# Tech Center News...

WARREN, MICHIGAN

VOL. 39 NO. 35

**Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area** 

**MAY 4, 2015** 

# GM Will Invest \$5.4 Billion with Warren's **Pre-Production Slated for \$139.5 Million**

by Jim Stickford

During the recent economic downturn citizens and governments as well as employees of GM showed their faith by, investing time, labor and money in the company. On April 30, GM helped repay that faith to the tune of \$5.4 billion in new investments over three years in various GM sites around the country.

Alan Batey, GM North American president, made the announcement at the company's Pontiac Metal Center site, where he said that as part of the first phase of the process the facility will receive \$124 million in investments.

Two other facilities in Michigan will receive additional investments as well, Batey said. GM's Lansing Delta Township site will receive \$520 million for tooling and equipment, and the Warren Pre-Productions Operations site will get \$139.5 million for a new body shop and stamping facility upgrades.

All told, the first phase of GM's investment plans calls for \$783.5 million to be invested at the three Michigan locations. He said that GM will announce what other sites will be upgraded at a lat-

these three sites is just what we're talking about today," Batey said. "We will stagger our announcements on what other sites are getting money in the future.

"The announcement naming We want to be able to explain what we are doing and we've found that announcing everything in one go is not the best

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 



Alan Batey talks about GM investments at the Pontiac Metal Center.



Permolla and Dan Ammann

# GM Benefit Dinner Raises \$2.8 Million for Karmanos

More than \$2.8 million was pansion of Karmanos Cancer Inraised for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at its 33rd Annual Dinner, held April 25 at General Motors Design Dome, said Karmanos spokeswoman Patricia A. Ellis.

This year's Annual Dinner chairs were Debra and Bob Ferguson, senior vice president of Global Public Policy at General Motors Company, Ellis said. This year's event set new fundraising records for Karmanos.

"Thanks to the generosity of its many sponsors and supporters, approximately \$2.3 million was raised leading up to Karmanos' Annual Dinner, with the event itself raising \$500,000 more," Ellis said.

Money raised at this year's Annual Dinner will benefit the ex-

stitute's Intensive Care Unit and create a 24-hour acute care clinic, enhancing the care that patients receive at Karmanos, Ellis

"Debra and I were honored to serve as chairs of this outstanding event and to continue GM's long time support for the Karmanos Cancer Institute," said Bob Ferguson. "We know how important it is to provide cancer patients with the care and treatment they deserve and are thrilled to be able to support such a vital and important organization in Detroit.'

This is the fifth consecutive year that a member of GM's senior leadership has chaired Kar-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# **Detroit's Automakers See Stronger April Car Sales**

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler all reported U.S. sales gains last month as Americans continued to choose small and midsize SU-Vs and pickup trucks over cars.

Several of the companies reported their best April sales in years, led by the SUVs.

The sales were mostly in line with industry analysts' expectations for about a 6 percent overall increase. All automakers were scheduled to report sales on Fri-

General Motors, the top-selling automaker in the U.S., posted a 5.9 percent increase led by small and midsize SUVs. The Detroit company says it sold just over 269,000 cars and trucks last month

with sales up 42 percent to near- the best April ever for the trucks. ly 29,000. Sales of the Buick Encore small SUV rose 29 percent

to nearly 5,600.

GM's top-seller, the Chevrolet Silverado pickup, posted nearly an 8 percent sales gain to almost 46,000.

Fiat Chrysler U.S. sales rose about 6 percent, led by Jeep brand small and midsize SUVs. Fiat Chrysler said it sold just over 189,000 cars and trucks for its best April since 2007. The Jeep brand posted its best monthly sales at nearly 72,000, up 20 percent from a year ago.

The Cherokee compact SUV led the way with a 27 percent increase to just over 19,000, while the brand sold more than 4,200 new Renegade subcompact SUVs in their first full month at dealerships. Sales of the Ram pickup, Fiat Chrysler's top-selling vehi-The automaker was led by the cle, rose only 3 percent to just Chevrolet Equinox midsize SUV under 38,000, but that was still

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



2015 Equinox



### Cadillac CT6 Goes 'Green' with PHEV Tech

In a move to make the Cadillac CT6 truly a world car, GM declared at the Shanghai Auto Show that it will add an available Plug-In Hybrid Electric (PHEV) propulsion system to sedan when it comes out later this year.

The new PHEV system is expected to more than double the fuel economy of the conventional powertrain offerings.

The CT6 PHEV takes advantage of the car's advanced lightweight structure to create a unique formula for the sedan, said GM spokesman Donny Nordlicht.

"The first-ever CT6 is a technological showcase throughout, making it an ideal platform for Cadillac to offer its first plug-in hybrid," said Cadillac president Johan de Nysschen. "In the CT6, Cadillac presents a new formula for prestige luxury. The advanced Plug-In Hybrid system is a key addition, providing a combination of exceptional fuel economy, crisp acceleration and strong electric-driving range."

