportation department selected the college town for the program due to its traffic mix, variety of roadway types and characteristics, seasonal weather and proximity to vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

The test cars, trucks and buses, most of which have been supplied by volunteer participants, are equipped with vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communications devices that will gather extensive data about system operability and its effectiveness at reducing crashes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), V2V safety technology could help drivers avoid or reduce the severity of four out of five unimpaired vehicle crashes.

To accomplish this, the model

deployment vehicles will send electronic data messages, receive messages from similarly equipped vehicles, and translate the data into a warning to the driver during specific hazardous traffic scenarios. Such hazards include an impending collision at a blind intersection, a vehicle changing lanes in another vehicle's blind spot, or a rear collision with a vehicle stopped ahead, among others.

GM and Ford supported the kickoff event as they provided Buick Lacrosse and Ford Taurus V2V demonstration vehicles.

"Participating in this program will help GM and our research partners gain a more accurate, detailed understanding of V2V and V2I's potential safety benefits," said Nady Boules, GM Global R&D director of the Electrical and Control Systems Research Lab.

"It is essential that common standards and security framework be established for V2V and



DOT Secy Ray LaHood

V2I technologies so that vehicles from different automakers can communicate and interoperate with each other in a consistent manner."

Perhaps it's no coincidence that the kickoff gathering was held in an UMTRI repair garage on U-M's North Campus.

SiriusXM Hits 50M

Sirius XM Radio has announced that it recently passed 50 million factory vehicle installations of the company's satellite radios.

Since SiriusXM launched 10 years ago, the satellite service's penetration rate as a percentage of new U.S. auto sales has climbed every year.

SiriusXM this year will be factory installed in close to 70 percent of all new vehicles sold in the U.S. SiriusXM is available in vehicles from every major car companies as well as most specialty automakers.

"We are proud that SiriusXM has reached this major milestone since it directly reflects the strong commitment by all automakers to satellite radio and the high level of enjoyment by consumers for our audio entertainment service," said Jim Meyer, president, SiriusXM.

Chrysler Breaks Consumer Reports Barrier



2012 Chrysler 300 SRT8

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Chrysler 300 V6 earned an 83 test score in *Consumer Reports* ratings, which puts it near the top of its class, below only the Hyundai Genesis.

When *Consumer Reports* tested the V8-powered 300C last year, engineers found it to be a huge improvement over the mediocre original.

For 2012, the 300's V6 engine was paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission, which improved driveability and helped the large sedan get a decent 22 mpg in CR's fuel-economy tests.

Rounding out *Consumer Reports'* foursome are the redesigned Hyundai Azera, which

the editors say is more stylish and refined than its predecessor; the Buick LaCrosse equipped with GM's eAssist mild-hybrid system which the magazine calls quiet, luxurious, and economical; and the freshened Ford Taurus.

"The 2011 redesign of the 300 puts Chrysler's flagship back on the map in the large sedan category," said David Champion, Sr. Director of Consumer Reports Automotive Test Center.

"Though the muscular V8-powered 300C delivers more oomph, most buyers will probably be quite happy with the V6 engine, which contributes to its refined

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2