Tech Center News

WARREN, MICHIGAN

VOL. 40 NO. 31

APRIL 4, 2016

Local Students Compete for STEM Honors

by Jim Stickford

Sixth-grade students in the Warren Consolidated School District had the opportunity to see the power of pneumatics in action at the second annual Fluid Power Challenge.

The competition, held at Ma-

South Campus March 30, pitted the students against each other to allow them to participate in a hands-on STEM activity. About 170 students in 42 differ-

ent teams participated in the March event. Joe Petrosky, dean of Engineer-

comb Community College's ing and Advanced Technology at Macomb, said, "We believe cultivating interest in STEM science, technology, engineering and math - careers is important and needs to begin early, ensuring that we are connecting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Warren Consolidated students enjoy competing at a science contest hosted by MCC.



Sierra's New eAssist Tech **Helps Aid Fuel Economy**

were thought of as only basic, simple vehicles is gone.

GMC Sierra's new eAssist technology, said GM spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki, enhances its position as one of the industry's most innovative and capable trucks.

Starting this spring, the new eAssist system, which helps the truck achieve up to 13 percent greater city fuel economy, is exclusively available on the 2016 Sierra 1500 SLT crew cab 2WD model with the SLT Premium Plus package. For 2016, GM will monitor the

The days when pickup trucks market closely, Wysocki said, ere thought of as only basic, producing 200 Sierra eAssist models for California, and adjust as appropriate moving forward.

"Innovative technology that enhances capability is at the core of everything we do at GMC and the new Sierra with eAssist takes it to a higher level," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of GMC Sales and Marketing.

"Its advantages are delivered in a compromise-free package that enables real-world fuel savings with premium content that provides a very high level of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Detroit Carmakers Rip March Sales Marks as Malibu, Edge, Jeep Lead Way

The March sales news was good for Detroit automakers as all three companies reported sales increases of 6 percent or better.

Malibu at 65 percent improvement, Edge up 49 percent and Jeep's 15 percent boost topped the sales charts for the three Detroit car firms.

Overall, GM was up 6 percent, with Ford and Fiat Chrysler 8 percent higher than last March.

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 213,187 units, an 8 percent increase compared with March 2015 sales (197,261 units), and the group's best March sales in a decade, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Berj Alexanian.

The Jeep, Dodge and Ram Truck brands each posted yearover-year sales gains in March compared with the same month a year ago, Alexanian said. The Jeep brand's 15 percent increase was the largest sales gain of any Fiat Chrysler brand during the month.

"Strong Jeep and Ram brand sales gave us a fast start to the important spring selling season and extended our year-over-year monthly sales gains to six full years," said Reid Bigland, FCA -North America's senior vice president of Sales.

"As consumers continue to shift their buying preference toward utility vehicles and trucks, they are walking directly into the FCA wheelhouse."

Eight Fiat Chrysler vehicles set records in the month of March, including the Jeep Compass, which posted its best March sales ever, Bigland said.

In addition, Dodge Journey, the Ram pickup truck, Ram ProMaster Van, Ram ProMaster City, Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Cherokee and Jeep Renegade each posted their best March sales ever.

On the brand side, the Jeep brand recorded its best March sales ever.

Fiat Chrysler finished the month of March with an 82-day supply of inventory (644.474 units). U.S. industry sales figures



2016 Malibu

for March are internally projected at an estimated 17.1 million March – an 8 percent gain versus units Seasonally Adjusted Annual a year ago - while first quarter Rate (SAAR).

254,711 vehicles in the U.S. in

Ford Motor Company sold

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Camaro and Colorado Say: Take Me Out to Ballgame



Chevy Camaro gets a boost to a center field spot overlooking 81 Detroit Tigers ballgames.

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet. At least three of those things will be in play at Comerica Park this week as the Tigers' home opener takes place April 8.

"With spring in the air and Opening Day upon us, a Chevrolet tradition is about to commence, signifying the beginning of the 2016 baseball season." said GM spokesman Craig Daitch.

To that end, a Hyper Blue Metallic Camaro SS and an Inferno Orange Metallic Colorado the 2016 Motor Trend Car and Truck of the Year – settled into their home for the year high atop the Chevrolet Fountain behind center field in Comerica Park last week

Both the Camaro and the Colorado were lifted into place by

crane - a three-hour process, Daitch said.

"Chevrolet continues to enjoy a long-standing relationship with the Detroit Tigers," said Paul Edwards, vice president, Chevrolet Marketing. "By putting Chevrolet power and performance on display in center field, we hope to inspire our fans and our home team with a winning season."

Chevrolet has sponsored the fountain, which features an array of water displays and the sound of a tiger growling with each Detroit home run. for the last seven seasons. The brand chooses select vehicles from its lineup to display each year.

"Last year, we were able to showcase our vehicles to nearly 3 million Tigers' fans at Comerica Park and even more watching from home," Edwards said.

View This Week's Edition at http://TechCenterNews.com

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Local Students Vie for Honors In STEM Contest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

individuals to some of the best new jobs being created.