The CT6 Plug-In Hybrid system is designed to provide all-electric driving for most daily commutes, while maximizing fuel efficiency by providing blended power from the engine and battery at higher speeds and higher loads, even when energy is stored in the battery, de Nysschen said.

The CT6 PHEV leverages General Motors' proven battery technology, de Nysschen said. An 18.4 kWh lithium-ion battery pack is located between the rear seat and the trunk. The battery system is comprised of 192 prismatic pouch cells, which use the latest generation cell chemistry found in other GM plug-in vehi-

With industry-leading quality levels of fewer than two problems per million battery cells produced, more than 20 million battery cells have been made for more than 73,000 GM plug-ins on the road today, de Nysschen said. The CT6 PHEV battery system will use the company's proven active thermal control system that maintains electric range over the battery system's

The battery system can be charged using a 120V or 240V charger. Range estimates will be provided closer to U.S. launch of the PHEV option.

All-electric launch performance is one of the key purchase considerations for PHEV and EV owners, Nordlicht said. The Cadillac CT6 PHEV combines an

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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m. for the next edition of Monday

William Springer II, publisher Lisa A. Torretta, operations Jim Stickford, news

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#### CTS-V Coming to Cadillac Dealers This Summer

Cadillac said that U.S. dealers will begin accepting orders for the next-generation 2016 CTS-V, the new high-performance sedan that launches in late summer.

The 640-hp CTS-V is the second of two all-new V-Series models to come to market in 2015, following the smaller ATS-V coupe and sedan, which launches in late spring.

Cadillac's new 2016 V-Series models represent a significant expansion of the brand's elite, high-performance line, said GM spokesman David Caldwell. Not only are the new V-Series cars elevated in terms of performance, they now reach a broader spectrum of drivers by presenting two distinct personalities, size categories and price points.

With a top speed of 200 mph and 0-60 performance in 3.7 seconds, the CTS-V is the most powerful car in Cadillac's 112-year history, Caldwell said. The 2016 CTS-V is priced from \$83,995. Customers can place orders now with dealers and view additional product information at Cadillac.com.

'V-Series represents the pinnacle of Cadillac, a brand that now makes drivers' cars at the highest level," said Johan de Nysschen, Cadillac president. "The new CTS-V is essentially two cars in one: a luxury sedan with sophisticated road manners and a track-capable sports car with awe-inspiring performance. This type of car is exclusive, the domain of the few who can access this level of incredible capability. V-Series matches or overtakes the finest cars in this elite class. while being more accessible."

Features include segment-exclusive, third-generation Magnetic Ride Control, the world's fastest reacting suspension technology, Caldwell said.

That is just one of many standard features and engineering enhancements offered in the 2016 CTS-V. The ATS-V launch will precede the CTS-V, Caldwell said. The 2016 ATS-V is priced from \$60,465 and presents high-performance capability in both coupe and sedan forms.

#### Auto Sales See Nice Bump For Detroit OEMs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ford Motor Co. posted a 5 percent gain for its best April in nine years. Ford sold more than 222,000 cars and trucks last month, led by small and midsize SUVs.

The revamped Ford Edge midsize SUV posted its best April sales ever at just over 13,000, up 78 percent from a year ago. Ford Escape small SUV sales were up nearly 5 percent to almost 26,000. Sales of F-150, Ford's topselling vehicle, fell 1 percent as the company continued to ramp up production of a new model with an aluminum body.

#### GM's Benefit Dinner Raises \$2.8 Million for Karmanos

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

manos' Annual Dinner, Ellis said, which was held in the newly-remodeled GM Design Dome, making it the first fundraising event to be held in the futuristic space.

Mary Barra, GM's chief executive officer, attended the evening's festivities and paid tribute to her friend, the late Lil Erdeljan, former Karmanos Cancer Institute board member and long-time Karmanos supporter. She announced that the Erdeljan family was contributing \$50,000 to Karmanos' Nursing Department in Lil's memory.

"Lil made so many contributions of her time and resources that ultimately benefitted cancer patients," Barra said. "The ongoing success of the Annual Dinner is a testament to Lil's immense contributions. It was her vision, determination and hard work that helped bring the Annual Dinner to its current status as one of the community's finest and most successful events."

Host sponsor for the Annual Dinner was Cadillac. Hank Winchester, anchor/reporter for WDIV Local 4, returned once again this year to serve as emcee of the Karmanos Annual Dinner, Ellis said.

Other highlights included several new production Cadillac vehicles on display, a seated dinner, a new Karmanos Wine Cellar service featuring high-end wines for purchase, a brief program and dancing.

Guests also had the opportunity to participate in a raffle, presented by David Yurman, for a David Yurman Cable Coil bracelet and matching earring set.

