Tech Center News...

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GM's Legendary Designer Ed Welburn to Retire

Ed Welburn, vice president of General Motors Global Design, told employees April 7 he will retire effective July 1, following a 44-year career with the company.

Michael Simcoe, a 33-year veteran of GM Design and vice president of GM International Design. based in Australia and Korea, has been selected to succeed Welburn. He will be the automaker's seventh design leader and begins transitioning into his new role on May 1. His replacement has not been named, said GM spokeswoman Robyn Henderson.

Former GM Chairman Ed Whitacre, who ran GM as its CEO in 2009 and 2010, said after hearing of Wellburn's retirement that he respected Wellburn's abilities.

"Ed was a favorite of mine," Whitacre said. "He is a very capable guy, and didn't knuckle under. He had his own thoughts and kept his own mind. I also want to say that I know Mike Simcoe. He is a sharp guy who also knows his own mind.'

Whitacre said that design is very important these days for automakers because "it is step one in getting people to look at your car."

If people won't give a car a first look, then they won't buy it, Whitacre said.

public, then forget it," Whitacre crossover globally.

said. "Design is incredibly important.

"My first thought, when I heard the news was that they are going to need someone who is very good to replace Ed, who has done such a wonderful job. When I heard that it was Mike Simcoe, I thought that was a smart move. He was someone I relied on during my time at GM."

Welburn, 65, has been celebrated inside and outside the industry for his extraordinary achievements. He has led GM Design since 2003, and globally since 2005, the first African American from any automaker to do so.

"GM Design is among the most respected and sought-after organizations in the industry because of Ed's leadership. He nurtured a creative, inclusive and customer-focused culture among our designers that has strengthened our global brands," said Mary Barra, GM chairman and CEO.

Under Welburn's leadership, GM built a network of 10 GM design centers in seven countries. His team of more than 2,500 creative men and women - based in the U.S., Germany, South Korea, China, Australia, Brazil and India - collaborate on the design development of every GM concept "If a design won't attract the and production car, truck and

Mark Reuss, executive vice president, Global Product Development and Global Purchasing and Supply Chain, announced Simcoe's promotion and commended Welburn.

"Given his deep global experience and passion for breakthrough design, Michael is the right person to lead GM Global Design," said Reuss. "He is known for his ability to take diverse ideas and mold them into great products that surprise and delight our customers.'

Reuss recognized Welburn for his creative imprint on four decades of iconic vehicles and

his leadership in identifying and developing world-class talent.

"Ed's team turns out one award-winning product after another and his strong bench will keep GM Design on top for years to come," Reuss said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Ed Welburn introduces the 2013 Cadillac XTS at the 2011 LA Auto Show.

First Corvette Grand Sport Sold for Charity

The first retail production 2017 Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition was auctioned off on Friday, April 8, in lot #3003 at the Barrett-Jackson Palm Beach, Fla., Auction. One hundred percent of the sale price from the auction will benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

The auction extends General Motors' long-standing support of the Karmanos Cancer Institute, one of only 45 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the country, said GM Foundation spokeswoman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2017 Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport Tesla Reveals Bold Strategy for Model 3

by Jim Stickford Tesla is taking orders for its latest vehicle - which is sup-

posed to go on sale in late 2017. According to the Associated Press, Tesla CEO Elon Musk debuted the Tesla Model 3 at the company's design studio near Los Angeles on March 31. In addi-

tion to showing off the vehicle, Tesla also started taking orders for the car.

Basically, people were plunking down \$1,000 to reserve a vehicle that Musk said won't go on sale until the end of 2017, said Mike Wall, director of Automotive Analysis at IHS Automotive.

"I really don't know what that means," Wall said, "except that Tesla has a lot of brand cache. Give them credit, the last number I heard was that, as of April 4, 276,000 people have reserved a Model 3 Tesla by putting down \$1,000. Now, they can terminate that reservaton, but it's a huge

shows that the company has ised are two different things. been able to captivate an audience larger than just 'fanboys' of electric technology."

But, Wall said, captivating an audience and being able to deliv-

cash infusion for Tesla. And it er the product on time as prom-

"When they released the figure of 276,000 people reserving a Model 3, I thought to myself that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



New Tesla Model 3, scheduled for sale in late 2017



A Detroit streetcar on Woodward Avenue in 1910

New Plan for Streetcars Goes Back to the Past

Everything old is new again. The last Detroit streetcar shut The M-1 RAIL Woodward Av-

But construction is now underway for the QLINE, a streetcar line that will run on Woodward in Detroit between Grand Boulevard and Congress.

According to Dan Lijana, spokesman for M-1 RAIL, the group is a nonprofit organization formed in 2007 to lead the design, construction, and future operation of a 3.3-mile circulating streetcar.