"The Fluid Power Challenge engages young people in handson exploration of a STEM field in a fun way. Last year's event was enthusiastically received by students and teachers, so we're glad to bring it back in 2016."

Don Hutchison, associate dean of Engineering Technology at MCC, said participating students are given a project where they have to design a device that will remove barrels of "toxic" waste from one location and move them to another. The team that moves the most barrels is declared the winner.

We don't help the students," Hutchison said. "We provide the venue and make sure that the room where we hold the event is big enough.

We also feed the students. It's not a good idea to have a bunch of hungry middle schoolers get into a serious competition.

The students work with their teachers-advisors in the weeks before the contest to design and build their machines, Hutchison said.

There were actually two competitions, Hutchison said. One is counting barrels moved by the machines designed and constructed by students.

The second, Hutchison said, is the portfolio competition where students are judged on how well they understand why it was necessary that they build their devices in particular ways in order to be able to move the barrels in question.

Hutchison said they really didn't change things too much from this year over last year.

The biggest thing I can think of is that last year the students were eighth graders and this year they were sixth graders," he said.

"We've enjoyed hosting this event and look forward to next vear and are searching for ways to improve the event for students. The idea for holding the event actually came not from a school, but rather from a Sterling Heights-based company, Hutchison said. "Master Pneumatic Inc. of Sterling Heights championed the idea to bring the Fluid Power Challenge to Michigan and again helped to organize the event at Macomb," Hutchison said. "Last year's challenge was the first ever held in the state." Hutchison said that according to the National Fluid Power Association (NFPA), fluid power is a growing, rapidly changing field that is facing a shortage of skilled workers. "The Fluid Power Challenge was created by the affiliated NFPA Education and Technology Foundation to help address the shortage by actively engaging students with activities that allow them to put fluid power to work," Hutchison said.





2016 Jeep Compass

2015 Ford Edge

Detroit's Automakers Enjoy Strong March Vehicle Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sales of 645,626 vehicles were up 9 percent, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle. This represents the company's best sales performance for March and first quarter since 2006.

Total Ford brand SUVs are off to their best start in company history, with first quarter total sales of 188,100 - up 15 percent versus a year ago, Merkle said. March SUV sales also were up 13 percent with 72,872 SUVs sold, marking the best March performance in 15 years. For the month, Edge was up 49 percent, Escape was up 8 percent and Explorer was up 4 percent.

F-Series sales exceeded 70,000 in March, with 73,884 trucks sold. 2007 is the last time F-Series broke the 70,000 mark this early in the year. F-Series sales rose 9 percent versus last year, marking their best March performance since 2006. For the quarter, F-Series sales totaled 186,121 - up 5 percent.

"Customers continue buying high-end SUVs and trucks, helping the Ford brand increase its average transaction prices by more than \$1,600 per vehicle in March - nearly double the industry average," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service. "We have been seeing solid sales momentum in the first quarter across our entire portfolio, with car,

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SUV and truck sales up across the board.' Cars were up 1 percent, SUVs

grew 16 percent and trucks rose 9 percent to start the year, LaNeve said.

Lincoln sales were up 11 percent in March, while average transaction prices for the brand were up more than \$2,100 - almost four times the rate of growth of the overall luxury segment.

Much of the growth came from 6,428 Lincoln SUV sales - a 28 percent gain. First-quarter Lincoln SUV sales increased 27 percent, marking Lincoln SUVs best sales performance for March and the first quarter since 2001.

General Motors delivered 193,524 vehicles in March to individual or "retail" customers, up 6 percent year over year, driven by a 7 percent increase at Chevrolet and a 13 percent increase at GMC.

Overall, GM's total sales, both retail and commercial/fleet, were up 0.9 percent compared with the same time last year, said GM spokesman Daniel Flores. GM total sales in March were 252,128.

GM's focus on higher margin retail and commercial sales is enabled by strategic reductions in daily rental deliveries, which will continue through 2016, Flores said.

The strong performance of these two brands has helped GM grow retail deliveries every

Ask for

Chris or

Jody

month since April 2015. Despite significant reductions in daily rental units, total sales were up one percent.

Chevrolet has been the main engine of growth, Flores said. The brand's retail sales were up 10 percent in the first quarter versus a year ago, and its retail market share was up a full point year over year to an estimated 11 percent.

This increase in March was led by the Malibu, which saw a 65 percent increase in sales over the same time last year, Flores said.

The Malibu had its best first guarter since 1980, and approximately 85 percent of sales in March were the new model, which is the fastest-selling car in its segment with a "days-to-turn" of 24 days.

"The strong retail and commercial sales GM has been delivering are the result of a multi-year strategy to strengthen our brands, attract new customers and grow profitably," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of Sales Operations.

"We are growing retail sales faster than the industry, and we are doing it with disciplined incentives and inventories, and lower rental deliveries. Our business is very healthy, and we are going to manage it with conviction to keep it that way."



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APRIL 4, 2016



Rear trailer camera



Rearview mirror camera



Driver's view of scenes from both cameras

MCC Awards \$225,000 to **Three Innovators**

Three early-stage companies from Livingston, Washtenaw and Wayne counties will receive a total of \$225,000 in funding from the Innovation Fund Macomb Community College, Powered by JPMorgan Chase & Co, said MCC spokeswoman Jeanne Nicol.