Ellis said another portion of the funds raised to support this year's Annual Dinner were in part thanks to David Flynn, owner of Flynn Auto Group in Ohio, who secured the winning bid of \$200,000 for the first retail production Cadillac CT6, donated by Cadillac and auctioned at the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Palm Beach, Fla., in April.

In addition to GM's contribution of the Cadillac CT6, the GM Foundation gave a "generous donation of \$500,000 for cancer research, making this the fourth consecutive year the GM Foundation has supported Karmanos' cutting-edge cancer research." Ellis said.

Lear Corp. provided a \$250,000 match for funds generated by the live auction and dedicated giving portion at Annual Dinner, Ellis said. Guests quickly helped Kar-

manos meet that match by their generous response.

GM, Ellis said, also presented unique VIP experience auction packages which included: tickets to the NCAA 2016 Men's Final Four Game; Trump National Golf & Country Club Experience; a Cannes Film Festival Experience; dinner for 10 guests with Steve Kiefer, vice president, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain, General Motors; tickets to the WGC Cadillac Championship; a stay at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs; a Rolling Stones package; a Cadillac Racing Package; a J Mendel Fashion Package; and an INDY 500 Experience.

Since various high-level General Motors executives began chairing the Karmanos' Annual Dinner over the past five years, the event has raised more than \$10.7 million, Ellis said.

Ferguson took the opportunity to say that Steve Kiefer, vice president of Global Purchasing and Supply Chain, and his wife, Paula, will chair Karmanos' 34th Annual Dinner in 2016, continuing GM's "commitment to Karmanos' cancer care and research," Ellis said.

This year also represents a record for Annual Dinner in terms of support, with more event businesses and foundations than ever before signing, Ellis said.

"Once again, General Motors, the GM Foundation and all of our generous sponsors and contributors have stepped up to the plate for the benefit of our patients," said Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D., president and CEO, Karmanos Cancer Institute. "Through everyone's support, Karmanos can continue its mission of providing exceptional cancer care and innovative cancer research that translates to better, more effective treatments in the future.

"On behalf of the entire Karmanos team and all our patients,

I give my deepest gratitude for your heartwarming dedication to help us bring cancer under complete control."

In addition to Cadillac serving as Host Sponsor for Karmanos' 33rd Annual Dinner, other key sponsors included: Presenting Sponsor, Gallagher-Kaiser Corporation; Gala Sponsor, Edw. C. Levy Co.; Executive Sponsors, Becker Ventures, Commonwealth//McCann and McCann Worldgroup, and Kenwal Steel Corp.; Entertainment Sponsors, AVL Americas, Credit Union ONE and Johnson Controls, as well as Dinner Sponsors, AT&T, Crain Communications Inc, The Delphi Foundation, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, The Jeff Eller Group, LLC, Elizabeth and Michael Kojaian, Lear Corporation, Lowe Campbell Ewald, Quicken Loans, Roberti+White, UAW-GM Center for Human Resources and Worthington Indus-

# MCC's Summer Courses for High Schoolers

Macomb Community College's 10 summer career academies, which offer high-school students the opportunity for hands-on exploration of specific careers guided by professionals in those fields, are set to begin June 15.

For the second consecutive year, AT&T has awarded a \$10,000 grant to support the college's career academies so that Macomb can offer reduced program fees, which are nearly half of what the academies cost in 2013, said MCC spokesman

James Melton

Each of the academies provides hands-on, interactive and engaging experiences for students who are at least 14 years old (16 for the law enforcement and fire service academies). New this year will be an academy in computer programming and another academy that is an interactive workshop covering what an apprentice does

The fee for most academies is \$85.

"Macomb's career academies

give participants a chance to experience a career option and directly interact with those actually working in the field," said Ed Stanton, director of admissions and outreach at Macomb. "They can help a young person get a good sense of whether a particular career path is something that suits his or her strengths and interests."

To learn more about courses and how to sign up, go to www.macomb.edu, or call 586-498-4008.





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# **GM Gets Creative in Use of Toy to Design Child Seats**

Child safety in terms of automotive design is no joke.

But how do GM engineers determine what seats fit and where, especially with hundreds of models on the market?

A Kinect motion sensor, originally developed for the Xbox 360, is helping solve that challenge, and the new Chevrolet Traverse is a vehicle that used this technology

With ample space and adjustable second row seats, the Chevrolet Traverse offers parents flexibility when it comes to fitting child safety seats, said GM spokeswoman Rebecca White.

"There are over 250 different makes and models of child safety seats on the market, and new or revised models are introduced every year," said Julie Kleinert, GM's Global Child Safety technical lead, "and the lack of an industry standard for the size and shape of child seats makes it quite challenging for vehicle engineers."

Through the Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies (CChIPS), a National Science Foundation-funded industry/university research cooperative with partner research sites at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and The Ohio State University, Kleinert and engineers from other vehicle and child seat manufacturers are working to develop new tools to

help manufacturers evaluate child seat compatibility, White said.

