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#### Camaro, Colorado Earn Motor Trend's Car, Truck of Year

Camaro and the Chevrolet Colorado with its all-new 2.8L Duramax turbo-diesel engine have won the 2016 Motor Trend Car and Truck of the Year

It is the second consecutive Truck of the Year award for Colorado, the mid-size pickup introduced as a 2015 model.

Motor Trend editors praised the Camaro for its lighter weight, which contributes to "worldclass sports car performance

and dynamics," they wrote.

The editors' selection of the new Camaro and Colorado as the Car and Truck of the Year surprised even them.

Jonny Lieberman, author of Motor Trend's story about the award, wrote, "Before we started, had you asked any of us nine judges if the 2016 Chevrolet Camaro had a snowball's chance in Hyundai's desert proving grounds of winning our 2016 Car of the Year honors, almost all of us would have said no.

"Most of us would have been surprised to even see the Camaro as a finalist – except for Angus MacKenzie, who told me: 'On paper, it looked strong

The new Gen Six Chevrolet If it drove well, it was in with a real shot.' May we all be as wise. Still, it's a flippin' Camaro, man, forever destined to live in the shadow of the horsey from Dearborn, the Ford Mustang. The other ponycar as our Car of the Year? Fat chance."

> Motor Trend judges noted that the sixth-generation Camaro was quite an accomplishment and that the RS V6 3.6-liter Camaro's eight-speed automatic transmission offered "really great calibra-

> Judges also had kind things to say about the six-cylinder's performance, saying it handled better than the Cadillac ATS.

Judges said that as good as the

V6 is, the V8 is even better.

"Pouring forth from its glorious naturally aspirated, 6.2-liter LT1 V8 are 455 hp and 455 lb.-ft. of torque," Lieberman wrote. "All that get up and go is transmitted to the sticky rear tires via a lovely-shifting six-speed manual transmission. To say we liked this car is a severe understate-

Judges also appreciated the value Camaro drivers get for the buck. They noted that a 275-hp turbo goes for \$27,000, while a 335-hp model costs \$28,500 and a 455-hp Camaro goes for \$37,000.

Motor Trend had equally nice

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GM Executive Vice President Mark Reuss with award

#### 2016 Dodge Charger Honored by ALG for Residual Value

To some, the 2016 Dodge Charger has it all. It's a beautiful car that has excellent performance. And, according to ALG experts, it also keeps its value.

For the second time in two years, Dodge Charger has earned the Residual Value Award in the "Full-size Car" category from ALG, the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation against a number of the criteria. data, said Fiat Chrysler spokes-

woman Kristin Starnes.

Founded in 1964 and headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif., ALG is an authority on automotive residual value projections in North America, said Starnes. By analyzing nearly 2,500 vehicle trims each year to assess residual value - which is mainly driven by used car inventory, brand strength, macroeconomic conditions, incentive spending and

pricing - ALG provides auto industry and financial services clients with resale insights, forecasts and consulting services about the future vehicle marketplace.

For Dodge, Starnes said, it's not enough to design and engineer the 2016 Charger as the quickest, fastest and most powerful sedan in the world.

"Striking a delicate balance be-

tween traditional sedan and muscle car, the Dodge Charger represents shifting trends in the fullsize segment," said Eric Lyman, vice president of Industry Insights for ALG.

"A wide range of powertrain and comfort features ensures there is a perfect Charger for every personality, from cruising

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

### BIG 3 ARRIVED IN STYLE AT THE L.A. AUTO SHOW



2017 Buick LaCrosse

#### 2017 Buick LaCrosse Grille **Inspired by 1954 Concept**

Where better to have a bright next phase of Buick's internanew face make its debut than Los tional momentum," said Duncan Angeles, home of the American Aldred, vice president of Global film industry?

The new 2017 Buick LaCrosse, which "introduces the new face of Buick," said Buick spokeswoman Crystal Wilson, was influenced by the dramatic cues of the award-winning Avenir concept, and inspired by a Buick concept from the mid-20th centu-

With that background, the Lacrosse was introduced Nov. 18 at the L.A. Auto Show.