M-1 RAIL is the first major transit project being led and funded by both private businesses, philanthropic organizations, in partnership with local government, the State of Michigan, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Construction will be completed this year, at which time testing and safety certification will begin. Passenger operations are expected to commence in

the spring of 2017, Lijana said.

down on April 8, 1956 - 60 years enue Streetcar project is envisioned to be one element of a future modern, world-class regional transit system where all forms of transportation, including rail, bus, vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian, are considered and utilized to build a vibrant, walkable region. It's expected to generate up to \$3 billion in economic development over the next 10

> That's the future of streetcars in Detroit. The history of the streetcar in Detroit predates the development of the automobile industry. According to the Web site Detroit Transit History (detroittransithistory.org), the first streetcars made their appearance in the city back in the 1860s. They were horse-drawn.

> Ownership of that line and other lines remained in private hands until 1901, when all the

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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Takata Air Bag **Explosion Causes** Another Death

DETROIT (AP) - An exploding Takata air bag has claimed another life, this time a 17-year-old girl whose car crashed near Houston.

The girl is the latest victim of malfunctioning air bag inflators that have killed 10 people in the U.S. and another in Malaysia, touching off the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. More than 100 people have been hurt by the inflators, which can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and sending shards into drivers and passengers.

The girl was driving a 2002 Honda Civic in Fort Bend County, Texas, when the car crashed and the air bag activated on March 31, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Adminis-

So far 14 automakers have recalled 24 million U.S. vehicles to replace the inflators, which are powered by the chemical ammonium nitrate. Scientists hired by a consortium of automakers have determined that prolonged exposure to airborne moisture and high temperatures can cause the chemical to deteriorate. The inflator canisters also can allow moisture to enter in areas with extreme humidity.

Completion of the recall repairs have been slowed by a lack of replacement parts. Takata and Honda have recruited other manufacturers to make replacement inflators, but still, only 7.1 million, or about a quarter of the 28.8 million recalled inflators have been replaced.

NHTSA says the Civic collided with another car, setting off the air bags. The vehicle was first recalled in 2011, but despite six recall notices, repairs were never completed, the agency said. Honda said in a statement that it mailed multiple notices to several registered owners.

NHTSA says the crash shows how important it is for people to get Takata recall repairs made as quickly as possible.

Warren Public **Library Holds Pewabic Class**

Fans of Detroit's famed Pewabic Pottery may not want to miss the opportunity to learn about its history at a special lecture to be held in the Warren Public Library's Civic Center branch on Thursday, April 14, beginning at 6 p.m.

"Pewabic Pottery, a ceramic studio and school, was founded in Detroit in 1903," said Warren librarian Jennifer Lund. "This pottery is known for its irridescent glazed tiles, which grace notable buildings through the United States." The presentation will cover its founders and history, along with a tour of the display in the library's showcases.

Space is limited, so call 586-574-4564 to reserve a spot for the lecture, Lund said.

GM Reaches Out to the Youth Market with Prince Ea

Rising spoken-word star Prince Ea teamed up with Chevrolet to write, record and film a new piece inspired by the new 2016 Cruze.

The New York Times defines the spoken-word movement as combining poetry, performance art and stand-up comedy, has now been catapulted to national attention. For this collaboration. writer-performer penned lyrical imagery depicting a parallel he sees between the Cruze and his own work ethic, both as representations of what it means to hustle, said GM spokesman Craig Daitch.

"I am really excited to have the opportunity to be involved in launching a product that breaks

new ground in connecting people," Prince Ea said.

With more than 500,000 followers on his YouTube channel and more than 57 million total video views, Daitch said Prince Ea is a proven boundary-breaking artist. This pairs him well with the Cruze, a cutting-edge car within its segment that is built for an impassioned driver, Daitch said.

As to the question, "Why the Chevrolet Cruze?" Daitch said because the Cruze is the right option at an affordable price for any hard-working up-and-comer, with leading technologies such as 4G LTE to stay connected, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay to keep favorite apps at the fingertips, and an estimated 40 MPG.

"This tremendous work from Prince Ea is a way for us to have a meaningful conversation with an increasingly influential audience, and demonstrate that our Chevy values align with theirs," said Paul Edwards, Chevrolet's U.S. vice president of marketing.

With the Prince Ea project, Chevrolet continues its commitment to taking different approaches to marketing, Daitch said. This builds off a history of finding new ways to engage customers, he said, whether writing an entire press release in emojis or encouraging everyone to #DayltForward by using their extra 24 hours from leap day to do something nice.

"The new generation of con-

sumers is cutting their own path and seizing opportunity in innovative and unique ways - we see that and we are reaching out to them in the places and with creative that they are more likely to embrace," Edwards said.

To display the spoken word piece to the world, Chevrolet will be the first automotive company to use Twitter First View, Daitch

"To integrate messages for my audience that parallel what is going on in the real world, particularly encouraging people to achieve their goals," Ea said, "and live their lives by using their own determination to succeed was an important factor for me to join this project."



A Detroit streetcar in operation during the 1950s



A O-1 Station rendering of what the new streetcars will look like

Detroit's New Plan for Streetcars Goes Back to the Past

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

systems were placed under the control of one privately-owned company called Detroit United Railway (DUR).

But in May of 1922, all city streetcar operations were taken over by the City of Detroit under its newly formed Department of Street Railways - better known as the DSR. Shortly thereafter, the City of Detroit also entered into the transit bus business when the DSR's Motorbus Division began operations in January of 1925.

