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Orion Assembly's Christal Finklea-Vancourt dresses a Sonic engine.

## GM to Invest \$245 Million, Add 300 Jobs at Orion Plant

\$245 million and add 300 new jobs at its Orion Assembly plant to support launching an all-new vehicle program "unlike any in the plant's 32-year history," said Cathy Clegg, GM North America vice president of Manufacturing and Labor Relations.

"Orion Assembly is a breeding ground for manufacturing innovation," Clegg said.

"It serves as a model for how to

General Motors will invest engage the entire workforce at all levels to achieve success. The plant is up to the challenge of building this brand-new product, something it's never seen before."

> Investment in Orion totals \$962 million since the UAW and GM worked together to reopen the previously idled plant in 2010, said GM spokesman Chris Bonelli.

> > CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Ram 2500, 3500 Enter War with New Ammo

by Jim Stickford

The heavy-duty battleground just got heavier with the introduction of the 2016 model Ram 2500 and 3500 Heavy Duty pick-

'These are the trucks for people who buy trucks for work," said Ram spokesman Nick Cappa. "The number one reason our heavy-duty buyers give for buying the Ram 2500 and 3500 is for their capabilities. The trucks' ability to haul."

said, from the half-ton truck buy-

"It's very difficult to get a customer reason for purchasing a half-ton truck that is more than 2 percent," Cappa said. "People say that they buy a half-ton because the salesman recommended it or because they liked the color or because it was fashion-

"But 20 percent of heavy-duty truck buyers say they get that kind of truck because they need

This is quite different, Cappa the capability. These buyers get them for work. That's such a huge difference from half-ton truck buyers' reasons.'

So, Cappa said, Ram has

worked hard to be the best in the categories that matter to buyers, which, according to Cappa, include:

• The 2016 Cummins 6.7-liter calibration hits a best-in-class 900 lb.-ft. of torque, the most torque ever offered in a mass-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## A Condo for Cars? . . . It's in the Works

by Jim Stickford

Ground broke on the M1 Concourse "car condo" project in Pontiac on June 24.

Brad Oleshansky, the developer behind the project, said that the M1 Concourse, once completed, will consist of individual garages with their own rooms attached. A private performance track for people who own units at the development will also be available.

Oleshansky said unit buyers fall into three categories: owners of high-performance vehicles, car enthusiasts and business owners.

High-performance vehicle owners can store their vehicles at the

for drives. He plans to build units that range from 600 to 2,400 square feet.

When completed, Oleshansky said, the project will have:

- 250-plus private garages;
- A 1.5-mile Performance Track with a 1/3-mile straightaway, challenging turns, elevation changes and skidpad;
- An auto-themed restaurant; · A walkable village of auto-fo-
- cused businesses: • Year-round programming, in-
- cluding car shows, concerts, vehicle demonstrations and more: • Up to 100,000 square feet of
- single- or multi-tenant office

"Now these aren't for sleeping

development and take them out in," Oleshansky said. "But if you own a high-performance car and take it out on the track, maybe you'll bring friends along and they can stay in the unit while the car is on the track."

The car enthusiast has a different interest.

"These people might like working on their cars and own muscle cars," Oleshansky said. "This track is perfect for them. But one person might not be able to afford a unit, so he and three of his fellow enthusiasts can go in together and buy a unit."

The third category is the business owner, Oleshansky said.

"When people think of the De-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 

## Ford Goal: 'Change Way the World Moves'

Ford Motor Company has un- ily navigate through their day, veiled the next phase of its Ford Smart Mobility plan – moving from research to the start of implementation, including new strategic areas of focus, new pilot programs and new mobility product experiments.

Ford Smart Mobility is the company's plan to deliver the next level in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience and big data, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall. Ford introduced the plan in January, along with 25 experiments aimed at better understanding consumers' mobility needs around the globe.

"My great-grandfather helped put the world on wheels so everyone could enjoy the benefits of mobility," said Ford execu-June 23 unveiling in San Francis-

"Our vision today is to expand that same thinking using advanced technology and new business models, and addressing the mobility challenges people face around the world."

Following six months of gathering data and consumer insights, Hall said Ford is honing in on two strategic areas - flexible use and ownership of vehicles, and multimodal urban travel solutions.

"We now are moving from experimentation to implementation," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO, speaking last week at the annual Further with Ford trends conference in Palo

"We have learned a lot in the past six months, and now are ready to put insights into action. Our goal is to make people's lives better by helping them more easaddress societal issues and, over time, change the way the world moves - just as Henry Ford did more than 100 years ago.

Among the concepts Ford has been exploring, Fields said is flexible use and ownership. Ford Motor Credit Company unveiled its Peer-2-Peer Car Sharing - a pilot program for select customers in six U.S. cities and in London. Fields said Ford Credit is invit-

ing 14,000 and 12,000 customers in six U.S. cities and London, respectively, to sign up to rent their Ford Credit-financed vehicles to prescreened drivers for short-term use, offsetting monthly vehicle ownership costs.

U.S. customers participate through the Web-based, mobilefriendly software of ride-share tive chairman Bill Ford at the company Getaround, while Lon-

don drivers connect through a similar rental system of easyCar

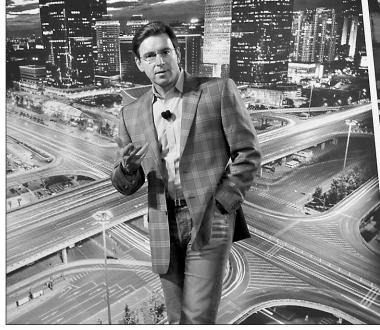
"Consumers tell us they are interested in sharing the costs of vehicle ownership, and this program will help us understand how much that extends to customers who are financing a Ford vehicle," said David McClelland, Ford Credit vice president of

"As most vehicles are parked and out of use much of the time, this can help us gauge our customers' desires to pick up extra cash and keep their vehicles in

Hall said Ford has done recent market research on consumer preferences.

findings from Penn New

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 



Mark Fields talked about Ford's Future in San Francisco

## **Senators Slam Takata for** 'Lack of Concern'

DETROIT (AP) - A group of said the Democratic report took U.S. senators says automotive air bag maker Takata Corp. may have placed profit over safety by halting safety audits of factories.

Democratic members of the Senate Commerce Committee made the allegation in a report on the Takata air bag crisis, citing internal company emails showing that the global audits were stopped for financial reasons from 2009 to 2011.

Inflators in Takata air bags can explode with too much force, sending metal shrapnel into drivers and passengers. The problem has caused at least eight deaths and 105 injuries.

"The more evidence we see, the more it paints a troubling picture of a manufacturer that lacked concern," Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, the committee's ranking Democrat, said in a statement.

The report, released a day ahead of a June 23 committee hearing on Takata air bag problems, says that once a senior vice president called for the audits to be resumed, a safety director faulted a factory in Mexico for failing to properly close bags of ammonium nitrate, the air bag propellant, and for storing contaminated propellant near good materials.