The LaCrosse, which goes on sale in early summer 2016, features a new grille design with a large opening distinguished by the return of a three-color - red, silver and blue - Buick tri-shield insignia, accented by wingshaped elements set against darkened waterfall grille bars inspired by the 1954 Wildcat II con-

"The new LaCrosse is dropdead gorgeous and signals the

"Its quietness, comfort and connectivity were developed to set new standards in the segment, supported by technologies not offered on competitors such as the Lexus ES."

Longer, lower and wider than the current model, the 2017 LaCrosse is built on a stronger yet lighter structure, Aldred said. It is about 300 pounds lighter than the current LaCrosse largely due to the use of presshardened, high-strength steels which contribute to greater efficiency and more responsive handling.

The new LaCrosse's lower weight, Aldred said, is also due in part to new lower mass sound-absorbing materials, including a lightweight dissipative dash mat in place of heavier noise-blocking

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#### Alfa Romeo Giulia 'New Benchmark' – Bigland

some true Italian style to the North American auto market with the 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.

As the first of a new generation of vehicles built on the new Giorgio platform that was developed in conjunction with Ferrari, the 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio "embodies Alfa Romeo's La meccanica delle emozioni (the mechanics of emotion), delivering race-inspired performance, advanced technologies, seductive Italian style and an exhilarating driving experience to the premium midsize sedan segment," said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Jiyan Cadiz.

"The all-new Giulia is not just a new car, but an entirely new benchmark that represents the

Fiat Chrysler says it's bringing next chapter in Alfa Romeo's rich 105-year heritage," said Reid Bigland, head of Alfa Romeo Brand, FCA - North America.

"With an all-new lightweight platform and class-leading power

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

#### 2017 MKZ Crafted for 'Ease, Power, Detail'

It was a festive day in Los Angeles for Lincoln Motor Company officials Nov. 18 when they unveiled the newest iteration of the MKZ at the L.A. Auto Show.

"Our customers are looking for three attributes in a luxury midsize sedan - technologies that ease their everyday experience, a beautiful design that is crafted with attention to detail, and a vehicle with impressive power that makes it a pleasure to drive,' said Kumar Galhotra, president

"The new Lincoln MKZ elevates all of these attributes – and many more - to create a compelling entry in this large and highly competitive portion of the luxury market."

The new 2017 MKZ is designed to appeal to those who are looking for something different in

From the placement of technology features such as the pushbutton gear shift to "reimagined"

the luxury market, Galhotra said. interior spaces - including the floating center console - drivers,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Kumar Galhotra with 2017 Lincoln MKZ

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#### 2017 Lincoln MKZ Crafted for 'Ease, Power, Detail'

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said Galhotra, can relish in discovering an unexpected experience based on intelligent function and beautiful form that offers, above all, an enjoyable

The "Lincoln Experience" is brought to life, Galhotra said, through the available Lincoln-exclusive 3.0-liter GTDI V6 engine, as well as intangible elements like the quiet cabin provided by the Active Noise Control system.

Features that make the new Lincoln MKZ "a haven of refined comfort" include, Galhotra said, curated spaces for storage, the availability of three Lincoln Black Label interior packages with exclusive, personal in-home design consultation, available fully retractable panoramic glass roof, and concert-quality Revel audio with specially designed doors for optimal positioning of the speakers.

The 2017 MKZ is designed to make the drive easier and more enjoyable, Galhotra said. Available adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go functionality automatically can slow the car, resuming higher speeds when traffic clears. The system activates the brakes automatically to bring the car to a complete stop if the driver fails to apply brakes

An auto hold feature keeps the car at a complete stop without the driver having to press and hold the brake pedal - making stop-and-go driving more relaxing for MKZ owners, Galhotra

Available enhanced park assist uses ultrasonic sensors to help Lincoln MKZ seamlessly steer itself into a parallel or perpendicular parking spot.

The car also can assist with getting out of a tight parking space if needed. Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection is an available technology that can help avoid some frontal crashes, or lessen the severity of such

A new, Lincoln-exclusive 3.0liter GTDI V6 leads available engine choices for the new Lincoln MKZ, Galhotra said. When paired with an intelligent all-wheeldrive system, the twin-turbocharged engine produces 400 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque for effortless performance and refinement, he said.

Other features include Dynamic Torque Vectoring, part of an available Driver's Package for MKZ with the 3.0-liter engine, which, Galhotra said, enhances cornering agility without compromising ride comfort, helping drivers enjoy a smooth, seamless experience.