The companies represent a broad spectrum of market solutions, including a configurable, advanced suspension system for the transportation market, an app that provides personalized recommendations for affordable art and a new concept in baby bottles.

The companies are Kollecto of Detroit, which received \$100,000 for its Web technology that helps people buy afford art. Aktv8 Brighton received \$100,000 for its simple and configurable advanced electronic suspension system for commercial vehicle manufacturers. Flipsi of Ann Arbor received \$25,000 for its baby bottle, which can be flipped inside-out for easy cleaning.

The Innovation Fund is a \$2.7 million effort to stimulate economic development and job growth among promising Detroit-area entrepreneurs and next-stage companies with highgrowth potential. Support is provided by MCC's Strategic Fund and JPMorgan Chase, as part of the company's \$100 million commitment to Detroit's economic recovery.

Silverado Technology Goes Forward by Looking Backward When driving, keeping your tegrate views from trailering

eyes on the road ahead is a given. But there are also times when being able to see what's behind you is equally important.

Which is why Chevrolet has added a new trailering camera system that will be available for 2014-16 model year Silverados.

It joins a new factory-installed, fifth-wheel prep package, compatible with either gooseneck or fifth-wheel hitches available from Chevrolet Accessories.

These are great examples of our commitment to provide truck customers with the most confident towing experience in the industry," said Jeff Luke, Chevrolet truck executive chief engineer.

'The fifth-wheel prep package has been designed by our structural engineers to make the most of Silverado's fully-boxed, highstrength steel frame. The trailering camera system was designed in partnership with our Chevrolet MyLink team to seamlessly incameras into the existing radio display. As with all offerings from

Chevrolet Accessories, these packages are warranted and integrated to work with the customer's vehicle and are available through Chevrolet dealers, said GM spokesman Monte Doran.

Chevrolet partnered with Echomaster to develop the blindspot-assist towing package system, which includes three cameras: two side-view cameras, and one for mounting on the rear of the customer's trailer. It is compatible with all 2014-2016 model year Silverado HD trucks, and Silverado 1500 trucks with the available trailer-towing mirrors.

The two side cameras are seamlessly integrated into the housing for the side-view mirrors, for improved vision along the sides of the truck and trailer, Doran said. When the driver activates the turn signal, the system automatically displays the correscreen.

The rear camera is designed to be mounted to the top, rearmost edge of the trailer, providing a view of what's behind the trailer when reversing. This camera is hardwired to the trailer lights for electrical power, and wirelessly transmits images to the display using a closed wireless network. It also features infrared lighting, enabling enhanced images in low-light settings.

The Silverado's rear backup camera is activated when reverse is selected. Pressing and holding the radio Home button for five seconds brings up the camera menu screen to select the trailer camera image.

The system also supports the use of an optional fourth camera. This can include an additional camera installed inside the trailer, transmitting video to monitor horses, cattle, other livestock, or content during transport.

Later this summer, Chevrolet

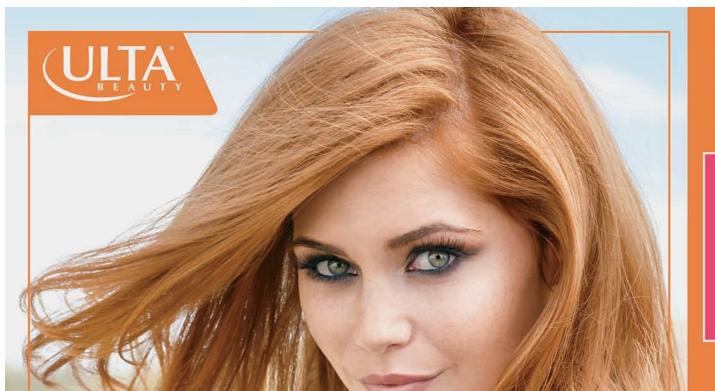
lating side view in the center will introduce a camera integrated into the center brake light, to show the contents of the bed or to assist with connecting a fifthwheel or gooseneck trailer, Doran said.

Any of the four camera views can be activated at any time on the radio screen to bring up the camera menu screen.

The trailering camera system will be available for purchase through Chevrolet dealers in April, and is warranted by Echomaster (a division of AAMP Global). Prices start at \$999 (not including tax, labor and installation).

Also new is a factory-installed. fully-integrated fifth-wheel package, available on all 2016 model Silverado 2500HD and 3500HD trucks for \$350, Doran said. It features a frame-mounted hitch platform and tray, concealed under the truck bed.

A factory-installed 7-way trailer wiring connection in the pickup box is also available.



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GM, Howard U Create New Media Program

Experience is very helpful when looking for a job. But getting experience can be difficult. GM is doing something about that.

PAGE 4

Howard University communications students are getting the chance to change the narrative of media reporting in the African American community with the help of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Chevrolet.

"Discover the Unexpected" (DTU) is a fellowship program that will provide eight students studying at Howard's School of Communications opportunities with NNPA member papers in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago and Detroit.