After January, 1932, all public transportation within the city limits would be operated solely by the DSR.

During the DSR era, the City of Detroit operated one of the largest municipally owned and operated transportation systems in the world. During its heyday, the city-owned system operated a fleet of well over 2,800 vehicles, including streetcars, electrictrackless trolley-coaches, and motorbuses, according to the detroittransithistory.info.

Starting in 1937, the rail cars underwent a transformation. It was under the leadership of general manager Fred A. Nolan when the DSR first began its "steel wheels to rubber tires" campaign to convert its mostly street railway operation over to an "all bus" operation by 1953.

In 1936, the DSR began purchasing hundreds of small-size Ford Transit coaches, many of which would be used to help carry out this rail abandonment program. The first abandonment of the rail lines by the DSR began in 1937, only to be interrupted briefly by World War II. However, the conversion of streetcars over to buses would begin to accelerate after the war.

Although the "Roaring Twenties" are often viewed as a period of economic boom for most Americans, things weren't so upbeat at the time for the nation's streetcar industry, which was already in the process of losing passengers to buses. Not only were buses replacing streetcars in many cities across the country, but the increasing popularity of the automobile was also beginning to take a toll on ridership numbers. Many now considered streetcars to be old, noisy and, most of all, slow.

In an attempt to reverse this decline in ridership, a group of executives representing a number of electric and street railway companies, along with representatives from the various streetcar manufacturers, founded a committee in 1929 to design a new, standard-designed modern, streetcar that could successfully fight off the increasing competition arising from the rubber-tired transportation industry.

Heavily involved in this venture was Dr. Clarence F. Hirschfield who was Chief of Research at the Detroit Edison Company. Hirschfield had been hired by Dr. Thomas Conway, Jr. (chosen head of this new committee) to lead the research effort behind the design of an entirely new streetcar.

Although he had no prior experience in electric railway transportation, Conway felt that Hirschfield could enter the job without any preconceived ideas.

The formation of this committee, known as the Electric Railway Presidents' Conference Committee (or the ERPCC), would result in the successful development of a new modern high-performance streetcar. This new type of streetcar would later prove that it could effectively hold its own against buses and automobiles, and would turn out to become one of the most reliable and better designed streetcar ever built.

This new type of streetcar would later prove that it could effectively hold its own against buses and automobiles, and would turn out to become one of the most reliable and better designed streetcars ever built.

It was much quieter, larger and roomier than buses, more comfortable riding, and offered a smooth and rapid acceleration, compared with the jerky motion of the older streetcars that actually accelerated faster than the automobiles of that day.

These newly designed streetcars would also successfully eliminate three major streetcar complaints from riders - excessive noise, vibration, and poor ventilation. The newly designed under-truck would help to absorb bumps along the tracks, while the heating, ventilation, and braking were much improved over the old streetcars.

However, the operation of these new "one-manned" cars would cause friction between the DSR and its car men's union, because the older streetcars required two men to operate them. The new streetcars would cause a loss of jobs.

Then, in 1950, GM Truck & Coach introduced king-sized buses, which would prove to be the final nail in the coffin for streetcars.

By April 8, 1956, it was over for the streetcars. They were eventually sold to Mexico and a tradition that went back almost 100 years ended – until 2017.



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From left: Kolb, Acosta, Lee, famed designer Diane von Furstenberg, Weiland, Kang and Eckstein

Cadillac Invests in Vehicle Fashion by Forging Relationships with Designers

Cadillac and the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) have launched the Retail Lab, an innovative program providing tangible value to designers who are driving the fashion industry forward.

The main component of Retail Lab will be a custom retail shop located on the ground floor of Cadillac's global headquarters in New York.

Participating designers, selected through a competitive application process, will gain valuable retail experience under the tutelage of fashion industry experts, said GM spokesman Eneuri Acosta.

Six designers will be part of the 2016/2017 team, each opening their respective retail shop for three months while under the mentorship program.

The inaugural fashion designer is Timo Weiland, whose shop will open to the public in early July.

Since Weiland launched the venture with Alan Eckstein and Donna Kang in 2010, the collection, which is built around the ethos of clothes to live in, has developed a following with celebrities like Kerry Washington, Elizabeth Banks, Elijah Wood and Andrew Garfield, Acosta said.

the CFDA represents Cadillac's unwavering commitment to the fashion community and its growth," said Melody Lee, director, Brand Strategy & Planning at Cadillac.

"Retail Lab will give designers a space in the heart of Cadillac's headquarters, along with the tools, training and inspiration to take their business to the next

The Retail Lab program is funded by the Cadillac brand and features key elements integral to success in retail sales, including business development, marketing and public relations, Acosta

In addition to covering costs associated with a retail space, such as real estate, display units, mannequins, signage and pointof-sale system, Cadillac will provide each designer with a \$75,000 grant to put toward wholesale buys, sales support and market-

The CFDA and Cadillac have assembled a team of experts across fashion, retail, business and technology to comprise the Advisory Board, who will curate the program curriculum, develop a Retail Lab handbook and provide valuable mentorship guidance throughout, Acosta said.

