# **Detroit Auto Scene**

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

VOL. 84 NO. 18

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From left, GM engineers John Douro, Joe Folk and Kiel Vanderhovel

# **GM Powertrain Employees Build Bikes for Local Kids**

GM Global Propulsion Systems youths in need in metro Detroit. works on developing powertrains that will be used around the world.

But employees based at its Pontiac headquarters have decided to also develop powertrains on a more local level that can be used around the block.

Liz Dallacqua, a designer release engineer for Global Powertrain Systems (GPS), said that, for the second year in a row, engineers and other workers at GPS have held a "Bike for Kids" program that provides bikes for

"We started 'Bikes for Kids' in 2015," Dallacqua said. "I was given the task as part of a teambuilding exercise to come up with something that would bring the engineers together. I found a charity in Detroit called 'Back Alley Bikes' that works with kids and teaches them how to repair and take car of bicycles.

The idea is to get the kids bikes, Dallacqua. This gives them mobility.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# FCA, Google Partner on Driverless Cars

In a move that has brought Silicon Valley closer than ever to the industrial heartland, Google and Fiat Chrysler have entered in a formal alliance to collaborate in research on the development of autonomous vehicles.

The Google Self-Driving Car Project and Fiat Chrysler, in a first-of-its-kind collaboration, will integrate Google's self-driving technology into the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans to expand Google's existing self-driving test program.

This marks the first time that Google has worked directly with an automaker to integrate its self-driving system, including its sensors and software, into a passenger vehicle, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Dianna Gutierrez.

The Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans will be used later this year for Google's self-driving testing, more than doubling Google's current fleet of self-driving test vehicles, Gutierrez said.

Fiat Chrysler, Gutierrez said, will initially design and engineer around 100 vehicles uniquely built for Google's self-driving technology.

Google, in turn, will integrate the suite of sensors and computers that the vehicles will rely on to navigate roads autonomously. Both companies will co-locate

part of their engineering teams at a facility in southeastern Michitesting and manufacturing of the self-driving Chrysler Pacifica, Gutierrez said.

"FCA has a nimble and experienced engineering team and the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivan is well-suited for Google's selfdriving technology," said John Krafcik, chief executive officer, Google Self-Driving Car Project.

"The opportunity to work closely with FCA engineers will accelerate our efforts to develop a fully self-driving car that will make our roads safer and bring everyday destinations within reach for those who cannot drive."

Self-driving cars have the potential to prevent some of the

gan to accelerate the design, 33,000 deaths that occur each year on U.S. roads, 94 percent of which are caused by human error, Gutierrez said. This collaboration will help Fiat Chrysler and Google better understand what it will take to bring self-driving cars into the world.

> "Working with Google provides an opportunity for FCA to partner with one of the world's leading technology companies to accelerate the pace of innovation in the automotive industry," said Sergio Marchionne, chief executive officer, FCA. "The experience both companies gain will be fundamental to delivering automotive technology solutions that ultimately have far-reaching consumer benefits.



The 2017 Pacifica will be used for Google's self-driving testing.

2016 Ford Explorer

# Ford, Fiat Chrysler Sales **Up in April; GM Cuts Fleet** DETROIT (AP) – America's love

Sales last month rose 3.6 per-



2016 Jeep Cherokee



Takata's Newest **Recall Boosts** Total to 69 Million

by Tom Krisher AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Takata has agreed to recall another 35 million to 40 million air bag inflators, a stunning increase that will more than double what already is the largest automotive recall in American history.

The recall expansion would bring to as many as 69 million the total number of inflators to be replaced, a task that will take until the end of 2019 to complete, according to a statement May 4 from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Takata air bag inflators can explode with too much force and injure people. So far, at least 11

of trucks and SUVs helped push cent to an annual rate of 17.4 milthe auto industry to its best April lion. Last year the industry set a ever, with most automakers reporting healthy increases.

U.S. consumers bought just over 1.5 million vehicles in April, nudging out the old record set in April of 2005, according to *Kelley* Blue Book.

This time around, it's consumer demand that is driving sales. In 2005, automakers offered wildly generous discounts and lease deals to keep their factories running. Some sold cars or trucks at a loss. Now, since the companies cut factory capacity during the Great Recession. they're selling vehicles for strong prices.

