

Tech Center News

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See Mark Twain at Warren Library

On Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m., at the Civic Center Library, the Warren Public Library is presenting a talk titled "Abe Lincoln, Mark Twain, and the Civil War."

During this live theatrical production, performer Dave Elhert, who has operated the first theater in Branson, Mo. since 1994, will portray both Abe Lincoln and Mark Twain and show how a Union President and Confederate deserter fought against slavery and racism in pre- and post-Civil War days. The show is 90 minutes long. To register, call 586-574-4564.

ATHENA Award Set for May 3

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Works editor.

The event will also include a fashion show, vendor displays, raffles, prizes and more. Tickets may be purchased online. Vendor tables are available by contacting Monika Rittner at 586-493-7600.

Event sponsors are Rehabilitation Masters (Gold), HAP (Silver), DTE, DuPont, General Dynamics, General Motors, Henry Ford Macomb Hospitals, McLaren Macomb and Medstar Ambulance (Ivory).

Karmanos Dinner Raises \$2.5 Million

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diagnosed with stage four colon cancer.

Adzigan said she "wouldn't be here if it weren't for the wonderful care and groundbreaking treatments" she's received at Karmanos.

The funds raised at the dinner will go toward supporting Karmanos' new clinical core laboratory, a 4,200-square-foot renovated area in the Karmanos Cancer Center dedicated to laboratory services for Karmanos' patients.

This improvement will mean shorter wait times for patients needing blood test results prior to receiving their cancer treatment. The lab, set to open in October 2013, will generate approximately 34 new jobs, including medical technologists and laboratory assistants. It will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Also announced was the Karmanos Comfort Care Initiative, an opportunity to help make patients' hospital stays more comfortable.

This fund will help provide items such as complementary tea, coffee and snacks; blanket warmers, recliner and sleeper chairs for family overnight visits; and high-back chairs that make it easier for surgical patients to sit and stand after their procedures.

To donate to the Karmanos Comfort Care Initiative, go to www.karmanos.org/annualdinner.

Student Engineers Challenged at Fuel Cell Competition

Students from around metro Detroit electrolyzed distilled water to produce hydrogen at the 2013 SAE Congress recently held at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

In addition to engineers talking about the latest advances in automotive technology, students from around metro Detroit got to participate in contests showing off what they could do.

One of the contests was the third annual "A World In Motion (AWIM) International Fuel Cell Competition," held on April 18. The competition focused on explaining scientific concepts to K-12 students in an easily approachable, hands-on environment.

Sponsored by the General Motors Foundation, the International Fuel Cell Competition invited more than 150 upper elementary and middle school students to compete in utilizing hydrogen fuel cells to power small car models. The competition is judged in four categories: endurance, endurance with weight, accuracy and speed.

Student teams electrolyzed distilled water in a reversible Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell to produce hydrogen that acted as an energy source for the cars' electric motors. With the assistance of teachers and professional industry volunteers, the International Fuel Cell Competition showed students the practical applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in real-world situations.

"Programs like AWIM are an important as they encourage students to become familiar with and interested in STEM-related

subjects," said Karen Nicklin, manager, Educational Initiatives, GM Foundation – a seven-year volunteer with AWIM.

"The General Motors Foundation has played an integral role in helping to create the Fuel Cell Challenge," said Lori Gatmaitan, interim director, SAE Foundation. "This year's Grand Champion, Clippert Academy of Detroit, exuded the passion and excitement that keeps this competition competitive annually."

Competition results were:
2013 Grand Champion – Team #12 (Clippert – Detroit)

Endurance
• 1st - Team #12 (Clippert)
• 2nd - Team #11 (Clippert)
• 3rd - Team #5 (Gompers – Detroit)

Endurance with weight
• 1st - Team #7 (Emerson)
• 2nd - Team #12 (Clippert)
• 3rd - Team #39 (Detroit Country Day School – Bloomfield Hills)

Accuracy
• 1st - Team #10 (Clippert)
• 2nd - Team #12 (Clippert)
• 3rd - Team #28 (Lincoln – Warren)

Speed
• 1st - Team #4 (Gompers)
• 2nd - Team #41 (Detroit Country Day School)
• 3rd - Team #32 (Lincoln)

There was also the SAE International seventh annual AWIM International JetToy Competition on Wednesday, April 17.

Sponsored by Johnson Controls, Bosch, Kia, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services and TRW, the International JetToy Competition invited students to create and compete JetToy vehicles. The

competition was judged in four categories: distance, accuracy, weight carrying and time.

"At a time when the United States is experiencing a STEM crisis, it's refreshing to see students so engaged in collaboration and competition," said Russ Burgei, VP Complete Seat Engineering Americas, Johnson Controls. "We are proud to support a program that gets students passionate about STEM-related fields."