The 2017 MKZ provides a hybrid alternative as well, and a 2.0-liter GTDI, 245-horsepower four-cylinder engine with frontwheel drive.

Available Lincoln Drive Control allows drivers to adjust among three drive modes - comfort, normal and sport.

#### Alfa Romeo Giulia 'Entirely New Benchmark' - Bigland

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

and handling, the all-new Giulia delivers on the pedigree of incredible technology, race-inspired performance and Italian design and style."

Crafted by Alfa Romeo artisans at the Cassino plant in Italy, the all-new 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio is the ultra-high-performance model in the lineup and a testament to Alfa Romeo's perfect balance of engineering and emotion, creating a premium sport sedan for driving enthusiasts that stands out in the segment, Bigland said.

Incorporating next-level tech-

nologies, the Giulia Ouadrifoglio features a Ferrari-derived 505horsepower bi-turbo V6 engine -Alfa Romeo's most powerful production car engine ever cylinder deactivation and carbon fiber-active aero front splitter for improved handling at high speeds.

Race-inspired performance, Bigland said, is achieved courtesy of the Giulia's extensive use of ultralight, high-strength materials, which include a carbon fiber driveshaft, hood, roof and more - all for a best-in-class power-to-weight ratio and better balanced weight distribution.

The result is a class-leading

record-setting Nürburgring

And similar to all great Alfa Romeo vehicles, Bigland said, the Giulia features "stunning Italian design with impeccable proportions and attention to detail that enables a timeless Alfa Romeo style with world-class craftsmanship.

Following the launch of the allnew 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio, Bigland said, Alfa Romeo will introduce the full-line of Giulia models that further take on the heart of the premium mid-size sedan segment.

These Giulia models will in-

0-60 mph time of 3.8 seconds and clude an all-new Alfa Romeo-designed all-aluminum four-cylinder turbo engine with direct injection, fuel-saving and emissionreducing MultiAir2 technology, and twin-scroll turbo technology for maximum responsiveness, Bigland said.

> The result of this new technology is a class-leading 276 horsepower on the entry-level Giulia.

According to Bigland, in addition to rear-wheel drive, Giulia will also offer an advanced allwheel-drive system with torque vectoring for customers who require maximum traction and handling on all road surface condi-

#### 2016 Dodge Charger Honored by ALG for Residual Value

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

in style to tearing up the pavement.'

Lyman said ALG recognizes 26 vehicles with segment awards, along with two brands representing the mainstream and premium sectors of the industry. This year's awards are based on 2016 modelyear vehicles. Award winners are determined through careful study of the competition in each segment, historical vehicle performance and industry trends.

Vehicle quality, production levels relative to demand and pricing and marketing strategies represent key factors that impact ALG's residual value forecasts, Lyman said.

"The back-to-back ALG Residual Value Award is a testament to the entire Dodge team's commitment to designing and engineering America's most exciting performance sedan," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands - Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat, FCA -North America. "This accolade also reinforces our position that customers want unique vehicles like the Dodge Charger, performance vehicles that break pattern from other sedans on the road."

The 2016 Charger lineup is now available at Dodge dealerships nationwide. As the most well-appointed entry Charger model ever, the 2016 Dodge



2016 Charger

Charger SE has a U.S. Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of \$27,995. For customers who demand maximum all-weather traction, Starnes said the Charger SE clude \$995 destination).

AWD model features the segment's most innovative all-wheeldrive system and has a starting MSRP of \$30,245 (both prices ex-

#### Roush Performance Follows 2015 Mustang Across Globe

by Jim Stickford

It seems that the world loves Detroit iron.

To that end, Roush Performreceived the Export Achievement Certificate from the U.S. Department of Commerce in recognition of opening and expanding into foreign markets in the Middle East and China.

The award was presented to the Livonia-based company at the recommendation of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA).

"This award underscores Roush Performance's growth in sales and brand development in global regions," said Tim Wheeler, vice president of Global Sales.

"The 2015 Ford Mustang became a global vehicle platform for the first time ever, and it ignited exciting demand from Mustang enthusiasts around the world for our Roush Performance appearance, styling, handling and power products.

Wheeler said that Roush Performance is just doing what aftermarket parts companies do.

"The aftermarket abhors a vacuum," Wheeler said.

"It will always come up with the parts that are needed by car enthusiasts.