"I think it's full-steam ahead." said Rebecca Lindland, senior analyst for Kelley Blue Book, who doesn't see any economic forces that would cause car sales to slow.

record with sales of 17.5 million.

Ford posted record SUV sales. Fiat Chrysler was up 6 percent on record Jeep sales, and Ford rode an April record for SUV sales to a 4 percent increase.

General Motors, Volkswagen and Hyundai were the only major automakers to report sales declines. GM blamed its 3.5 percent drop on a strategy of cutting lowprofit sales to rental car companies. VW sales fell almost 10 percent as its emissions-cheating scandal continued. Hyundai sales were off 8.5 percent from a record April last year.

Ford Motor Co. said it sold more than 65,000 SUVs, the best April in company history, led by the Explorer with a 22 percent increase. Fiat Chrysler was led by a 17 percent increase in sales of Jeep SUVs.



2016 Chevrolet Malibu

It was FCA's best U.S. April since 2005.

KBB is forecasting sales to be flat from last year's record 17.5 million, but Lindland says they could even fall off a bit as GM and other automakers reduce sales to rental car companies. Still, she says retail sales to individual buyers would be up, and that is healthy for the auto indus-

Regardless of whether sales keep growing, the overall pace of growth is slowing. Two years ago, for example, April sales jumped 8 percent, or double last month's expected pace. J.D. Power and Associates predicted that April sales this year would run at an annual rate of 17.6 million. For now, the sales outlook is

deaths and more than 100 injuries have been reported worldwide.

Replacing that many inflators will be a daunting task because automakers involved in the current recall of 28.8 million inflators have only been able to fix 28 percent of the cars involved after more than two years. Air bag manufacturers have had trouble ramping up to make enough replacement inflators, and automakers have had trouble finding owners and persuading them to get their cars repaired.

"The acceleration of this recall is based on scientific evidence and will protect all Americans from air bag inflators that may become unsafe," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, whose department oversees NHTSA, said in the statement.

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## Takata's Newest **Recall Boosts** Total to 69 Million

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Under an order issued last year, the government has wide authority over Takata to prompt additional recalls. The NHTSA news release says the order has been amended to include the additional inflators.

The expansion will be phased in between this month and December 2019, with older cars and those in areas of high heat and humidity getting priority, the agency says.

Takata uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to create an explosion that inflates air bags in a crash. But the chemical can degrade over time when exposed to heat and humidity and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing shrapnel into drivers and passengers.

The expanded recall covers all front air bags that do not have a chemical drying agent known as a desiccant. But it does not cover side air bags without the drying agent, nor does it cover another 32 million air bags that have the desiccant.

Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida democrat, whose state includes several of the injuries and deaths from Takata inflators, said the pace of the recalls still isn't fast enough.

"The top priority must be doing whatever is necessary to get these potentially deadly air bags out of people's cars as quickly as possible. If we wait another three or four years for these to get replaced, more people are likely to die," he said in a statement.

Even without the expansion, it would have taken until the end of 2017 for enough replacement parts to be manufactured, said Scott Upham, CEO of Valient Market Research in Rochester. N.Y., which tracks air bag sales.

Upham said other makers of air bag inflators such as TRW Automotive, Daicel and Autoliv have agreed to ramp up production even more.

# **Research into Trends Determines Future Auto Colors**

by Jim Stickford

Paul Czornij, technical manager for the BASF Color Excellence Group, has an interesting task. It's his job to find out what's going to be the new black.

Czornij recently unveiled 65 different paint colors developed by BASF after more than a year of "painstaking" research. He and his team investigated color trends in art, architecture and technology. They then developed paint colors and coatings based on what their research revealed.

Czornij said that the 65 different colors they came up with were developed in BASF design centers around the world.

Different regions of the globe had different trends, Czornij said. Over all. 20 colors came from Europe, 20 from North America and 25 from the Asia/Pacific region. He noted that China now has its own development center and five of the 25 Asia/Pacific colors were developed there

Now that the colors have been selected and developed - and it wasn't always easy, said Czornij, to develop the coatings and paint colors desired - they'll be taken to automakers who can now use them as the basis for their new color palettes.