The 'Discover the Unexpected' fellowship program will highlight and celebrate positive stories of men and women making a tremendous impact in their communities," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet Marketing.

to this important initiative. We believe our DTU fellows are leaders in the next generation of African American journalists and storvtellers.³

'We want to share our knowledge about news gathering and pass the torch to the next generation of journalism professionals," said Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., president and CEO, NNPA.

"These students get a lot of their news from social media



This 2016 Chevy Malibu was at the Howard U program announcement.

twenty-four hours a day. Videos are posted as events are happening and they go viral, with most of them focusing on the violent aspects of what's happening in their neighborhoods and to their generation.

"Our fellows are going to dis-'Chevrolet is fully committed cover and report those unexpected stories, the ones that say their generation is making a difference, the ones that say we're greater than what you see on the nightly news or read in the papers.

> The DTU/NNPA Fellows will be selected by a panel of NNPA publishers, editors and Howard University faculty and will be paired in teams of two with an NNPA professional advisor.

Fellows will receive hands-on

experience, networking opportunities and recognition for delivering stories that most embodies discovering the unexpected. The students will also be paid a stipend and earn tuition scholarships.

In addition to sponsoring the program, Chevrolet will provide each fellowship team a new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu for use during their reporting assignments to help them discover great news stories and digital/social media content.

Legendary lyricist and hip-hop pioneer MC Lyte, a familiar voice for audiences of all ages, has signed on as the program's national spokeswoman. She will share her experiences as a social commentator and storyteller to encourage the up-and-coming journalists to blaze new trails.

Young people have always been on the forefront of reporting what's happening in the African American community," said MC Lyte. "I'm excited to be involved with emerging young writers who have the power to shape our voices the same way hip-hop emcees broke ground telling our stories.'

Howard University communications majors can visit www.nnpa.org/dtu for more information. The deadline to apply for the DTU/NNPA Fellowship is April 10.

Jury Finds for GM in Civil **Trial Over Ignition Woes**

City jury found March 30 that a flawed General Motors ignition switch was not to blame in a 2014 accident on an icy New Orleans bridge, handing the carmaker its second victory in a row in trials meant to help lawyers settle dozens of similar claims.

The jury in Manhattan federal court returned its verdict after less than a day of deliberations. It came in a trial stemming from a Louisiana fender bender. A man and woman claimed injuries after the accident.

The jury found that the plaintiffs' 2007 Saturn Sky was unreasonably dangerous because it contained the faulty ignition switch. But it also found that the switch was not to blame for the accident and the injuries to the car's occupants.

"The jurors studied the merits of the case and saw the truth: this was a very minor accident that had absolutely nothing to do with the car's ignition switch," GM said in a statement immediately after the verdict. "The evidence was overwhelming that this accident – like more than 30 others that occurred in the same area that night – was caused by the driver losing control on an icy bridge during a state-wide winter weather emergency."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Randall Jackson, expressed disappointment but praised the jury for part of its findings.

We definitely disagree with the overall verdict," Jackson said. "But we're pleased with the findings that the jury made with regard to the fact that our client's car was unreasonably dangerous.

Six trials were scheduled this year to help resolve claims stemming from an ignition switch problem that has plagued GM since 2002. The company has issued recalls affecting over 30 million vehicles since early 2014 but has been accused of covering up



NEW YORK (AP) - A New York the problem for more than a decade before acknowledging it and launching recalls.

> The ignition switch can slip out of the on position, making it difficult to steer or stop as the car stalls. GM says it has fixed the problem.

In September, GM announced it had settled 1,385 death and injury cases for \$275 million and a class-action shareholders' lawsuit for \$300 million.

The company paid nearly \$600 million to settle 399 claims made to a fund it established. Those claims covered 124 deaths and 275 injuries. GM's fund rejected more than 90 percent of the 4,343 claims it received, according to figures the automaker released in December.

An earlier trial stemming from another accident ended abruptly in January after the judge raised questions about the plaintiff's truthfulness.

Before he announced the verdict last week, U.S. District Judge Jesse M. Furman warned attornevs and the public not to read too much into the outcome.

He said the trial "yielded helpful data for both sides."

Furman added: "It's obvious the outcome in this case might not dictate the outcome in other cases.'

The next GM ignition switch trial was scheduled to start May 2. General Motors said it was aware in January of more than 230 court actions in federal and state courts in the United States against the company, though most of the actions were consolidated in New York.

Recall Ordered For GM-Made Police Cars

DETROIT (AP) - General Motors is recalling nearly 6,300 police cars in the U.S. because electric the power-assisted steering can fail.

The recall covers Chevrolet Caprice Police Pursuit vehicles from the 2014 to 2016 model years. GM says corrosion on a connector causes the problem. If it happens, the cars still have manual steering, but that requires more effort to turn the wheels and increases the risk of a crash.

GM says no crashes or injuries have been reported. The company says the problem happens because police cars often run 20 hours per day and heat can build up under the hood while idling.

General Motors dealers will replace the steering gear control unit.

