Tech Center News

WARREN, MICHIGAN

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AUGUST 24, 2015



The 2 millionth vehicle rolls off the Lansing Delta line on Aug. 14.

GM Celebrates Lansing Delta's 2M Autos

GM's Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant.

in White Frost Tricoat, rolled off the production line at General Motors' Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant Aug. 14, the 2 millionth vehicle produced at the automaker's newest assembly

They just keep on rolling at plant in North America, said GM Davis said. spokes Erin Davis.

Opened in 2006, Lansing Delta A 2016 Buick Enclave, painted Township Assembly blends best practices and the newest technology in one facility. It was the first automotive manufacturing facility in the world to be a Gold Certified Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED),

"This milestone directly reflects the dedication and hard work that our employees put into these crossovers every day," said Mike Trevorrow, Lansing regional plant manager. "This team has established a strong founda-

GM Foundation Donates **To Help Local Causes**

there. Over the past couple of weeks the GM Foundation has presented \$100,000 in grant money to local charities that operated near the company's Orion Assembly, Pontiac Metal Center, Pontiac Powertrain Headquarters and Pontiac Customer Care and Aftersales facitlities as well as the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

On Aug. 14 during an open house event at General Motors' Pontiac Metal Center. GM Foundation vice president Lori

Like a good neighbor, GM is Wingerter presented \$50,000 in grants on behalf of all of the local GM facilities in and around Ponti-

> "General Motors is committed to supporting the communities that our employees call home," said Wingerter. "This year, the GM Foundation plans to provide \$2 million in funding to hundreds of organizations across the country that provide critical resources that families and neighborhoods rely on every day.'

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 Cheryl Allen (r), Southwest Solutions, gets check from Vivian Pickard.

Sink Hole Drew 250,000 Visitors to Corvette Museum

by BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) -The car-swallowing hole has been fixed but not forgotten at the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky. Yellow tape now marks the boundaries of the cavity that became a sensation and put the museum on the map. And instead of a gaping sinkhole driving tourism, now it's the vintage sports cars crunched by rocks and dirt.

Work ended recently to fill in the pit that consumed eight prized sports cars in early 2014. The repaired exhibit area has become a magnet for visitors, and the dirt-caked remains of the mangled cars are the stars.

Where the 60-foot-long, 45-footwide, 30-foot-deep sinkhole once drew gasps from visitors, now it's



The 2015 F-150 **Honored For Its** Weight Losses

The new Ford F-150 earned recognition as the winner of the third annual Altair Enlighten Award from Altair and the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) for the truck's use of lightweight materials to minimize weight.

The 2015 F-150 – with best-inclass towing, payload and EPAestimated gasoline fuel economy plus five-star top government crash test ratings for every cab configuration - is being recognized for its total weight reduction of up to 700 pounds, said Altair spokeswoman Jennifer Korail.

Ford's entry, one of 17 nominations that competed for the award, was selected as the winner for taking 700 pounds off of the Ford F-150 while improving its performance, safety, and efficiency, said Korail. She said Ford engineers took a holistic approach to weight reduction by incorporating advanced materials into the entire design of the vehicle, including the frame, body, powertrain, battery and interior features such as the seats. The weight savings help the truck tow more, haul more, accelerate quicker and stop shorter, and it contributes to fuel efficiency. "As America's truck leader, Ford is honored to be named the 2015 Altair Enlighten Award winner for the all-new Ford F-150.' said Raj Nair, group vice president, Global Product Development and chief technical officer, Ford Motor Company. "This award is recognition of our outstanding team members, who set

the remains of the worst-damaged cars that get astonished looks.

"It's just horrifying," said Corvette owner Doug Kidd, of Canton, Ohio. "Nature's a pretty big thing to deal with. They look like they went through a tornado.'

Seven of the eight cars are back on display in about the same spot where they plunged to fame. Five were too beaten up for repairs. One is fixed, another will return Sept. 3 after being repaired in Michigan and another will be restored by the museum. The eight cars carried a total value believed to exceed \$1 million.