Basically, Czornij said, BASF has spent the last year or so trying to develop colors that will be used to paint cars that will be made three to five years from now.

"BASF has a good track record," Czornij said. "The overarching theme for this year's collection of 65 colors is 'Parallax,' a concept where objects appear shifted or changed when viewed from different angles. The two competing vantage points that shape our modern world are the fascination of the virtual world and the longing for honest selfexpression.

In North America, BASF's three main new colors are Raingarden, Primordial Soup and Aerialist Wish, Czornij said. Raingarden is a metallic silver with green and blue elements meant to show the lines of how individuals behave in society and how the influence of technology blurs things.

Primordial Soup, Czornij said is a deep, blood red that was inspired by the heart and is meant to represent a collective passion while also showing individualization.

Aerialist Wish is a black color with a silky silver throughout. It is meant, Czornij said, at first to represent a grittiness, but the darkness of the color is supposed to be mysterious and luxurious and relates to society's feelings of recent urban development.

"A lot of people think of a car's color as an exterior expression of who the owner is," Czornij said. "The interior is private, but the exterior is meant to be a statement, and the color an owner chooses says something."

BASF, Czornij said, worked hard to develop colors that changed a little when the perspective of the viewer changed. That's important because most cars only have one color on the body and appearing slightly different from different angles is a way of changing things up without having to change.

It's important to give OEMs 65 different colors to choose from, Czornij said, because different colors work better for different models.

A good Jeep color isn't the



Czornij shows off new colors developed by BASF for OEMs

same as a good Lincoln or Cadil- ular model, having a lot of color lac color. As OEMs try to create choices is something that can the image they want for a partic- help.

# **GM** Powertrain Builds Bikes for Local Kids

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I thought this was a good charity," Dallacqua said. "So last year we worked with them to get kids bikes and to teach them about the bikes."

The program proved to be a great success for the kids, Dallacqua. And the engineers enjoyed the work and helping the kids.

So when 2016 rolled around. Dallacqua decided that bikes were the way to go. But this time she decided to work a little closer to home.

"We wanted to work on a project in Pontiac, where GPS is lo-

cated," Dallacqua said. "So we partnered with KLM Bike & Fitness in Rochester. They provided, at wholesale prices, bike kits and spare parts, as well as the mechanics who know how to put them together."

So on April 29, 74 volunteer GPS engineers, as well as the folks from KLM Bike & Fitness, had a bike build, Dallacqua said. In all, 12 new bikes were put together and 21 bikes in various states of disrepair were worked on and made whole.

The bikes were then donated to the Woodside Community Center in Pontiac, a local organization that works with 465 students in Pontiac. All but one of the bikes were distributed to kids at Woodside. The last one was auctioned off to raise money for the Baldwin Center on May 6.

"The Baldwin Center also received some matching funds from GM as part of the GM Cares initiative," Dallacqua said.

"It was great to see all the engineers come to the build event and work together to repair and build the bikes. This turned out to be a true team-building exercise because the bikes were built by teams put together that day.'



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"They're pitching in to the best of their ability, but even with their help, it's going to be very difficult to really ramp up production to cover this," Upham said.

Upham says it will be difficult for Takata to survive financially with the expanded recall. He expects the company to file for bankruptcy and emerge as a smaller corporation specializing in seat belts, electronics and air bag assemblies without inflators.

The additional recalls come as authorities in Malaysia investigate two more recent deaths in cars with Takata air bags that ruptured.

Honda says the inflators spewed metal fragments in the crashes, but the cause of the deaths has not been determined.

The crashes occurred in April and May. If they were caused by Takata inflators, they would be the 12th and 13th deaths worldwide.



# **Detroit Auto Scene**

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

MAY 9, 2016

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# **Engineers Talk Autonomous Technology at MCC Event**

by Jim Stickford

Once an autonomous car has enough information. from various sources, "the car then has to plan what to do," said Steve Buckley at a May 6 symposium.