The problem was discovered after an Illinois police department complained to General Mo power steering losses in



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rra's eAssist s Better MPG ED FROM PAGE 1

ent, comfort and connec-

d said the Sierra with offers an EPA-estimated city - a 2-mpg improvewhile highway fuel econproves 2 mpg to 24 mpg. ombined estimate im-2 mpg to 20 mpg. The ssist V8 has a GM esti-855 hp and 383 lb.-ft. of

ew eAssist powertrain is e in the Sierra SLT crew h the up-level Premium ckage, a package that is ilable with the standard n-eAssist engine and the engine, Wysocki said.

One of the top-rated car collec-

tions in the world - the Lingenfel-

ter Collection - will be opening

its doors to the public for one

special day to raise money in the

and awareness is raised to sup-

port the programs of the Ameri-

can Cancer Society (ACS) during

an open house on Saturday, April

23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., said Lingen-

felter spokesman Chris Morris-

"We are thankful for the gen-

erosity the Lingenfelters and

their support of our mission,"

said Cheryl Donohoe, senior di-

rector of corporate relations for

the American Cancer Society.

"The donations raised at this

event will help the Society pro-

vide critical support to cancer

patients through the many pro-

grams and services we offer, fund

lifesaving research to save lives

from cancer and enable us to

prevent cancer in our communi-

private collection of Ken and

Kristen Lingenfelter, Morrisroe

said. Over 200 distinctive vehi-

cles, comprising Corvettes, Mus-

The Lingenfelter Collection is a

ty and across the nation.³

The unique vehicles will be available for viewing as money

fight against cancer.

roe

PAGE 5



Ford Motor Company Fund contributed \$100,000 to Gleaners fund.

Ford Employees Donating Time, Money to Gleaners

Ford Mobile Food Pantries dent of Gleaners Community rolled through metro Detroit March 16 delivering baby formula and diapers to food banks and other nonprofits.

Ford Motor Company Fund the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company - donated \$100,000 to Gleaners Community Food Bank to purchase enough formula to feed 7,000 infants for a month, said Ford spokesman Eric Mitchell

"Meeting the most basic needs of families is the first step toward building stronger communities,' said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. "Children need nutritious meals to build a strong foundation mentally and physically, and we hope this contribution will help give them a healthy start on a promising future."

With more than 200,000 children in Southeast Michigan nearly 20 percent of the area's kids - not knowing where their next meal will come from, additional support is always welcome, Mitchell said. A text-togive option for Ford employees and the public has been set up to donate money to Gleaners for the purchase of more formula.

To contribute any amount by credit or debit card to the Ford Baby Formula Drive, text FORD to 41444 and follow the link.

With help from The Kroger Company, Gleaners was able to stretch this year's Ford donation further and purchase more formula than last year. Ford volunteers loaded cases of baby formula onto Ford Mobile Food Pantries, including hundreds of additional pounds of formula and more than 11,000 diapers collected in the company's annual employee Diaper & Formula Drive.

"I'm so grateful to Ford and its employees for launching this tremendous effort to help struggling families with young chilFood Bank. "With these two very essential needs covered, parents can meet their children's other needs - like providing lots of love and giving them a better opportunity to grow up healthy and strong.'

Ford's Diaper & Formula Drive was organized by the Ford Volunteer Corps as part of early March's Accelerated Action Day to help children and families. Hundreds of Ford volunteers renovated care centers, painted shelters, sorted food and packed meals at food pantries.

Over the past six years, Ford Motor Company Fund has contributed nearly \$2 million to **Gleaners Community Food Bank** as part of its commitment to hunger relief in Southeast Michigan. Gleaners operates four Ford Mobile Food Pantries, and Ford Resource and Engagement Center in Southwest Detroit includes a Gleaners client-choice food service hub.

Over the years, Ford Volunteer Corps has enlisted thousands of Ford employees to sort, pack and deliver meals at Gleaners locations.

DETROIT (AP) - A Wayne State

University program has received

a \$400,000 grant to design an en-

vironmental project aimed at

boosting the health and quality

March 30 the Fred A. and Bar-

bara M. Erb Family Foundation is

giving the grant to the Detroit Re-

vitalization Fellows. Fellows rep-

The Detroit school announced

of life of Detroit residents.

WSU Gets an Environmental Grant resenting the Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and EcoWorks will tackle the project.

> Detroit Revitalization Fellows consists of mid-career leaders working on civic, community and economic development endeavors. It's a program of Wayne State's Office of Economic Development.

cle Cars and Exotics, fill the large facility in Brighton.

Lingenfelter Collection Open for Charity

Each spring and fall, the Lingenfelters open the Collection to the public while raising support for important nonprofit organizations. The American Cancer Society was chosen to be the recipient of the proceeds from this spring's event.

The American Cancer Society relies on more than 100 years of evidence and proven results to prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from cancer.

The organization, Morrisroe said, provides the funds for cutting-edge cancer research that can lead to better treatments; advocates for better laws to help people locally and across the nation who are threatened by cancer; and helps patients and their families with their most pressing needs, including rides to treatment, navigating the health care system, and dealing with the side effects of treatment.

The Society, Morrisroe said, has contributed to the 20 percent decline in cancer mortality in the past two decades, preventing more than 1.5 million cancer deaths during that time.



Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter

Guests attending the open house will be able to support the ACS by making a monetary donation at the door, Morrisroe said. There will also be a limited edition Lingenfelter Collection/ACS T-shirt available for purchase for \$10.

Following the event, 100 percent of the event proceeds will be donated to ACS. Refreshments will be available while guests browse the many collectible cars, and ACS representatives will be present during the event to answer questions.

Ford Plays Hardball with F-150 Edition

Ford is saluting the Kansas City Royals' world championship by building a limited run of 300 Ford F-150 MVP-edition trucks at the Kansas City Assembly Plant.

Based on the F-150 XLT with chrome package and available in either Oxford White or Blue Flame. the F-150 MVP edition includes special MVP badging, unique polished stainless rocker panels and a spray-in bedliner, said Ford spokesman Mike Levine.

The 2016 Ford F-150 MVP edition started as an idea from Marc Lassalle, a Kansas City Royals fan, to celebrate his team's second world championship, Levine said. It follows the 1986 Ford Ranger MVP edition, created and sold in 1985 to celebrate Kansas City's first time as world champions.

"Like our manufacturing team

members at Kansas City Assembly Plant, the Kansas City Royals are a great example of what terrific teamwork can accomplish," said Gary Johnson, Ford vice president for North America manufacturing.

F-150 MVP edition customizations are added at Kansas City's unique SubTropolis underground business complex, where Ford applies custom accessories to its vehicles in the energy-efficient cave system. Levine said. Ford worked with former

Kansas City Royals star Bret Saberhagen, from the 1985 team roster, and Salvador Pérez, from the 2015 Kansas City lineup, to promote the F-150 MVP edition, Levine said.

Saberhagen greeted Kansas City Assembly Plant employees last week.

Midwest Ford Dealers has also renewed its sponsorship agreement with the Kansas City Royals for 2016. The F-150 MVP edition is on sale now at Kansas City area Ford dealers.



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dren," said Gerry Brisson, presi-

Mustang Makes Monopoly Board

Call the Ford Mustang kids' stuff is no longer an insult.

The Mustang is Mr. Monopoly's new ride in the new edition of Monopoly Empire, said Ford spokesman Sam Schembari.

This is something new for the Mustang, Schembari said. While the 2015's best-selling sports car in the U.S. has made thousands of appearances on the silver screen and in numerous songs, and this is the first time it's a playable piece in the iconic board game.

Mustang fans can rev their engines and advance to go as they take laps around the board and build their empire of well-known brands, including Ford, Schembari said. The new version of the Monopoly Empire game is available now.





"The 21st century will be characterized by major changes in the automotive environment.'

That's how SAE spokesman Shawn Andreassi described the benefits engineers will get from attending the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) World Congress and Exhibition April 12-14.

The event, which brings automotive engineers from all over the world to Detroit, will be held in the newly-refurbished Cobo Center.

Andreassi said the keynote speaker April 12 will be Shad Khan - owner of Flex-N-Gate, a company that operates on a global level, with 54 integrated manufacturing sites around the world.

A panel discussion about the future of mobility and transportation in the 21st century will be chaired by Charles Freese, general director of Global Fuel Cell Activities for GM.

His fellow panelists will include Justin Ward, general manager of Powertrain Systems Controls for Toyota Engineering and Manufacturing North America; Mike Ableson, vice president of Strategy and Global Portfolio Planning at GM; and Lawrence Burns, professor of Engineering Practice at the University of Michigan.

"Most of us will not be here in 100 years," Andreassi said. "However, our children and grandchildren will. What will they find? What will we have left behind? How does the future of mobility unfold?

"We are on the cusp of self-driving and autonomous vehicles, which will lead a whole new transportation revolution.

"New models are challenging conventional ownership at a pace no one could have imagined.

"In addition, the challenges faced by transitioning from today's vehicles driven by fossil fuels to alternate power sources will require time, effort, and money."

Andreassi said the keynote speaker April 13 will be Kirk Steudle, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

A panel discussion that day, titled, "An Executive Overview of Powertrain Powering the Possibilities." will feature some of the key global powertrain executives covering relevant topics such as roadmaps and key technologies to meet the global CO2 and emission challenges, and roadblocks to implementation, Andreassi said.

The session will be different in that the audience will be leading the discussions through an interactive Q&A process, Andreassi said.

The moderator will be Jeff Hemphill, chief technical officer for Schaeffler Group USA. Scheduled panelists include Bob Fascetti, vice president, Ford Powertrain; Bob Lee, vice president and head of Engine, Powertrain & Electric Propulsion at GM; Dan Nicholson, vice president, Powertrain Systems Business Customers at GM; Ayumu Matsuo, operating officer for Honda R&D; and Uwe Grebe, executive vice president, Global Business Development Sales and International Operations, for AVL List GmbH.

The April 14 keynote speaker, Andreassi said, will be Gary Silberg, author of "The Clockspeed Dilemma - What it Means for Automotive Innovation."

Silberg is also National Sector Lead partner for the Automotive Industry department at KPMG, as well as Global Lead partner for Delphi and Ford Motor Company.