The Kinect for Windows sensor first launched for the Xbox gaming console before being made available to Windows devices, White said.

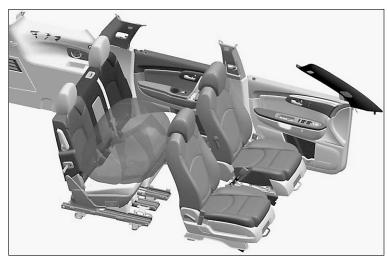
The same technology created to capture player movements and enable voice control of video games doubles as a powerful scanning tool in the automotive industry.

The project, led by CHOP's Dr. Aditya Belwadi, developed a methodology to use the Kinect controller to digitize the shape of a child seat in minutes and at a fraction of what it would cost to use a standard industrial scanner, White said.

CHOP researchers created "surrogate" child seat shapes by overlaying the individual child seat scans produced by the Kinect on top of one another.

The surrogate represents the maximum amount of space needed for a particular category of child seat, Kleinert said. Virtual evaluations of the surrogate may prove to be a simple way for vehicle manufacturers to assess a large range of child seats with a single tool.

"This new tool will be a great help to us in evaluating child restraint compatibility early in our vehicle design process," said Kleinert.



GM Engineers 'Kinect' use gaming tech in child safety seat designs.

The team, Kleinert said, hopes this approach, which was presented as a technical paper at the 2015 SAE World Congress in Detroit last month, may influence other vehicle and child seat manufacturers to adopt a common standard for the size and geometry of different categories of child seats.

"We haven't reached that point

yet," said Kleinert, "but we believe this project is an important a step in that direction.

This project is just one example of how vehicle manufacturers, child seat manufacturers and university researchers are working together, Kleinert said, through CChIPS on research to improve the safety of children in vehicles."

#### Barra Makes \$15.8 Million in 2014 as GM CEO

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DETROIT (AP) \_ General Motors CEO Mary Barra's compensation more than tripled in 2014 to \$15.8 million in her tumultuous first year in the automaker's top job.

Barra and other top executives got only 74 percent of the cash incentives they could have received, because GM fell short of goals set by the board.

But her stock awards more than doubled from 2013 back when she was senior vice president of for product development and purchasing at General Motors.

GM reported its 2014 compensation April 24 in its proxy filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company also at that time announced that its annual stockholders meeting will be held on June 9 at GM's Detroit headquarters.





# DiSalle to Speak at Adcraft

The Adcraft Club of Detroit will host a luncheon featuring Tony DiSalle, U.S. vice president of Buick and GMC Marketing, at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 8 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. DiSalle will discuss Buick's plans for the future, including his thoughts on the brand's newest campaign, "Experience the New Buick."

"GM Day is something we look forward to every year as an opportunity to learn about the marketing plans for one of our industry's biggest influencers," Phil Rzepka, Adcraft president and senior v.p., head of Digital for Carat, said. "We are proud of the special relationship we have with the auto industry and of our ability to provide our members access to the latest marketing and advertising strategies."

The Adcraft Club of Detroit will Buick" campaign is meant to ost a luncheon featuring Tony iSalle, U.S. vice president of uick and GMC Marketing, at modern light, Rzepka said.

DiSalle began his career with GM in 1988. His current role involves providing senior leadership and strategic direction for U.S. Buick and GMC marketing functions such as marketing, communications and product strategy.

Disalle accepted his current position in 2011 and has held numerous management positions, including product and marketing director of the Chevrolet Volt as well as standing as vice president of sales, service and marketing for OnStar.

The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$40 for Adcraft members, \$50 for non-members. Register at adcraft.org/event-1895568.





need accommodation should call 800-950-1144, ext. 3018 at least one week before the event. CMU is an AA/EO institution (see cmich.edu/OCRIE). 41830 4/1:

# Ford F-150 Loses Weight, Keeps Strength

The new Ford F-150 SuperCrew has earned the government's highest possible crash safety rating.

This adds to the F-150's strengths as the toughest, smartest, most capable F-150 ever, said Ford spokesman Mike Levine.

Thanks to 31 new safety-related innovations developed by the Ford truck team, the 2015 F-150 SuperCrew has earned a five-star Overall Vehicle Score in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New Car Assessment Program.

The five-star safety rating is a terrific example of One Ford collaboration and innovation," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president, Global Product Development. "Our truck team worked together for years to deliver this accomplishment, using an unprecedented combination of advanced materials throughout the all-new F-150.

The 2015 model is engineered to be the safest F-150 ever, which matters to customers who depend on this truck to not only get the job done, but also get them safely home.'

F-150's improved performance is enabled by up to a 700-pound weight savings through the use of high-strength steel in the frame; high-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloy in the body; and smart engineering, Nair said.