The Advisory Board consists of Billy Reid; Bobby Schuessler, Who What Wear; Darcy Penick, Shopbop /East Dane; Jan-Hendrik Schlottmann, Derek Lam; Jay Silver, CBiz; Josh Peskowitz, Magasin; Julie Gilhart; Kelli Adams, Redscout; Liz Rodbell, Hudson Bay Company; Marigay McKee, MM Luxe Consulting; Matt Marcotte; Melody Lee, Cadillac; Rachel Besser, Market Editor, Refinery29; Rachel Shechtman, STORY; Reed Krakoff; Robin Kramer, Kramer Design Group; Robin Zendell, Robin Zendell LLC; Simon Doonan, Barneys New York: Stacey Bendet Eisner, Alice + Olivia, and Steven Alan.

"The CFDA is always looking for meaningful programs that help strengthen the impact of American Fashion," said Steven Kolb, president and CEO of the

"Every designer aspires to a freestanding retail experience "Our ongoing partnership with that allows them to tell their brand story and connect directly with consumers. Cadillac's commitment to the industry will help the selected designers make this a reality.

The Retail Lab application process will be open from April 6 through May 6.

Five designers will be chosen by the Advisory Board and announced at the end of May for the 2016/2017 term.

Eligible designers, Acosta said, will need to meet the following criteria:

- Must be 18 years of age or
- · Be American or have established a primary design business in the United States;
- Be in business for a minimum of 3 years;
- Be a designer of demonstrable talent, i.e., have garnered substantial editorial coverage;
- Have support (orders) from notable wholesale retailers;
- Be able to demonstrate sales growth during their time in busi-
- Do not have current standalone retail location;
- Be able to occupy the Retail Lab space for a maximum of 3 months, inclusive of producing and providing inventory for the
- to womenswear, menswear, or accessory design-
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Michael Simcoe Replacing Retiring Designer Welburn



Michael Simcoe



Simcoe has been in his current role since 2014, overseeing GM's production and advanced studios in Korea, Australia and

He is known for applying global design excellence and creativity to the company's distinct brands, said Henderson.

Simcoe joined General Motors in 1983 as a designer at Holden in Australia, and is Holden's brand champion.

In 1995, Simcoe received a promotion and became director of Design for General Motors Asia

And in 2003, Simcoe was named executive director of Asia Pacific Design and led the devel-



Ed Welburn

opment of the new General Motors Korea design operations under Welburn's leadership, Henderson said.

The following year, Simcoe became executive director of North American Exterior Design, and was responsible, Henderson said, for critical and commercial successes like the GMC Terrain, Buick LaCrosse, Chevrolet Camaro and Equinox and Cadillac

More recently, Henderson said that Simcoe led the team responsible for the award-winning Buick Avenir Concept. Last month, he introduced the Chevrolet Colorado Xtreme and Trailblazer Premier show cars at the Bangkok International Motor





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Tesla Offers New Model 3 For Late 2017 Delivery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was a lot of people," Wall said.

"But the question of whether they can commercialize that number and produce the cars required using mass production techniques is another question altogether.

"In the past, Tesla has had problems meeting deadlines. But I must say that in terms of ginning up the hopes of consumers and building enthusiasm for the product, Tesla is second to none."

For Tesla, Wall said, being able to use mass production techniques to build cars in numbers enough to meet the demands that go beyond a niche market has been the company's Holy Grail. He said the company deserves credit for building such cache that it has been able to drive the market.

But now Tesla faces real competition in the market segment of the Model 3 – roughly \$35,000 for a vehicle that has a range of 215 miles per charge, which is far more than most people drive each day, Wall said, adding, and that competition has a name the Chevrolet Bolt.

"The Bolt will be on sale in a few months, not a few years," Wall said. "It has been proven to get about 200 miles to a single charge and it costs about the same.

And, Wall said, as Tesla sells more electric vehicles, the chances of customers being able to take advantage of a \$7,500 federal tax credit diminish. AP said that according to current tax laws, this credit phases out when a manufacturer hits 200,000 in

Tesla won't say how many of the orders came from the U.S., but Musk says in tweets that a production ramp-up should let large numbers of Model 3 customers get the tax credit.

That could take some shine off the rose, Wall said.

"Really, the Bolt will hit the market first and be made by a company with considerable manufacturing experience that already has its factory up and running," Wall said.

"The one big difference I see besides the time difference is the look of the Model 3 and the Bolt."

Wall called the Bolt a solid-looking car. He noted that Tesla Model 3 is being marketed as a slick, sophisticated-looking vehicle.

"What we're talking about now is personal opinion," Wall said. "But I do think GM suffers from something of a perception gap. A lot of people tend to think of GM as the company that produced the Aztek. And the company has come a long way from that. Look at the latest Corvettes and Camaros or even the Malibu. These are sharp-looking cars. But can they get the public to perceive this reality?"

Wall believes that as Tesla moves into being a mass-market car manufacturer, they will have to learn to navigate the market in a whole new fashion than what they've been doing so far.