Takata has said that the propellant can deteriorate when exposed to airborne moisture, causing it to burn faster than designed. That can blow apart a metal canister designed to contain an explosion that's supposed to inflate the air bag.

Takata said it never discontinued factory safety audits and

the emails out of context. The company said it never halted what it called safety audits of product quality and manufacturing processes at its plants. The audits that were halted dealt with employee handling of pyrotechnic materials, a Takata statement said.

The company said it now has

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

## **GM** is Recalling Hatchbacks with Takata Air Bags

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is adding more than 243,000 compact hatchbacks in the U.S. and Canada to the growing recall for air bags that can explode with too much force.

The company said June 19 that the expanded recall for passenger air bags covers the Pontiac Vibe from 2003 through 2007. The cars were designed by Toyota and made at a jointly owned factory in California. They're twins of the Toyota Matrix, which was recalled earlier.

The Vibe recall comes after Takata Corp. of Japan agreed in May to double the size of its air bag inflator recall to 33.8 million, making it the largest automotive recall in U.S. history.

The propellant in some Takata inflators can burn too quickly, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shrapnel into the passenger compartment. The

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## **GM** to Invest \$245 Million At Orion Plant

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This latest investment comes just seven months after the announcement of a \$160-million investment to launch "Chevrolet's game-changing Bolt EV," Bonelli said, "which is expected to achieve more than 200 miles of range on a single electric charge.

"Orion is an example of what we can achieve when we work together," said UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada, who leads the union's General Motors Department. "Only through innovative problem solving were we going to see this plant succeed, and this new investment is proof

'UAW-GM continue to show the world that when you involve both workers and management in the process, workers win, management wins and our communities win."

Orion has a unique culture that encourages employees to offer solutions to problems that positively impact the business, said Bonelli.

For example, a team of hourly, salaried and skilled trades workers from the paint shop recently developed a process monitoring tool for robotic paint applicators that alerts operators to potential failures before they have a chance to happen.

The innovative approach to preventive maintenance is now being applied to other General Motors manufacturing sites and will help avoid millions in costs annually

Last week's announcement is a part of the \$5.4 billion General Motors has announced it will be investing in United States manufacturing over the next three

Approximately \$3.1 billion of the \$5.4 billion has been identified, leaving \$2.3 billion to be announced by year-end.

Since June 2009, General Motors has announced United States facility investment of approximately \$17.8 billion. About \$12.4 billion of that has come since the 2011 UAW-GM National Agreement.

In total, these investments have created 6,250 new jobs and secured the positions of approximately 20,700 others, said Bonelli.

## **Club GM Planning Sept. Golf Outing**

Club GM is holding its Southeast Michigan Charity Golf Outing on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Fieldstone Golf Club in Auburn

The cost is \$85 for individuals. The bunch-only tickets cost \$10. The check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. for an 11 a.m. "shot gun" start. Men's, Women's and mixed teams are welcome.

To learn more about the event and order tickets, call Lorenzo Jones at 313-720-4438.

## 2016 Chevrolet Cruze Made Debut in Detroit Theater

The acting was non-existent, but the "star" was outstanding, according to GM CEO Mary Barra, who took the stage at the Fillmore Theater in Detroit to give the new 2016 Chevrolet Cruze its public debut.

Barra called the global car "larger and lighter, more efficient and more sophisticated."

The Cruze offers new technologies such as available droid Auto, Apple CarPlay and new active safety features, as well as a more spacious interior,

It will be offered in more than 40 global markets and goes on sale first in North America in early 2016, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Bluhm.

A new, standard 1.4L turbocharged engine with direct injection and an SAE-certified 153 horsepower helps enable a General Motors-estimated 40 mpg on the highway with the available six-speed automatic transmission. Stop/start technology is intended to enhance the Cruze's efficiency in stop-and-go driving.

The new turbo engine and a leaner architecture that reduces up to 250 pounds also contribute to the new Cruze's stronger performance, with expected 0-60mph acceleration of eight seconds, Barra said.

"The 2016 Cruze builds on a very successful program that introduced Chevrolet to new customers the world over," said Alan Batey, president, General Motors North America.

"We retained all the attributes that made the original Cruze a hit around the globe and built on them to make this car more sophisticated, more fun and more Chevrolet.'

Vehicle highlights include:

- Next-generation Chevrolet MyLink with smartphone integration capability, including a standard seven-inch-diagonal screen and available eight-inch-diagonal screen (at launch, eight-inch screen only with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto coming later).
- Maximum highway range of 530 miles per tank.
- All-new, stronger and lighter body structure that enhances

## **June Auto Sales Look Like Best in** Almost a Decade

Edmunds.com forecasts that 1,484,487 new cars and trucks will be sold in the United States in June for an estimated Season-Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR) of 17.3 million.

The projected sales will be a 9.0 percent decrease from May 2015, but a 4.7 percent increase from June 2014. If the sales volume holds, it will mark the bestselling month of June since 2006, and the biggest June SAAR since

"The auto industry has maintained most of the strength it flexed during its record-breaking May," said Edmunds.com director of Industry Analysis Jessica Caldwell. "In many parts of the country we saw May's deal offers extend well into June, and Fourth of July promotions should start as early as next

"These sales messages are helping to sustain the industry's momentum into the first few weeks of summer."

Caldwell said that munds.com estimates that retail SAAR will come in at 14.1 million vehicles in June, with fleet transactions accounting for 18.3 percent of total sales.

On the used-car side of things, Caldwell said that an estimated 2.98 million used cars will be sold in June, for a SAAR of 37.2 million (compared to 3.07 million – or a SAAR of 37.4 million – used car sales in May).



2016 Chevrolet Cruze

agility, efficiency and safety with an approximately pound lower curb weight.

- Class-leading 106.3-inch wheelbase that offers roominess, contributing to greater rear-seat legroom and more rear knee room.
- Projector headlamps with light-emitting diode (LED) signature lighting - and LED daytime running lamps on up-level mod-
- More standard features, such as 10 air bags, four-wheel disc brakes, rearview camera and available OnStar 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot.
- New, available features including wireless phone charging, heated rear leather seats and heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel.
- · Available advanced safety features include Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keep Assist and Forward Collision Alert.

Bluhm also said that the Cruze, through smartphone integration with the new Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system, provides simple and intuitive use of smartphones in the vehicle.

It integrates certain phone functions onto the Cruze's seveninch-diagonal color touchscreen, allowing them to call up music, navigation apps and more. An uplevel MyLink radio with an eightinch display and navigation is available and also incorporates Apple CarPlay.

"The new Cruze is truly one of Chevrolet's most global vehicles," said Batey. "With content variations dictated mostly by local market demands, customers in every corner of the globe will enjoy the same fundamental dynamics that are making Chevrolet one of the fastest-growing brands around the world.