Buckley, senior technical fellow for Electrical and Electronics at Fiat Chrysler, was speaking at a Macomb Community College symposium titled, "The Road to Autonomous Vehicles," where personnel from the Detroit OEMs and suppliers had gathered to get the latest on where the industry stands on driverless cars and how soon the future will be upon us

He was joined by Gary O'Brien, global director of Advanced Engineering at Delphi's Electronics and Safety Division.

Buckley spoke specifically about the challenge of how the environment around a car affects automated or autonomous driving

He noted that there are five levels of automation. Actually, Buckley said, there is a level zero. That's where the driver is responsible for everything. But cars today come with a variety of tech, including automated rearview cameras and adaptive cruise control.

As cars move up the spectrum from level one to level five, the need for the vehicles to be able to sense what's in their environments is going to grow, Buckley said. And that won't be easy, he added, because sensing the environment encompasses a wide variety of factors, including vehicles around the car, traffic signs, off-road data sent to the car from outside connections, and, of course, the weather.

The car then has to localize itself on the map, and consider local regulations like speed limits and other traffic rules. And then maybe even plan a route to a destination using all this important information." To be able to do this, O'Brien

said, vehicles are and will be using a variety of different sensors. Each sensor has its own strength and weakness.

He explained that radar, for example, doesn't work well in tunnels because of the curved roof. Vision systems like rearview cameras have the same weaknesses as the human eye. Fog, for example, blinds them.

A similar device, lidar, that emits pulsed laser light instead of microwaves, O'Brien said, can be affected by objects that don't reflect light well and dirty optics can affect it.

Because no one sensor system can do everything, O'Brien said, the trick is fusion, integrating all the systems together so that they work in harmony.

"Let's face it, bad weather is a real thing and a real problem," O'Brien said. "So fusion of these different systems is important to overcome individual weaknesses.

Buckley noted, "As technology advances and more automated cars become a reality - and automated vehicles are going to be here in the next five to 10 years depending on definition - OEMs and suppliers have to do a few things.'

First, he said, they must be able to assure the public that their privacy is protected, he said

The question of who owns the data generated by all this technology is a real thing and presents ample room for debate, Buckley said.

Secondly, he said, these systems must have sound cybersecurity. The public must be convinced that their vehicles won't be hacked.

Third, Buckley said, the software that runs the cars of tomorrow must be reliable. That isn't easy when you're talking about 50 central processing units using 100 million lines of code.

Finally, he said, the systems must behave in a manner that people expect.

What that really means is drivers must know how to use it and trust it, Buckley said.

When asked about acceptance of this technology, O'Brien said the younger the driver, the more they accept it. "I now have a rearview camera on my car," he said. "When I back up, I use the camera, but I still look around. My kids just use the camera.

"And, another good example is Delphi's automated car that completed a coast-to-coast journey last year. That car did the driving more than 90 percent of the time. "When people ride in that car,



Steve Buckley

it has taken them about 10 or 15 minutes to get used to the car being in control.'

# **BorgWarner Pays Dividend** to **Stockholders**

The board of directors of Borg-Warner of Auburn Hills declared a quarterly cash dividend of 13 cents per share of common stock. The dividend is payable on June 15, 2016 to shareholders of record on June 1, 2016, said BorgWarner spokesman Ken Lamb.

BorgWarner Inc. makes highly engineered components and systems for powertrains around the world. Operating manufacturing and technical facilities in 74 locations in 19 countries, the company specializes in powertrain solutions to improve fuel economy, reduce emissions and enhance performance.

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ROME (AP) - Italian Premier Matteo Renzi is hailing the new Alfa Romeo sedan by Fiat Chrysler, which he says will add 3,400 jobs in Italy and symbolizes the country's economic po-

Four models of the new Giulia model were parked last week in the courtyard of the government's headquarters, with Renzi inspecting a shiny red model.

The Giulia is key to Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' ambitions to boost production in Italy

Renzi savs auto manufacturing will help Italy's economy, which has been struggling for years, adding that the Giulia transmits a message "of starting again and

FCA has slowed the rollout of Alfas, mainly due to weakness in China's economy. But CEO Sergio Marchionne said this week he's convinced China has a "real, live market" for Alfa.



Ford and Pivotal employees working on a new Dynamic Shuttle app.



Museum founders Donald and Genevieve Gilmore in a Stanley Steamer.