"Say what you will about GM, but the company does have infrastructure in place to handle the sales of hundreds of thousands of any particular model in a year," Wall said. "Tesla doesn't have a dealer network in place to handle sales, to handle repairs, to handle recalls.

"What are they going to do when the company has to take care of a recall that involves 500,000 vehicles? What are they going to do to handle the repairs that go with having a million vehicles out there? It really becomes tougher to be in the car business when you have the higher volumes that come with mass-market manufacturing."

Corvette Sold for Charity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

U.S. sales.

Genna Young. Last year, the auction raised \$200,000 by auctioning the first Cadillac CT6 luxury sedan at Barrett-Jackson.

Chevrolet is donating the first retail production, VIN #001 - of the new Corvette Grand Sport Collector's Edition - in support of Karmanos Cancer Institute's 34th Annual Dinner, which will be held Saturday, April 16, at Michigan Motion Picture Studios in Pontiac. In addition, the GM Foundation has once again made a significant grant of \$400,000 to also fund cancer research at Kar-

manos. This year's Annual Dinner Chairs are Paula and Steve Kiefer, vice president, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain at General Motors. This is the sixth consecutive year General Motors has been a major sponsor for this signature fundraiser, with a GM executive chairing the event.

The Karmanos Cancer Institute is a unique, integrated center of research, patient care and education, dedicated to the prevention, early detection, treatment and eventual eradication of cancer, Young said. Based in Detroit. Karmanos is at the forefront of developing new cancer treatments that will benefit cancer patients around the globe.

Grand Sport, the latest member of the Corvette lineup, combines signature Corvette DNA with engineering to create a stunning, track-ready aerodynamic sports car, Young said. The Grand Sport Collector Edition is a limited production edition and features a Watkins Glen Gray Metallic exterior with Tension Blue hash-mark graphics, satin

black full-length stripes, black wheels and an exclusive Tension Blue full leather and suedewrapped interior.

The Tension Blue color is meant to be a bold, modern take on the hue historically associated with the Grand Sport, Young said. Inside, a three-dimensional representation of an original Grand Sport race car is embossed in the headrests and that shape is also used on an instrument panel plaque that carries a unique build sequence number.

The 2017 Grand Sport features a 6.2L LT1 V8 engine, capable of 460 horsepower and 465 lb.-ft. of torque. The compact design lowers the hoodline, providing optimal weight balance.

A dry-sump oil system delivers oil flow through the most extreme cornering, helping Grand Sport deliver a consistently high level of performance. The coupe and convertible go on sale this summer in the U.S. and in the fall in Europe. The Collector's Edition will be offered later in the model year in the U.S. and Europe.

Those unable to attend the Palm Beach Collector Car Auction were able to bid online at www.barrett-jackson.com. Since this is a charity sale, Barrett-Jackson waived all buyer and seller fees. The winning bidder will receive a letter of authenticity.

For more information about Karmanos Cancer Institute's 34th Annual Dinner on April 16, to purchase tickets or to make a donation, contact Kelly at 313-576-8108 or smileyk@karmanos.org, Young said. You may also visit www.karmanos.org/annualdinner. Benefactor tickets are \$750 and Patron tickets are \$525.



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A film on robots will be seen on the new Henry Ford giant screen theater.

Henry Ford Museum Builds New Giant Screen for Films

audio system and new MDI pre-

mium silver screen for excep-

tional resolution and brightness,

Metros said. The system features

the first museum-based ultra-

high resolution 4K projection

system in the greater Detroit

When the Giant Screen Experi-

ence opens, members of The

Henry Ford will now have the

added benefit of seeing tradition-

al documentary films for free, in-

cluding new films - National

Parks Adventure and James

Cameron's Deep Sea Challenge

3D. Members will also receive

discounts to any special pop-up

programming, classic feature-

length films and more moving

Experience have been available

for purchase since March 25. For

upcoming programming informa-

313-387-8700

Tickets for the Giant Screen

forward.

Starting April 4, guests will get age 3-D technology, the QSC a reinvented cinematic experience complete with new 4K digital state-of-the-art projection system, sound, screen and seating when The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience opens.

The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience will feature unique programs, including a venue for the Cinetopia International Film Festival in June, a Thursday Night Flix series and feature films that further explore the people, places, themes and ideas that bring the American experience to life, said Henry Ford Museum spokeswoman Wendy Metros.

This new digital platform with a state-of-the-art projection system provides our guests with the most stunning and lifelike cinematic experiences out there.' said Patricia Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford.

"It also provides a more versatile venue where we can expand on the type of innovative programming and mission-fit films we can offer."

To kick off the opening of the Giant Screen Experience, The Henry Ford will be showing MacGillivray Freeman Films' National Parks Adventure 3D, an immersive film that takes audiences soaring up exposed rock faces, hurtling down steep mountain cliffs and exploring otherwordly realms found within America's most legendary outdoor places, Metros said.

Narrated by Academy Award winner Robert Redford, the film is an action-packed celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service.

