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This 2016 Silverado shows how a box delete option can be used.

GM Joins Detroit OEMs in Offer to Delete Pickup Bed

Chevrolet and GMC trucks to get their work done can now modify all sizes of trucks with a "box delete" option.

Ford and Chrysler have been offering the option to their pickup buyers for the last several

General Motors is making the option available to fleet and retail customers on its 1500 twowheel drive and four-wheel drive Regular Cab Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra, completing the pickups' portfolio of box delete offerings

"We are in the business of meeting our customers' needs by

who rely on providing a range of products and solutions that fit their businesses," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, General Motors Fleet. Light-duty box delete is a direct response to our customers who have been clamoring for it."

> GM spokesman Robert Wheeler said the box, also known as the bed, of the truck isn't always needed for fleet or commercial truck buvers

> "The 1500 is very popular with fleet and commercial customers," Wheeler said. "And in the past, we'd see buyers purchase the truck and then have a

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



"Drugged Driving Suit" shows the dangers of driving after taking drugs.

Ford's 'Drugged' Driving Suit Geared to Teach Lessons

It's been said that young peo- they have slower reaction time, ple think they're immortal and don't think anything bad will happen to them when they do foolish things like drink and drive – or, take drugs and drive.

Ford Motor Company disagrees with the youngsters who think that way.

The Dearborn automaker has created a unique suit for young people to wear. Much like its previous Drunk Driving Suit, this outerwear dramatically teaches the wearer about the dangers of driving under the influence of illegal drugs, said Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker.

Ford developed the Drugged Driving Suit together with scientists from the respected Meyer-Hentschel Institute in Germany to simulate some of the effects of drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and MDMA (commonly known as Ecstasy).

Those who wear the suit find

distorted vision, hand tremors and poor coordination, Felker

The new Drugged Driving Suit will be incorporated into Ford Driving Skills for Life, the awardwinning young driver program that has provided training to more than 500,000 people around the world through handson and online tuition since its inception 11 years ago.

"Driving after taking illegal drugs can have potentially fatal consequences for the driver. their passengers, and other road users," said James Graham, global program manager for Ford Driving Skills for Life.

"We have already seen firsthand the eye-opening effect that our Drunk Driving Suit has had on those who wear it, and are confident that our new Drugged

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

For Some, 'Love' is a Fiat Chrysler Vehicle

sion has named five Fiat Chrysler vehicles to its "Most Loved Vehicles in America" list. They are:

- Dodge Charger (Full-size
- Dodge Durango (Mid-size SUV);
 - Jeep Renegade (Entry SUV);
- Fiat 500 (Micro Car); • Fiat 500e (Small Alternative Powertrain Car).

"FCA continues to establish a strong foundation of vehicle finish, pride and excitement among owners of Fiat, Jeep and Dodge,' said Christopher Chaney, senior vice president - Strategic Vision. "All of this, combined with increasing trust from the overall ownership experience, is causing choice they made, and love always leads to loyalty."

Strategic Vision's research shows that true advocacy and brand loyalty begin not when

San Diego-based Strategic Vi- buyers to absolutely love the buyers are simply "satisfied," but when they truly love their experisaid Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian. With

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



2015 Dodge Charger SRT

Dissenters Say UAW Leadership 'Failed'

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DEARBORN (AP) - The United Auto Workers union started the year with a roar. It's ending with a grumble.

With Detroit automakers profitable once again, the union promised workers big gains in its new contracts with Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler. At a convention in March, UAW President Dennis Williams raised a fist and proclaimed, "It's our time."

But while the contracts completed in the past few weeks contain generous wage increases and profit-sharing, passage was surprisingly difficult. Many dissenters said the leadership failed to win back enough of the painful concessions they made when the automakers were struggling.

The divide is a symptom of the fine line the union walks in a global market, trying to improve pay without losing U.S. jobs or making Detroit's automakers uncompetitive with foreign rivals

such as Toyota and Nissan. The UAW holds out hope of organizing foreign competitors' U.S. plants, so the union touts its willingness to compromise over the hardball tactics of the past.

Art Schwartz, a former head of labor relations for GM, says the UAW should have done a better job setting members' expectations.

