Detroit Auto Scene

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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The 2017 Cadillac XT5 will be revealed at the Dubai Motor Show.

Cadillac XT5 Goes Back to School with Fashion Ally

Talk about a stylish team-up. Cadillac has entered into a unique project in which its allnew luxury crossover, the XT5, will debut at venues around the world in partnership with acclaimed fashion designers Public School.

At a private kickoff event earlier this month, Public School announced it would debut its Pre-Fall collection on the runway in Public School's first international Dubai, in collaboration with the launch of the first-ever 2017 Cadillac XT5, said Caidllac spokesman Eneuri Acosta. It is also creating an XT5-inspired capsule collection for the special

invited guests at the Dubai show in November.

The upcoming XT5 will be the cornerstone of a new series of Cadillac crossovers, said Acosta, all bearing the "XT" designation, with number indicating relative size and position. It succeeds the current SRX, Cadillac's best-selling product line worldwide.

The show in Dubai will mark runway show, showcasing the pre-fall collection that will be available in 2016, Acosta said. Public School grows its global

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Chrysler Honors Past as it Looks at Future

Innovation and excellence just citing models in the next year," doesn't happen. It comes from a desire to be first and the ability to follow through on that commitment.

And Chrysler is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2015 and all the decades of excellence and innovation, and part of that celebration is honoring such names as the Chrysler Six, Airflow, Imperial, New Yorker, 300 and Town & Country – names that have made automotive history.

"Through the years the company has been a leader in design, engineering and innovative ideas," said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Kathy Grahm. "The 300 also has its 60th annivesary this year and we didn't want to let the year go by without recognizing these milestones."

Chrysler invented the orginal luxury mini-van with the Town & Country, Grahm said. That was six years after Chrysler invented the mini-van, inventing an entirely new market segment in the auto industry.

And, Grahm said, people should stay tuned to see how the company has built on that legacy of luxury and engineering excellence with the new Town & Country be announced early next year.

"We're trying to celebrate our company's long history as we get ready to introduce new and exGrahm said.

Chrysler was founded on June 6, 1925, by Walter P. Chrysler. He built a company and a brand that wasn't afraid to push the limits and think outside of the box, said Grahm. In 1925, when Chrysler realized his dream of creating his own company, he dedicated the company's efforts to excellence in engineering, while building affordable, luxurious cars at a price consumers could afford. That tradition continues today.

Through the last 90 years, Chrysler vehicles were known innovative engineering, for groundbreaking style, Grahm "looking said, and more expensive than they were," the

forerunner to affordable luxury.

• 1920s - The first Chrysler branded vehicle was born as part of Maxwell Motors: the Chrysler Six. Walter P. Chrysler was Chairman of Maxwell Motors prior to establishing Chrysler Corporation in June 1925. Priced at \$1,565, the light, powerful vehicle had a groundbreaking Lhead six-cylinder engine and four-wheel hydraulic brakes, an uncommon feature in the 1920s. Additional Chrysler Six features included tubular front axles, full pressure lubrication, aluminum pistons, replaceable oil and air filters, shock absorbers and indirect interior lighting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



1924 Chrysler Touring

VW Issues Does Not Taint

VW Emission Scandal Hits 11M Vehicles

BERLIN (AP) – The software at than in actual driving. the center of Volkswagen's emissions scandal in the U.S. was built into the automaker's cars in Europe as well, German officials said Sept. 24, though it isn't yet clear if it helped cheat tests as it did in the U.S.

A day after longtime CEO Martin Winterkorn resigned over the scandal, a member of Volkswagen's supervisory board said he expects more executives to step down.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed Sept. 18 that stealth software makes VW's 2009-2015 model cars powered by 2.0-liter diesel engines run cleaner during emissions tests are in Europe," Dobrindt said.

The EPA accused VW of installing the so-called "defeat device" in 482,000 cars sold in the United States. VW later acknowledged that similar software exists in 11 million diesel cars worldwide and set aside 6.5 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) to cover the costs of the scandal.