The upgrades to the Giant Screen Experience were designed by D3D Cinema, who installed the new dual Christie 4K digital projection with MasterIm-

Toyota Opening Research Site in Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) – Toyota says it will open a research site in Ann Arbor where 50 people will work on artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous cars

Two engineering professors from the University of Michigan will join the Toyota Research Institute, which should open in

Gill Pratt, chief executive of the institute, says Toyota has "deep roots" in the Ann Arbor area, a reference to a company technical center that Toyota operates in the city.

Pratt made the announcement

It will be Toyota's third research site, following others in Palo Alto, Calif., and Cambridge,

David Munson, the University of Michigan's dean of engineering, says research on autonomous vehicles "will fundamentally transform the transportation landscape."

Going Green Earns GM Big Energy Savings

General Motors earned its fifth tion of the award: Partner of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award for leadership in protecting the environment through superior energy efficien-

The company received the award, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc, because it continues to find ways to cut energy each year and reduced energy by 5.6 percent per vehicle in 2015 at its $\bar{\text{U}}.\text{S.}$ manufacturing plants.

Energy savings mean financial savings as well, Oberc said. GM avoided \$237 million in energy costs and reduced 1.8 million metric tons of carbon emissions by engaging 73 of its facilities in an EPA ENERGY STAR energy-reduction challenge since 2010. The company has also earned ENERGY STAR certification at 11 facilities, meaning those sites perform more efficiently than similar buildings.

The resulting bottom-line sav $ings\ ultimately\ \bar{b}ene fit\ customers$ through new product innovations and offerings.

"GM reinvested \$7.4 billion to develop safer and more fuel-efficient vehicles with reduced emissions last year," said Jim DeLuca, GM executive vice president of Global Manufacturing. continually in pursuit of innovative technologies to reduce the environmental impact of driving, as well as practices that lessen the carbon footprint of manufacturing those vehicles.'

GM has a robust energy management system integrated into its business plan, engages its suppliers in ENERGY STAR practices and honors dealerships committed to reducing environmental impact, DeLuca said. In total, these activities helped the Year - Sustained Excellence, for the fourth consecutive year.

Collaboration drives continued progress at GM, DeLuca said. The company joined EPA ENER-GY STAR as a partner over 20 years ago and uses several of its programs.

GM recently became an EPA Green Power Partner, working together to advance clean energy use, Oberc said. The company's Fort Wayne Assembly plant is a top 30 generator of onsite green power, powered 30 percent by methane captured from decomposing trash at a nearby landfill.

GM also uses EPA SmartWay to shipping redesign routes. Through mode changes, optimizing drop-off locations and altering delivery frequency, GM and its logistics suppliers avoided 116,000 tons of carbon emissions in 2015. This is equivalent to the carbon emissions from over 13 million gallons of gasoline burned.

"By continued collaboration with ENERGY STAR, GM is helping Americans save money, save energy and do their part to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions that exacerbate climate change," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

GM, Oberc said, spreads the word year-round on the benefits of energy conservation, from enabling young visitors at the company's headquarters to make an environmental pledge during "Take Your Child to Work Day" to arranging lunchtime energy information events for employees.

Last year, the company hosted

three #CleanEnergyU Twitter chats to encourage millennials to take action on climate change. GM also became one of the first 13 companies to sign the White House American Business Act on Climate Pledge.

GM's customers and other stakeholders can learn more about its ongoing energy efficiency initiatives on its new website, generalmotors.green. With ENER-GY STAR's help, DeLuca said, the company is making progress in its commitment to reduce energy and carbon intensity by 20 percent by 2020.

AAA Reporting Small Gas Price Increase

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) - AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 11 cents a gallon in the last couple of weeks

The Dearborn-based auto club said early April 4 that the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.07 per gallon.

That's about 33 cents less than it was at the same point last vear.

The lowest average price was about \$2.02 per gallon in the greater metro Detroit area, while the highest average was about \$2.14 per gallon in the Jackson

AAA Michigan surveys daily fuel prices at 2,800 gas stations spread out across the state of Michigan.



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Consumer Group Questions Google Move

A little-publicized proposal by Google to allow its driverless cars to detour U.S. auto safety laws threatens public safety and security, Consumer Watchdog said in a letter sent April 7 to Secretary of Transportation Foxx and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), said Consumer Watchdog spokesman Harvey Rosenfield.

Noting Google's consistent refusal to disclose information about its driverless cars' crashes, how its software algorithms will make life and death decisions, its vulnerability to hackers and collection of personal data, Rosenfield said that the nonprofit advocacy group urged the Department of Transportation and NHTSA to require Google to answer 10 questions about the safety of its robot car program within 30 days.

Though the agency has appeared to be promoting driverless cars in recent months, NHTSA was scheduled to hold its very first public hearing on the subject April 8, in Washington, D.C. Consumer Watchdog's Privacy Director John Simpson was slated to testify at the hearing, as was former NHTSA head Joan Claybrook and Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety.

"At the same time that Google wants to blow past federal safety requirements, the company has refused to provide detailed information that would enable the public, the press and policymakers to assess the safety and security of its autonomous cars," said Rosenfield.