"These are very good contracts," he says. "You don't get

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Salvation Army's Needy Families Are Ones For Whom Their Red Kettle Bell Tolls

They lit a kettle – not a candle dents live below the poverty line, in Detroit's Cadillac Square

It was the launch of the annual Red Kettle Campaign staged by The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Sponsored by Quicken Loans, the special ceremony featured the lighting of a giant red kettle, representing the smaller kettles at merchandising outlets where volunteers ring their bells and collect donations.

The Cadillac Square kettle measured approximately 56 feet tall, 24 feet wide and was lit by 26,000 LED lights.

Its lighting was timed to take place just before the lighting of the city of Detroit's official Christmas tree in the adjacent Campus Martius Park.

Included with the giant kettle is a large digital LED board that displays messages, images and The Salvation Army's progress toward its Metro Detroit goal throughout the Red Kettle Cam-

This year's \$8.7 million goal is one of the highest in the history of Detroit's annual fundraiser. Red kettle donations during the 80-day campaign are vital in ensuring the organization can continue providing more than 3 million meals, more than 730,000 nights of shelter and an array of social services and programs to the less fortunate each year, said Salvation Army spokeswoman Pat Adanti-Joy.

The campaign was launched on the heels of new data from the U.S. Census Bureau reporting that almost 4 in 10 Detroit resiwhile the state of Michigan continues to have a higher poverty rate than the national average.

The Salvation Army combats poverty without discrimination using the funds raised during the Red Kettle Campaign, which combines grassroots fundraising with special events designed to engage supporters across metro

Detroit. Funds raised at red kettle sites stay in the community in which the donations are made.

"The Salvation Army encourages residents throughout the tri-county area to Be The Good This Season by giving generously at red kettles across metro Detroit," said Major Russell Sjögren,

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Ralph Mason of Acres of Hope rings the bell as youngster steps in.

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UAW Dissenters Unhappy With New Contract

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

everything back. That's why it's collective bargaining.'

Gary Walkowicz, a union bargaining committee official and frequent critic of UAW leadership, disagrees. "The idea was in times that were better we'd be able to recoup some of the losses. This contract does not nearly do that.'

Fiat Chrysler workers rejected their first contract, forcing the union and company to sweeten the deal before they would ratify it. GM production workers narrowly ratified their contract, but skilled trades workers like pipefitters rejected it; after further negotiations, the union declared it ratified on Friday. Ford workers approved their contract late Friday by a thin margin after a late push by the union.

The contracts promise wage increases for all workers - for some it's the first pay hike in a decade. They eliminate a twotier wage system in the plants and put newer workers on a path to earn the same \$29-per-hour wage as veteran ones. That adds up to around \$60,300 per year, higher than the U.S. median income of \$53,657, and doesn't include the profit-sharing and other bonuses auto workers will get. Ford, for example, will pay out \$10,250 per worker in bonuses before the end of this year.

But the compromises that irk workers such as Walkowicz are starkly evident. The two-tier wage system - which the union agreed to in 2007 when the companies were near bankruptcy - is eliminated gradually; it will take the newest workers eight years to make what veteran workers make. Workers at some parts plants stay at lower wage rates.

The three companies pledged \$23 billion in U.S. plant investments over four years, but they're allowed to move some work to lower-cost countries like Mexico. And while the contracts offer profit-sharing payments, they don't guarantee the annual raises and cost-of-living increases that workers used to enjoy.

Despite his occasional fiery rhetoric, Williams has said all along that the union must help the companies remain profitable. That message was partly meant for foreign competitors, which the UAW desperately wants to organize to boost its clout. The UAW currently has 403,000 members. It had 1.5 million it had at its peak in 1979.

Foreign automakers generally match the UAW's wages but offer less lucrative benefits. Going into this year's contract talks, Toyota and Honda's U.S. labor costs were \$8 to \$9 less per hour than GM and Ford's.

The new contracts will cost Detroit automakers \$400 million to \$500 million a year for the next four years, estimates Steve Brown, a senior director at Fitch Ratings. That's manageable, he said, since U.S. auto sales are expected to remain strong.

GM's Volt Wins Green Car of Year Award at L.A. Auto Show

According to Green Car Journal, green is the new gold – again. And the gold medal - in this case, the green medal - went to Next-Generation 2016 Chevrolet Volt.

The Volt was awarded Green Car of the Year award from Green Car Journal last week at the Los Angeles Auto Show. This is the second time the Volt has won the

award.