A cross-functional group comprised of Ford truck product development veterans and researchers worked to precisely optimize vehicle weight savings and manufacturing design to deliver improved durability, capability, fuel economy and crashworthiness, Nair said.

The team created and patented new structures, materials and joining methods that were tested virtually with supercomputer simulations, then retested in Ford's advanced laboratories to engineer the safest F-150 ever.

The F-150 team started engineering the truck with supercomputers before the first units were ever even crash-tested in a

Engineers developed digital safety models with nearly 1.4 million separate elements to ex-



The 2015 F-150's frame contributes to its excellent safety rating.

amine how even the smallest parts of the truck would perform in a crash situation, Nair said.

Safety starts with the truck's signature, fully boxed frame the backbone of the all-new F-150, Nair said. Engineers added an extra crossmember and increased the use of high-strength steel to improve stiffness, durability and safety - while helping reduce the frame's weight by up to 60 pounds.

"The team had to invent new ways to manage crash energy, because advanced materials like high-strength steel behave differently," said Matt Niesluchowski, Ford truck safety manager. "We found that changing certain shapes led to a weight reduction, while also improving crash performance.'

Safety engineers developed a patented 12-corner front crush horn to dissipate more energy in a front impact, Nair said. The uniquely shaped structure helps manage crash forces so the frame buckles predictably to keep those forces away from occupants in the cabin. This is just one of the 31 new safety-related innovations the team developed to make the truck safer in the event of a crash.

Ford's advanced research and safety teams worked together to engineer F-150's high-strength, military-grade, aluminum-alloy body structure to manage what happens to the body in the event of a crash, Nair said.

The truck's cab features hydroformed roof rails that constitute a cage-like structure around the doors, extruded roof bows to provide lateral strength across the top of the cab, and extruded rocker rails near the bottom to reinforce lower body strength.

How various parts of the truck were joined also yielded safety improvements. In many cases, welding was not the most effective way to join parts, so the team developed and patented methods to connect parts using high-strength adhesives. This resulted in structural strength equal to or greater than traditional welds.

New to F-150 is an advanced restraint system that includes an adaptive steering column that adjusts energy management depending on occupant size and safety belt usage, Nair said. The dual-stage system includes airbags and side-curtain airbags.

The all-new F-150 offers the following safety features:

 Safety belt pretensioners added to the belt anchor side that further tighten the lap belt around front seat occupants, keeping them in a more secure spot early in the event of a Curve Control, a technology that will slow the vehicle when it senses the truck is going too fast for a particular curve.

• Available inflatable rear safety belts for SuperCrew - a segment-first feature.

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# Ford and Sony Team Up On **Explorer's Sound System**

inum features an exclusive Sony audio system with two industrytechnologies -Acoustics and Clear Phase.

As a standard feature for the new Ford Explorer Platinum edition, which goes on sale this summer, this marks the first time high-end Sony home audio technology has been used in a vehicle. Live Acoustics and Clear Phase technologies bring realistic concert-quality sound to the Explorer, said spokesman Mark Schirmer.

"Explorer is about pushing boundaries," says Matt Zuehlk, Ford Explorer brand manager, "and authentic high-end home theater sound isn't just for the living room anymore. The new Platinum series gives customers everything - including a sound system that will knock your socks off."

Explorer has reigned as America's top-selling midsize SUV for 25 consecutive years - marking a quarter century for the vehicle as a leader both in the segment and in its technology offerings, Schirmer said.

To develop the proprietary Live Acoustics algorithm, Sony engineers, led by Giro Shiraishi, also a concertmaster at the Sony Philharmonic Orchestra, visited great halls in Amsterdam, Berlin and Vienna, and installed microphones to measure their precise acoustic qualities, Schirmer said. Shiraishi, who began taking violin lessons at age four and has been passionate about sound ever since, wanted to re-create the concert hall experience for Sony's high-end home audio products.

"This technology was previously available only in our highend home audio systems - we've now applied the algorithm of Live Acoustics to Ford Explorer Platinum's audio system to transform the listening experience to be among the finest in the world," says Shiraishi.

Sony engineers spent more than 100 hours tuning the audio system in the new Explorer with

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The new Ford Explorer Plat- one goal in mind - to provide Platinum driver and passengers with the finest audio experience on the road, Schirmer said.

> At the core of the system are 12 high-power speakers in 10 carefully selected locations plus an all-new Class D amplifier to deliver a lossless power source that drives speaker output without straining.

Combined, the 12 speakers are capable of a maximum 500 watts. The speakers are optimized for sensitivity - including the center and surround speakers, a subwoofer with an 8-inch enclosure for tight and full base tones, and door woofers and chrome tweeters with translucent grilles to preserve sound integrity and complement the upscale Platinum interior.

Even the system's speaker coils are unique - square coils instead of the more traditional round ones - resulting in greater efficiency and heat dispersion.

