Tech Center News...

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Students Shadow Volunteer GM Employees

ed nearly 250 high school students from southeast Michigan. GM employees volunteered their time and talent to support the 5th Annual National Job Shadow

Torri Moncrief, the communications lead for Community Outreach at GM, said the tour is part of a larger volunteer effort by GM employees.

"My role at teamGM Cares started five years ago when teamGM Cares was founded,' Moncrief said. "Mark Reuss, who at the time was president of GM North America, wanted programs where the company's em-

worked with people in the community.'

As a result teamGM Cares was created, Moncrief said.

"Our job is to give employees the opportunity to volunteer," Moncrief said. "And we wanted programs where students can be inspired, but also programs where employees can feel like they can make a difference in the lives of the students they interact with.'

So teamGM Cares has worked with the United Way to help schools turn around. Employees in this program, Moncrief said. volunteered their time, sat with

TeamGM Cares recently host- ployees got out of the office and students and explained what their jobs were.

> We are talking about more than engineers," Moncrief said. We have HR people, marketing people and others. Jobs these students normally wouldn't be exposed to if not for this program."

> And part of the program was in conjunction with the 5th Annual National Job Shadow Day. Over a period of weeks, different students toured different GM sites around metro Detroit.

> Moncrief said teamGM Cares tried to spread out the tours



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 Students inspect the 2016 Chevrolet Cruze



2016 Buick Cascada

Buick Envisions Even More Sales Growth

Shattering expectations has led to three consecutive years of global sales growth for Buick.

And that momentum is carrying through into 2016.

Last month, Buick reached an all-time high in conquest sales, or customers trading in models from competitive brands. Two models - the new Cascada and the popular Encore - have been growing the Buick community the fastest, said GM spokesman Stuart Fowle.

In 2016 alone, more than 35,000 new customers have switched to the brand.

Cascada buyers traded in vehicles from outside Buick or any other General Motors brand. Previous Audi, Toyota and Honda customers have been among the most common. Fowle said.

Demand for the Cascada has outpaced supply with 2,487 sales year-to-date through April and 1,090 sales in April alone.

"The lasting impact of the Cascada will be a change in perception that only a sexy, sleek convertible can provide," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Buick Global Sales, Service and

Through April, 64 percent of Marketing. "It's changing minds and attracting customers in the country's biggest convertible markets, with nearly half of sales coming from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Texas and California. These are all key markets for Buick's continuing success.'

The Cascada is the first of four new vehicles arriving in U.S. showrooms for Buick and one of two in new segments for the brand, Aldred said. The first-ever Envision is now arriving at dealerships and will have a 2017

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

GM to Reimburse Customers for **Bad MPG Stickers**

DETROIT (AP) - People who bought or leased 2016 General Motors SUVs with overstated gas mileage on the window sticker will be getting compensated, the automaker said May 20.

Those who purchased their SUV will get to choose a debit card or an extended warranty, while lessees will receive the debit card.

For most people, the compensation will be worth \$450 to \$900, but owners of some allwheel-drive SUVs could get as much as \$1,500. The payments will vary with lease terms and mileage differences between models.

About 135,000 customers will get letters stating their amounts starting May 25. GM says another 35,000 fleet customers will be handled individually.

'We designed this reimbursement program to provide full and fair compensation," GM spokesman Jim Cain said.

The Detroit automaker announced the week before this announcement that fuel economy was overstated by one-to-two miles per gallon on the 2016 GMC Acadia, Chevrolet Traverse and Buick Enclave. GM blamed the discrepancy on new emissions control hardware and said the error was inadvertent. The mileage was recalculated for 2016 but the new figures never made it onto the window stickers, the company said.

GM wouldn't say why the hardware was changed but said all previous model years of the SUVs met emissions standards.

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2016 Chevrolet Sonic



2016 Jeep Renegade



2016 Ford Fiesta

Cool is Name of Game at Local Automakers, Says KBB

Detroit automakers have proven you don't have to spend a lot of money to get a cool car. At least, that's what Kelley Blue Book declared when the company recently released its "Coolest New Cars Under \$18,000" on May

Detroit automakers produced four of the 10 vehicles on the list. They are the 2016 Chevy Sonic. which finished in tenth place.