In 2017, Chevrolet will introduce a new diesel model for U.S. customers that builds on the success of the current Cruze diesel model

"With styling influenced by the acclaimed 2014 Impala and all new Malibu, the 2016 Cruze brings Chevrolet's new, expressive global design language to the small car segment," said John Cafaro, executive director, Chevrolet Design.

"The Cruze's approach to proportion and premium details adds to Chevrolet's elevation of craftsmanship, content, quality and a fresh interpretation of an identity that is unmistakably Chevrolet in every market around the world."

Aluminum is used strategically in the suspension systems to optimize weight and handling characteristics.

'The Cruze's chassis system is perhaps the most mass-efficient in the segment," said Ron Arnesen, Cruze's executive chief engineer. "It is at the core of the car's dynamic driving character, which is designed to deliver fun with an enhanced feeling of con-

Additionally, the new, more rigid architecture is the primary enabler for exceptional chassis tuning, affording more nimble and direct steering and handling attributes. The longer wheelbase and wide front and rear tracks further contribute to a lower, wide "footprint."

In North America, the 2016 Cruze is driven by an all-new, standard 1.4L turbocharged engine derived from GM's new family of small gas engines. It features direct injection, stop/start technology and is matched with a standard six-speed manual or a six-speed automatic transmission.

For the United States, the 2016 Chevrolet Cruze will be built at GM's Lordstown, Ohio assembly plant, with locally and globally sourced components. The plant received a \$50 million investment in tooling and other enhancements to support the new Cruze's production.

Bluhm said the Cruze is Chevrolet's best-selling car around the world, with 3.5 million sold since it went on sale in

Cruze sales in the U.S. in 2014 were 273,060 - a 10 percent increase over 2013. Fifty-three percent of U.S. Cruze customers are new to Chevrolet.

In the U.S., Cruze is the segment's second-best seller to customers under 25.







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These numbers matter to heavy-duty truck buyers because they often use their trucks to operate their businesses.

## Ram Heavy Duty Trucks Can Still Do Some Heavy Lifting

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production vehicle.

• 2016 Ram 3500 crushes the competition with up to 31,210 pounds of SAE J2807-spec. towing capacity, beating the closest competitor by more than two

• 2016 Ram 2500 holds the three-quarter-ton best-in-class towing title with 17,980 pounds of capacity.

• Ram 3500 maintains best-inclass payload of 7,390 pounds with 6.4-liter Hemi V8.

• Ram 3500 raises its best-inclass Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) to 39,100 pounds.

Ram, Cappa said, maintains credibility and customer confidence as the only automaker to align with SAE J2807 towing standard across its entire pickup truck line.

The first 2016 Ram Heavy Duty trucks begin rolling off the factory line in the third quarter of 2015, Cappa said.

The vehicles will also come with an unsurpassed powertrain warranty – five years/60,000 miles on gas engines and five years/100,000 miles on diesel engines, Cappa said.

"Ram maintains leadership in all three pickup segments offering best-in-class fuel efficiency, bestin-class towing, best-in-class power and best-in-class payload," said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO - Ram Truck Brand.

"Ram continues to records in the most important consumer-driven titles of the pickup truck market and we're not slowing down."

Ram Engineering and Cummins developed a new, "hard-hitting" fuel delivery and turbo boost calibration for the 6.7-liter I-6 diesel that produces an additional 35 lb.-ft. of torque, Hegbloom said. This improvement raises the bar from Ram's current title at 865 lb.-ft. of torque to 900 lb.-ft. of

– a number never achieved in a mass-produced vehicle, Hegbloom said.

The previous heavy-duty towing title also belongs to the Ram 3500 at 30,000 pounds, he added. The 2016 Ram 3500 brings that stat to 31,210 pounds, further distancing the closest rival by more than two tons, according to Hegbloom.

To handle the increased towing capacity, Ram engineers beefed up the rear axle ring gear hardware from 12 to 16 bolts on all trucks equipped with the 11.8inch axle. The additional hardened bolts and stronger material are used in the differential case to assure long-term durability.

The most payload available in a pickup is 7,390 pounds - more than 3.5 tons - for a 6.4-literequipped Ram 3500 model, said Hegbloom.

The 2016 Ram 2500 also continues its three-quarter-ton towing leadership with a dominating 17,980 pounds of capacity.

Ram is the only automaker to back its entire pickup truck line and towing claims with SAE J2807 testing criteria, Cappa said.

"Ram has bookended its innovation leadership in the pickup segments and thoughtfully engineered better trucks," said Mike Cairns, director of Ram Truck Engineering, "including our Ram 1500 with real-world fuel economy approaching 30 mpg and the Ram 3500 with a mind-boggling 31,210 pounds of towing capacity, even on the hottest day.

"Our 2016 Ram Trucks own pertinent, functional titles while delivering award-winning interiors and exclusive features that entice customers."

The prices begin at \$31,485 for the 2016 Ram 2500 and \$31,990 for the 2016 Ram 3500, Cappa said. This does not include \$1,195 destination

The 2016 Ram 1500 Crew Cab and Quad Cab models are built at the Warren (Mich.) Truck Assembly Plant, which has built more than 12.5 million trucks since it started operations in 1938

Regular Cab and additional Crew Cab models of the 2016 Ram 1500, along with the Ram 2500 and 3500 Heavy Duty pickup trucks, are built at the Saltillo Assembly Truck Plant in Coahuila, Mexico.

"The truck segment is a large and important one to automakers," Cappa said. "It is also very competitive.

"Ram is going against strong products put out by Ford and GM. So we want to beat them.

"In the end, we ended up beat-

Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326

ing our own limits. We went from 865 torque to 900 torque when we were already at top. We went from 30,000 pounds towing capacity to 31,210."

The heavy-duty customer buys a truck for work and those numbers matter, Cappa said. That why it's important that Ram Heavy Duty retains the highest level of capability with a new best-in-class towing rating of 31,210 pounds, best-in-class torque of 900 lb.-ft. with Cummins 6.7-liter diesel powerhouse and best-in-class payload of 7,390 pounds and Ram continue to build momentum with trucks like the Ram Laramie Limited model.

## **Pontiac Car** 'Condo' Project **Goes Ahead**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

troit car business, they tend to think of the big manufacturers -Ford, Chrysler and GM," Oleshansky said. "But the local car business is so much bigger than that. There are the major suppliers, like Lear and BorgWarner. We have all kinds of aftermarket manufacturers as well.

"By buying a unit, these business owners gain access to our track and can show off just what their equipment can do.

They can also use their units to entertain business clients and hold business-related events at the track.

Oleshansky emphasized that the track, when it is completed, will be a performance track and not a race track.

"There is a lot of demand for a performance track," Oleshansky said. "All the OEMs have their own tracks, but their suppliers need time on the track, so I believe that they'll want to use our track as well.'

Oleshansky said phase one of the project is scheduled to be completed by May of 2016.