When music is recorded, is live or in a studio, the best sound engineers always take care to establish a full sound stage. In other words, they make sure each instrument occupies specific areas in the "space" in front of the listener.

In the context of a vehicle, imagine occupants are listening to a live concert with instruments strategically placed in distinctive and acoustically correct "zones' on the vehicle's dashboard.

Ford Explorer is built at Chicago Assembly Plant, as well as in Venezuela and Russia. It is sold in more than 100 markets across the

Ford expects to export 56,000 Explorers from the United States this year alone, Schirmer said.

# GM's Barra – No Merger

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors CEO Mary Barra is dismissing any talk of a possible merger with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

Barra tells analysts on a conference call that the company is focused on making its business more efficient and taking full advantage of its global size. She says GM won't consider anything that would distract from those efforts

Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne recently floated the idea of merging with GM or another global automaker. He is a proponent of industry consolidation and says only the biggest automakers will survive.

Barra says other automakers might want to consolidate, but GM is focused on its plan. That includes leading the industry in new mobility technologies.



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# GM Will Invest \$139.5 Million In Warren Pre-Production

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

way to do that."

Cathy Clegg, vice president of GM North America Manufacturing, was also at Pontiac Metal. She said that she got her start as a stamper, so being able to make an announcement of such importance at the Pontiac facility was a joy for her.

The common thread among our investments is the focus on product improvements that benefit customers," Clegg said. "Together, with our UAW partners, we're working hard to exceed consumers' ever-increasing quality expectations."

Clegg said that all major body panel dies are pre-tested at the Pontiac facility under regular production conditions, enabling stamping plants to produce quality parts in a shorter time span.

The Warren Pre-Production facility, Clegg said, is one of five that GM has around the world. It is where GM develops the most efficient manufacturing protocols for building its various vehicles. Once these protocols have been tested and proven, then people from the particular plant in question come, learn the techniques and take them back to their home site.

Basically, Clegg said, Warren Pre-Production finds problems before they become problems.

Lansing Delta is where GM assembles the Chevrolet Traverse, the GMC Acadia and the Buick Enclave.

Clegg said the order in which GM picks sites for investment is based on the company's needs as it launches new products.

The prep work on the three Michigan facilities has already started," Clegg said. "The work

won't be completed on late next vear. No sites will be closed during the process. We'll run at full operation.'

Batey said that in the past GM didn't make such investments during bad economic times.

"It's no secret that the auto business is cyclical," Batey said. "It's important to have a balance sheet that allows a company to invest. Having a 'fortress' balance sheet means that a company like GM can invest in product during both good and bad times. We want our development to be on time. In the past we delayed investing in sites and in new product to save money during down cycles. Fortunately, we are in a position where we have the cash to invest during lean times.'

#### **Belle Isle Grand Prix Looking for** Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help run the upcoming Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix.

The event, which takes place at Belle Isle over the course of several days at the end of May, needs volunteers to help out with customer relations, food services, chalet services, information booths, track services, ticket taking, transportation and delivery services and more, said event spokesman Merrill Cain.

"Without question, our volunteers at the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix are the best in the business," said race chair Bud Denker.

To learn more about the volunteer requirements and to sign up, go to www.DetroitGP.com. Cain said.

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# **Corvette to Produce New Z06 Racer Limited Edition**

Chevrolet today introduced the 2016 Corvette Z06 C7.R Edition – a road-going, track-capable homage to the Corvette Racing C7.R racecars. It's offered in Corvette Racing's signature yellow livery - or black - with coordinated exterior and interior ac-

Only 500 examples of the C7.R Edition will be built and all will include the Z07 Performance Package with carbon ceramic brakes, as well as a specially serialized vehicle identification number, said GM spokesman Monte Doran. They go on sale later this year.

"Corvette Racing's legacy and technology were significant influences on the development of the Corvette Z06 and the new C7.R Edition honors the direct link between the racecar and the production model," said Harlan Charles, Corvette product and marketing manager. "It also advances Chevrolet's plan to offer special-edition models that offer a unique, personal ownership experiences, which become important parts of Corvette's legacy."

Here is a complete list of con-2016 Corvette Z06 C7.R Edition:

• Offered on coupe and convertible models with 3LZ trim;

- Available in Corvette Racing Yellow Tintcoat (new for 2016) or
- Black exterior colors; • C7.R Edition graphics pack-
- Z07 Performance Package with Brembo carbon ceramic brakes and Michelin PS Cup 2
  - Yellow brake calipers;
- Black wheels with yellow accent strip and Corvette Racinglogo center caps;
- · Visible carbon fiber ground effects package;
- New visible carbon fiber hood section:
- · Grilles and vents finished in Spectra Gray Metallic;
- Jet Black leather interior with sueded microfiber accents on the instrument panel and doors:
- Sueded microfiber-trimmed Competition Sport Seat, steering wheel and shifter:
- Yellow contrast stitching throughout the interior;
- Carbon fiber interior trim package (high-gloss);
- Corvette Racing sill plates; • Numbered C7.R Edition inte-
- tent and unique features for the rior plaque showing the build number. starting with 700001:
  - Special indoor car cover



The 2016 'Vette Z06 C7.R Edition pays homage to Corvette race cars.

with C7.R graphics.