Another panel discussion, titled, "Collaborate. Create. Commercialize. The Next Gen Supplier Network" will be moderated by Julie Fream, president and CEO of OESA.

Panelists will include Robert Young, vice president of Purchasing for Toyota Engineering and Manufacturing North America; Anthony Cannestra, director of Corporate Ventures - North American Research & Engineering Center for Denso International America; Dawn Agosta, global director of Electronic Purchasing at Ford; and Nakui Duggal, vice president for Product Management at Qualcomm.

Andreassi said that as the automobile and its usage model change dramatically, so will the supplier network needed to support the design, manufacture and service of the next generation mobility, with the required parts, software, and services.

Supply network collaboration will be needed throughout the entire value chain to bring every new vision for the industry, he said, from mass customization to Advanced Driver Assisted Systems, to vehicle ownership models to market.

The panel will explore what's needed in the next generation automotive supplier and the commercial relationships between buyers and sellers to make it happen.

Other events at the congress include technical sessions on:

 Integrated design and manufacturing;

- Propulsion/Powertrains;
- Electronics;

· Management and marketplace;

• Materials;

· Body chassis safety and structure:

 Emisions/Environmental/ Sustainability.

Andreassi said that experts will discuss, during these panels, such topics as accelerating connected car software development and how autonomous technology affects designs.

These are only a few of the highlights of the congress, Andreassi said. To learn more, go to http://www.sae.org/congress.



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OnStar Service Monitors Business Vehicles

General Motors has launched a new platform specifically designed for small businesses to access key vehicle information such as location, fuel level, miles driven and maintenance needs at any time.

The new vehicle management service known as Commercial Link uses data provided by the embedded OnStar hardware and aims to provide small business owners with a detailed, near realtime view of their vehicle operations to more efficiently manage their fleet, said GM spokesman Robert Wheeler.

Additionally, it saves owners the cost of adding aftermarket hardware to access their vehicle data

Available on most 2015 model vear and newer Chevrolet. Buick. GMC and Cadillac vehicles, Commercial Link will give customers with an active OnStar account instant access to vehicle information through a website for \$10 per vehicle per month, Wheeler said.

A Commercial Link mobile app will also be available this summer for both Android and Apple devices.

With Commercial Link, users can monitor the following:

• Location – View the current location or route of any registered vehicle and access its location history.

• Fuel – Monitor vehicle fuel consumption rates and view fuel efficiency reports to achieve cost savings.

• Speed – Encourage safe driving behaviors and protect equipment by monitoring vehicle speeds and assigning speed email and text message alerts.

• Maintenance – Receive service and maintenance notifications to stay on top of needs and reduce vehicle downtime.

Reporting - View simple-to-



OnStar 4G LTE allows workers to utilize their vehicle as a mobile office.

read charts and graphs, including consolidated reporting for year-end analysis and business expense purposes.

"Our customers are always looking for ways to increase the productivity of their vehicles, while at the same time saving money to become a better business," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, General Motors Fleet.

'Commercial Link is going to give them an up-to-date component they crave so that they are always in touch with their vehicles' performance and location, no matter where they are.'

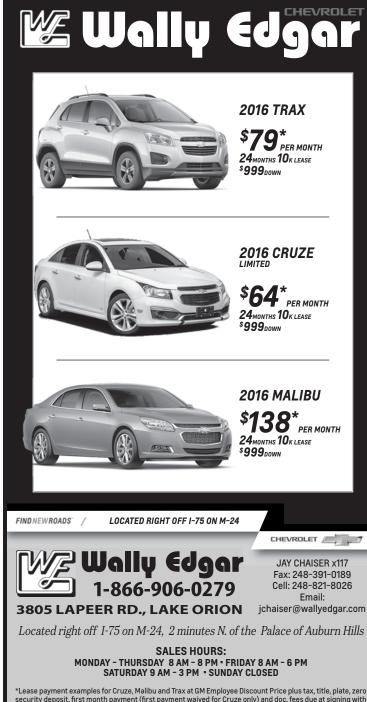
Commercial Link can be customized around the needs of each user, Peper said, allowing for personalization of account dashboards and the ability to set up text or email alerts around sensitive items, such as if a driver is low on fuel or requires vehicle maintenance.

In addition to Commercial Link, most 2015 model year and newer Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles have recently been equipped with OnStar 4G LTE, which provides a built-in Wi-Fi hotspot for up to seven mobile devices to connect, Peper said. The Wi-Fi hotspot works both in and around the vehicle when the vehicle is on or in accessory mode, allowing drivers to utilize their vehicle as a mobile office, and allowing them to send and receive emails while parked at job sites.

Most GM vehicles come with a three-month or three-gigabyte data trial. After the trial ends, 12-gigabyte and 24-gigabyte plans, specifically designed for fleets, are both available for purchase. One gigabyte of data equates to approximately 10,000 emails or 70 hours of surfing the Web.

With more in-vehicle technologies and connected services appearing in the GM lineup, the automaker has hired a team of Fleet and Commercial Connected Vehicle Specialists to assist solely with this segment, Wheeler said.