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## Ford Plans for the Future

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Schoen Berland, an independent research company, show:

- One third of Millennials in the United States are interested in renting out their own belongings as a way to supplement their income.
- Young Americans rank car rides second only to book lending as things they are most open to sharing.
- More than half of Millennials report being open to sharing rides with others.
- Half of Millennial and Generation Z consumers point to mon-

ey savings as the top advantage to sharing goods and services.

For 40 percent, it's the opportunity to try new products, while for 33 percent, it's having access to more options.

The pilot is being offered to select Ford Credit customers in California – including Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco; as well as in Portland, Ore.; Chicago and Washington, D.C.

It runs through November.

Ford also recently debuted Go-Drive, an on-demand, public carsharing pilot in London. The service offers customers access to a fleet of cars.

## **GKN's North American Headquarters in Auburn Hills Officially Open for Business**

Automotive officially christened its new regional headquarters for the Americas on June 25 with a grand opening event for customers, employees and state, county and local government officials.

The new facility is home to the company's GKN Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals divisions, said Lori Petrelecan, manager of Marketing Communications, Ameri-

In addition to serving as regional headquarters for GKN

Driveline and GKN Sinter Metals, the new site houses employees from GKN's Land Systems and North American Services groups.

The 168,000-square-foot facility is located on an 11.2-acre site at N. Opdyke Road, previously occupied by Showcase Cinema.

GKN Driveline is a producer of automotive driveline components and systems, including constant-velocity-joint, all-wheeldrive, trans-axle and electricdrive systems. GKN Sinter Metals is the world's largest producer of precision powder-metal products, Petrelecan said.

"This new facility is located in the heart of the global auto industry and is well-situated to serve our customers and continue to attract top talent," said Robert Willig, president, GKN Driveline Americas.

"We have been headquartered in Auburn Hills since 1986 and have seen Oakland County and the state of Michigan continue to grow in automotive industry prominence. This is an incredible location for operating in today's global auto industry.'

Steve Lachance, vice president of engineering, GKN Driveline Americas, said, "This state-ofthe-art facility has significantly increased our engineering capacity. As the industry continues to evolve into a more technologydriven business, engineering excellence will be the prime differentiator for successful automotive suppliers."

The facility supports GKN in corporate park feel.

meeting the growth in demand for all-wheel-drive and hybrid electric vehicles, Petrelecan said.

GKN's new headquarters, which houses 350 employees with capacity for more, provides state-of-the-art testing and validation equipment, along with additional engineering design areas for both driveline and sinter metal products. The new facility provides the company with an additional 20 percent more space for engineering and testing activi-

GKN officials at the ceremony acknowledged support for the project by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Oakland County and the City of Auburn Hills.

"Government support for this project, at the state, county and local level has been incredible," Willig said. "It is easy to see why this region continues to be a global leader in the automotive industry."

Petrelecan pointed to these facts about GKN's new facility:

- All metals from the previous structure were sorted and recycled;
- There are 21 conference rooms in the new building.
- · All rooms are named after lakes in Michigan.
- The site has been reforested with new trees including more than 25 evergreen trees that are 20 feet or taller along its north property line to give the site a





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the federal government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of failing to promptly investigate early reports of defective air bags.

In May, Takata bowed to U.S. government pressure and agreed to double the number of air bag inflators it's recalling to 33.8 million, making it the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. The problem, which has persisted for more than a decade, has brought congressional hearings and investigations from NHTSA and the Justice Department.

Vehicles from 11 automakers are affected including BMW, Daimler Trucks, Daimler Vans, Fiat Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Subaru and Toyota.

## GM is Recalling Hatchbacks with Takata Air Bags

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

problem has been blamed for at least eight deaths and more than 100 injuries.

Last month, Takata bowed to pressure from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and declared many of its products defective, agreeing to double the number of air bag inflators being recalled.

The giant recall covers driver and passenger air bags in cars and trucks made by 11 automakers. Takata, the automakers and NHTSA are still trying to determine what exactly causes the inflators to malfunction.

Owners can see if their car is part of the recall by going to https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/ and keying in their vehicle identification number.

The number is located on many state registration cards and is stamped on the dashboard near the bottom of the driver's-side windshield.

NHTSA says the numbers of all the recalled cars have been entered into its database.



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## NHRA Showdown Turns Into an All-Mopar Affair

In a terrific all-Mopar final round showdown on June 21, Matt Hagan defeated his Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) teammate Ron Capps at the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Thunder Valley Nationals, giving the reigning Funny Car world champion his fourth victory of the season in the Mopar Express Lane/ Rocky Boots Dodge Charger R/T and his first national title at Bristol Dragway.

It was also an eighth victory for the new 2015 Mopar Dodge Charger R/T this year and its tenth final round appearance in 11 national events.

On behalf of everyone at Mopar, congratulations to Matt Hagan on this title win at Bristol," said Pietro Gorlier, president and CEO - Mopar Brand Service. "To have another all-Mopar final with new 2015 Mopar Dodge Charger R/T, see it in the winner's circle for an eighth time this season and watch Matt and the team vie for another championship is fantastic and testament to the amount of time, investment and hard work that both Mopar and DSR have put in building this fantastic and competitive vehicle."

The No.2 qualifier, Hagan, advanced through the ladder to his fourth final round appearance of the year and posted an elapsed time run of 4.164 seconds at 303.23 mph to defeat Capps' 4.186/307.02 pass.

The competition in Funny Car is phenomenal right now," Hagan said. "I pinch myself knowing we've won four races here already this year and there's still much racing left. It's so tough."

## **Ram Truck Race Fans Prepare for** Fourth of July

On July 4, Ram Truck will welcome race fans to the Red Bull RedBud National presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. round seven of the Lucas Oil Motocross Championship Buchanan, Mich.

As sponsor of the No. 1 Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Jimmy John's Ram Trucks Suzuki Factory Racing RM-Z450 of Ken Roczen and RCH Racing, Ram will bring a truckload of on-site fan displays to further energize the electric atmosphere that surrounds America's highest attended motocross round, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich.

"There's just something about Ram Trucks and Pro Motocross that seem to go hand-in-hand," offered RCH co-owner Carey Hart.

"The fans at RedBud are second to none and its cool for Ram Trucks to have such a great presence in their own backyard. We're excited to show off the Rebel and give race fans at Red-Bud a firsthand look at the best truck on the market.'

Red Bull RedBud motocross fans will have the opportunity to see the new 2015 Ram 1500 Rebel in person from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Ram's sponsor village display area. While supplies last, fans who visit the Ram display can collect a free gift.

Rebel, Ram's newest off-roader, started production in Warren (Mich.) June 17.

"With the on-track success that Ken Roczen, Broc Tickle and RCH Racing are having this season, it has been great exposure for Ram trucks," said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO, Ram Truck Brand. "Outdoor motocross fans buy more than their fair share of pickup trucks, because trucks are an essential part of their sport."





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## **GM Continues Green Effort** With Recycled Volt Batteries

What happens to the batteries that power Chevrolet Volt extended-range electric cars when their useful life is done? Five of them are helping keep the lights on at the new General Motors Enterprise Data Center at its Milford Proving Ground.