The museum's Facebook followers now exceed 200,000, compared to about 50,000 before the sinkhole opened. On social media, photos showcasing the damaged cars outpace those of the shiny, sleek models on display,



One of eight Corvettes damages when a sink hole opened up at the National Corvette Museum last year.

said museum spokeswoman Katie Frassinelli.

"People just really enjoy hearing the story and like seeing the damage," she said. "I guess it's the rubberneck effect. These cars definitely appeal to a wider audience."

In the gift shop, jars of sinkhole dirt and rocks fetch \$10 apiece. Nearly 2,400 jars had sold through July. Wanda Cohen of Roswell, Georgia, had just posted a photo of a wrecked car on her Facebook page.

"It's like looking at the worst wrecks you've ever seen," she said.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 Tourist at the Corvette Museum look down where the sink hole was.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Enclave Has a Celebration for Two Million Cars

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion since opening to enable us to produce our 2 millionth vehicle in nine years, which is quite an accomplishment."

Since starting production, Lansing Delta Township has manufactured the Saturn Outlook, Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia, Acadia Denali and Buick Enclave. A white Outlook was the first vehicle produced on May 24, 2006.

The plant currently employs approximately 3,200 employees on three shifts.

GM has announced more than \$580 million in investments for Lansing Delta Township facility over the last two years, including \$63 million in 2014 to expand the plant by nearly 263,000 square feet and \$520 million earlier this year for tooling and equipment associated with future new vehicle programs.

"Producing the 2 millionth vehicle would not be possible without the great people we have here," said UAW Local 602 President Bill Reed

While most vehicles follow somewhat of a bell curve for sales during their lifecycle, the Enclave has continued an upward trajectory after more than seven years, Davis said.

Minor dips in 2009 and 2012 reflected overall trends in the recovering automotive industry, but record-setting 2014 sales represented a 39-percent increase over the Enclave's first full year of production. As of June 2015, more than 500,000 Enclave models had been sold worldwide.

'The Enclave led Buick's product renaissance, redefining what consumers should expect from a full-size luxury crossover," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Buick.

"It is fitting that an Enclave is the 2 millionth vehicle to roll off the line in Lansing, demonstrating continued consumer demand."

The General Motors Foundation Aids Local Charities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Money donated at this event will help:

• Blessings in a Backpack -Blessings in a Backpack provides elementary schoolchildren who are on the federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program with a backpack of food to take home for 38 weekends during the school year. Backpack food includes easy-to-prepare, ready-toeat foods, like granola bars, juice boxes, mac and cheese, and oatmeal

 Clinton River Watershed Council - The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and celebrating the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. The funding helps purchase supplies and equipment like waders, test kits, nets and microscopes for students to use.

· Oakland Living Human Service Agency - OLHSA is the largest private nonprofit agency delivering human services to Oakland and Livingston Counties. They offer a comprehensive set of services, focusing on meeting the basic needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and people suffering from economic hardship

• Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan - This group provides high quality youth development programs for children ages 6-18 in the community.

 Child Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland County - Whether it's at CARE House, inside the home of a vulnerable family, in a courtroom, at a school or another of its many community partners, CARE House provides a continuum of quality care for children and families.

• Winning Futures - Each year, Winning Futures impacts 1,400

students through its programs. The goal is for students to create a positive relationship with an adult mentor, and learn skills that will last a lifetime.

• Oakland Family Services -Oakland Family Services provides confidential services that help children and adults to set goals, explore alternatives and to resolve even the most difficult crises.

• Pontiac Center for Success : The Center for Success – Pontiac is focused on establishing relationships with children throughout Pontiac to empower them to become all they can be.

They focus on homework help, tutoring and after school programs.

On Aug. 19, the GM Foundation presented, at the Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly and Brownstone Battery Plant facilities, eight grants totaling \$50,000 to local neighborhood organizations that are working to make Detroit a better place.

"The local organizations that we support are essential in the continued development in our communities, and through the ongoing efforts of the GM Foundation, we are proud to play a part in giving back," said Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly Plant manager Gary West.

Through the GM Foundation's Plant City Grants program, said plant spokeswoman Courtney Zemke, funds will support the following organizations and community programs:

• Alkebulan Village - The organization was founded in 1978 with the original purpose of teaching the martial arts, Zemke said. But since then, it's expanded to include youth and adult sports, the visual and performing arts as well as homework assistance and tutoring, community service and youth entrepreneurship training.