The 2016 Volt, which started arriving in dealerships this fall, also won the award when it debuted in 2010 as a 2011 model. Green Car Journal praised the Volt's increased range, new propulsion system and bold design.

The Green Car of the Year award is determined by an 11member panel, and is based on fuel efficiency, Environmental Protection Agency and California Air Resources Board certifications, performance and affordability, said Green Car Journal spokeswoman Breanna Buhr. Other criteria include availability and accessibility.

The Green Car of the Year, Buhr said, is selected through a

majority vote by a jury that includes celebrity auto enthusiast Jay Leno, plus leaders of noted environmental and efficiency organizations, including Jean-Michel Cousteau, president of Ocean Futures Society; Matt Petersen, board member of Global Green USA; Dr. Alan Lloyd, president emeritus of the International Council on Clean Transportation; Mindy Lubber, president of CERES; and Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save En-

During the award's vetting process, Green Car Journal editors consider all vehicles, fuels, and technologies as an expansive field of potential candidates is narrowed down to a final five.

Finalists are selected for their achievements in raising the bar in environmental performance.

Many factors are considered. Buhr said, including efficiency, EPA and CARB emissions certification, performance characteristics, "newness," and affordability.

Availability to the mass market is important to ensure honored models have the potential to make a real difference in environmental impact, and finalists must be available for sale by January of the award year.

"Chevrolet's all-new Volt is a milestone, building on an already-technologically advanced CarsOfChange.com.

'green' car and delivering what buyers have longed for, including an impressive 53-mile driving range on a single charge," said Ron Cogan, editor and publisher of Green Car Journal and



Ron Cogan, left, and Chevy Marketing Director Steve Majoros

Ford Creates Special Educational 'Drugged Driving' Suit

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Driving Suit will have a similar impact.

Recent national data shows drugged driving on the rise. According to the most recent findings from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), approximately 18 percent of all motor vehicle driver deaths involve drugs other than alcohol, such as marijuana and cocaine, Felker said.

A NHTSA roadside survey also found that 22 percent of drivers tested positive for illegal, prescription or over-the-counter

Like the Drunk Driving Suit that Ford incorporated into the Driving Skills for Life program last year, the new Drugged Driving suit simulates the effects of reduced mobility, vision and coordination with padding and ankle weights, goggles and headphones.

"We know that some drugs can cause trembling hands, so we incorporated a device into the suit that creates just such a tremor," said Gundolf Meyer-Hentschel, CEO of the

Meyer-Hentschel Institute.

"Drug users sometimes see flashing lights in their peripheral field, an effect recreated by our goggles, while imaginary sounds are generated by the headphones.

"Additionally, the goggles distort perception, and produce colorful visual sensations - a side effect of LSD use."

According to the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, approximately 9.9 million people 12 and older reported driving under the influence of illicit drugs,

Felker said.

Similarly, a meta-analysis of multiple studies from the National Institute of Health has shown that the risk of being involved in an accident roughly doubles after marijuana use.

Ford Driving Skills for Life was established in 2003 by Ford Motor Company Fund, the Governors Highway Safety Association, and a panel of safety experts to help teach newly licensed teen drivers and their parents the necessary skills for safe driving beyond what they learn in standard driver education programs, Felker said.





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FCA Dealership Employees Offered College Degrees

Fiat Chrysler is working with employees and their families." Strayer University to provide a no-cost, no-debt college degree to some FCA US dealership employees and their immediate families.

program, named Degrees@Work - with a secondary program, Degrees@Work Family is offered to all employees of participating dealerships.

Fiat Chrysler is not only the first and only company in the automotive industry to offer the programs, it's also the first U.S. company of any type to provide a no-cost, no-debt college degree to both employees and their immediate families, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexan-

The expanded Degrees@Work program and the new Degrees@Work Family offering will enable Fiat Chrysler U.S. dealerships to attract top talent, improve the skillset of existing employees, lessen the families' burden of paying for college and significantly increase employee retention. Alexanian said.

"After the success of the initial regional launch, we're thrilled to expand the benefit not only to all of our dealerships nationwide, but also to dealership employees' immediate family members,' said Al Gardner, head of Dealer Network Development – FCA US.

"When we began to seek out a partner to provide education benefits to our employees and their families, we focused on Strayer has the resources and

Gardner said choosing Strayer came down to certain factors.