The company has told officials that the vehicles in question included VW cars with 1.6-liter and 2-liter diesel engines in Europe, Minister German Transport Alexander Dobrindt said Sept. 24.

"We don't yet have figures for how many of these 11 million cars that are apparently affected

Ford and Alcoa Developing Aluminum Alloys

"That will be cleared up in the next few days."

Authorities will continue working with Volkswagen to determine what cars exactly are involved.

It isn't yet clear to what extent the scandal affects other brands in the Volkswagen Group, which has 12 brands in all – including Seat, Audi, Skoda and Porsche. It was also not clear whether the software would have led to VW cheating on emissions tests outside the U.S. as well.

Dobrindt last week set up a commission of inquiry to look into the scandal. The motor trans-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ers that make a good diesel product. But it's fair to say that this VW scandal could have an impact on diesel sales. We'll have to the new generation of clean see what happens.³ But, Schaeffer said, the forum does not comment on specific cases or circumstances involving individual companies and enforcement actions by the government. "However," Schaeffer said, "to the extent that these circumstances have raised questions about diesel technology in general, we offer the following. The important thing to remember is that clean diesel is a viable and important technology that will have a role to play in the years to come. "The circumstances involving a single manufacturer do not define an entire technology, or an industry. Vehicle manufacturers and engine makers have invested billions of dollars in research and development to successfully meet the most aggressive emissions standards in the world.

They continue to work closely and cooperatively with the Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, international regulatory bodies as well as environmental and other interests groups toward common goals.'

Nothing has changed the fact that the diesel engine is the most energy efficient internal combustion engine, Schaeffer said. It's proven tech and its combination of efficiency, power, reliability, performance, low-emissions and suitability for using renewable fuels ensures a place for diesel technology to help meet the demands of a global economy.

"We are also confident that consumers will continue to find diesel cars, trucks and SUVs as a competitive choice to meet their personal transportation needs,' Schaeffer said. "Finally, it is important to focus forward on the significant accomplishments of an entire industry that developed and refined clean diesel technology to what it is today; a key strategy to achieving current and future energy and climate goals ' The VW scandal came just as GM is getting ready to launch its new Canyon diesel truck. GM spokesman Brian Goebel said that he agrees with Schaeffer and that it is "all systems go" on the launch of the diesel Canyon. "People should start seeing the vehicle on the road in the next few weeks," Goebel said. "It's a good vehicle and I think people understand that diesel is still a good technology that can help them."

Clean Diesel Technology by Jim Stickford

Volkswagen's admission that 11 million of its diesel vehicles worldwide contain software that can rig emissions tests doesn't mean that diesel technology doesn't work.

That's the message of the Diesel Technology Forum, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization the represents businesses in the diesel industry.

"This scandal involves just one company," said Allen Schaeffer, executive director of the Diesel Technology Forum. "There are plenty of other auto manufactur-

Finding better materials to "Light-weighting enables us to and is more fuel-efficient than

make vehicles lighter is no easy task. But it's an important one because lightweighting the materials that go into cars is one way automakers will use to meet upcoming federal mileage standards.

To that end, Ford Motor Company and Alcoa Inc. are collaborating to produce next-generation automotive aluminum alloys that are more formable and design-friendly, said Ford spokesman Mike Levine.

Ford will use Alcoa's Micromill material in multiple components on the 2016 F-150 – becoming the first automaker to use the advanced automotive aluminum commercially, Levine said. The companies entered into a joint development agreement to collaborate on next-generation aluminum alloys for automotive parts using Micromill technology.

design vehicles with great cus- ever," said Raj Nair, Ford group tomer attributes - like the F-150, vice president and chief techniwhich can tow more, haul more, cal officer, Global Product Develaccelerate quicker and stop faster than the previous F-150,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Raj Nair, left, and Kalus Kleinfeld, right, look at new aluminum alloys.