"NHTSA's job is to make sure the nation's streets and highways are safe for motorists and pedestrians, not to promote robot cars or help Google's lobbyists circumvent the law. Before jumping on board the Google express, NHTSA should initiate a serious and careful public investigation into autonomous vehicles that begins with requiring Google to publicly answer questions about what its autonomous car technology can and cannot do."

"NHTSA's job is not to promote robot cars..."

Harvey Rosenfield,Consumer Watchdog

Federal law requires that automobile manufacturers demonstrate the safety of their vehicles to NHTSA through a formal regulatory process that enables American taxpayers and consumers to monitor and participate in the agency's decisionmaking process, Rosenfield said. A series of recent proclamations by NHTSA suggest that the agency is considering abandoning its statutory responsibility to set federal safety standards, Consumer Watchdog's letter explains. In a move to pressure the agency, Google sent a letter to Foxx and Rosekind on March 11, 2016, requesting their support for congressional legislation that would allow the company to avoid compliance with the law.

Rosenfield said that Consumer Watchdog urged NHTSA to oppose Google's efforts to skirt U.S. safety protections, and require Google to provide public answers to ten critical questions:

1. We understand the self-driving car cannot currently handle many common occurrences on the road, including heavy rain or snow, hand signals from a traffic cop, or gestures to communicate from other drivers. Will Google

publish a complete list of real-life situations the cars cannot yet understand, and how you intend to deal with them?

2. What does Google envision happening if the computer "driver" suddenly goes offline with a passenger in the car, if the car has no steering wheel or pedals and the passenger cannot steer or stop the vehicle?

3. Your programmers will literally make life and death decisions as they write the vehicles' algorithms. Will Google agree to publish its software algorithms, including how the company's "artificial car intelligence" will be programmed to decide what happens in the event of a potential collision? For instance, will your robot car prioritize the safety of the occupants of the vehicle or pedestrians it encounters?

4. Will Google publish all video from the car and technical data such as radar and lidar reports associated with accidents or other anomalous situations? If not, why not?

5. Will Google publish all data in its possession that discusses, or make projections concerning, the safety of driverless vehicles?

6. Do you expect one of your robot cars to be involved in a fatal crash? If your robot car causes the crash, how would you be held accountable?

7. How will Google prove that self-driving cars are safer than today's vehicles?

8. Will Google agree not to store, market, sell, or transfer the data gathered by the self-driving car, or utilize it for any purpose other than navigating the vehicle?

9. NHTSA's performance standards are actually designed to promote new life-saving technology. Why is Google trying to circumvent them? Will Google provide all data in its possession concerning the length of time required to comply with the current NHTSA safety process?

GM Honors Nation's Veterans

From April 6 through May 31, 2016, Chevrolet, Buick and GMC will expand their military discount programs for all 21 million U.S. military veterans and their spouses, in honor of National Military Appreciation Month.

"These brave men and women have done so much for our country," said Steve Hill, GM vice president of U.S. sales and service. "Making sure all veterans can take advantage of our military discount to celebrate Military Appreciation Month is one small way we can express our gratitude."

GM offers the industry's most comprehensive automotive military discount program, said GM spokesman Tom Rippinger. The program is typically available to U.S. military veterans within one year of separation, active-duty personnel, reservists, retirees and their spouses. In honor of May's National Military Appreciation Month, the program expands to include all veterans – regardless of their separation date – and their spouses.

The discount is available for popular models, including the all-new Chevrolet Malibu, GMC Sierra and Buick Encore. Because the discount can be combined with most current incentives, veterans could save thousands of dollars on some vehicles. For details, visit gmmilitarydiscount.com.

"The Military Discount is one of many GM efforts to say thank you to U.S. military families," said Ken Barrett, GM chief diversity officer and a former U.S. Navy captain. "Through our strong partnerships with Building for America's Bravest, Hiring Our Heroes and the Achilles Freedom Team, we are commit-

ted to hiring and helping veterans."

GM has supported the U.S. military since 1917, when 90 percent of GM's truck production was directed towards WWI manufacturing, Rippinger said. During WWI, GM converted all its plant facilities in support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call for an "Arsenal of Democracy," and has produced more U.S. military vehicles than any manufacturer in history.

GM is hiring and helping the latest generation of veterans as they return home, Rippinger said. As a national partner of Hiring Our Heroes, GM joined other military-friendly employers to help the campaign find jobs for more than 500,000 veterans since 2012.

In 2016, GM was the only automaker named a "Best for Vets" employer by Military Times and a "Military Spouse Friendly" employer by *Military Spouse* magazine

Riverfront Project Talks Coming

DETROIT (AP) – A Chicagobased firm has been selected to develop a plan to further redevelop an eastern portion of the Detroit riverfront.

The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and Detroit's planning department say Skidmore, Owings & Merrill is taking on the work with help from six local firms.

The first public meeting for the East Riverfront District plan is scheduled for April 12 in De-

Those interested in attending may register online at http://www.detroitriverfront.org.