This team, modeled after GM's Connected Customer Specialists, is up to date on the latest connected vehicle technologies and is responsible for training dealership employees and directly answering customer questions.



*Lease payment examples for Cruze, Malibu and Trax at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, zero security deposit, first month payment (first payment waived for Cruze only) and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including GM Competitive Lease Conquest Private Offer (customer's qualifying competitive lease must have a scheduled and date within 365 days of the delivery date of the new vehicle) assigned to dealer. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear as well as exceeded contracted mileage. Due to advertising deadlines, prices subject to change. See dealer for details.



2017 GMC Terrain Nightfall

2017 Terrain Makes Debut

Ahead of its debut at the recent New York International Auto Show, GMC introduced the 2017 GMC Terrain Nightfall Edition.

popular technologies such as IntelliLink with available 4G LTE connectivity and Wi-Fi hotspot, said General Motors spokeswoman Meg Soule. It joins the Canyon Nightfall Edition and the new Sierra All Terrain X as the latest GMC vehicle to offer an exclusive, personalized appearance with the Terrain's premium features and refinement, Soule said. The Terrain Nightfall offers 18inch machine-faced aluminum wheels and gloss black spokes, a charcoal grill with a gloss black surround and accents, gloss black front and rear fascia accents, gloss black rear license plate surround trim, gloss black outside mirrors and black luggage rails. Terrain Nightfall Edition will be offered on SLE-2 and SLT models with four exterior color options: Summit White, Onyx Black, Graphite Gray Metallic and Crimson Red Metallic.

The Terrain Nightfall will go on sale in the fall, said Soule.

"Building on its best year ever, Terrain continues to attract new It's a stylized special edition and style-conscious customers combining blacked-out exterior to GMC," said Duncan Aldred, details and wheels, including vice president of GMC Sales and Marketing. "The new Terrain Nightfall Edition adds another great-looking and well-equipped choice for this popular SUV – one that will stand out in a crowd." Coming off a record sales year in 2015, the restyled 2016 Terrain crossover has room for five, premium features and technologies that allow passengers to stay connected wherever the road or trail takes them, Soule said. It also offers an EPA-estimated 32 mpg highway (FWD models) with the standard 2.4L engine. GMC IntelliLink with a 7-inchdiagonal color touchscreen is standard on the Terrain Nightfall Edition's SLE-2 and SLT trims, along with available 4G LTE connectivity and Wi-Fi hotspot. The standard, GM MultiFlex rear seat can be moved fore or aft nearly eight inches for increased passenger comfort or more cargo room.





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DETROIT (AP) – Tesla Motors built its reputation making sporty, very expensive electric cars. It's staking its future on something more affordable.

Tesla unveiled its Model 3 electric car March 31 at its Los Angeles design studio. At a starting price of \$35,000 – before federal and state government incentives – the Model 3 is less than half the cost of Tesla's previous models. The car is expected to have a range of at least 200 miles when fully charged, about double what drivers get from competitors in its price range, such as the Nissan Leaf and BMW i3.

The Model 3 is the most serious test yet of 13-year-old Tesla's ability to go from a niche player to a full-fledged automaker. It could be the car that finally makes electrics mainstream – or customers could be scared off by Tesla's limited number of stores and service centers. Either way, the Model 3 is already changing the industry, spurring competitors to speed development of electric cars and improve their battery range.

"The Model 3 is going to be a pivotal model for Tesla," said Patrick Min, a senior analyst with the car-buying site True-Car.com.

Right now, Tesla sells two vehicles: The Model S sedan, which starts at \$71,000, and the Model X SUV, which starts around \$80,000. But a lower-priced car has been a longtime goal of Tesla CEO Elon Musk. In a 2006 blog post, Musk said Tesla planned to build "a wide range of models, including affordably priced family cars."

The Model 3 puts Tesla within reach of millions more customers. Last year, only 2.1 percent of new cars purchased in the U.S. cost \$75,000 or more, but 35 percent – or 5.5 million – cost \$35,000 or more, according to TrueCar. The Model 3 is a critical part of the money-losing automaker's plan to increase sales from around 85,000 this year to 500,000 by 2020.

But Tesla faces several hurdles. U.S. buyers remain skeptical of electric cars, and low gas prices haven't helped already anemic sales. Sales of new electric vehicles grew 6 percent in the U.S. last year, but they still remain less than 1 percent of the overall vehicle market, according to IHS Automotive. Tesla also faces competition from big, deep-pocketed rivals like GM.

U-M Enters New Partnership on Pro Racing

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) - A



- NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY FOR OIL CHANGES -



partnership involving the University of Michigan will allow students to explore the world of professional racing.

The Ann Arbor News reported the partnership announced March 30 by the university, Hendrick Motorsports and Axalta Coating Systems will bring research and development of coating technology to the university's campus. Retired NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon was on hand as part of the announcement.

The five-year partnership will allow students to research challenges for the coating industry while also giving opportunities to explore racing. Brian Noble, with the university's College of Engineering, said students will get a chance to be up close with professional driving teams at Michigan International Speedway in August.

The partnership will officially launch during the "Pure Michigan" race weekend at the speedway in August.