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VW's Scandal Reaches Across National Borders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

port authority is conducting static and road tests on Volkswagen models and spot tests on cars made by other manufacturers, German and foreign.

In neighboring France, Environment Minister Segolene Royal on Sept. 24 announced random tests of about 100 French cars to ensure that their engines meet pollution standards in the wake of Volkswagen's emissions scandal.

And the European Union's executive Commission called on national authorities "to look into the implications for vehicles sold in Europe and ensure that EU pollutant emission standards are scrupulously respected."

Olaf Lies, economy and transport minister of VW's home state Lower Saxony, which holds a 20 percent stake in the company, said the investigation into the scandal was only just starting.

"There must be people responsible for allowing the manipulation of emission levels to happen," he told rbb-Inforadio.

Winterkorn said Sept. 23 he took responsibility for the "irregularities" found by U.S. inspectors in VW's diesel engines, but insisted he had personally done nothing wrong.

Volkswagem is filing a criminal complaint with German prosecutors, seeking to identify those who are responsible for any illegal actions in connection with the scandal.

Chrysler Celebrates 90 Years of Automotive Excellence CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

• 1925-1930 - Early Chrysler vehicles provided style and power, but were also affordable, which contributed to the brand's rapid success. Early models were named after their top speed: the Chrysler 58 had a top speed of 58 miles per hour (mph); a Chrysler 72 could go a max 72 mph and so on. In 1926, Chrysler introduced a more powerful and costly Imperial model, giving Chrysler a response to Cadillac, Packard and Peerless. The Imperials offered prestige as a top-of-the-line Chrysler. Chrysler production in the late 1920s focused on both four- and six-cylinder powered vehicles.

• 1930s - This decade brought the Great Depression in the United States and technology took hold in the automotive industry. Beginning in 1931, Chrysler introduced a number of engineering feats. Chrysler took "Floating Power," a two-point mounting system strategically placed so the engine's natural rocking axis would intersect with its center of gravity, keeping the engine's natural vibration from reaching the frame and body, and improved it with rubber engine mounts, which further reduced engine vibration in the body.

The most groundbreaking vehicle from the 1930s was the Chrysler Airflow, Grahm said. Carl Breer was inspired by a squadron of Army Air Corps planes flying overhead in the late '20s. Chrysler constructed a wind tunnel at their Highland Park headquarters during the development of the Airflow. As the design team developed early prototypes, they learned about aerodynamics as they worked. They built at least 10 full-size semistreamliners during development. Wind tunnel testing inspired the modified teardrop shape. The body sported a short, curved nose with faired-in headlamps, and the engine sat 20 inches farther back than was normal for the time.

Chrysler shocked the industry with a vehicle that represented future design and engineering advances when it introduced the Chrvsler Airflow in 1934. The Airflow was an "engineer's" car with impressive innovations at the time. A beam-and-truss body

gave great strength but weighed less than expected, through a tighter interlocking method of blending body and chassis. Body panels extended below the frame and all passengers sat within the wheelbase. The engine reached past the front axle, enabling a smooth ride to rear-seat passengers. Automatic overdrive was introduced with both the Chrysler and DeSoto Airflows. For maximum passenger comfort, the Airflow seats were stretched to 50 inches, widest in the industry.

• 1940s - Walter P. Chrysler, founder of the company and the brand, died in August 1940.

The early 1940s saw the development of the "Vacamatic," a four-speed gearbox with two ranges. The driver used the clutch in the normal way by selecting either a Low (1-2) or High (3-4) range.

Chrysler, like many automakers, geared up for war production after the start of the 1942 model year and halted civilian production of automobiles in February 1942. Among the better known of Chrysler's World War II products were the M-4 Sherman tank, "Sea Mule" marine tugs, Harbor Utility Tugs (HUTs) and Chrysler-Bell air raid sirens.

The late 1940s saw the woodbodied Town & Country sedans and the graceful and beautiful Town & Country convertibles draw the interest of celebrities, which began to spark interest in the full line of Chrysler vehicles.