The 2016 Ford Fiesta took ninth place, while the 2016 Fiat 500 was number seven and the

2016 Jeep Renegade was third.

Kelley editors wrote, when decribing the 2016 Renegade that the vehicle is for buyers "who believe the grass is always greener way over there, beyond the reaches of the road, the Jeep Renegade's ability and the attitude qualify it as the coolest way to get there for less than \$18.000.

Editors went on to write that "the 2016 Jeep Renegade compact-crossover SUV may not be what purists expect from the

ing this is one cute ute. Although derived from the Fiat 500 platform, Jeep has peppered its newest family member with plenty of Jeep favorites, including a capable off-road Trailhawk trim. Sure, the Mazda CX-3 looks sleeker, as does the Honda HR-V, but neither can go far off-road nor offer the option of a turbocharged big on personality but with an engine. The Renegade also even smaller starting sticker leapfrogs most others in this price. More of a city cruiser than class by offering such unique options as dual removable roof pan-

Jeep brand, but there is no deny- els, a heated steering wheel and a Beats sound system. With pricing starting around \$19,000, the Renegade is also extremely pricecompetitive.'

Kelley editors also had nice things to say about the 2016 Fiat 500. They wrote that while it is almost a foot shorter than the Mini Cooper, "the Fiat 500 is just as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Overhead view of combined 1965/2015 Mustang, displayed as one car.

A Mustang is a Mustang – Whether It's 1965 or 2015

Even after 50 years of automo- Fame Museum on the United tive evolution in technology and styling, a Mustang is a Mustang.

And now that's possible to see in real life and up close, said Ford spokeswoman Monique Brentley.

Ford and the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum (NIHF) unveiled on May 4 a one-of-a-kind Mustang that marries a 1965 model to a 2015 model in a unique side-by-side display for the National Inventors Hall of

States Patent and Trademark Office Campus in Alexandria, Va.

The split-personality Mustang, said Brentley, is part of a new, permanent Intellectual Property Power Exhibit at the National Inventors Hall of Fame museum.

The Mustang, along with other exhibits, Brentley said, celebrates the story of intellectual property and illuminates its

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U.S. Army to Test **Driverless Tech in Imlay City, Capac**

LAPEER, Mich. (AP) - A convoy of U.S. Army vehicles will cruise along Interstate 69 in Lapeer and St. Clair counties as part of an initial testing of driverless military vehicle equipment on public roadways.

Representatives from the U.S. Army TARDEC and the Michigan Department of Transportation held public information sessions on the testing May 23 in Imlay City and Capac.

The Port Huron Times Herald reports that the vehicles in late June will test a piece of technology that's critical in the development and testing of driverless and connected vehicles.

The Flint Journal reports that someone will be behind the wheel of each vehicle, which is equipped with features from the driverless vehicle systems, including adaptive cruise control and lane keep assist.

Interstate 69 will remain open to public traffic during the testing period, according to the U.S.

Mexican Boy Earns Chevy Honor as Football Mascot

Chevrolet has chosen 10-yearold Oscar of Mexico to be the 11th member of the 2016 Chevrolet Mascots.

Oscar will receive a once-in-alifetime experience, including participating as a mascot in a Manchester United football match at Old Trafford stadium in England.

During this annual tradition, said GM spokesman Craig Daitch, Chevrolet honors 11 children from around the world by hosting them in Manchester as part of its Beautiful Possibilities Pro-

This year, Chevrolet conducted a global contest to find the 11th member of the Chevrolet Starting XI, Daitch said. Born with a rare hip condition, Oscar underwent two high-risk surgeries before the age of 2 and was told he would probably never walk or run like a normal child. But after his brother Daniel was born, Oscar's disability took a turn for the better as Oscar began to mirror Daniel's movements, walking before expected. And then the brothers discovered football.

"Through the years, we never gave Oscar special treatment," his mother said. "Our boys grew up together, following the same direction and love for football. I think Oscar overcoming his disability was not a miracle but it was the passion, the perseverance and love for football that made the difference."

Before May 23, Daitch said Oscar had no idea he would be preparing to embark on the biggest football experience of his life with Chevrolet.

As part of the Chevrolet mascot experience, Oscar and 10 other children from around the world will meet Manchester United players and legends, attend Manchester United Soccer

School and tour Old Trafford.