And this is exactly the time to be in the muscle car business. There are muscle car enthusiasts around the world. A lot of them are 40 or 50 years

old and have finally bought the muscle car they've dreamed of. We call them 'teenagers' with money.'

The company now sells Roushengineered performance parts and technologies for Ford Mustangs and F-150 trucks in the Middle East and China.

Plus, Roush Performance distributes the RoushMustang vehicle program through Ford dealerships in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

It also has plans to expand its vehicle programs into China for

Wheeler said that Roush Performance has always been closely tied to Ford.

Now that Ford has created a truly world-wide Mustang, it presented the company with a chance to expand its customer base from basically the North American market to a global mar-

"We grow as Ford's performance market grows," Wheeler

"The global release of the new Mustang worldwide expanded export opportunities for the SE-MA industry.

Roush Performance led the industry in this global demand," said Linda Spencer, senior director of international and government affairs for SEMA.

SEMA is also helping guide business development efforts for Roush Performance in Australia. South Africa and Western Europe

SEMA provides members information such as commerce, trade, exporting policies and customs for conducting business in different global regions.

"What I've found interesting," Wheeler said, "is that people want their aftermarket parts to be American. They covet Ameri-

"I was recently in Dubai and asked what if people could buy



Tim Wheeler, vice president of Global Sales for Roush Performance

locally-made parts and have the work done close by.

"I was told that no, people want the parts to be American and installed by Americans. Otherwise, it devalues the muscle car. I found the same thing true in

Roush Performance is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, Wheeler said.

The company's founder, Jack Roush, maintained a close relationship with Ford from the be-

The company's engineers have worked with Ford engineers to make sure Roush products are up to the job.

The expansion into foreign markets means Roush's plants in the U.S. are busier and that the company's 2015 Mustang Five Liter Supercharger kit is co-branded with Ford, Wheeler

It was worked on together by engineers from both companies during its development

Commerce Department Assistant Secretary Marcus Jadotte presented the Export Achievement Certificate to Wheeler and Roush Performance's Tony Marszalek and Paul Grant during an awards ceremony at the SEMA Show last week.



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2016 Camaro

2016 Colorado

#### Ford Seats Foundation of Comfortable Ride

There's no reason that driving by the seat of your pants should be uncomfortable, whether you drive a Ford Focus or a Ford F-

There are many differences between driving a Ford Focus and an F-150 pickup, but both vehicles share one important feature the comfort of their front seats, said Ford spokesman Sethi Deeptie.

Thanks to an innovative design, the seats are multi-adjustable, with features such as thigh extensions and lumbar sup-

Helping to reduce muscle fatigue and promoting blood flow provide a subtle massage for thighs and lower back, Deeptie

And further adding to comfort, the seats can warm or cool the driver and front seat passenger.

Those and many other comfort features are in large part attributable to Ford's global front seat architecture - which debuted on the 2013 Escape and Fusion – and has since migrated to most of the company's lineup in North America, said Johnathan Line, Ford global advanced seats innovation supervisor and technical ex-

The innovation serves as the basis for Ford's best-in-class ranking for overall front seat comfort among full-line manufacturers in North America, Line said.

"There was skepticism as to whether building a seat structure to fit all vehicle sizes could be done," said Line. "The trick was to turn our focus away from the vehicles, and concentrate instead on our customers.

In the design and engineering phase, the seat team focused on items such as "H-points" and "hip-to-heel" dimensions.

These ratios represent the science that goes into creating in-vehicle comfort. Seats are designed to better cradle passengers at the hip and to prevent sliding while driving. Side bolsters and seat cushions allow more freedom of movement so drivers feel less confined.

The Ford seat team refers to the surfaces passengers touch and feel as "top hats" – leather or cloth seat covers atop foam padding. Beneath each top hat is a seat skeleton that serves as the basis for Ford's steadily climbing rankings for comfort, said Line.

Taking cues from the office furniture and first-class air travel industries, the Ford front seat architecture is ergonomically designed to ensure each seat cradles an occupant comfortably, snug in certain places with freedom to move in others. Dan Ferretti, Ford global seats senior technical leader, said it's important to highlight the commonalities and differences between seats' various environments.

'Our seats are designed to hold people where they want to held, but without being



on longer journeys, the seats can 2016 Explorer is the latest to use the common seat architecture.

restricting," Ferretti said. "For example, the side bolsters are tapered, which allows drivers to have better movement of their arms and legs.'