• 1950s – 1951 was the birth of what would be one of the most recognized, powerful engines in the automotive industry, the hemispheric-head V8 engine, otherwise known as the Hemi. Initially installed in the Chrysler Saratoga, New Yorker and Imperial, the Hemi operated with exceptional volumetric efficiency and delivered truly thrilling performance for its day. The engine's lower compression ratio also let the Hemi run on lower octane fuel than most V8s at the time.

In 1955, the first muscle car, the Chrysler 300, was introduced. The hardtop contained a 300-horsepower Hemi V8 with solid valve lifters and dual fourbarrel carburetors, the most powerful full-size car in the world, Grahm said.

Virgil Exner took over Chrysler design in the early 1950s, with



1955 Chrysler 300



1990 Chrysler Town & Country

his "Forward Look" styling debuting in 1955. Exner's new styling language featured a flat hood, light, airy roof and tailfins.

In 1957, Chrysler Corporation's entire line of cars was awarded Motor Trend's "Car of the Year" award, and Exner and his team received the Gold Medal from the Industrial Design Institute.

1957 saw the introduction of torsion-bar front suspension, which delivered superior handling and allowed for much lower bodies. Chrysler also introduced the first rear-window defogger.









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Detroit Auto Scene

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

2016 Sierra Gets New Look

rels, GMC is coming with a new look for a new year.

The GMC Sierra Elevation Edition returns for 2016 with the styling enhancements and other features new to the entire Sierra 1500 lineup - including revised front-end styling with new, highintensity discharge projector-beam headlamps and GMC Signature LED lighting.

GM spokesman Brian Goebel said that latest iteration of the Sierra in only a couple of years old. But competition in the pickup truck market is strong, so GMC has refreshed the the vehicle

"One of the things that we've been told by our customers is that a main reason they bought a Sierra is because of how its exterior looks," Goebel said. "So we've made some changes as a way of giving customer something new. These changes retain that premium look that our buyers appreciate. We've changed the grill and have more differentiation between trim levels. And we've come up with the Elevation Edition."

The Elevation Edition - available on Sierra double cab – has a "street-smart" stance, thanks to body-color moldings, door handles, mirror caps and a body-color grille surround, as well as bumpers, body-color said Goebel. It also rolls on 20-inch black-painted aluminum wheels and is further enhanced with new Elevation Edition badging.

"The Sierra Elevation Edition offers a boldly styled pickup for customers who want a truck that looks as good as it performs," said Duncan Aldred, U.S. vice president, Buick and GMC. "With its muscular design details, inherent truck capabilities and premium technology features such

Cadillac Readies Debut of its New XT5 Vehicle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

footprint through the partnership with Cadillac: the curated collection will be revealed as part of the runway show in Dubai on the eve of the Dubai Motor Show.

"This is a new way for two American brands to join forces, share a passion for design and grow globally," said Andrew Smith, Cadillac executive direc-

Not wishing to stand on its lau- as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability, Sierra Elevation improves on an already comprehensive package.'

Inside Sierra Elevation Edition, the latest technology helps drivers stay connected at all times.

A new radio with a 7-inchdiagonal screen incorporates CarPlay and Android Auto phone integration capability, which gives drivers the ability to make calls, send and receive messages and control music from the IntelliLink touchscreen.

Additionally, the vehicle's On-Star 4G LTE and a built-in Wi-Fi hotspot allow continuous connectivity for up to seven personal devices.

All Sierra Elevation Edition models include remote keyless entry, remote locking tailgate, outside heated power-adjustable mirrors, a 110-volt AC power outlet, black recovery hooks, a sixspeaker audio system and more.

A standard 4.3L EcoTec3 V6 engine delivers 285 horsepower and 305 lb-ft of torque with a highway fuel economy of 24 mpg. An available 5.3L EcoTec3 V8 produces 355 horsepower - and offers up to 9,400 pounds of trailering capacity (2WD). Customers can choose two- or fourwheel drive and the Eaton locking rear differential is standard with both.