Competition results were:
2013 Grand Champion – Team #7 (St. Michael – Livonia)

Distance
• 1st – Team #76 (St. Edith – Livonia)
• 2nd – Team #26 (Maury – Washington, D.C.)
• 3rd – Team #4 (St. Michael)

Accuracy
• 1st – Team #7 (St. Michael)
• 2nd – Team #49 (Allen – Plymouth)
• 3rd – Team #58 (Cooper – Westland)

Weight
• 1st – Team #33 (Smith – Plymouth)
• 2nd – Team #36 (Smith)
• 3rd – Team #2 (St. Michael)

Time
• 1st – Team #2 (St. Michael)
• 2nd – Team #12 (St. John – Fenton, Mich.)
• 3rd – Team #5 (St. Michael)

The third student contest was the International Motorized Toy Car Competition on Tuesday, April 16. Sponsored by Honeywell and Kia, the International Motorized Toy Car Competition invited more than 150 upper elementary and middle school students to create and compete mo-

torized vehicles.

The competition was judged in four categories: hill climb, speed, obstacle course and weight carrying.

"Our nation faces a crisis in STEM education. In recent studies, 31 percent of eighth-graders scored 'proficient' or better in science," said Tony Schultz, vice president of the Americas, Honeywell Transportation Systems.

"The SAE Foundation programming is helping to erase these deficits by getting students engaged in STEM education through programs like A World in Motion's Motorized Toy Car Competition."

Competition results were:
2013 Grand Champion – Team #5 (St. John – Fenton, Mich.)

15-Degree Hill Climb
• 1st - Team #7 (Roosevelt – Keego Harbor, Mich.)
• 2nd - Team #5 (St. John)
• 3rd - Team #26 (St. John)

30-Degree Hill Climb
• 1st - Team #7 (St. John)
• 2nd - Team #8 (St. John)
• 3rd - Team #21 (St. Edith – Livonia)

Speed
• 1st - Team #8 (St. John)
• 2nd - Team #26 (Roosevelt)
• 3rd - Team #15 (Burton International – Detroit)

Obstacle Course
• 1st - Team #6 (St. John)
• 2nd - Team #21 (St. Edith)
• 3rd - Team #18 (Burton International)

Got News?

If you have solid business news for this paper, please contact us at News@TechCenterNews.com.

'Pent-Up Demand' for New Vehicles Will Drive Car Sales for Several Years

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nies are doing great, Ford's doing great."

Gilbert noted that Ford had just posted that morning a first quarter profit of \$1.6 billion. All the analysts Gilbert said he has talked to say the upward trend for the North American auto industry should continue at least for the next year or so and then stabilize at maybe 16 million vehicles sold per year.

He said in many ways that's a "sweet spot" of sales that should be sustainable and where automakers are realizing a profit per each vehicle sold, and consumers have been loading up new vehicle purchases with options, driving the profit margins even further.

He quoted a GM source as saying pent-up demand for new vehicles is so strong it will take about five years for it to play out, which is also good news for automakers.

"Part of that is because the average vehicle on the road is over 11 years old," Gilbert added, commenting that if someone bought a popular model car 11 years ago, it came with power-adjustable brakes, "keyless" entry – thanks to a key fob button – a six-disc CD changer and two air bags. For the driver and front seat passenger, navigation, MP3 connection and heated seats did not exist.

In comparison, said Gilbert, the Chevy Spark, which is about the smallest American vehicle out there, offers a sophisticated smartphone/social media connectivity system, 10 air bags, and taking a look at something a little more upscale like the 2013 Chevrolet Impala, it offers features that would have "blown away" a luxury car buyer from 10 years ago.

The current push toward electric cars as a way to "go green" is more of a political idea than reality, said Gilbert, because the system that builds the cars and charges their batteries depends on the coal, oil and gas that pro-

vides most of the electrical power in the U.S., he noted.

Although, he said, some of them are very good products that are very driveable, offer plenty of power and have a reasonable amount of range. But to be practical, said Gilbert, the battery recharge time needs to be less than an hour. He added that automakers take the learning they accomplish in making electric cars to apply toward future vehicles.

Despite all the press given lately to experimental autonomous (self-driving) vehicles, Gilbert said he doesn't think they are going to be practical. Regardless of how well the technology is designed, he said, no technology is perfect, and when someone is injured or killed due to failure of an autonomous vehicle, a lawsuit will result.

Gilbert also pointed out that for himself, as it is for a lot of other drivers, when he is marginally tired the stimulation of driving helps keep him alert. But if he were in a self-driving vehicle with features beyond, say, blind spot monitoring, which Gilbert said is his favorite new safety option, he feels drivers become less alert when lulled by use of cruise control, lane departure warning and adaptive cruise control, for example, and can be slow to re-

spond when a quick decision is needed that the safety system can't handle.

For example, he added, a human driver is needed to determine whether the object ahead is a deer or a child, which in the case of the deer the better choice often is to strike the animal, or if a child whether it's

necessary to swerve and possibly end up off the road in a ditch.

Gilbert added he's got nothing against high-tech systems, but if his iPhone fails, it's no big deal, whereas failure of one of these autonomous systems could lead to severe crash injuries or fatalities.

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