At the heart of the structure is an innovative two-piece design that consists of cushion and back frame modules - both scalable parts. These Ford-engineered parts are joined with four purchased fasteners at the back-tocushion interfaces. They come together in a plug-and-play fashion to support more than 30 seat

**Kelly** 

- Private Party -

configurations showcasing 20plus comfort and convenience features.

'The plug-and-play design is really what sets this system apart," Ferretti said. "It enables the democratization of technology, so we're able to make more features available to more peo-

The seat structure is mounted using rails of varying height, which makes it best suited to a vehicle's interior environment, Ferretti said.



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#### Camaro, Colorado Garner **Motor Trend's Top Awards**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

things to say about the 2016 Colorado. In the story announcing the magazine's choice, Ron Kiino said that the question many people had was how the Colorado -2015's Truck of the Year winner – could repeat. The answer was simple.

"For 2016, the Colorado is available with a 181-horsepower, 2.8-liter inline-four Duramax diesel, making it the only midsize truck to offer such an engine (along with its GMC Canyon cousin)," Kiino wrote. "That's a significant powertrain addition, enough to warrant a title-defense invite. For the latter, the answer is a bit more complex but no less convincing.'

Judges noted that the 2016 Colorado's small size and lighter weight produced "unusually" sharp steering and deft handling. The Toyota Tacoma, when compared to the Colorado, felt "oldschool and truckish." Editors said the Colorado drives "like the future of small trucks.'

Judges also like the Colorado's fuel efficiency. Kiino wrote, "Per our own Real MPG testing, we can confirm that the Colorado diesel is far and away the most fuel-efficient midsize truck on the market.

23.2/31.4/26.3 mpg city/highway/combined, the 4×2 Colorado LT Duramax returned numbers more in line with a 1.5-Malibu (20.8/34.3/25.3), topping the tiny gas engine's combined rating by 1 full mpg. To get an idea of how a comparable gas truck rates, the 4×2 Tacoma SR5 with a 3.5-liter V6 touts EPA numbers of 19/24/21.

"For a gas engine, the Taco's numbers are excellent—near the top of the non-diesel pack, in fact but in light of the Colorado Duramax, its scores make it look like it's running the Tundra's 5.7liter V8.

Judges also like the Colorado's advanced design. Kiino wrote, "Sure, it's a year old, and a younger Tacoma is on the scene, but the Colorado remains the segment's design benchmark. The styling is sporty and handsome vet understated. It draws you in the longer you admire the clean lines, bold front fascia, and tight panel gaps. Then there are the details. From its deep bed depth, CornerStep rear bumper, and second-row under-seat storage to triple-sealed doors and segment-first aluminum hood and active aero grill shutters, the Colorado was designed to function as well as it looks.

"Inside, the story's much the same. The mix of materials and design presentation are not as fresh or original as those in the Tacoma, but the ergonomics and ease of use are second to none.



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#### Mopar Helps Johnson Win Pomona Race

Allen Johnson ended his 20th season behind the wheel of a Mopar-powered National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Pro Stock car in the perfect spot: the winner's circle.

Johnson put on a driving clinic Sunday, Nov. 15, at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona, willing his "Magneti Marelli Offered by Mopar" Dodge Dart all the way from the 11th spot on the eliminations ladder to the event win at the season-ending NHRA Finals.

In Funny Car, Don Schumacher Racing driver Tommy Johnson Jr. scored a runner-up finish, and the 23rd final-round appearance in 24 events overall for the 2015 Mopar Dodge Charger R/T body, which debuted this season, while DSR Mopar Dodge driver Jack Beckman set the elapsedtime NHRA National record and finished second in the World Championship standings.

All four DSR Mopar Dodge Funny Car drivers finished in the top five of the final championship standings and amassed 15 wins aboard the new body.

For Pro Stocker Johnson, the victory was the second for the J&J Racing driver and team owner at the NHRA Finals (the other came in 2012), his second of the season after five final-round appearances, and the 26th overall victory of his career.

The triumph makes Johnson the last Pro Stock winner to use a carbureted engine (the class will change to fuel injection in 2016).

The win also pushed Johnson, the 2012 Pro Stock World Champion, to third in the final championship standings, his fourth topfive performance in the last five years and his tenth consecutive finish in the top ten.