The Z07 Performance Package includes Brembo carbon ceramic-matrix brake rotors that improve braking performance and contribute to greater handling through reduced un-sprung weight, Doran said. The Z07 package also includes adjustable front and rear aero components for unprecedented aerodynamic downforce and Michelin Pilot Super Sport Cup 2 tires for enhanced grip.

"The Z07 Performance Pack-

age enhances overall performance to make the Corvette Z06 one of the most track-capable cars you can buy off the dealership floor and still drive it to work every day," said Charles. "Combined with the 650-horsepower supercharged LT4 engine, true aerodynamic downforce and performance technologies

such as Magnetic Ride Control, Performance Traction Management and an electronic limited slip differential, the Corvette Z06 C7.R Edition offers capability matched only by an elite fraternity of the world's supercars and special-edition exclusivity that is sure to make it an instant collector's item."







E. Neville Isdell

# MCC Offers Auto Clay Modeling Program

Finding skilled digital sculptors with clay modeling experience has become a challenge for automakers, auto suppliers and other employers because few design programs teach these skills. To help meet the demand, Macomb Community College has created a new digital sculptor associate degree program will be launched in August. It will be the only two-year degree program in southeast Michigan to include clay modeling in addition to digital design and milling, said MCC spokesman James Melton.

The program was designed with industry input to ensure graduates possess the knowledge and skills required for entry-level positions in industrial design studios. Those who are both technical and creative are best suited for the field. According to the college's research, the average local entry level salary for graduates of a digital sculptor associate degree is expected to be \$67.500.

To learn more about the program, please contact Macomb Community College at www.ma-

#### **GM Board Sees New Candidates**

was nominated on April 24 to serve on the board of directors

Joseph Jimenez

of General Motors. E. Neville Isdell will not stand for re-election at the company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders in June, pursuant to the board's retirement age policy, said GM spokesman David Roman.

"Joe brings a wealth of consumer insights gained from a distinguished career in the pharmaceutical and packaged goods industries, as well as a proven focus on enhancing shareholder value over time," said GM chairman Tim Solso. "We look forward to leveraging his expertise in product innovation and global consumer markets.'

Jimenez, 55, has been CEO of Novartis since 2010, Roman said. He joined the company in 2007 to lead the consumer health division. Previously, he served in senior leadership roles in the H.J. Heinz Co. Jimenez began his career in 1984 at the Clorox Co.

Prior to joining Novartis, he was a nonexecutive director of AstraZeneca PLC, United Kingdom. He also was an adviser for the private equity organization Blackstone Group in the U.S. Jimenez earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley.

Isdell, 71, has served on GM's board since 2009, Roman said. Prior to serving on GM's board he was a member of the board of directors of General Motors Corp. from 2008 to 2009. Isdell's career includes leading the Coca-Cola Co., serving as chairman and CEO from 2004 to 2008, and chairman until his retirement in

"On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank Neville for his commitment to the success of GM," said Solso. "His leadership and focus on what was best for all shareholders have been valuable dur-

Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez ing a time of significant change at the company.'

> "We have made significant progress and benefited greatly from Neville's insight and experience, especially in global brand management," said GM CEO Mary Barra: . "I am thankful for the contributions he has made to our board and company.'

> Jimenez will stand for election at GM's Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be held on Tuesday, June 9, at GM's Global Headquarters in Detroit.

The election of the board's slate of nominees would bring GM's Board of Directors to 12 members, 11 of whom are nonemployee directors.

#### Michigan State **Trooper Visiting** Warren Library

Michigan State Trooper Sarah Krebs will talk about how art and science work together in police investigations at a special presentation put on by the Warren Public Library.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. in the Warren Civic Center branch of the library on Thursday, June 11.

'Forensic art is any art that aids in the apprehension or conviction of a criminal offender or aids in the identification of unknown deceased persons," said Warren librarian Kathleen Faba. "On Thursday, June 11, Detective Sarah C. Krebs will be with us to explain how her drawings and sculptures help to solve cases of missing persons, unidentified remains, and crimes."

Faba said that talk is open to the public at no charge, but that space is limited.

Anyone wishing to attend should call 586-574-4564 to register and reserve a spot, or just to learn more about the event.



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#### **Ally Financial Sees Strong 1Q Profits**

DETROIT (AP) - Ally Financial, the former lending arm of General Motors, said its quarterly profit more than doubled, thanks mainly its sale of a stake in an auto-loan company in China.