"We looked at it from our standpoint as 'OK, FCA's sitting out there and we want to find some perfect way to help our dealers attract, engage and retain the best employees," Gardner said.

"That's not the easiest thing to do in the automotive industry, where it's incredibly competitive.

"But we all know the automotive industry. It's product, it's brand, it's people. And if you can get that all sorted out, and if you can figure out how to get a competitive advantage with each one of those different pieces, then

And Strayer, Gardner said, is Fiat Chrysler's answer to the employee piece of the puzzle. He added that the Strayer program being used by the company is the first of its kind, and open only to Fiat Chrysler people.

Strayer University, which is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, will offer associate, bachelor's and master's degrees to all participating FCA US dealership employees and their immediate family members.

Strayer University is a postsecondary institution with a more than 120-year history of educating working adult students online and at campus locations across the country.

"We are proud to partner with finding a top-notch institution. a true innovator like FCA US to offer this first-of-its-kind emthe experience to provide a ployee benefit," said Karl McDonworld-class education to our nell, CEO of Strayer Education,



Al Gardner

which owns Strayer University.

"At Strayer, we're dedicated to improving the way education and business work together. We're thrilled to continue our partnership with FCA US to tackle college affordability and the skills gap head-on."

The program was developed using input from dealers and their employees. Depending on the selected program of study, courses will range from business administration and accounting to education, information systems and other areas.

Courses will be offered online with 24/7 access for flexibility around work schedules, as well as at Strayer's campus locations throughout the United States, Alexanian said.

Dealers' employees can have their training and work experience evaluated for college credit to accelerate completion of a degree program.

"Families are often faced with tough choices about how to pay for college," said Gardner. "Expanding this benefit to employees' immediate family members positions our dealer network as the 'employers of choice."

Fiat Chrysler Vehicles Rate In Strategic Vision Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this in mind, Strategic Vision has created the Customer Love Index (CLI).

Strategic Vision is a researchbased consultancy with more than 35 years of experience in understanding the consumers' and constituents' decision-making systems for a variety of Fortune 100 clients, including most automotive manufacturers, Alexanian said.

Its unique expertise is in identifving consumers' comprehensive, motivational hierarchies, including the product attributes, personal benefits, value/emotions and images that drive perceptions and behaviors, using ValueCentered psychology, Alex-

He said Strategic Vision also uses comprehensive algorithms and discriminating scales that measure customer "love" and go bevond what Strategic Vision executives call "typical outdated ineffective" satisfaction scales.

This new metric, Alexanian said, continues the Strategic Vision's tradition of using what is cutting-edge research.

Its studies reveal which vehicles are doing the best at creating love and shows why they can be more successful than their competition.

Based on Strategic Vision's quantitative New Vehicle Experience Study (NVES) of more than 44,000 owners, the CLI results represent the Most Loved Vehicles in their segments as rated by new vehicle buyers.

Strategic Vision spokesman

Christopher Chaney said in a press release announcing their selections that "'Love' is the holy grail of the customer experience. Strategic Vision research shows that true advocacy and brand loyalty begins not when buyers are simply 'satisfied,' but when they truly love their experience."

Chaney noted that "many of the winners from this year bring something unique and exciting to the table that may not appeal to everyone but is certainly loved by those who buy them.'

This observation applied specifically to both the Fiat 500 Hatchback (Micro Car Category) and Fiat 500e (Small APT Car Category), Chaney said.

In some cases, a quality new vehicle has created a buzz and excitement that has led to a high CLI score, Chaney said, and that was the case for the Jeep Rene-

Fiat Chrysler also did well with the Dodge Charger and the Dodge Durango in the Strategic Vision survey of vehicles, Alexanian said. These vehicles' powertrains were among the features that caught the eye of the buying public.

"Most U.S. customers will not spend more than an additional \$50 per month for a vehicle just for mpg enhancing or environmentally friendly powertrain. Instead, creating a product that customers can love will allow buyers to spend significantly more money because it has the right balance of styling, innovation, performance and environmental friendliness," said Alexander Edwards, president of Strategic Vision.

GM Adds a Box Delete Option for Pickup Trucks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commercial outfit remove the box, as it's known in the industry. They really didn't need a pickup's payload capacity.'

What they wanted, Wheeler said, was to be able to customize their trucks to fit their needs.