All-terrain tires, a Rear Vision camera system, trailering equipment and XM Radio are available on all models.

The variety of options and



2016 GMC Sierra

choices for vehicles like the Sierra are important, Goebel said, because in the last decade the ways people use pickups have changed. While traditionally a work vehicle, these days buyers like to be able to use trucks to haul items and still be able to go

out with friends over the weekend.

"That need for flexibility is reflected in today's pickups," Goebel said

The new GMC Sierra Elevation Edition goes on sale in the first quarter of 2016.

Auburn Hills **Chamber Holding Business Event**

The Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce will be holding a Business Success Conference on Friday, Oc. 23, from 8 a.m. until noon.

The confrence will be held in Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford. DBusiness is the event's corporate sponsor. Among the speakers at the conference is Sue Novak, a managing partner at Plante Moran. Caroline Grch-Clapper, executive partner at Secrest Wardie and James Goebel, founding partner at Menle Innovations are also speaking. Call 248-853-7862 for information on how to sign up.

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tor of Global Design. "For Cadillac, it gives new meaning to being a patron of the arts."

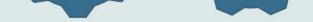
This collaboration continues Cadillac's engagement with the fashion community, supporting both emerging and established designers, Smith said.

Cadillac previously hosted Public School's spring 2016 fashion show at its new global headquarters in SoHo. Cadillac this summer was also the presenting sponsor of New York Men's Day (NYMD) and has a multi-season partnership with the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), which included support of the first-ever New York Fashion Week: Men's. Cadillac earlier this fall launched a specially curated capsule collection chosen and styled by fashion icon Nick Wooster.

Acosta said the new Cadillac will be built at GM's facitlity in Springhill, Tenn. More technical details about the XT5 will be released at its Dubai debut.

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Make-A-Wish Mopar Racing Team Scores

Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) driver Tommy Johnson Jr. drove his Make-A-Wish Mopar to a runner-up finish on a tricky zMAX Raceway surface at the Carolina Nationals, the first of six National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) "Countdown to the Championship" playoff events on Sept. 20, and sits in second in the Funny Car standings just six markers behind the points leader. It was the 18th final round appearance in 19 events this season for the newly designed 2015 Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car after spending more than a year in development.

After earning his second pole position of the year by setting a career best elapsed time pass and track record at 3.971 seconds at 312.42 mph, Johnson Jr. took his Hemi-powered machine past Bob Gilbertson, Courtney Force and Alexis DeJoria to advance to his sixth final round appearance of the year.

The Carolina Nationals final elimination showdown pitted the No.1 qualifier against the No.2 qualifier Del Worsham for not only the Wally trophy, but also the lead in the "Countdown to the Championship". Both competitors had near identical reaction times off the start, but Johnson Jr.'s 4.119 second elapsed time run at 300.93 miles per hour couldn't beat Worsham's 4.086 sec/ 307.16 mph pass for the victory and top spot in the Countdown.

"We were disappointed not to get the win after being No. 1 qualifier," Johnson Jr. said. "That's two times this year that we've lost in the final after being No. 1 qualifier. So yes, we're a little disappointed, but in the big picture it was very important to get off to a good start in the Countdown to the Championship, and we did that."

Dodge Driver Steckly Claims Racing Title

It was a four-way battle for the 2015 NASCAR Canadian Tire Series (NCATS) presented by Mobil 1 Championship going into this past weekend's Pinty's 250 at Kawartha Speedway.

But when the dust settled and the checkered flag flew to close out the 2015 season, it was Scott Steckly, driver of the No. 22 Canadian Tire Dodge, hoisting the coveted trophy.