The experience will culminate at a Manchester United match toward the start of the 2016-17 season, when the Chevrolet mascots will walk hand-in-hand with Manchester United's starting 11 onto the pitch in front of approximately 75,000 fans at Old Trafford, and millions more watching around the world, Daitch said. Oscar will join children from China, Colombia, South Korea, the UAE, and the United States.

"Through the years, we've heard from our fans that they, too, would like an opportunity to join our squad," said John Gasloli, senior manager Chevrolet Global Marketing.

"This year, we evolved the program to invite parents and guardians to nominate a child to be our 11th Mascot. We are thrilled to have Oscar join this year's Chevrolet Starting XI. His determination, perseverance and spirit are inspiring, and he embodies the positive impact playing football can have on one's

Daitch said Chevrolet surprised Oscar with the news while he was having dinner with his family and friends in his hometown of Guadalajara.

Manchester United legend Ouinton Fortune and club mascot Fred the Red made a surprise appearance and delivered a mes-

2016 Chevy Mascots' 11th member, Oscar, with his mother, Karia

sage from Manchester United nounced him as the winner of players Ashley Young, Jesse Lingard and Cameron Borthwick-Jackson.

They also gave Oscar his custom mascot jersey and an- match.

Chevrolet's Starting XI contest.

This will be Chevrolet's third year hosting children as mascots at a Manchester United soccer

Google Opening Novi Self-Driving Facility

DETROIT (AP) - Google's selfdriving car project is heading to the Motor City.

Google said May 25 it's opening a self-driving technology development center in the Detroit suburb of Novi.

The company isn't yet saying how many people will be employed at the 53,000-square-foot facility. Workers will be moving in throughout this year.

Silicon Valley-based Google says having a facility in Michigan will help it access top talent in vehicle development and engineering.

This isn't Google's first brush with Detroit. It has had self-driving car employees in the area for several years, and a Detroitarea supplier makes Google's self-driving pods.

Google also announced a partnership earlier this month with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, which has a headquarters near Detroit. Google plans to outfit 100 Chrysler Pacifica minivans with self-driving technology as part of that collaboration.

Here is the Google announce-

"For the past few years, mem-

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

bers of our team have been working from the Greater Detroit area. Now it's time to lay down roots: we're establishing a self-driving technology development center

in Novi. Mich. "Many of our current partners are based here, so having a local facility will help us collaborate more easily and access Michigan's top talent in vehicle development and engineering."

Cool Cars Do Not **Have to Cost Lots of Money**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a canyon carver, part of the little Fiat's charm is that beneath the surface it's simply a pleasant lit-

tle two-door subcompact car." Editors liked the 2016 Ford Fiesta for its fun ride. They wrote, "Thanks in large part to its Ford of Europe upbringing, Ford's subcompact car is as fun to drive as it looks. Its driving dynamics are so good, in fact, that the overachieving, high-performance Fiesta ST model even landed a spot on our list of 10 Coolest Cars Under \$25,000."

Editors praised the 2016 Chevy Sonic, writing it is "surprisingly comfortable on the highway and equally fun on appropriate asphalt, Chevy's subcompact entry has always impressed us with its well-rounded driving manners. Opt for the affordable, capable, easy-to-use Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system and you've got all the ingredients for a good time.'

'Cool sure has come a long way," says Jack Nerad, executive editorial director for Kelley Blue Book. "Our annual Coolest New Cars Under \$18,000 is one of Kellev Blue Book's longest-running lists, and it's incredible to see all of the amazing tech features and amenities you can get on an affordable car these days compared to a decade ago.'

Cars that earn a spot on the KBB coolest new cars list must be fun to drive and fun to own, Nerad said.

Each vehicle also must be available for purchase starting at \$18,000 or less, using *Kelley Blue* Book's exclusive Fair Market Range as the yardstick.









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CTS-V, CT6, and XT5 vehicles will be stationed on the runway inside.

New York's Cadillac House Exhibits 'Beyond Automotive'

Daring car design has a new inaugural designer Timo Wei-

Cadillac is getting ready to launch Cadillac House, a physical manifestation of the brand's cultural world, located on the ground floor of the company's global headquarters in New York City.