# Show Honors Pre-War Autos

Hickory Corners, near Kalamazoo, is celebrating its golden anniversary with a new event in honor of its founder.

Called "The Donald Gilmore Classic," this pre-WWII car show and swap meet will be held Saturday, May 21, with a driving tour taking place on Friday, May 20

The Museum, which turns 50 this summer, considers this new show an homage to its roots, said Gilmore spokesman Jay Follis. The nonprofit's very first event, held in the spring of 1966, was a "Brass & Gas" car show, so named for the pre-1916 autos that had brass head lamps, bulb horns and windshield frames, rather than the chrome we know today.

"The Donald Gilmore Classic" will be dedicated to all pre-WWII vehicles dating from 1896 to 1942, Follis said, representing both the first 50 years of the automobile, as well as cars that established the Gilmore Car Museum

"The Museum hosts more than a dozen car shows each year," Michael Spezia, Gilmore executive director said, "and for this one, we honor the legacy of Museum founders Donald and Genevieve Gilmore."

agement from his Genevieve. Donald Gilmore became an antique car hobbyist in call 269-671-5089. 1963 when he acquired just two "old" cars. Within three years, however, he had obtained 57 vehicles, ranging from the pioneering 1903 Columbia Electric to a 1929 Duesenberg, the auto of the ultra-wealthy. Those, Follis said, are also the types of cars to be featured at the May 21 event. as well as such exceptional models as the rarely seen high-wheeled motor buggies - true horseless carriages, and one-cylinder autos like the 1903 Curved Dash Oldsmobile, as well as the classic luxury cars of the 1930s from the likes of Cadillac, Lincoln and Packard. The celebration, Follis said, will include antique car rides, narrated auto parades through the museum's campus, and meeting the show car owners – many of who will be dressed in the period attire of these magnificent vehicles.

The Gilmore Car Museum of the crank-starting of the popular Model T Ford "Tin Lizzy," lighting a fire under a steam-powered Stanley, and revealing the mammoth 522-cubic-inch engine of a 1909 Thomas Flyer – something you'd expect to find only in the high-performance muscle cars of the 1960s.

> Follis said the museum anticipates this one-day event to be the largest public gathering of pre-WWII vehicles - passenger automobiles, commercial vehicles and trucks, and motorcycles – in the region. In addition to the more well-known brands of Buick, Chevrolet, and Dodge Brothers, many of the cars that are expected to attend carry names long lost to history, including DeSoto, Hudson, Kissel, Nash, Overland, Packard, Pierce, Reo, Studebaker, and Winton.

> The show will also include a swap meet area for car parts, tools, vintage attire, and antiques.

> Follis said no hot rods, customs or modified vehicles will be included. Spectator admission to the show is \$12 a person and includes visiting the entire Gilmore Car Museum campus and all exhibits at no extra charge, and those under 11 are free.

The Gilmore Car Museum is located just 20 minutes northeast Spezia said that with encour- of Kalamazoo on M-43 and Hickowife ry Road. To learn more, visit

# Ford Develops 'Pivotal' Software Alliance

cloud-based software platform company headquartered in San Francisco, to further enhance its software development capabilities and deliver innovations to customers more quickly.

The \$182.2 million investment in Pivotal, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall, aims to help drive Ford's transition to an auto and a mobility company.

Ford is continuing to focus on and invest in its core business designing, manufacturing, marketing, financing and servicing cars, SUVs, trucks and electrified vehicles, Hall said.

At the same time, the company is aggressively pursuing emerging opportunities through Ford Smart Mobility – its plan to be a leader in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics, Hall said.

"Expanding our business to be both an auto and mobility company requires leading-edge software expertise to deliver outstanding customer experiences," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO.

"Our investment in Pivotal will help strengthen our ability to deliver these customer experiences at the speed of Silicon Valley, including continually expanding FordPass - our digital, physical and personal mobility experience platform.'

Ford, Hall said, recently teamed up with Pivotal to deliver FordPass, an innovative consumer experience platform that launched last month.

FordPass will offer new customer services, like remote access to vehicles through a smartphone app, and mobility solutions, such as parking and car sharing.