'You'll see businesses like landscapers put different upper service bodies where the box, or bed, is," Wheeler said. "You will see landscapers put in light stakebeds to hold their equipment. Electricians like to put in service bodies with built-in metal cabinets.'

The new light-duty configuration eliminates the box, rear for better performance when operating near the truck's maxi-

Wheeler said. The box delete option will provide a credit of \$575 from suggested retail pricing. The spare tire assembly can be added back on for \$335.

"The Silverado and Sierra lightduty box delete models have been designed to take on the work our customers do every day," said Dan Tigges, commercial product manager, General Motors Fleet. "For customers with lower payload requirements, this new option will reduce upfront costs and provide fuel-economy advantages compared to heavy-duty box delete alternatives."

The new light-duty models will ioin the Chevrolet Colorado and bumper and spare tire assembly, GMC Canyon mid-size extended and includes high-rate rear cab trucks with a box delete opsprings and a front stabilizer bar tion, as well as the Silverado HD from the Max Trailering Package and GMC Sierra HD box deletes and chassis cabs.

The Silverado 1500 2WD Regu-

\$29,155. A box delete 2500HD 2WD Regular Cab box delete starts at \$33,475, providing more than \$4,000 in upfront savings for the light-duty box delete buyer.



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2005 DURANGO SXT AWD

24 Mos.

Mopar, Hemi V8 Awarded for Global Success

The drag racing legacy of the Mopar brand and its iconic Hemi V8 engine was honored by the British Drag Racing Hall of Fame (BDRHoF) with the organiza-Global Achievement tion's Award during a ceremony held on Nov. 21.

Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA - Global, accepted the award during a ceremony at the Savill Court Hotel in England.

In his remarks, Gorlier paid tribute to Tom Hoover, recognized as the "Father of the 426 Hemi," for the role he played in the development of the legendary Mopar engine. Hoover passed away earlier this year at the age of 85.

"It was an honor and a privilege to receive this important award in recognition of an engine that still means so much not just to our company and to Mopar, but to the entire drag racing community," said Gorlier.
"The spirit of performance and passion that inspired people like Tom Hoover to bring the Hemi engine to life still powers and inspires the Mopar brand to this day."

"The 2015 BDRHoF ceremony was made even more special with the honor of presenting the Global Achievement Award to Mopar and Pietro Gorlier," said Stu Bradbury, chairman of the BDRHoF.

"More than an engine, the Hemi is an icon, one brought originally to the drag strip by Mopar and then adopted for the streets. We are proud to recognize the legendary motor that still fuels drag racers and performance lovers around the world.'

Tesla Recalling 90,000 of Its Model S Sedans

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla Motors is recalling its entire fleet of Model S sedans to check their front seat belts after one passenger's seat belt became disconnected.

The recall - the company's largest ever – involves 90,000 cars worldwide. Tesla sent an email Nov. 20 to affected customers.

Tesla's other vehicles, the Model X SUV and the Roadster, aren't affected. Seat belts in the back seat of the Model S also aren't affected.

About two weeks ago prior to the recall letter, Tesla said, a customer in Europe reported that her seat belt disconnected when she turned to talk to rear passengers. The woman was not injured and her car has been repaired.

Palo Alto, California-based Tesla believes the seat belt anchors weren't properly bolted together in that case. The company has inspected 3,000 other Model S sedans and hasn't found a problem, but it wants to inspect all seat belts to make sure.

Tesla owners are being asked to schedule a visit to a Tesla service center for an inspection. Around 83 percent of Tesla owners are within a 25-minute drive of the company's 125 service centers worldwide, the company said. Tesla may send mobile teams to customers who are far from a service center.

2015 DURANGO Citadel Awd

344

42 Mos.

Tesla has recalled the Model S several times before. Most recently, in January 2014, it updated some cars' software to prevent connector adapters from overheating while the car is charging. But this is Tesla's largest recall to date.

Tesla stressed that the recall was voluntary and not requested by federal regulators.

Salvation's Needy Are Ones For Whom the Bell Tolls

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General Secretary and Metro Detroit Area Commander of the Salvation Army.

"With so many of our neighbors continuing to live below the poverty line, the aid we receive from this community is needed more than ever. And we are proud that for every dollar we receive, 85 cents minimum goes directly to residents right here."