Steckly claimed the title over fellow competitors Jason Hathaway, Andrew Ranger and L.P. Dumoulin, who were all in a fourway fight for the championship going into Sept. 21's season finale race at the 0.6 km (.375-

Picture may not reflect actual whiche. The Chryster Group LLC Employee Advantage Parchase program tale prices and lease asyments unche dava asyments unche advantage. "24, 27, 39, 38, month Chryster Group LLC employee leases. The annual door on all leases require annuals, inclus asyments unche advantage annual door and lease program tale prices and lease asyments unche advantage." 24, 27, 39, 38, month Chryster Group LLC employee leases. The annual door on all leases require annuals door on all leases require annuals. Inclus door team and residee water annual door on all leases require annuals door on all leases require annuals. The Advantage Terchase and team and residee water annual door on all leases require annuals door on all leases require annuals. The Advantage Terchase and team and residees and reases door control annuals. The Advantage Terchase and team and residees and team and residees and reases annuals. The Advantage Terchase price, also team and residees and terchase door all leases and team. Total door former annual door on all leases and team. Total door former and team and residees and reserves annuals. Chantage team and residees and reserves annuals. Total door former and team and residees and reserves annuals. Total door former and team and residees and reserves annuals. Total door former and team and residees annuals and reserves frages. Cantages annuals that all other foreat Lakes Baintees Chantage annuals that and team and residees and reserves annuals. Chantages annuals and annuals and annuals and annuals annuals and annuals annuals and annuals annuals and annuals annua

mile) Ontario track.

Steckly, 43, earned the pole position with a blistering, trackrecord lap in qualifying at the wheel of his Dodge-bodied race car.

For Steckly, this was his fourth Series title. He became only the 33rd person in the history of NASCAR to win four or more touring or national series championships.

As with the majority of the 2015 NCATS competitors, Steckly crossed the finish line at Kawartha Speedway at the wheel of a Dodge Challenger-bodied racing car.

More than half of the races this season were won by a Dodge driver, with six of the Top 10 final points positions held by Dodge drivers.

Andrew Ranger, the fanfavourite head driver for Team Mopar, closed out the 2015 season third in overall NCATS points after a 10th place finish at Kawartha.

Buick Cascada Set for Spring 2016 Debut

The 2016 Cascada – Buick's first convertible offered in the United States in 25 years – is priced at \$33,990.

When it goes on sale early next year, the Cascada will offer more standard content, a more powerful standard engine and a lower starting price than the Audi A3 Cabriolet, said said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Buick.

"Cascada expands Buick's lineup with a uniquely fun and personal driving experience," said Aldred. "With a lower price than key competitors, it also promises to shake up the segment – and look good doing it."

The 2016 Cascada – designed from the ground up as a convertible – comes well-equipped in a 2+2 configuration, with room for four adults, Aldred said. Performance is rooted in a 200-horsepower turbo engine, backed by a sixspeed automatic transmission, with Buick's sophisticated HiPer Strut front suspension and a Watts Z-link rear suspension standard.

The Cascada also offers plenty of storage space, including 13.4 cubic feet of cargo room with the top up and 9.8 cubic feet with the top down, as well as a 22.4-inch x 12.6-inch pass-through from the trunk to the passenger compartment.

When the 50/50-split rear seat is folded, longer items such as skis and wakeboards can be stowed inside.

Americans got their first look at the Cascada at the 2015 North American International Auto Show. The vehicle will be available in the spring of 2016. It is based on the Opel Cascada, which was developed at GM's International Technical Develop-



The price has been set for the upcoming 2016 Buick Cascada.

ment Center in Russelsheim, Germany, where more than 6,000 engineers work on Opel models, said Opel Group CEO Dr. Karl-Thomas Neumann.

"In Europe, the Cascada has won over customers and trade media alike, resulting in numerous awards including the Plus X Award in Germany and the Golden Steering Wheel in Switzerland," Neumann said. "In Portugal, *Turbo Magazine* named it Convertible of the Year in 2014."

The vehicle will be manufactured in Poland. It is based on GM's Delta II platform, which is the company's current compact car platform. Other vehicles that use the platform include Chevy Cruze, the Volt, the Opel Ampera and the Cadillac ELR.