Repurposed scrap Volt battery covers already star in a variety of applications, from bat houses to nesting boxes for endangered species, duck said spokesman Kevin Kelly. Now, as Chevrolet closes on the secondgeneration Volt for 2016, it's time to begin tapping the energy left in batteries from first-generation

Because the Volt typically draws its power from a band of energy in the battery pack, there is a lot of leftover juice for stationary use, Kelly said. A new solar array and two wind turbines feed the administration building's circuit breaker panel, where the five Volt batteries work in parallel to supply power to the building, delivering net-zero energy use on an annual basis.

"Even after the battery has reached the end of its useful life in a Chevrolet Volt, up to 80 percent of its storage capacity remains," said Pablo Valencia, senior manager, Battery Life Cycle Management. "This secondary use application extends its life, while delivering waste reduction and economic benefits on an industrial scale.

The batteries also can provide back-up power to the building for four hours in the event of an outage and stores it when it's unneeded. Valencia said. Excess energy is sent back to the grid that supplies the Milford campus.

The 74-kilowatt ground-mount solar array coupled with the two

2kW wind turbines generate enough power to provide all of the energy needs for the office building and lighting for the adjacent parking lot. Together, these renewable sources generate approximately 100 Mwh of energy annually, roughly equivalent to the energy used by 12 average households.

The secondary application is being used as a living lab to understand how the battery redistributes energy at this scale, Valencia said. And the company is working with partners to validate and test systems for other commercial and non-commercial us-

"This system is ideal for commercial use because a business can derive full functionality from an existing battery while reducing upfront costs through this reuse," Valencia said.

The reuse of Volt batteries also helped the data center administration building attain LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

## SAE Detroit Sets July Golf Outing

The Detroit chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is holding a golf outing on Friday, July 31, at the Fox Hills golf course in Plymouth.

The day will begin with a networking breakfast, followed by a shotgun start (scramble format) at 8 a.m., and end with a sitdown dinner, said event chair Renee Bovair. The cost is \$700 for a foursome or \$175 for individuals.

To learn more about the event and to order tickets, call Bovair at 248-324-4445.



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## Supplier Celebrates Award with Barbeque

Color them pleased at Axalta Coating Systems.

The maker of paints and coatings for the automotive industry was so pleased with being named a GM Supplier of the Year that the company threw a party for its employees at the company's manufacturing facility in Mount Clemens on June 19.

Axalta spokesman John Wray said that in March, GM recognized 78 of its best global suppliers during its 23rd annual Supplier of the Year awards ceremony in Detroit.

Winning suppliers from around the world received the award for going above and beyond GM's re-

The party was actually a barbeque," said Wray. "And if I do say so, it was a great barbeque. We had hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh corn for all the 600 employees who work at the Mount Clemens site.'

Wray said that Axalta was formerly part of DuPont. The company was spun off in 2013 and became an independent operation.

This is exciting for us because this is the first time we were named as a GM Supplier of the Year since we spun off from DuPont," Wray said.

"Going back to DuPont, we've had a long relationship with GM. The first time we worked with them was back in 1923 with the Oakland, which was a brand GM had at the the time. So it was quite an honor to receive this award from GM.'

Wray said they threw the barbeque because it was only proper to show, in a concrete way, gratitude to the people at the Mount Clemens site.

They're the ones who made getting the award possible," Wray said. "I recently heard automotive legend Bob Lutz say that today's cars are so well built by everyone that the best way to stand out is by design. And paints and colors are a great way to make a design stand out.

"So, GM saying that our coatings are quality really means something.

Wray said Axalta invited some representatives from GM, including Randall Pappal, GM executive director of Global Product Purchasing. He got to celebrate the occasion with David Powell, Axalta's GM Global Business direc-

"This event gives us a chance to recognize our team for a great accomplishment," said Joe Campbell, Axalta Mount Clemens plant manager.

"When a customer gives you this kind of recognition, it validates the hard work you do to deliver products and services. It recognizes us as the best of the best, and it is a huge honor for

Axalta Senior Vice President Steve Markevich said that winning the GM award doesn't hap-

## **Old Flint Factory Site Being Fixed**

FLINT, Mich. (AP) - An effort to transform a former General Motors manufacturing complex in Flint known as "Chevy in the Hole" into a park is entering its second phase.

The Flint Journal reports City Council approved an agreement with the Genesee County Land Flint and the Land Bank entered a similar agreement for the agency to administer a \$1.6 million federal grant for the first Chevy Commons phase. That included installing the first section of a soil cap as well as improvements to storm sewer lines. Manufacturing began at the site in 1904 and, at its peak, factories employed thousands.



From left, David Powell, Randall Pappal, Steve Markevich and Joe Campbell.

pen without the "remarkable effort of our employees. Every day, we produce automotive coatings to the highest standards. And every day, they require high quality and integrity of the formulation."

Other guests included Ma-

comb County executive Mark Hackel, state representative Marilyn Lane and Mount Clemens mayor Barb Dempsey, as well as other dignitaries.

'This was good news," Wray said. "We wanted to celebrate it with everyone."

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PAGE 8 DETROIT AUTO SCENE JUNE 29, 2015

## Chrysler Acknowledged for Support of Black Engineers

Fiat Chrysler has been named a "Top Supporter" of engineering programs at the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the fourth consecutive year, according to U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology (USBE&IT) magazine

In making its final selection, *USBE&IT* considered input from the deans of the nation's 14 accredited HBCUs and from members of the corporate-academic alliance, Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering.

Each year, the magazine selects corporate, government and nonprofit organizations that provide the most support to HBCUs. The "Top Supporter" list has been in existence for eleven years.

"FCA US is honored to be recognized for our commitment to the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are a great source of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) talent," said Georgette Borrego Dulworth, head of FCA US Diversity.

"Identifying and recruiting diverse talent with world-class skills is imperative to our company's and our nation's continued competitiveness and success."

Reflecting its strong commitment to developing a diverse workforce, said Dulworth, Fiat Chrysler invests in a wide variety of education and training initiatives to help students – especially women and underrepresented minorities – obtain the technical skills in STEM disciplines.

For example, over the past several decades, the FCA Foundation – the company's charitable arm – has invested more than \$2.1 million to support FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) ro-

botics teams across the United States and Canada. ty organizations, including Black Engineer of the Year, Women of

Fiat Chrysler, Dulworth said, is also committed to active support of organizations that nurture the academic and professional development of diverse technical leaders, including:

- American Indian Science & Engineering Society;
- Florida International University Engineers on Wheels;
- National Association of Hispanic MBAs;
- National Black MBA Association:
- SAE International;
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers:
- Society of Women Engineers. Employees at Fiat Chrysler have consistently received important technical professional recognition from various diversi-

ty organizations, including Black Engineer of the Year, Women of Color, Great Minds in STEM, U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology, and others.

"We are consistently finding many organizations that are doing their fair share in building the STEM pipeline," said Tyrone Taborn, editor in chief of US-BE&IT magazine.