Innovating and iterating quickly, Pivotal and Ford IT engineers

Ford is investing in Pivotal, a are working side-by-side to create new kinds of consumer experiences for FordPass members, Hall said.

Building on this existing relationship, Fields said, Ford plans to accelerate the incorporation of Pivotal's advanced software development methodologies and technology across the IT, product development, and research and advanced engineering teams.

Ford will put Pivotal's nextgeneration cloud platform and analytics capabilities to use on the company's new mobility projects - such as its on-demand Dynamic Shuttle pilot program, Hall said.

"Today, we are at a major inflection point in global business, and Pivotal is at the fulcrum of that change," said Rob Mee, Pivotal CEO. "We are collaborating with iconic companies like Ford to help transform their businesses with our unique software development methodology and modern cloud platform and analytics tools.

"We are thrilled to create a deeper partnership with Ford through this investment as we drive its evolution to becoming both an auto and mobility company - reinventing yet again how the world moves.'

Fields said Pivotal's advanced software development methodologies and cloud platform complement Ford's already strong embedded software capability that supports EcoBoost engines, the SYNC 3 connectivity system, driver-assist technologies like active park assist and more.

Software plays a growing role in new vehicles, as demonstrated by the new F-150 that features more than 150 million lines of code, whereas a typical smartphone operating system has about 12 million lines, Hall said.

Engineers are capitalizing on software to deliver precise control over aspects of vehicle performance such as engine and transmission calibration to improve fuel economy and for the connectivity experience by giving customers hands-free access to their smartphones through SYNC 3.

In fact, Hall said, the very success of EcoBoost engine technology can be attributed to software.

Software is the secret sauce to the fuel efficiency EcoBoost delivers because it allows engineers to maximize the use of each drop of fuel at a molecular level.

Ford has 275 patents on Eco-Boost technology and another 200 pending, with a large majority covering different aspects of software controls and calibration.

"Investing in Pivotal builds on our current strengths in software development." said Marcy Klevorn, Ford vice president and CIO, who will join the board of directors at Pivotal.

"We plan to quickly add new state-of-the-art software engineering capabilities across the Ford enterprise."

In addition to these moves, Hall said Ford and Pivotal plan to open up new software development laboratories in strategic locations across both the United States and Europe.

The labs will be staffed with software architects, engineers and user experience experts - all using Pivotal's advanced software development methodology. Ford's investment in Pivotal is subject to customary regulatory approval.

"We have not released the details about the locations yet," Hall said. "Stay tuned for more details in the near future."



Demonstrations will showcase

www.GilmoreCarMuseum.org or

# **Model T Driving Lessons Are Set**

The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners near Kalamazoo is offering attendees an unusual opportunity – the chance to learn how to drive an authentic Model T Ford – cost is \$105.

Museum spokesman Jay Follis said each session is taught by a handful of long-time Model T owners and enthusiasts and includes practice drives in genuine Model T Fords around the museum's three miles of paved roadwav.

Museum historians provide a bit of history on Henry Ford, the early Ford Motor Company, and up-close inspections of various Model Ts during the course's special guided tour.

То learn more, go to www.GilmoreCarMuseum.org.