The results beat Wall Street's expectations, and drove the lender's stock up 49 cents, or 2 percent, to \$20.80 in early trading April 27.

The Detroit-based lender reported first-quarter earnings of \$576 million, or \$1.06 per share. That's up from \$227 million, 33 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

The sale of Ally's 40 percent stake in a joint venture in China at the start of the year contributed nearly \$400 million to quarterly profit.

First-quarter earnings, adjusted for non-recurring items, came to 52 cents per share, handily surpassed financial analysts' expectations. The average estimate of eight analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 42 cents per

New car loans hit \$9.8 billion in the quarter, a 7 percent increase from the same period of last year. Deposits at Âlly Bank reached \$50.6 billion, up 12 per-

Total revenue was \$1.09 billion in the period, down from \$1.14 billion the year before and also short of analysts' forecasts. Analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$1.17 billion.

Shares in Ally Financial Inc. have fallen 14 percent since the beginning of the year. The stock has declined 17 percent in the last 12 months.

#### Corvette to Lead Way in this Year's Indy 500 Race

Five-time Brickyard 400 winner and four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Jeff Gordon will drive a Corvette Z06 pace car for the 99th running of the Indianapolis 500 mile race, May 24 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, said GM spokesman Randy Fox.

It is the 13th time a Corvette has served as the official pace car, Fox said, dating to 1978, and the 26th time a Chevrolet has led the pack for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Corvette has served as pace car more than any other vehicle in the race's

Gordon, who grew up in nearby Pittsboro, Ind., is no stranger to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. In 1994 he won the inaugural Brickyard 400 - the first-ever NASCAR race at the Brickyard, and has visited the winner's circle there four more times. That makes him one of only two fivetime winners at Indy in any series. Michael Schumacher won five Formula One races there.

"It's great to have Jeff Gordon serve as this year's pace car driver," said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports. "He is a true champion who has earned the respect and admiration of competitors and race fans alike. It will be very special to have Jeff lead the Indy 500 field to the green flag, behind the wheel of the most powerful and capable production car ever from Chevrolet - on a day he'll also be competing in the Coca Cola 600 NASCAR race at Charlotte Motor Speedway.'

"Indy is hallowed ground for racers like me and I couldn't be more thrilled to drive the Corvette Z06 pace car around the track that helped drive my success over the years," Gordon



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# Cadillac CT6 Goes 'Green' With PHEV Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all-new rear wheel electric variable transmission (EVT) with exclusively designed motors to provide smooth, spirited acceler-

The two-motor EVT also uses three planetary gears and is mated to a 2.0L turbo 4-cylinder engine with spark-ignited direct injection and variable valve technology. The use of a two-motor system provides smooth and seamless power through the entire driving range. The combined system is capable of producing total system power of 335 hp and 432 lb-ft of torque.

"The CT6 PHEV will deliver exceptional smooth, responsive acceleration that Cadillac and luxury sedan owners demand," said Travis Hester, Cadillac CT6 executive chief engineer. "We have managed to achieve superior drive quality when compared to our PHEV competitors due to our exclusively designed EVT."

Cadillac expects the fuel economy of the CT6 PHEV to be more than double that of the car's conventional engine offerings, Nordlicht said, as measured by miles per gallon equivalent. Standards for measuring vehicle fuel economy differ between China and other global regions. Full details on the CT6 PHEV efficiency in the U.S. and other markets outside China will be released closer to the car's introduction in those markets.

The CT6 PHEV will feature iBooster and Electronic Stability Program tailored for hybrid electric vehicle regenerative blended braking to provide maximum energy recovery combined with reduced stopping distance and improved fuel economy over traditional regenerative braking sys-

MAY 4, 2015

The iBooster and ESP-hev technology balance the use of the CT6 electric motors to act as generators to slow the vehicle and capture as much kinetic energy as possible during low-demand scenarios, Nordlicht said, while blending the traditional hydraulic brakes with the motors in high-demand scenarios.

As expected from a driver's car like the CT6, the system provides improved brake pedal feel and enables increased opportunity for engine stop-start operation.

CT6 PHEV drivers will be able to select among three distinct operating modes: Normal, Sport and Hold.

- Normal: Designed for everyday commuting. Provides ideal balance of comfort, performance and maximized EV range and fuel economy.
- Sport: Provides more aggressive pedal mapping for improved off-the-line feel and a stiffer steering response.
- Hold: Allows owners to select when the CT6 PHEV uses its engine, reserving the remaining battery charge for later use. This feature helps enhance efficiency because owners who mix city and highway driving can save the battery charge for city travel.
- The CT6 PHEV will have Regen on Demand. This allows the driver to temporarily regenerate energy from vehicle momentum into electricity and store in the battery pack for later use.

Regen on Demand supports a more-engaging driving experience by slowing the vehicle when entering a turn to better position it on the exit, Nordlicht said, much like downshifting with a manual transmission.



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