This 12,000-square-foot permanent space will open to the public June 2, said GM spokesman Eneuri Acosta, and will serve as a rotating location for events, vehicle exhibitions and collaborative partnerships with pioneering organizations, such as the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and Visionaire.

Visitors will encounter an everevolving look inside the brand, anchored in the exploration of a wide spectrum of talents, industries and enterprises.

From concerts to interactive art installations to fashion retail space, Cadillac House is designed as a meeting place where innovators, creators and the curious can find inspiration and one another.

'Cadillac has built its nearly 114-year history by being at the forefront of automotive design, technology and style," said Uwe Ellinghaus, Cadillac chief marketing officer.

With Cadillac House, we have an exciting opportunity to bring to life the brand's unique passion and perspective beyond the automotive space.'

The space will be home to several always-on partnerships and programs that will continue to evolve throughout the year, delivering interactive experiences for consumers, Acosta said.

Experiences and themes in-

• VISIONAIRE – Energetic and elemental themes will be brought to life through a partnership with the art and culture magazine, Visionaire, which will challenge the conventional art gallery experience by creating an interactive installation. A new exhibition will be installed every quarter, and will feature large-scale, visually arresting artwork and multi-sensory, perceptive-altering light installations.

• CFDA RETAIL LAB – Cadillac House will also be home to the Retail Lab, a concept developed by the CFDA in partnership with Cadillac. Retail Lab is an innovative mentoring and merchandising program for designers driving the fashion industry forward. Participants will be selected through a competitive application process and have an opportunity to gain real-world business experience through the custom retail store. The Retail Lab store will open in early July with

• JOE COFFEE - Cadillac's commitment as a positive and responsible neighbor will be reflected in a partnership with New York-based Joe Coffee. The local specialty coffeehouse will be opening a café within the Cadillac House to provide visitors with beverages, pastries and other treats.

"We are excited to partner with Cadillac. We feel that both Cadillac and Visionaire strive for history-making design and we both push the boundaries of what is possible," said Visionaire's James Kaliardos.

Cecilia Dean, Visionaire co-founder, added, "The opportunity to have a space within Cadillac House is a thrilling opportunity for us to connect with a larger audience and to experiment with new mediums and technology.'

Students Shadow Volunteer GM Employees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

across several weeks so that no high school was lost in the shuf-

Employees at GM's Ren Cen headquarters hosted 45 students from Hamtramck and Harper Woods High Schools on Feb. 26. Students toured OnStar and were personally paired with a variety of GM employees during their visit. HR Director Ofori Agboka welcomed students with an executive presentation that kept them engaged and inspired.

"It's really gratifying to spend time with young people and experience their excitement about the auto industry firsthand," said GM Assistant Manager of Diversity Communications Daniel Wallace. "It reminded me of when I was first getting started as a professional.'

The Milford Proving Ground on March 10 hosted 18 students from Milford High School, who toured the grounds and met with a variety of engineers during their visit. During the Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness Lab tour, they learned about the vehicle safety advances throughout GM's history and the "day in the life" of a test dummy. While touring the Vehicle Development and Noise and Vibration garages, students learned about all the different skills and careers needed to develop a vehicle.

The GM Tech Center on March 11 hosted 125 students from six high schools, where they met with a variety of engineers, human resources, communications and IT professionals.

The schools were Central Collegiate Academy of Detroit, East Detroit High School (Eastpointe), Henry Ford High School (De-



Students gather at the Tech Center to learn about careers at GM.

troit), Madison High School (Madison Heights), River Rouge High School and Yale High School.

Students visited the Climactic Wind Tunnel, Virtual Reality Center and AEC Battery Lab, Moncrief said. While touring the campus, students learned that GM offers several professions other than engineering. One student "Today really blew my mind. I got to get inside of a Corvette and even start it up. Man, I loved that VROOOOM."

The Global Propulsion Systems - Pontiac campus on March 21 hosted 45 students from Pontiac High School and the International Technical Academy.

Students learned about the GM manufacturing process through "Manufacturing Engineering (ME) in a Box," presentation, which gave the students a handson opportunity to experience the manufacturing process by packing a sand cast mold to make their casting, drilling a hole and then assembling their medallion on a lanyard.