"Black students and professionals want to know what these organizations are doing for their colleges because they want to work for employers that are committed to their community."

In February, four Fiat Chrysler engineers were recognized at the annual Black Engineer of the Year event, which included several Modern Day Technology Leader awards, given each year to young engineers who have provided a significant contribution to their field.

This past fall, 10 Fiat Chrysler women captured awards for excellence in managerial leadership or as technology rising stars at the annual Women of Color STEM Conference.

These awards underscore the company's commitment to develop the talents of diverse employees and to promote careers in STEM, Dulworth said.

In addition, Fiat Chrysler continues to be an active supporter of organizations such as the National Black MBA Association and National Association of Hispanic MBAs to recruit talented MBA candidates from the nation's leading business schools for the company's finance and leadership development programs, Dulworth said.



Glenn Shagena

## Fiat Chrysler Shakes Up Its Labor Leadership

Fiat Chrysler appointed Glenn Shagena to the position of Head of Employee Relations for North America.

Most recently, Shagena served as head of FCA Mexico Human

Al Iacobelli has announced his plans to retire from the company. Both are effective immediate-

Prior to his most recent position, Shagena was Human Resources director, Manufacturing and World Class Manufacturing (WCM), where he was responsible for heading up labor relations efforts, including the rollout of WCM, at all of the company's manufacturing operations. As such, he has played a key role on the company's negotiations teams, said FCA spokesperson Shawn Morgan.

Shagena joined the company in 1985 in the company's Labor Relations department working at the Sterling Heights (Mich.) Assembly Plant. Since then, he has held a series of positions with increasing responsibilities in Employee Relations and Human Resources.



Chrysler women at the 2014 Women of Color STEM conference in Detroit.

## **Ram Builds Truck That Does Heavy Lifting**

The pickup truck market is hot right now, but it is also very competitive, with Detroit OEMs putting out a variety of strong product.

Which is why the Ram 1500 continues with two mid-year 2015 offerings that carry into the 2016 model year – the Ram 1500 Rebel and Ram 1500 Laramie Limited, said Ram spokesman Nick Cappa.

The Ram 1500 Rebel brings a "one-of-a-kind, off-road design" to the full-size truck segment, Cappa said. The Rebel drops right into a core segment of the truck market with unique design cues and mechanical innovation backed by Ram Truck engineering.

Rebel features an all-new grille with a prominent billet silver "RAM" letter badge, Cappa said. Departing from the brand's iconic "crosshair" designs, the blacked-out Rebel grille tops a completely new black off-road front bumper design with a durable powder-coated surface. It also incorporates a powder coated, billet silver skid plate, front tow hooks, 33-inch Toyo tires and an all-new 17-inch aluminum wheel.

"Inside, Rebel is every bit as brawny and rugged as it is outside," Cappa said. "The truck features industry-exclusive seating elements finished in Radar Red and black with fabric inserts embossed with the Toyo tire tread pattern, matching the Rebel's actual footprint. Standard heated front seats feature Light Diesel Gray accent stitching, Radar Red Ram's head embroidery on the headrests and black with Light Diesel Gray Rebel nameplate embroidered on the upper seat bolsters."

That's all that Ram has done, Cappa said. The brand also has taken the Ram Laramie Limited – the "benchmark in truck opulence" – to an even higher level of sophistication and attention to detail. Featuring premium materials, such as all-black, full-leather seating, real wood interior components and unique badges, Limited is a "black-tie" luxury alternative to the popular southwestern-themed Laramie Longhorn edition pickup.

The Limited's all-new grille is the most prominent change of the exterior, Cappa said. As the leading point, its new billet port grille breaks from the long tradition of crosshair styling with bold "RAM" lettering. Additional chrome exterior accents and a chrome "RAM" tailgate logo distinguish the Limited model. Limited also features an all-new 20-inch forged multi-surface aluminum wheel – unique in the

truck market.

A new console bin houses a cellular phone and tablet holder, which can be concealed with a new tambour sliding door made from Black Argento wood, the chosen timber for the Limited interior, Cappa said.

The collective silver pinstripe theme runs through the truck, including black premium Berber carpet inserts, which can easily be removed from the floor mats to reveal double-duty slush mats.

The Ram 1500, Cappa said, leads pickup truck fuel economy with the exclusive 3.0-liter EcoDiesel V6 engine delivering 240 horsepower and 420 lb.-ft. of torque at what he calls an impressive 29 miles per gallon.

Cappa also said that Ram Truck offers the best value in half-ton trucks with a starting price of \$25,410, plus \$1,195 destination, and includes a standard 5.7-liter Hemi V8 engine.

Since its launch as a standalone division in 2009, the Ram Truck Brand, Cappa said, has

steadily emerged as an industry leader with one goal: to build the best pickup trucks and commercial vehicles in the industry.

Creating a distinct identity for Ram Trucks has allowed the brand to concentrate on core customers and features they find valuable, Cappa said. Whether focusing on a family that uses a Ram 1500 day in and day out, a hard-working Ram 3500 Heavy Duty owner or a business that depends on its Ram ProMaster commercial van every day for deliveries, Ram has the truck market covered.

"In order to be the best, it takes a commitment to innovation, capability, efficiency and durability." Cappa said.

"Ram Truck invests substantially in its products, infusing its trucks with great looks, refined interiors, durable engines and ex-



2015 Ram Sport Crew Cab

clusive features that further enhance their capabilities."

Moving into the 2015 model year, Cappa said that Ram continues to beat the competition in the most sought-after titles, fuel economy, payload and towing ca-

- Best-in-class fuel economy with exclusive EcoDiesel 29 mpg with Ram 1500.
- Best-in-class towing capability 30,000 pounds with Ram 3500.
- Best-in-class payload 7,390 pounds with Ram 3500.
- Best-in-class torque 865 lb.-ft. with Ram 3500 equipped with Cummins.

Truck customers, from half-ton to commercial, have a demanding range of needs and require their vehicles to provide high levels of capability.

"Ram trucks are designed to deliver a total package for the consumer who needs trucks that do the hard work," Cappa said.

## Marchionne Promises Alfa Romeo Success

ARESE, Italy – Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne last week unveiled the long-awaited Alfa Romeo Giulia, a sedan meant to power the premium sports car brand's return to the United States.

Using the Giulia as flagship model, Marchionne said on June 24 he aims to boost brand sales to 400,000 a year by 2018, from below 68,000 last year.

Marchionne has missed targets on relaunching the 110-year-old brand several times since becoming Fiat CEO in 2004, but he said the merger last year of Fiat with Chrysler has provided the necessary financial resources, technical capability and global distribution network.

"Do I think it improves FCA's chances going forward? Yes, period. It was part of the plan," Marchionne told reporters, using the

short name for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

But he said the brand's relaunch has no bearing on his drive for further consolidation in the automotive industry. The CEO has long argued the industry needs more mergers to make better returns.