#### **ZF TRW Develops New Airbag for** 'Far Side' Hits

Livonia-based ZF TRW, the Active and Passive Safety Technology Division of ZF AG, has developed a new airbag that is designed to help vehicle manufacturers improve side impact protection.

The center airbag is integrated into the inner side of the seat back and deploys to help protect the head, shoulder and torso areas of occupants in the front seat, said ZFTRW spokesman John Wilkerson.

The center airbag helps to protect occupants in 'far-side' and 'near-side' crashes by deploying a bag cushion between the driver and front seat passenger. In a far-side impact, where an oncoming vehicle or object strikes the opposite side of the vehicle to the driver with sufficient force, the center airbag helps keep the driver in place.

It can minimize side displacement of the driver and reduce the risk of interaction of the driver with the front seat passenger or surrounding structural vehicle interior parts.

Dirk Schultz, global engineering director, ZF TRW Inflatable Restraints Systems, said the risk to far-side occupants during side impact crashes is significant. Accident research shows that in the U.S.A., nearly 30 percent of side impact fatalities involve far side events.

The center airbag module is equipped with a hybrid inflator and uses one-piece-woven bag or sewn cushion technology, Wilkerson said. The modules can be designed to meet the many different OEM vehicle design choices, including a tether mechanism which promotes a triangular shape upon deployment.

• Sat 9:00-4:00

#### 2017 Buick LaCrosse Grille Inspired by 1954 Concept

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pads that result in a new threshold for Buick's signature Quiet-Tuning

The balance of the efficiency equation comes from a technologically advanced, second-generation 3.6L V6 engine paired with a new eight-speed automattransmission. Standard Stop/Start technology improves efficiency in stop-and-go driving.

'We've blended sophisticated technologies and advanced safety systems to offer a more enjoy able and engaging driving experience," said Aldred.

"It's a rewarding sedan for those who seek luxurious appointments, style and quality.'

The new LaCrosse's expressive exterior design creates a new proportion for a more dramatic road presence, said Wilson.

The front wheels have been pulled forward and the wheelbase stretched 2.7 inches, while the overall length is only 0.6-inch longer. The roofline is 1.6 inches lower than the current model, Wilson said.

The longer wheelbase is Hamtramck plant.



Rear view of the 2017 LaCrosse.

matched by wheels pushed outward 1.3 inches in the front and 1.1 inches in the rear, while the car's width has grown only 0.4inch, creating a wheels-atcorners stance intended to convey road confidence.

spokesman Richards said the 2017 LaCrosse has an all-new platform "designed from the ground up.

'This is a long-wheel platform," Richards said. "No other Buick has such a platform. It was designed at the Tech Center and not in places like Germany or Korea."

The 2017 Buick LaCrosse will be assembled at GM's Detroit-

#### Michigan Employment Holds Steady

state says Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment is remaining steady.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget announced last week that it was 5 percent in October, unchanged from September and equal to the national rate, according to information released on Nov. 19.

Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives,

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - The says in a statement that: "With 10 months in the books, 2015 is turning out to be a positive year for the Michigan labor market." In October 2014, the rate was 6.6 percent.

The number of jobs in Michigan grew by 9,000 in October from the previous month, while the number of unemployed edged up by 3,000.

The state reports that the figures showed that there was a net gain of 13,000 people to the state





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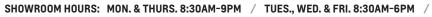
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#### Audi is Latest VW **Brand Caught Up** in Diesel Scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The emissions-rigging scandal that has engulfed German auto giant Volkswagen will not diminish sales of one of its luxury brands in the United States, the head of Audi of America predicted Nov.

In the two months since news broke that hundreds of thousands of diesel cars - mostly VWs, but also some Audi models - had their emissions devices doctored to beat U.S. tailpipe tests, sales of Audis have been at record levels compared to the same months in years past, according to company data.

"We'll have a record November and a record December," Audi of America President Scott Keogh told reporters at the Los Angeles Auto Show. In 2014, Audi sold 36,000 cars in the U.S. in November and December.

Keogh added that while sales were important, fixing cars with emissions test "defeat devices' was a priority.

In the past five years, Audi's sales in the U.S. have risen 79 percent, outpacing the overall market, which grew 42 percent, according to Autodata Corp.