Blessings in a Backpack.

• Detroit Impact - Detroit Impact is a youth center established to work with youth in the Detroit community to teach, mentor, guide, motivate and encourage.

• Dream Chasers - This organization's purpose, Zemke said, is to improve lives by helping establish quality relationships between youth and adult volunteers for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship and community.

• Green Living Science – The mission of Green Living Science (GLS) is to transform Detroit by teaching recycling, Zemke said. It builds awareness of and passion for the environment through education and service.

• Neighborhood Service Organization - It is a nonprofit human services agency serving the city's most vulnerable neighbors, Zemke said.

NSO has been supporting the community for 60 years with innovative services. Some of its services are location-based, serving neighbors who come to us for help.

• Southwest Solutions - It is nationally recognized as a model of community building, Zemke said. The organization is a leading provider of both human services and affordable housing and economic development.

• Winning Futures.



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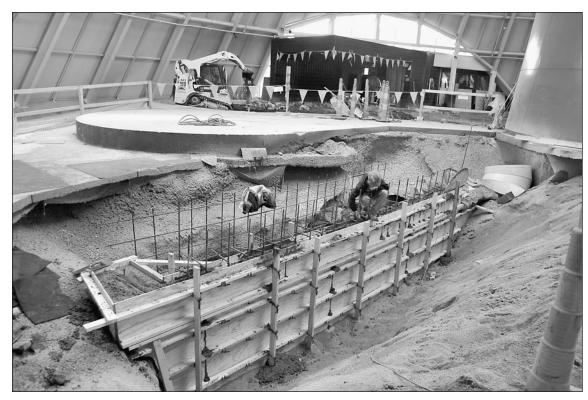
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Tech Center News

AUGUST 24, 2015

COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA



Work began immediately to fill the sink hole and repair the damage it caused at the Corvette museum.

Disaster Brings People to 'Vette Museum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For museum officials, the trick is to keep the site's popularity from going in reverse now that visitors can't gawk at the sinkhole. The museum cashed in on the giant chasm with record attendance and revenue in 2014.

Last year, the museum just off the interstate drew 251,258 visitors, easily topping the 150, 462 visitors in 2013. The museum's prior record attendance was 200,900 in 1999. Through last month, attendance for 2015 was off just 2.5 percent compared to the first seven months of 2014, the museum said.

"We just want to try to do our best to make sure the decrease is as little as possible," Museum executive director Wendell Strode said.

Maintaining that momentum will be challenging, said Jason Swanson, a University of Ken-

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tucky assistant professor in hosmanagement pitality and tourism. Even if the sinkhole had been left open, the publicity that helped spark the attendance bump would have eventually waned, he said.

"The museum is better off since more people now know of the museum because of the sinkhole's publicity," Swanson said. "However, 10 years down the road, 2014 and 2015 will likely be seen as an anomaly.'

The museum is doing its part to keep the sinkhole etched as a curiosity.

A temporary exhibit shows the now-famous security camera footage of the floor's collapse

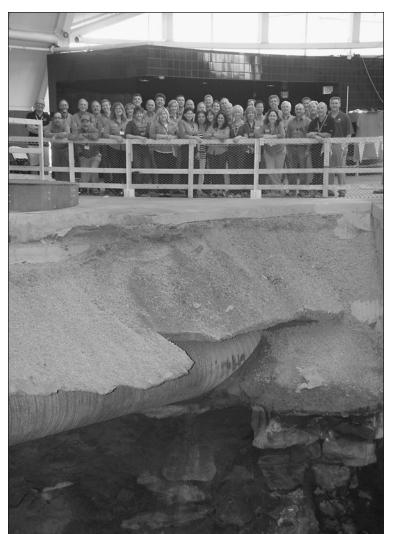
and cars toppling like toys into the pit.

That footage has been viewed about 8.5 million times on YouTube, the museum said. The hole opened up when the museum was closed, and no one was injured.

There's also video of the damaged Corvettes being pulled from the hole. Also featured are condolence cards to the museum. One card-sender wrote of being "devastated to hear of your loss.'