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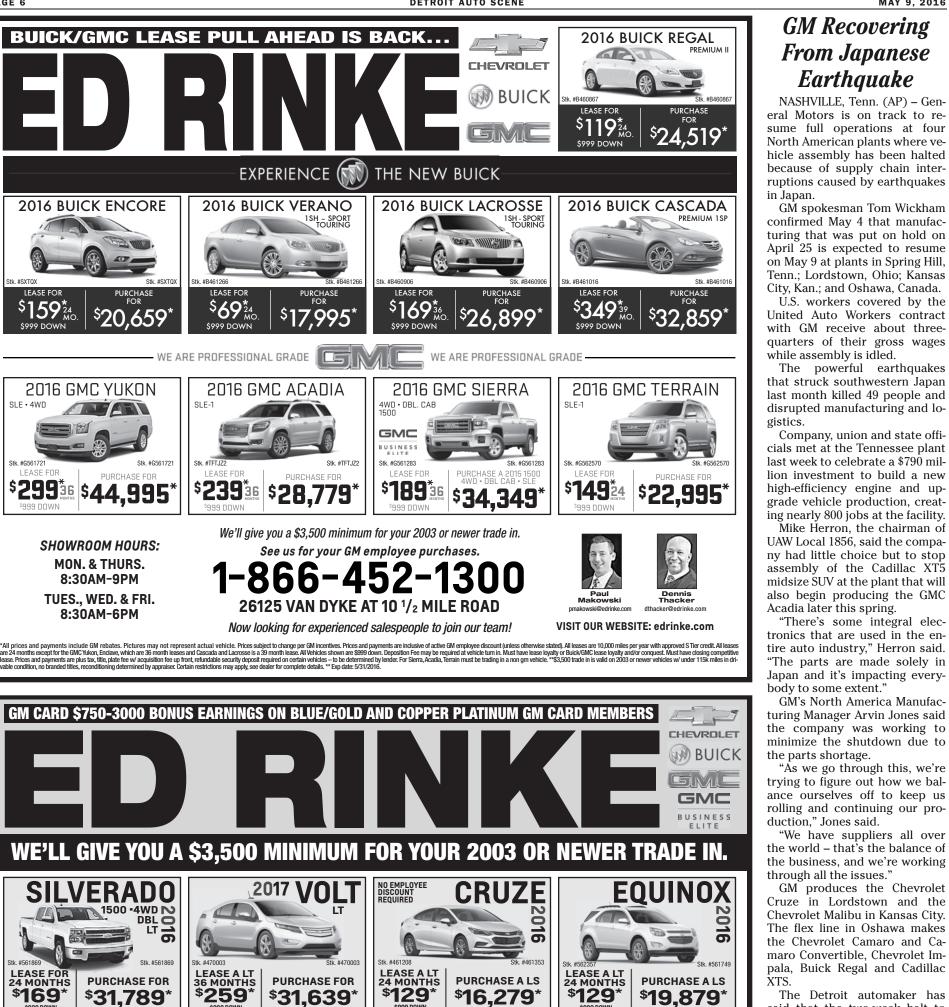
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The Detroit automaker has said that the two-week halt to vehicle production is not expected to have a "material impact" on annual production plans or financial results for GM North America.

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**Fireworks Show Salutes Detroit's Current Revival** 

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DETROIT (AP) - This year's annual fireworks display over the Detroit River is billed as a salute to progress made toward Detroit's revival and optimism for the future.

The event's producers, The Parade Co., announced May 5 that The Ford Fireworks on June 27 will be themed, "Go Forward Detroit.'

The show by Zambelli Fireworks will include more than 10,000 pyrotechnic effects visible for miles along the river between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.

It's the 58th year for the event. Dearborn-based Ford Motor Co. has been the title sponsor since 2013.

This year, Ford will offer free admission to Belle Isle for the first 1,000 vehicles to arrive at the location.

The island park is among the popular spots for watching the fireworks.

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# Autopalooza is Back with **All Kinds of Special Treats**

Car buffs have taken their along Wayne Road between Joy prized possesion out of storage, revved up the engine, put the convertible top down and went for a joy ride. When they came back, they looked for more nostalgia by checking the recently 2016 Autopalooza released schedule.

Autopalooza is a celebration of Southeast Michigan's automotive heritage that encompasses a series of major car cruises, auto races and auto shows during the summer.

Some of the major events:

 The Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix June 3-5, features cars of the IZOD IndyCar Series, the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series and the Pirelli World Challenge Championship Series.

• The FireKeeps Casino 400. Held at the Southeastern Michigan International Speedway, is scheduled for the weekend of June 10-12.

• The Eastpointe Gratiot Cruise, in its 18th year, takes place the weekend of June 18.

 The EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition is scheduled for June 19 at the Eleanor and Edsel Ford Estate in Grosse Pointe Shores.

• The Motor Muster, scheduled for June 18-19, celebrates one of the innovative eras of American automotive history -1933-1976.

• The Sloan Museum Auto Fair takes place June 25-26 at the Flint Cultural Center campus.

• Cruisin' Downriver is set for June 25 and runs on Fort Street from Sibley Road to Outer Drive through the cities of Lincoln Park, Riverview, Southgate and Wyandotte.