The brand has benefited from booming luxury car sales and the perception that German manufacturers make better and more prestigious vehicles.

Audi sales through October of this year are up another 13 percent from a year ago. Keogh said for all 2015, Audi expected U.S. sales to top 200,000 cars sold for the first time.

Recent data show that VW sales in the U.S., where the scandal first broke Sept. 18, were up just 0.2 percent.

At the auto show last week, Audi also announced that it wanted 25 percent of its U.S. sales to be electric cars whether gas-electric hybrids or plug-in electric - by 2025. The automaker also said it would be investing, possibly as a partner, in a nationwide network of fastcharging stations to give owners of electric cars the confidence that they will not run out of power on the road.

#### Insurance Agency Reminds Drivers To Watch for Deer

Fall has arrived, and with it, deer collision season. Deer hunting and mating season means that motorists need to be extra cautious of deer-car collisions that increasingly occur around this time of year.

Meemic Insurance Company reminds drivers to remain alert and aware when behind the wheel, as attentive driving can prevent crashes, said Meemic Insurance Company spokesperson Pamela Harlin.

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Harlin said, there are about 1.5 million car accidents with deer each year that result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage, about 150 human fatalities, and more than 10,000 injuries.

Harlin said deer are herd animals, and frequently travel single file. If you see one whitetail, watch for others as another might not be far behind.

She also said multiple independent studies have found that 'deer whistles" are not effective, so even if you have one, stay aware.

"And always wear a safety belt," Harlin said. "It is your best defense against injury in any roadway crash. Pay attention to deer crossing and speed limit signs. Deer are creatures of habit and signs are installed at known deer crossing areas to alert you."

#### **GM Continues Global Effort** To Green Up Its Facilities

have to be enemies. Just look at what General Motors is doing in South Korea.

Over the sounds of the assembly plant building the all-new 2016 Chevrolet Cruze, employees at GM's Gunsan plant can hear cicadae singing from rescued trees that first sprouted more than a century ago, said GM spokeswoman Sharon Basel.

The Gunsan plant is GM's first manufacturing site in Asia to earn certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council for establishing a wildlife habitat on corporate lands, but it's just one of 46 GM sites around the world that have been recognized by the nonprofit for biodiversity programs, Basel said.

Seven thousand miles east, General Motor's Orion Assembly plant is gearing up to start production of the Chevrolet Bolt EV. while also establishing an onsite pollinator garden to protect declining populations of honeybees and monarch butterflies, Basel

Kansas City, Kan., is not only the home to the next-generation Chevrolet Malibu and all-new Malibu Hybrid, but to the mourning doves and scissortail flycatchers that take refuge on the 2.5 acres of habitat.

GM is now halfway toward its goal of securing wildlife habitat certifications or equivalent at each of its manufacturing sites by 2020.

The company now leads all automakers around the world in Wildlife Habitat Council certifications, Basel said.

'General Motors' continued conservation leadership and commitment to habitat enhance-

Nature and industry don't ment sets an example for other companies to follow," said Mar-O'Gorman, president, Wildlife Habitat Council.

"The global aspect of GM's participation in conservation programs raises awareness of corporate conservation's impact in enhancing ecosystems of value around the world."

GM's Gunsan site is the first program the Wildlife Habitat Council has certified in Korea, Basel said. Last year, General Motors became the first company to establish a certified wildlife habitat in China. The company now manages nearly 4,700 acres of wildlife habitat in seven coun-

General Motors received seven new certifications this year through the Wildlife Habitat Council's Wildlife at Work and Corporate Lands for Learning programs, which recognize outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, Basel said.

Twelve General Motors facili-GM's Fairfax Assembly plant in ties around the world also earned recertification this year, Basel said, having shown continuous growth of their habitats and environmental education programs.

"Our global scale gives us an opportunity to enhance diverse ecosystems in the communities where we live and work, from wetlands and deserts to woodlands and prairies," said Greg Martin, General Motors executive director for Sustainability.

"We work with schools, nonprofits and conservation groups in our communities to increase awareness about wildlife and habitat preservation at the local level.



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#### New Fiat 124 Spider Pays Homage to Its 1960s Original

duce the Fiat vehicle line to North America got a boost on Nov. 18 at the L.A. Auto Show when the company introduced the new 2017 Fiat 124 Spider.