For those who would like to give their time to the cause, The Salvation Army welcomes volunteer bell ringers at hundreds of red kettle locations throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. All volunteer opportunities are posted at www.ringbell.org, where volunteers can choose the most convenient time and location to ring a bell.

Everyone can give hope by donating at hundreds of red kettles at storefronts throughout metro Detroit.

To help raise money, several events will be held around Detroit. Media personalities across southeastern Michigan will join together on Saturday, Dec. 5, for the third annual Celebrity Bell Ringer Day. From 10 a.m. to noon, these local celebrities will Band.

spread holiday cheer by ringing bells alongside The Salvation Army's iconic red kettles.

The public is invited to visit more than 60 broadcast personalities and entertainers at over 40 retail and supermarket kettle locations across southeast Michigan.

And continuing a Red Kettle Campaign tradition, Detroit Red Wings players and staff will serve as red kettle bell ringers at four metro Detroit retail locations on Friday, Dec. 4, competing against each other to see who can raise the most money to help those in need. Autographs are available at all locations for a suggested minimum \$10 donation

The Metal in the Kettle/WWJ Day celebration will take place Dec. 18, marking the final days to donate to red kettles at storefronts. WWJ-AM Newsradio 950 interviews broadcast throughout the day.

The day's focal point, Adanti-Joy said, will be a celebration in Campus Martius Park from noon to 1 p.m.

The lunchtime event is open to the public and will feature a live performance of holiday classics by The Salvation Army's Brass

MGM, Gleaners Team Up for Holiday

Hotel in Detroit is joining forces with Gleaners Food Bank.

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, MGM, through its Touching Communities, Touching Lives program, will match, up to \$25,000, every \$20 or more donation made to Gleaners on Dec. 1 through the hashtag #GivingTuesday.

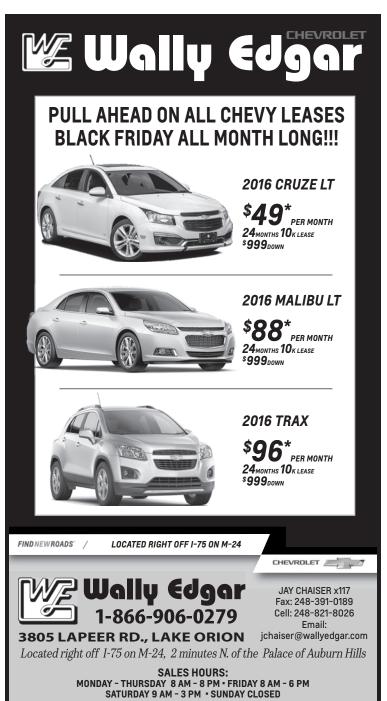
The donations will be collected online starting at midnight

The MGM Grand Casino and and last through the rest of the day.

Gleaners Community Food Bank fights hunger in southeastern Michigan.

In collaboration with its member agencies, the Feeding America network and program partners, Gleaners provides millions of pounds of donated and purchased food to people in





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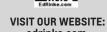
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AutoTrader.com's **Perry Returns To CEO Position**

TrueCar, Inc. has named Chip Perry, an online automotive pioneer and long-time industry leader, to the position of president and chief executive officer, effective Dec. 15.

Perry was the first employee of AutoTrader.com in 1997 and served as its CEO from the company's inception until 2013.

While at the helm, he guided the company's evolution from a one-person startup into the world's largest online automotive marketplace, with \$1.5 billion in revenue, 20,000 dealer customers, 16 million monthly unique website visitors and 3,500 employees, said TrueCar spokeswoman Alison Sternberg. Perry oversaw AutoTrader's creation of an array of transformative digital solutions that have helped thousands of dealers grow their presence online.

followed TrueCar's progress for many years and am truly excited to be joining the company. TrueCar has built incredible tools for car buyers and retailers and has a strong base on which to grow," Perry said. "My initial focus will be on True-Car's dealer partners - listening to them and finding ways to serve them better."

As previously announced, Scott Painter, TrueCar's founder, will formally step down as CEO and also resign his positions as TrueCar's chairman and as a member of the company's board of directors, effective December

"As founder of TrueCar, I'm proud of what we've accomplished, but it's time for a change and we have found exactly the right person for the job," Painter said.