A new sinkhole-themed exhibit is scheduled to open this fall.

Kidd said he wished at least part of the sinkhole had gone unplugged. It was an option dis-



Museum staff demonstrate just how deep the sink hole went.

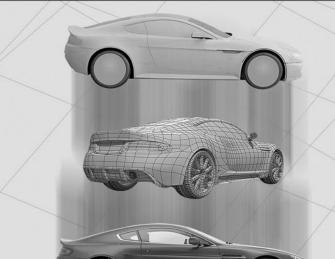
fore they opted to fill it in.

"It's human nature to come

cussed by museum leaders be- Florida, said it would have been impractical to keep the hole open. Getting to see the crunched cars was more than

PAGE 3







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and see," Kidd said. Terry Jorgensen of Deland, enough, he said. **NEW! PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**





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F-150 Looses 700 lbs, Takes **Home Altair Enlighten Award**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out to build the best truck ever for our customers."

High-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloys were used throughout the F-150 for the first time, saving approximately 400 pounds from the vehicle's body, Nair said. Ford's engineering, research and manufacturing teams overcame the challenge of shifting from the traditional steel body to the advanced aluminum production. This is a noteworthy example of taking aluminum to a high volume application.

Starting with the signature fully boxed frame, Ford engineers increased the use of highstrength 70,000-psi steel - from 23 percent to 77 percent of the frame - to improve stiffness and durability while reducing weight, Nair said. The new frame is up to 60 pounds lighter than the current frame. High-strength, aluminum alloys, already used in aerospace, commercial transportation, energy and many other rugged industries, are used throughout the F-150 body for the first time, improving dent and ding resistance, and also

"We are excited to present Ford with the 2015 Altair Enlighten Award," said Dave Mason, Vice President of Global Automotive at Altair. "The judges recognized Ford's best-in-class innovation with the company's approach to weight reduction by incorporating advanced materials and design technologies for the

The Altair Enlighten Awards highlight industry examples fo-

cused on minimizing the weight of products through innovative design techniques, materials technology and manufacturing processes, Korail said. It also looks at products that improve industry best practices to respond to the challenges of mass management and meeting fuel economy targets, and addressing increasing vehicle safety requirements.

This year's first runner-up, Korail said, is General Motors, who developed and used innovative computer-aided engineering (CAE) methods to achieve a 163 pounds weight reduction on the Alpha architecture of the 2012 Cadillac ATS/CTS. Immersive lattice topology optimization, strategic structural bulkhead placement, and multi-disciplinary loadcase optimization, were used, along with expert interpretation of the results, to lead the design of the architecture structure.

The Alpha architecture's delivers mass efficiency, stiffness, safety, structural feel, and has improved fuel economy without degrading on-road performance characteristics.

Second runner-up was awarded to Faurecia together with Automotive Performance Materials (APM). The NAFILean (Natural Fibers for Lean Injection Design) solution brought sustainable design to instrument panels, center consoles and door panels of the 2013 Peugeot 308 by integrating a natural, hemp-based fiber with polypropylene, which allows for complex shapes and architectures along with a weight savings of 20-25 percent.

Peach Festival Activities

Day weekend thanks to the Romeo Lions Club of Romeo.

The annual Romeo Peach Festival, sponsored by the club, begins the Thursday (Sept. 3) before Labor Day and runs through the holiday weekend, ending with the Floral Parade on Monday, Sept. 7, at 1:30 p.m. in down-

The festival kicks off on Sept. 3 with a 5K and 10K run beginning at 6:45 p.m. There will also be carnival rides, starting at 4 p.m.. The Bears Around the World booth is open from 6 p.m. to midnight and the there will be a DJ.

On Friday, Sept. 4, the Croswell Official Craft Show and Business Expo runs from 3 - 8 p.m. The

It should be a peach of Labor rides are open from 4 - 11 p.m. and the Beers Around the World booth is open from 6 p.m. - 1 a.m.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, there will be a two-hour red wine class (\$35) and the rides start at noon and run to 11 p.m. The band Planet of Fun performs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

On Sunday, Sept. 6, the annual Night Parade & Bed Race starts at 7 p.m. Participants are asked to check in by 6:30 p.m. This is followed by the Mummer's Parade, which is held on Main Street beginning at 9 p.m.