Pope Visits in a Fiat 500L

WASHINGTON (AP) – Pope Francis was hard to spot in the motorcade of more than 20 armed SUVs and police cars that motored into the nation's capital late Tuesday. The pontiff ditched the fancy wheels in favor of a much more modest ride: a Fiat.

After he stepped off his plane at Andrews Air Force Base in neighboring Maryland, Francis was driven into town in the back of a tiny, charcoal gray Fiat 500L. The four-door model was sandwiched between two enormous black SUVs in the motorcade. Francis has made a point of using particularly modest cars, part of his emphasis on simplicity, conservatism and rejection of today's consumerist lifestyle.





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Bad News for VW Shouldn't Hurt Total September Sales

Volkswagen's emissions-cheating crisis is not expected to put the brakes on September car sales, said to Edmunds.com in a press release about vehicle sales trends issued on Sept. 25.

"Volkswagen's deception is dominating headlines, but it is not keeping shoppers away from other brands' showrooms," said Jessica Caldwell, Edmunds.com director of industry analysis. "It puts the crisis in a little bit of perspective, since these Volkswagen diesels don't constitute a very big share of sales.

"It's also a reminder that buyers won't disappear from the market because they suddenly can't or don't want to buy these affected cars. They're willing to turn to other automakers that will meet their needs."

Volkswagen admitted to using a "cheat device" to pass EPA emissions tests for many of its

Volkswagen's emissions-cheat- fun-to-drive hybrids and EVs," g crisis is not expected to put Caldwell said.

Edmunds counts 44 models that are offered with diesel-powered engines in the 2015 model year. VW and Audi combine to produce 17 models – or 39 percent – of those 44 total models.

Other diesel vehicles on the market include diesel versions of the BMW 3 Series, Chevrolet Cruze and Mercedes-Benz GL-Class.

Less than 4 percent of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. in 2014 were diesel-powered, according to industry statistics.

The Diesel Technology Forum, a Washington, D.C.-area nonprofit that advocates diesel technology, said it will not comment on the VW situation, but still promotes clean-diesel technology.

"The VW diesel



diesel-powered vehicles since 2009. The crisis involves 11 million VW vehicles worldwide.

Edmunds projects that Volkswagen/Audi will be the only major manufacturer to post yearover-year sales losses in September.

A 2.0 percent decrease in VW/Audi sales is expected.

Ford and Hyundai/Kia, on the other hand, are expected to turn in extremely strong September sales performances.

Edmunds is projecting a 10.1 percent decrease in overall sales from August 2015, but a 13.9 percent increase from September 2014.

This will make the September sales volume the biggest September since 2004.

"The VW diesel matter has not affected overall industry sales," Caldwell said.

In fact, many shoppers who like the spirited performance of VW diesels and want to take the alt-fuel route may opt for "more matter has not affected overall industry sales"

- Jessica Caldwell, Edmunds.com

"Nothing has changed the fact that the diesel engine is the most energy efficient internal combustion engine," it said in a statement. "We are confident that consumers will continue to find the new generation of clean diesel cars, trucks and SUVs as a competitive choice to meet their personal transportation needs."

The gap is closing between gasoline and diesel fuel pump prices, according to the U.S> Energy Information Administration. In its most recent update, the EIA said the average price for a regular gallon of unleaded gasoline in August stood at \$2.64.





Ford and Alcoa Join Forces In Developing Lighter Alloys

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

opment. "This collaboration supports our continued drive for innovation, as we research automotive applications for even greater light-weighting."

Alcoa's Micromill technology, announced in December 2014, produces an aluminum alloy that is 40 percent more formable than today's automotive aluminum, Nair said.

"Alcoa's breakthrough Micromill technology offers highly differentiated automotive material with strength, weight, formability and surface quality combinations previously impossible," said Klaus Kleinfeld, Alcoa chairman and chief executive officer. "This high-tech aluminum will give Ford a true material edge enabling greater design flexibility and better vehicle performance – making the concept cars of tomorrow a reality."