General Motors has said it is not interested in a merger with Fiat Chrysler, leading to speculation that Marchionne might approach GM shareholders directly.

Asked June 24 if he was preparing such an offer, Marchionne said, "We are not in a position to comment on any of those things because we are very far removed from any of those scenarios still."

Analysts are skeptical about Marchionne's ambitions for Alfa Romeo. IHS Automobile analyst Ian Fletcher forecasts Alfa sales will reach just 216,000 by 2018, citing the long launch delays and the crowded premium brand field. Alfa will be duking it out with BMW, Mercedes and Jaguar, all of which have long been present in the big markets like the United States.

"They will end up looking at China, fast-growth markets, to try to find a market, and all the major players are already there," Fletcher said. "Unless they can do something considerably different, they are just going to get lost."

Marchionne has announced another seven new Alfa Romeos by 2018, including crossovers, which he is counting on to boost sales. He also cited as a model the success of Jeep, which grew from 200,000 in sales in 2009 to a forecast 1.2 million this year.

## OnStar Says Be Prepared for Severe Storms

While people look forward to the good summer weather, that doesn't mean people shouldn't be prepared for the worst, said GM spokesman Stefan Cross.

As the country braces for the Atlantic hurricane season and the Midwest tornado season. On-Star-equipped Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles offer Crisis Assist services to customers, regardless of the plan to which they subscribe, in the event of an extreme weather emergency, Cross said.

The 2015 Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30 and includes the coastal regions of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean More than 1.1 million OnStar customers reside in these areas.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a 70 percent likelihood of six to 11 named storms during the 2015 season, three to six of which could become hurricanes.

According to the National Weather Service, peak tornado weather is April through June, but they are common in July and August.

'Staying informed and developing an emergency plan can make the biggest difference during a severe weather season," said Mary Ann Adams, OnStar crisis incident manager.

Safety and security are at the foundation of our services and we are available to subscribers at any time with weather updates, traffic conditions, evacuation routes and to direct emergency services.'

OnStar has relationships with more than 6,000 9-1-1 emergency call centers nationwide, allowing subscribers to receive fast, localized assistance in any type of emergency, Adams said.

In a hurricane or other disaster, a push of OnStar's red emergency or blue button will put drivers in contact with an advisor for assistance.

Anyone living near or traveling to a hurricane-prone area should be prepared. OnStar has developed a Hurricane Preparation Checklist and includes such tips

- · Create a disaster kit with essentials. Always include enough food and water for each person. Also make sure that you have copies of personal documents and have extra cash and traveler's checks.
- Take steps to protect your property. Minimize the likelihood for damage by installing hurricane shutters, securing loose siding and removing diseased tree limbs near your home.
- Set your evacuation plan beforehand. Knowing what to do in

## **NHTSA Checking** On Dodge Dart Brake Complaints

DETROIT (AP) - U.S. safety regulators are investigating complaints of braking problems with Dodge Dart compact cars.

The probe by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers about 121,000 Darts made by Fiat Chrysler from the 2013 model year.

The agency says it has 18 complaints that brake pedals can be hard to depress and braking distance unexpectedly

creased. Some said they had to use the parking brake to stop the cars, while others reported that the brake master cylinder had to be

replaced. The agency has no reports of

An investigation could lead to

crashes or injuries.

Chrysler says it's cooperating with the investigation and that owners with concerns should contact dealers.



OnStar helps during storms.

case something happens can save time and lives.

Adams said determine if you live in a flood zone, stay alert for extended rainfall and flooding and be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities.

Before a crisis, OnStar is available with weather updates, including severe weather warnings, and can help subscribers find shelter, Adams said.

During a crisis, subscribers can request emergency assistance for themselves as well as for others, or get the latest information on evacuation routes and areas impacted by the natural disaster. After a crisis, OnStar continues to assist with emergency and navigation response services, and can also connect subscribers to loved ones.

OnStar often provides assistance in situations when cell phone service may be compromised, Adams said.

Recently, OnStar provided more than 65,000 complimentary Hands-Free Calling minutes between May 24-29 to help customers impacted by flooding in Texas and Oklahoma. These minutes were used to connect subscribers with loved ones and relay information, often where cell phone function was limited.









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title, plate, zero security deposit, first month payment (first payment waived for Cruze and Malibu only) and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including GM Competitive Lease Conquest Private

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- Remote Vehicle Entry! \* 31 MPG on the Highway

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## **Penske Auto Group Gets New Executive V.P.**

Penske Automotive Group, Inc, an international transportation services company, on June 16 named J.D. Carlson, the company's senior vice president and corporate controller, to the position of executive vice president and chief financial officer, effective immediately.

Carlson replaces David K. Jones, who has resigned from his role as executive vice president and chief financial officer to accept a similar position with another company. Jones will remain with the company through June 30, in an advisory capacity.

Carlson joined Penske Automotive in 2006 as vice president and corporate controller. In May 2011, he was promoted to senior vice president and corporate Controller and was named as principal accounting officer.

Carlson has a strong operational and technical background in finance and accounting and will be responsible for all aspects of the company's financial operations, said Penske spokesman Anthony Pordon. His experience and tenure with the Penske Automotive organization will maintain the integrity and discipline of our worldwide financial operations and provide a solid foundation for success in this new role.

The company also promoted Shelley Hulgrave from corporate accounting manager, a position she has held since October 2006, to corporate controller, Pordon said. Since joining the company in 2006, Hulgrave has taken on increasing roles and responsibilities, including coordination with the company's accounting teams in the United States, Europe and Australia, which positions her well for success in her new role. Previously, Ms. Hulgrave's work experience included five years with the accounting firm of Ernst & Young where she served as an Audit Manager.

## **Google Starts Testing its** Autonomous Car

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The latest models of Google's selfdriving cars are now cruising the streets near the Internet company's Silicon Valley headquarters as an ambitious project to transform the way people get around shifts into its next phase.

This marks the first time that the pod-like, two seat vehicles have been allowed on public roads since Google unveiled the next generation of its self-driving fleet more than a year ago. The cars had previously been confined to a private track located on a former Air Force base located about 120 miles southeast of San Francisco.

Google announced last month that it would begin testing the curious-looking cars last month, but hadn't specified the timing until June 23 when it disclosed the vehicles are driving up to 25 miles per hour on the roads around its Mountain View, California, office.

Google had installed its robotic driving technology in Lexus sports utility vehicles during the first few years of testing before developing the smaller prototype. The new models are designed to work without a steering wheel or brake pedal, although the vehicles will be equipped with those features during the initial runs on public roads.

A human will also ride in the cars to take control in emergencies, just as has been the case with the self-driving Lexus vehicles during the past six years.

## New Sponsor for Labor Day Celebration

New business partnerships and exciting alliances to benefit the community and enhance the festival experience were unveiled June 24 as organizers, sponsors and festival co-founder, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, shared plans for the 18th Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casi-& Resort, said event spokesman Jeff Corey.