"I know as well as anybody what is required to take the spark of an idea and turn it into a thriving business, and that is what Scott did for TrueCar," said Perry. "Thanks to his leadership, we have an extremely strong management team, a talented and enthusiastic employee base and an unflagging commitment to improving the car-buying experience for both consumers and dealers. I will put my full energy into helping TrueCar become all it can be.

Prior to starting AutoTrader.com, Perry was a management consultant in the Los Angeles office of McKinsey & Co, and a vice president of new business development at the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

Thief Takes SUV, Crashes Through **Dealership Doors**

OCALA, Fla. (AP) - Authorities have arrested a man they say stole two big-screen TVs at a Honda dealership in central Florida, loaded them into an SUV on the showroom floor and drove through double glass doors in an attempt to make a getaway.

Ocala Police say Vantice Beshears, 46, crashed into another vehicle before jumping out of the SUV he was driving. Police found the SUV parked outside a nearby subdivision and saw Beshears walking nearby. Authorities said he appeared intoxicated.

The Ocala Star-Banner reports he faces six charges, including grand theft over \$20,000 and commercial burglary.

He remained at the Marion County Jail as of Nov. 20. It's unclear if he has retained an attorney who could comment on the charges.

Authorities said he also had outstanding warrants from Marion and Lake counties.

2017 Canyon Goes Public

General Motors gave the public the first glimpse of the 2017 GMC Canyon Denali on Nov. 17 at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

Denali is the ultimate expression of GMC's professional grade style, luxury and capability, said Duncan Aldred, vice president of GMC Sales and Marketing - and it's coming to the Canyon midsize truck.

"Canyon is the segment's first and only premium midsize truck, offering unparalleled capability and efficiency matched with maneuverability and refinement," said Aldred.

"The all-new Canyon Denali builds on that award-winning combination with the distinctive styling, luxurious interior and elevated content that has defined the Denali nameplate since its introduction nearly 17 years ago."

Like all Denali models, the new Canvon Denali is distinguished with a unique chrome grille and unique wheels - 20-inch ultrabright-machined aluminum wheels with painted accents, Aldred said.

Exterior cues include chrome lamp bezels, five-inchdiameter rectangular chrome assist steps, a polished exhaust tip and a standard spray-in bed liner.

The Canyon Denali will be offered in six exterior colors.

Standard technologies include Forward Collision Alert and Lane Departure Warning. Additional standard features include:

- Heated steering wheel;
- GMC IntelliLink with Navigation, an eight-inch-diagonal color touchscreen and phone integration with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto;
- Automatic climate control;
- Full-color driver info center; · Remote vehicle starter sys-
- Two USB charging ports on the rear of the center console

and another USB port inside the console

The 2017 Canyon Denali builds on the Canyon's past record of success, GMC spokesperson Kelly Wysocki said. In 2015, Canyon won Cars.com Midsize Pickup Challenge for its segmentleading capabilities and efficiency, including the latest in safety features, cargo-hauling and trailering versatility.

Autoweek named Canyon as the "Best of the Best Truck for 2015," while WardsAuto recognized the Canyon as one of its 10 Best Interiors for 2015, based on criteria including design harmony, ergonomics, materials, driver information, safety and comfort.

Wysocki said the Denali line is named for Mount Denali, the highest peak in North America. and that the GMC Denali brand represents the pinnacle of luxury, design and performance.

GMC's top-of-the-line models include the signature Denali chrome grille - premium materials and the latest safety and infotainment technology, Wysocki said. Features such as a 10-inch reconfigurable instrument cluster on the Yukon Denali series and Magnetic Ride Control on Sierra Denali are exclusive to their respective vehicle segment.

The luxury-focused Denali models, Wysocki said, outsell the entire product lines of some of the most aspirational marques, including Land Rover, Jaguar and Porsche, with almost 60 percent of all GMC Yukon/Yukon XL models and more than 45 percent of Sierra HD sold wearing the Denali badge.

Overall, Denali vehicles have accounted for about 25 percent of all GMC retail sales in 2015 and more than 850,000 since the Denali was launched, Wysocki said.

The new Canyon Denali will be going on sale in late 2016.



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FCA Brands Earn 'Best Buy' Nods from Consumers Digest

The results are in for the Consumers Digest "Best Buys" for 2016 model year and several FCA U.S. brands are driving away with accolades.

The 2016 Jeep Renegade earned a spot on Consumers Digest's list of automotive 'Best Buys,' joining five award winners from FCA. This marks the debut of the Jeep Renegade as a firsttime contestant and a winner in the new category of Subcompact SUVs, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Alyse Tadajewski.