Other activities include the Children's Parade, which starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7. This is followed by the Floral parade.



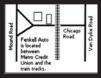
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A Port Explosion in China Hits Auto Importers Hard

panies have suspended operations around the Tianjin port as officials scramble to contain the toxic fallout of the recent deadly chemical explosions.

Toyota, which has operations near the evacuation zone around the blast, said it had suspended three production lines, which account for over half of its China capacity, through Aug. 19. Impacted models include the Crown, Reiz, Corolla, Vios and the Corolla EX, largely for the domestic market.

Panasonic, which has a product development center 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the blast site, kept its offices closed Aug. 17, out of concern for employee safety.

Hong Kong-listed logistics company Singamas Container Holdings, which has two depots close to the blast, told the stock exchange Monday that it had and lost contact with one em-

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SHANGHAI (AP) - Foreign com- ployee. The filing said the company was still evaluating losses, but did not anticipate a material impact on business.

> U.S. farm equipment maker Deere & Co. also reportedly suspended its Tianjin operations. Employees from the company's Beijing office refused to comment Aug. 17.

> Automakers have been hit hard because Tianjin is one of China's major ports for car imports. Thousands of Volkswagen, Toyota, Hyundai and Renault cars, most of them pricey imports, parked on lots near the blast were decimated.

Volkswagen said it had lost around 2,700 vehicles, including New Beetle, Golf and Tiguan models. Renault said 1,500 Koleos SUVs were damaged. Hyundai said it had around 4,000 vehicles, mostly high-end cars like Equus and Genesis, parked at the site. The companies said suspended operations at the site they were still assessing the economic value of those losses.

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Vari-Form of Troy Joins Cleveland's Crowne Group

As of Aug. 3, Cleveland-based Crowne Group, LLC, has acquired Troy-based Vari-Form, a manufacturer of lightweight, hydroformed structural parts for pickup trucks, SUVs and light vehicles.

Vari-Form has three manufacturing locations in North America with a state-of-the-art technical center in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada and a non-union workforce of approximately 400 employees, said Vari-Form spokesman Terry Nardone.

Vari-Form is also expanding its global footprint with new plants under joint venture relationships in Mexico and Italy scheduled to begin operations this year. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed, Nardone said.

Jim Maraz, Vari-Form chief financial officer, said, "We are excited to begin working with Crowne, a known leading manufacturer and distributor of component parts in the automotive industry, who has strong longterm relationships with many of its top customers including OEM's and Tier I suppliers. Combining our industry knowledge and building on our customer relationships will enable Vari-Form to maintain and further develop its product offerings for our OEM and supplier partners.'

"Vari-Form represents an excellent strategic fit for Crowne with its industry-leading hydroforming technology and strong and expanding base of blue-chip customers, comprised of leading OEM's, Tier 1 suppliers and a growing number of European and Asian car makers," said Stephen Graham, chief financial officer of Crowne. "We are excited to continue to expand our automotive product offerings and technologies and look forward to working with Vari-Form to successfully execute our growth strategy."

Nardone said that Vari-Form currently has production facilities in Strathroy, Ont., Canada; Mexico; Kunshan Reynosa, (Shanghai), China; and Canton, Miss. Vari-Form originated the patented Pressure Sequence Hydroforming ("PSH") process for high volume tubular body structural components and assemblies. The PSH process uses relatively low water pressure (as compared with traditional hydroforming) to form a tube to the shape of a die cavity. This unrivaled technological expertise and proprietary PSH process provides substantial weight and cost savings.

There has been significant capital investment in 20 hydroforming presses which produce over 7 million parts annually, Nardone said. Crowne, headquarter in Cleveland, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of both Aftermarket and OEM component parts for the automotive and other industrial equipment markets. Crowne serves numerous leading customers in both the Aftermarket and Original Equipment markets including mass retail, distributors, OEM and Tier I manufacturers.

Nardone said Crowne has a strong reputation in the industry and offers a diverse portfolio of products, including windshield wiper blades and components; OEM wiper systems; fuel pumps, systems and accessories.