This vehicle revives the storied nameplate, bringing its classic Italian styling and performance to a new generation, said Olivier François, head of Fiat Brand, FCA - Global.

It pays homage, he said, to the original 124 Spider nearly 50 years after its introduction.

The 2017 Fiat 124 Spider delivers the ultimate Italian roadster experience, said Francois, with driving excitement, technology and safety combined with iconic Italian design.

There's no better way to celebrate 50 years of the Fiat 124 Spider than to bring back this iconic roadster, pairing its Italian styling of the past with all of the modern performance and technology of today," said François.

The 124 Spider expands the FIAT family, bringing to market yet another head-turning, fun-todrive vehicle for our customers.'

In North America, the Fiat 124 Spider is available with the 1.4liter MultiAir Turbo four-cylinder engine, the engine's first application in a rear-wheel-drive vehicle.

The engine delivers 160 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of torque, and is available with a six-speed manual transmission or a sixspeed automatic transmission.

The 124 Spider's suspension uses a double-wishbone layout in front and a multi-link in the rear, specifically tuned for greater stability while braking and turning. Steering is light and responsive with the use of an electric power assist (dual pinion) system.

The steering and suspension setup, lightweight frame, balanced weight distribution and turbocharged engine combine

Fiat Chrysler's plan to reintro- for a dynamic driving experience, François said.

> Noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) enhancements, including an acoustic front windshield and insulation treatments, also help to deliver a refined, quiet ride. For an open-air driving experience, the Fiat 124 Spider's soft convertible top is easy to operate and requires minimal force, much like the original Spider's top, François said.

> The roadster will be available with an array of safety and security features, including adaptive front headlamps, Blind-spot Monitoring, Rear Cross Path detection and ParkView rear backup camera. A high-strength body helps to dissipate energy while optimizing occupant protection.

> The Fiat 124 Spider is also available with technology features for added comfort and convenience, including the FIAT Connect 7.0 system with 7-inch touchscreen display, multimedia control, Bluetooth connectivity, heated seats and Keyless Enter 'n Go, François said.

> A Bose premium sound system with nine speakers, including dual headrest speakers, is also available for superior sound quality even with the top down.

> The new Fiat 124 Spider, designed at Centro Stile in Turin, Italy, borrows cues from the original Spider - widely considered one of Fiat's most beautiful cars of all time - and reinterprets them for today, François said.

> The 2017 124 Spider is meant to have a timeless low-slung presence, with a classically beautiful bodyside, well-balanced proportions and a sporty cabin-tohood ratio, François said.

> Features like the hexagonal upper grille and grille pattern, "power domes" on the front hood and sharp horizontal rear lamps call to mind details of the



The Fiat 124 Spider was unveiled recently at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

historic Spider, said François.

The interior is crafted and designed to focus on the occupants, with premium soft-touch materials throughout, François said. Ergonomics were applied to emphasize the driving experience and ensure easy operation of the steering wheel, pedals and shifter while driving.

The 2017 Fiat 124 Spider is available in two trim levels: Classica and Lusso. Each model is available in six exterior paint colors, including Rosso Passione

(Red Clear Coat), Bianco Gelato (White Clear Coat), Nero Cinema (Jet Black Metallic), Grigio Argento (Gray Metallic), Grigio Moda (Dark Gray Metallic) and Bronzo Magnetico (Bronze Metallic). The Lusso ("Luxury") model is also available in tri-coat Bianco Perla (Crystal White Pearl).

To celebrate the return of the classic nameplate, the first 124 vehicles will be offered as a limited-edition Prima Edizione Lusso, as shown at the 2015 Los Angeles Auto Show, François said.

#### **Auburn Hills Firm Talks About Safe** Transit Methods

Hirschmann Solutions Auburn Hills, a provider of antenna and transceiver systems, presented its portfolio of autonomous asset tracking solutions for intermodal freight transport at an international conference in Hamburg, Germany, last week.

Hirschmann Solutions' reps spoke of asset tracking modules that help reduce logistics costs and ensure end-to-end monitoring of containers, trucks and trailers during transportation.

"Insufficient security measures during freight transportation can lead to the collapse of entire value creation chains in a very short space of time," said Frank Homann, president, Hirschmann USA.

"Therefore, asset tracking solutions must not only perfectly match the individual geographic and climatic requirements of the transport route, they must also be completely protected against security risks and data theft."





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