"In the inaugural year of Consumers Digest's review and recommendation of subcompact SUVs, it's notable that the Jeep Renegade was the only model in the segment that emerged as a Best Buy during the first phase of our evaluation process," said Rich Dzierwa, editor-in-chief, Consumers Digest.

The Jeep Grand Cherokee (Mid-size SUV), Dodge Challenger (Sporty Cars), Dodge Durango (Full-size SUV), Chrysler 300 (Luxury Cars) and Fiat 500 (Subcompacts) are 2016 "Best Buy" award recipients, in addition to the arrival of the new Jeep Renegade (Subcompact SUV).

On the Consumers Digest Web site, editors wrote that they're proud of the stringent nature of the publication's process and evaluation across dozens of categories, in general. The publication's research and reporting on the automotive sector is no exception. This includes constant scrutiny of the automotive marketplace to identify shifts in vehicle production and in consumer demand, to ensure that shopper's needs are best met.

"As for the analysis and reviews that we provide: You can expect first-hand, authoritative insight that drills down to the specifics that pertain directly to what you'll experience when you get behind the wheel - observations like, 'It can be equipped with a brake-energy-regeneration system that helps to increase fuel efficiency, but it's hardly worth the extra cost, because it saves only an extra 1 mpg.3

Tadajewski said that picking the Jeep Renegade made sense because it "delivers a unique



2016 Chrysler 300

combination of best-in-class offroad capability, open-air freedom and convenience, a segment-first nine-speed automatic transmission that contributes to outstanding on-road and off-road driving dynamics, two fuel-efficient engines, world-class refinement, and a host of innovative safety and advanced technology offerings.'

The Jeep Grand Cherokee, she said, is the most awarded SUV

ever, and offers buyers both a refined look and excellent perform-

The Dodge Challenger, Tadajewski said, is the most powerful muscle car out there and offers 10 different trim levels for buv-

The Dodge Durango, Tadajewski said, gives buyers sport mode capability and an aggressive exterior "that makes it the Charger of the SUV segment."

The Chrysler 300, Tadajewski said, has been able to build on a heritage that dates back to 1925, while the Fiat 500 offers customers functionality combined with efficient design.

Drivers Finding Price Breaks At the Pumps

Approximately 42 million Americans were expected to take a road trip this Thanksgiving, and drivers should pay the lowest pump prices for the Thanksgiving holiday since 2008, according to statistics released by AAA of America on Nov. 23.

Gasoline retail averages fell for 17 consecutive days for a total savings of 15 cents per gallon, and the national average remains poised to fall below the \$2 per gallon benchmark by the Christmas holiday.

Midwestern refineries continue to come back online following both planned and unplanned maintenance work. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, production in the region reached its highest rates in nearly two months. This has helped gas prices recover in the region following recent spikes due to unexpected outages.

As a result of more supply entering the regional market, the largest weekly and monthly declines in the price at the pump are localized to this region and drivers in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana are benefitting from noticeable savings in the price of retail gasoline.

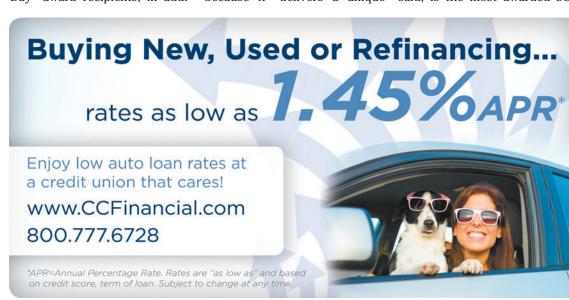
Oakland U. Gets \$5 Million Donation

ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. (AP) - Oakland University says a \$5 million gift will be used to boost the School of Business Administration and the Department of Athletics

The suburban Detroit school announced Nov. 23 that the commitment is from Craig and Ann Stinson of Rochester. The university will enhance the business school's Stinson Student Advancement Center and name the Stinson Family Student-Athlete Development Center in Athletics. Craig and Ann Stinson are both alumni of Oakland University.

The longtime donors to the school say they expect their latest gift will help improve future success among business students and student-athletes. They've made prior gifts totaling more than \$530,000.

Oakland University's campus is in Oakland County.





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