*See dealer for details. All Rebates/Incentives have been deducted from sale price/payment and are subject to change by manufacturer without notice. GM Employee discount required unless otherwise noted. The Silverado lease includes GM Lease Loyalty or Lease Conquest. The Traverse and Equinox leases assume that you qualify for lease conquest. To qualify for Lease Conquest you must have a NON-GM Lease in the household that terminates within 365 days. All lease payments are based on 10,000 miles per year. 1st payment, tax, title and plate fee due at signing on all leases unless otherwise noted. All deals expire 05/02/16.

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EPA Gives GM Green Award

GM just earned its fifth U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year award for leadership in protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency.

This commitment to being green doesn't just end at the corporate level. GM also has a program in place for its dealers. Just ask Lee Davis, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc.

When he became the fourthgeneration owner of Davis Chevrolet in Lexington, N.C., he used his expertise as an environmental scientist to upgrade the dealership, Oberc said. From heating the service department and body shop with used vehicle oil to buying lunch for employees with money from recycling soft drink cans, he is integrating sustainable practices into daily operations.

Davis is among 420 Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealers in the U.S. - 10 percent of GM's dealer network - who are participating in environmental stewardship activities through the General Motors Green Dealer program.

General Motors has awarded 38 Green Dealer certifications since its launch in 2015, Oberc said.

These dealerships implemented energy reduction, renewable energy, water conservation, waste-to-landfill reduction and community outreach practices efforts that not only deliver cost savings, but differentiate dealers from their competition and improve employee work environments. Oberc said.

"I didn't upgrade our dealership just to be green, I did it because it makes business sense," Davis said.

"Although there are clear environmental benefits, there's an equal boost to our bottom



GM Green Dealer certificate

line and our workplace culture." Michael Payne, owner of

Mountain Chevrolet in Glenwood Springs, Colo., powers his dealership with 40 kilowatts of solar energy from a rooftop array and solar canopy over an EV charging station. Another planned 50-kilowatt array will allow his store to achieve net-zero energy use during some months of the year.

General Motors provides resources to help dealers earn Green Dealer certification:

- A General Motors Green Dealer website that enables dealerships to share how they achieved environmental and operational gains;
- A General Motors Dealer Equipment digital catalog highlighting products that save energy, conserve resources and reduce waste, such as high-efficiency paint booths and high-speed garage doors that also help drive operational efficiencies:
- Opportunities to connect with schools on environmental education activities.

"General Motors has long been committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship, and we're proud that our dealers share this commitment to serve and improve the communities where we live and work," said Kurt McNeil, General Motors vice president of United states Sales



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Impalas Still Sold in Korea

Detroit-Made

Chalk this one up as a win for Detroit. GM recently made the decision to keep exporting to Korea the Chevrolet Impala assembled at the company's Detroit-Hamtramck plant.

GM announced in July of 2015 that it had begun taking preorders for the American-made Impalas for export to Korea.

We are thrilled to have the iconic flagship sedan complete Chevrolet's passenger car portfolio in Korea," said Sergio Rocha, president and CEO of GM Korea in 2015. "We are confident that its bold styling, comfort, safety, powerful performance and technology will make it a leader in the highly competitive upper-medium sedan segment."

To meet an array of customer needs, Rocha said that the Impala will be offered in Korea with two engine choices: a 2.5L SIDI L4 engine and a 3.6L SIDI V6 engine. Korea-only convenience features include power folding side mirrors, an electronic toll collecting system, fuel-fill cap locking, rain-sensing wipers, a unique cluster, standard navigation, a unique antenna, a 220V power outlet, rear audio controls and rear heated seats.

GM spokesman Randal Fox said that the American-made Impala "has been well-received by the Korean customers for its market-leading product values and price competitiveness."

There was talk, Fox said, of eventually making the Impala at one of GM's facilities in Korea, effectively ending its export from the United States.

Currently, GM employs about 17,000 people in Korea and maintains four plants that manufacture products for Cadillac and Chevrolet, as well as vehicles for GM's Damas and Labo minivan operations.

The company also maintains a design center, which was opened in 2014, in Korea.

In total, GM manufactured about 600,000 vehicles in Korea in 2015.

But, Fox said, followng a thorough and comprehensive research on the feasibility of localizing production of the Impala, the company has decided that it is more appropriate to continue to import the sedan to satisfy consumer demand.

Overall, Fox said, the Impala has sold about 10,000 vehicles in Korea since its official debut in the market six months ago.

Secretary of State Creates Online Registration

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan is offering a temporary system for handling online motor vehicle and watercraft registrations.

A link to the Online Renewal Service is posted on the Michigan Secretary of State's website.

Officials say anyone having difficulty renewing vehicle tabs or watercraft registration on ExpressSOS.com is encouraged to try the Online Renewal Service. The Detroit Free Press reports the old website had been locking out some who tried to access services

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says in a statement her office is "committed to finding a permanent solution that meets our customers' needs.'

The temporary system comes after Michigan last year terminated a multimillion-dollar contract with Hewlett-Packard.

HP has worked since 2005 to replace the computer system used at offices where vehicles are registered. The deadline was