An extended partnership with Ford, expanded relationship with Soaring Eagle Casino &Resort, and new sponsorships with OUR Credit Union and Vibe Credit Union will boost Ford Arts Beats & Eats, taking place in downtown Royal Oak Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-7, Corey said.

In its 17-year history, Corey said, Ford Arts, Beats & Eats has

greatly impacted the entire area by raising \$4.5 million from gate admission, beverage proceeds and other festival-sponsored community initiatives benefiting nonprofits and civic organizations throughout southeastern Michigan.

The weekend celebration will continue to be known as Ford Arts, Beats & Eats as the Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers, in partnership with Ford Motor Company's Detroit Region, extends its Title Sponsorship agreement - which it has held since 2010 - to 2018, Corey said.

"We are proud to continue to invest in the communities we serve by extending our Title Sponsorship of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats," said Amy Marentic, Ford's Detroit Regional Sales manager.

"In the five years of our title involvement," she said, "we have found it has presented an ideal setting to showcase our Ford products through displays and interactive activities with entertaining and informative features."

Strong community backing continues for the festival, Corey said, with the upgrade of the key partnership with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort as it expands its role to Presenting Sponsor through 2017, making the new official title of the festival as: Ford Arts, Beats & Eats presented by Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

'The success of Ford Arts, Beats & Eats is due to collaboration among businesses, our communities, and civic organizations," said Patterson.



Mopar Performance Kit

## **Mopar Adds Fiat Brand to Parts Distribution Network**

Welcome to the Mopar family. Mopar (a simple contraction of the words Motor and PARts) was trademarked in 1937 with the launch of an antifreeze product, but it truly made its mark in the 1960s during the muscle-car era, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ariel Gavilan.

Today, Mopar is now a part of Fiat Chrysler's service, parts and customer-care brand and distributes more than 500,000 parts and accessories in more than 150 markets around the world, Gavilan said.

With more than 50 parts distribution centers and 27 customer contact hubs located around the world, Mopar integrates service, parts and customer-care operations in order to enhance dealer and customer support worldwide.

Mopar is currently, and has been, the source for genuine parts and accessories for Fiat Chrysler brands.

And with almost 80 years of Mopar heritage and experience behind them, the Mopar brand has welcomed Fiat vehicles into the fold, said Gavilan.

The all-new 2016 Fiat 500X provides plenty of opportunities for owners to customize the compact crossover, Gavilan said, but an assist from Mopar is taking personalization possibilities to the "X-treme."

Fiat Chrysler service, parts and customer-care brand will offer more than 100 Mopar accessories to personalize the latest addition to the Fiat lineup in the North American market, Gavilan

The "iconic Italian style that combines functionality, performance and all-wheel-drive confidence of the 2016 Fiat 500X" can now be augmented with a "healthy selection of production Mopar accessories" ranging from a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of under \$20 to \$1,775, Gavilan said.

"The addition of more than 100 Mopar accessories from which to choose provides customers unlimited potential for giving an even more distinct and unique personality to the all-new 2016 Fiat 500X," said Pietro Gorlier, President and CEO - Mopar Brand Service, Parts and Customer Care.

For additional information on the Mopar catalog of genuine quality parts and accessories for 2016 Fiat 500X, visit the http://blog.mopar.com/tag/500X.

## **Ford Edge Gets Top Federal Safety Rating**

The 2015 Ford Edge achieved a five-star Overall Vehicle Score from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in its New Car Assessment Program the highest possible rating from the U.S. government.

Loaded with more technology, the 2015 Ford Edge was reengineered from the ground up, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker. It offers three engine options - two of which are new - for enhanced performance, as well as a host of safety and driver-assist technologies that help with the driving

"The new Edge delivers on the quality and handling customers have come to expect from a Ford vehicle, while infusing more innovation and advanced technology to create a vehicle that we think will maintain its leadership position in its segment," said J.D. Shanahan, chief program engineer for Edge.

With state-of-the-art technologies, the all-new Edge was designed to inspire confidence on the road, Shanahan said. From available features like the new 180-degree front camera with washer and standard rear camera, to Curve Control and side parking sensors, Ford Edge offers and enhanced comfort level for vehicle occupants.

nologies for the all-new Edge in-

- Standard active glove box knee airbag: An advanced design uses the glove box front to enhance knee protection for the front passenger in certain crash-
- Available adaptive cruise control and collision warning with brake support: Uses radar to detect moving vehicles directly ahead and change the cruising speed if necessary. Collision warning triggers visual and audio alerts if the system detects the following distance is diminishing too quickly and a collision may

The system can also prean improved driving experience charge the brakes if the driver

 Available inflatable rear safe-Standard and available tech-

2015 Ford Edge

ty belts: Advanced restraint system combines attributes of safety belt and airbag technologies to reduce head, neck and chest injuries in frontal crashes by distributing crash force energy across five times more of an occupant's torso than a traditional safety belt.

needs to stop suddenly.

## **Ford Boosts Car Production**

mand for Ford's newest products, the automaker this year will produce close to 40,000 extra units by idling select plants for only one week during what has been the traditional two-week summer shutdown, said Ford spokeswoman Kristina Adamski.

'To meet surging customer demand for our top-selling trucks and utilities, we are continuing to run our North American facilities during the traditional two-week summer shutdown in order to add close to 40,000 units," said Bruce Hettle, Ford vice president. North America Manufacturing. "Six of our assembly plants will build for an additional week in order to ensure we're getting more of our vehicles into dealerships.

As part of Ford's annual production schedule, its North American manufacturing facilities will shut down from June 29 to July 10, for building maintenance and machine retooling, Hettle said. Based on strong customer demand for the company's newest products - F-150, Edge, Escape and Explorer – six Ford assembly plants, along with supporting powertrain and stamping plants, will shut down only the week of June 29. Assembly plants include Chicago, Dearborn Truck, Kansas City, Kentucky Truck, Louisville and Oakville.

The powertrain and stamping

In response to customer de-plants taking a reduced summer shutdown this year include:

- Livonia Transmission:
- Rawsonville Transmission; Sharonville Transmission;
- Sterling Axle;
- Buffalo Stamping;
- Chicago Stamping:
- Dearborn Consolidated:
- Kansas City Stamping;
- Kentucky Stamping;
- Woodhaven Stamping.

Demand for Ford's trucks and utilities continues to be strong, Adamski said. In April, Ford's new 2015 F-150 was turning in just 20 days on dealer lots, while Edge spent just 10 days on dealer lots. Escape inventories remain tight in a growing small utility vehicle segment. Explorer inventories are also tight, with the new 2016 Explorer just beginning to hit dealer lots as production

This is the third straight year Ford has kept plants running during summer shutdown in order to meet strong demand for its products, Adamski said. Over the past several years, the company has invested more than \$6.2 billion and added more than 15,000 jobs in its U.S. facilities to help meet customer demand for its newest products.

The increased production was included in the financial guidance Ford confirmed in its firstquarter earnings report on April 28, Adamski said.

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