The increased formability of Micromill aluminum makes it easier to shape into intricate forms, such as the inside panels of automobile doors and external fenders, Kleinfeld said. The increased material strength allows for the use of thinner aluminum sheet without compromising dent resistance.

Micromill is the fastest, most productive aluminum casting and rolling system in the world combining multiple technologies into a streamlined production system. A traditional rolling mill takes around 20 days to turn molten metal into coil; Micromill does it in just 20 minutes, Kleinfeld said.

Ford will begin using Micromill material in 2016 F-150 production in the fourth quarter of 2015, and plans to increase its use over the next several years on a range of vehicle components and future platforms, Nair said. It is projected Ford's use of Micromill material on its vehicles will more than double from 2016 to 2017.

Alcoa's advanced alloys offer Ford the formability and strength required for greater flexibility in designing vehicles using complex parts. By using the highly formable material, parts constructed of multiple pieces can be manufactured as a single part – reducing complexity and assembly time. Target applications for the material include critical strength structural parts as well as exterior panels that must meet strict surface quality requirements.

Aluminum alloy produced using the Micromill process has already been validated by Ford engineers to ensure it meets the stringent requirements for producing high-quality parts, especially the kinds of complex structures that make up F-150, Nair said.

"The door inner is one of the most difficult parts in automotive stamping," said Peter Friedman, Ford global manager of structures and stamping, Research & Advanced Engineering. "The ability to produce an alloy using Alcoa's Micromill technology to make that part is a real statement for how this process can benefit the automotive industry and Ford in particular.

"This technology will help Ford to produce the type of vehicles our customers want," added Friedman. "We believe the technology can be used to develop new alloys that will improve our ability to form complex parts, which will help in both design and efficiency."

Local Foundation Boosts Funding

TROY, Mich. (AP) – The Kresge Foundation says it plans to boost its practice of providing capital to organizations and social efforts by investing \$350 million by 2020.

The Troy-based foundation said Sept. 18 that its board of trustees had approved the plan to increase its social investment practice, through which it provides loans, deposits, equity and guarantees. The foundation says on its website it takes more risks than private-sector financers.

The new funds would be generated through returns on its \$3.5 billion endowment over the next five years. The Kresge Foundation announced earlier that week that it's working with partners to commit more than \$70 million to help finance affordable housing for low-income families.

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LaCrosse will debut in November at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

Glimpse of 2017 LaCrosse

view of its Avenir concept-in- namic driving experience. spired design cues is coming.

The new LaCrosse should be a striking evolution from current Buick models, said Buick spokeswoman Crystal Wilson. The new LaCrosse features a grille design that puts a new face on the brand, including a new, three-color tri-shield insignia set on a wing-shaped element.

Contrasting with darkened waterfall grille bars and spanning the width of the opening, it connects the grille and headlamps. and emphasizes LaCrosse's new sculptural surfacing, Wilson said.

The design was introduced on the Avenir concept and inspired by the 1954 Wildcat II concept.

It's a face all Buick models will adopt by 2018, Wilsons aid.

The Avenir concept shattered expectations of what a Buick could be and the 2017 LaCrosse promises to do the same," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Buick. "Its expressive design represents a break from convention and highlights the progressiveness in all new Buick models."

The next-generation LaCrosse's design is framed on an all-new chassis that is stronger yet lighter

Buick has confirmed the all- than the current model and serves new 2017 LaCrosse, with a pre- as the foundation for a more dy-

> **"The Avenir** concept shattered expectations of what a Buick could be...." -Duncan Aldred,

> > Buick

New technologies such as a five-link rear suspension contribute to a more responsive ride, while taking Buick's signature quietness to a new threshold - and it's a premium feature not found on many other full-size luxury models, including the Lexus ES.

The 2017 LaCrosse debuts in November at the Los Angeles Auto Show. Wilson said that more of the technical details of the new LaCrosse, including how the chasssis is both lighter and stronger, will be released at the Los Angeles Auto Show.







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