Since 2004, Crowne has completed and integrated ten acquisitions. Crowne currently employs approximately 4,000 people and operates ten manufacturing facilities in North America.





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2016 Chevy Volt **Increases Range** Nearly 40 percent

CLC employee participation.

work, on August 13, the students

Range anxiety - the fear that your EV will run out of power away from a charging station - is major issue with potential buyers.

So the 2016 Volt is engineered to offer customers more of what they want: range, range and more range, said GM spokeswoman Michelle Malcho.

The General Motors Volt's allnew second-generation Voltec extended-range electric propulsion system delivers 53 miles of pure EV range, based on EPA testing. That is nearly a 40-percent improvement over the first-generation Volt.

Chevrolet expects many nextgeneration Volt owners will use power solely from their batteries for more than 90 percent of trips, Malcho said. Currently, Volt owners use battery power on 80 percent of their trips. This means the average Volt owner could expect to travel well over 1,000 miles between gas fill ups, if they charge regularly. For the first 53 miles, the Volt can drive gas and tailpipe-emissions free using a full charge of electricity stored in its new 18.4kWh lithium-ion battery, rated at a combined 106 MPGe, or Miles Per Gasoline equivalent, Malcho said When the Volt's battery runs low, a gas-powered generator seamlessly operates to extend the driving range for a total of 420 miles on a full tank. "We listened to our customers," said Andrew Farah, vehicle chief engineer, "They were very clear when they told us that they wanted more range, and a fun driving experience behind the wheel. We are confident that the 2016 Volt delivers both.'

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ON GRATIOT AT 16-1/2 MILE

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Tesla will offer 2.1 million shares and expects net proceeds of \$492.6 million. Tesla could make up to \$566.5 million if the underwriters exercise their option to buy additional shares.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk intends to purchase \$20 million worth of stock. The company's shares rose 1 percent to \$240.94 in late afternoon trading.

Wall Street had been expecting the move. Asked in early August during the company's secondquarter earnings call if Tesla planned to raise capital, Musk said there might be value in doing so "as a risk reduction measure. I don't think that there's not a need to raise equity capital," Musk said. He said the company should have at least \$1 billion in cash on hand; it ended the quarter with \$1.2 billion in cash and cash equivalents.

In a note to investors, Stifel analyst James Albertine said the offering should have a minimal impact of on per-share earnings. He views Musk's intention to purchase shares and Tesla's plan to use the money for future growth as positives. Albertine has a "buy" rating and a \$400 price target on Tesla's stock.

The Palo Alto, Calif., automaker will begin shipping its third vehicle, the Model X SUV, in a few weeks. It's also investing heavily in a \$5 billion battery factory in Nevada, which will make batteries for both its cars and its Tesla Energy home battery business. The factory is set to start production in the first quarter of next year.

Tesla said it needs the cash to further development of the Model 3, a lower-cost electric car due out in 2017. The auto industry typically spends about \$1 billion developing new cars and putting them on the market.

Tesla is also rapidly expanding its network of Superchargers, which can add 170 miles to a Model S battery in 30 minutes. Tesla told shareholders this month that it now has 487 Supercharger stations globally and is opening one nearly every 24 hours. All that doesn't come cheap. Tesla obtained a credit line of up to \$750 million in June, but it spent \$359 million during the second quarter. Its cash total of \$1.2 billion was down from \$2.7 billion a year ago.

Siri Contacts 911. Saves Man Pinned **Under His Car**



WATERHILL, Tenn. (AP) - A Middle Tennessee teen is alive, thanks to Siri.

Eighteen-year-old Sam Ray says the voice recognition service on his iPhone - famously named Siri - called emergency dispatchers after his truck fell on him while he tried to make repairs.

Ray tells media outlets that a jack collapsed, pinning him under nearly 5,000 pounds of metal in a location where he couldn't be easily seen or heard. He says he was trying to get free when he heard Siri activate.

He says: "I said 'Call 911,' and that was all it said."

Rutherford County dispatcher Christina Lee says she first thought it was a mistaken pocket-dial, but then she heard his screams for help and sent crews, who rescued him.

Ray and Lee met Aug. 14 for the first time after the July 2 incident.