• The All-American Cruise takes place on July 9 in Westland

Road and Glenwood. In addition to the cruise, there will be a line up of vintage cars at the Westland Historic Village.

• The R.E. Olds Transportation Museum Carp Capital Auto & Bike Show is scheduled for July 30 in Lansing.

The Concours d'Elegance of America show is set for July 31 at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.

Township Clinton • The Gratiot Cruise takes place on Aug. 7.

• The Back to the Bricks Cruise Weekend celebrates its 12th year Aug. 11-15. The event covers Michigan's automotive history in Flint, Grand Blanc and Burton.

Woodward Dream • The Cruise is on Aug. 20. This is the world's largest one-day celebration of classic car culture.

• The Pure Michigan 400 race and associated events are scheduled for Aug. 26-28 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

• The Cruisin' Hines event, which runs along 7.5 miles of road in Wayne is scheduled for Aug. 28. This is the only cruise in Southeast Michigan where the road is closed to everything but classic cars and hot rods.

• The Old Car Festival will be held Sept. 10-11 on the streets and grounds of Greenfield Village. The event celebrates cars made between the 1890s and the early 1930s.

• Autopalooza finishes up in Ypsilanti with the Orphan Car Show on Sept. 16. The event celebrates the orphan brands that are gone but not forgotten.

Visit www.autopalooza.org. for more information.



SALES: Sun CLOSED; M, TH 8:30am-9pm; T, W, F 8:30am-6pm; SAT 10am-3pm SERVICE: Sun CLOSED; M, TH 7am-8pm; T, W, F 7am-6pm; Sat 8am-1pm









# April Results: Fiat Chrysler, Ford Sales Up

still sunny. Consumers are on track to spend more than \$36.9 billion on new vehicles in April, surpassing the previous record for the month set last year, according to J.D. Power and LMC Automotive.

But there are some worrying trends for the industry.

Buyers are flocking to SUVs and trucks, which might force manufacturers to discount cars to move them off lots. That's good for buyers in the short term, but incentives can flood the market with cars and hurt resale values.

At Fiat Chrysler, car sales fell 8 percent for the month. Sales of the Chrysler 200 midsize car tumbled 60 percent to around 7,600. Ford's car sales fell 12 percent.

Although sales of sedans are dropping, Lindland doesn't see big price wars developing because many auto factories can now switch easily from cars to SUVs. Many SUVs are built on the same underpinnings as cars.

Some cars bucked the downward sales trend. Sales of GM's new Chevrolet Malibu and Honda's new Civic each rose nearly 25 percent.

Sales to individual consumers also appear to be slowing, so automakers are relying more on less profitable sales to rental-car companies and other fleets. J.D. Power expected April sales to individual buyers to rise 4 percent, while sales to fleets were expected to jump 8.7 percent.

John Humphrey, senior vice president of J.D. Power, said consumers likely spent more on new cars and trucks than any other April on record. But he said slowing growth, the shift away from cars and rising fleet sales "pose significant challenges to manufacturers as they compete in the marketplace."

# No Recalls For Ford F-150 Required

DETROIT (AP) – United States safety regulators have closed an investigation into power brake assist failures in Ford F-150 pickup trucks without seeking a recall.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said an analysis of complaints and testing showed that even in worstcase situations, the trucks can be stopped with a moderate increase in brake pedal pressure.

In June, the agency began investigating about 250,000 pickups from 2011 and 2012 after finding seven crashes and 466 consumer complaints. All the trucks had 3.5-liter six-cylinder engines. Ford's F-Series trucks are the top-selling vehicles in the U.S. But the investigation found that most of the crashes happened at low speeds and in driveways or parking lots, and that the trucks could be stopped by the driver. Two complaints that alleged electric vacuum pump failures contributed to rear crashes at road speeds "are not believed to be related to the alleged defect," the agency wrote in paperwork posted May 2. No injuries were reported in any of the crashes. In addition, drivers will hear excessive noise or will feel a vibration or a change in brake pedal feel before any pump failure happens, the agency said. Also, Ford extended the warranty on the electric brake vacuum pump to 10 years or 150,000 miles.