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Auto Supplier Invests \$95M for New Facility on East Side

A project that will create at least 400 - and up to 650 - new jobs in Detroit over the next three years was revealed May 25.

An expansive and strategically located parcel of vacant land near City Airport on Detroit's east side will gain the major new tenant.

Primed and promoted as among the centerpieces of the automotive industry resurgence, the land has been a part of the ongoing campaign to attract manufacturing jobs to the

Flex-N-Gate owner Shahid Khan said his company will invest \$95 million in construction and capital costs for the facility that will supply parts to Ford Motor Company.

Potential additional investment could push the project to at least \$100 million, Khan said, adding that at full capacity, up to 750 total jobs could be added.

Flex-N-Gate has committed to the project and a comprehensive hiring plan to help ensure jobs for Detroiters, said Flex-N-Gate spokesman Jim Woodcock.

Flex-N-Gate is an Urbana, Ill.based global auto supplier of exterior trim components, aluminum and steel modular stamped body in white and chassis assemblies, lighting and other OEM automotive products.

The sale is the initial step in building the automotive parts manufacturing plant on the site, Woodcock said.

"We're proud that Flex-N-Gate is investing in Detroit, and in the people of Detroit," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said. "Detroit's resurgence is an important part of the Michigan comeback. Companies around the world recognize that our state is the global leader in automotive, and with good reason. We have a talented



From left, Duggan, Khan and Arwood at the new Flex-N-Gate site

workforce that is passionate about keeping our state at the center of the industry for generations to come."

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said this investment was made possible because of a strong partnership between the State and City to attract the project. He also praised Flex-N-Gate for its commitment to local hiring.

"Nothing is more important to our city than creating jobs for Detroiters," said Duggan. "The fact that Flex-N-Gate has committed to such a strong local hiring and contracting plan shows the company's deep level of commitment to being a partner with the community.'

Khan also praised the new partnership, Woodcock said.

"Our news today from Detroit is further evidence that the United States auto industry is strong, promising and experiencing exceptional growth," said Khan.

"Building a new plant from the ground up within the Detroit city limits will be a milestone moment for Flex-N-Gate, made possible thanks to our partnership and collaboration with Ford, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan.

"We couldn't do this alone." said Khan. "Their collective support and vision to convert a neglected urban area into a manufacturing center that will create hundreds of new, sustainable and well-paying jobs here in Detroit has been nothing short of spectacular. We are grateful and looking forward to seeing this project become a reality."

Hau Thai-Tang, Ford group vice president, Global Purchasing, said, "We are proud to work with Flex-N-Gate, the City of Detroit and State of Michigan, to bring good paying jobs to the city. We value our relationships with suppliers, and appreciate the commitment Flex-N-Gate has made to Ford Motor Company and the local area.'

The 189-acre I-94 industrial park is under control of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Since 2000, EDC has overseen the property acquisition, cleanup and development of the land. The park's

gistics, opened a new \$30-million, 500,000-square-foot facility immediately adjacent to the Flex-N-Gate site earlier this year.

This new multi-layered investment provides a major boost to the I-94 industrial park, and, Woodcock said, is the culmination of a collaborative effort among the city of Detroit, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, which administers incentives and programs on behalf of the Michigan Strategic Fund.

The expansion of Flex-N-Gate's presence in Michigan demonstrates the broad range of productive possibilities for private investors and job creators when local and state economic development teams work with one of the state's bedrock automotive companies and a privately owned auto supplier, said MEDC CEO Steve Arwood, who noted

first major new tenant, LINC Lo- Flex-N-Gate is among 81 of the top global auto suppliers that have North American headquarters or tech centers in the state.

> "Michigan's automotive industry is driving the standards of manufacturing, research and in preparing for the challenges of the exciting path leading to the future of transportation in the 21st century," Arwood said.

From 2009 through the second quarter of 2015, automakers and auto suppliers have made \$16 billion investments into Michigan, accounting for about 20 percent of auto industry investment in North America, Arwood said.

Since 2009 through the end of last year, 175,000 manufacturing jobs have been created in Michigan, according to the Center for Automotive Research.

Designation of a Renaissance Zone for Flex-N-Gate is expected to be addressed at the August meeting of the Michigan Strategic Fund board, Woodcock said.



Jefferson's six millionth vehicle – a 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee

Jefferson Avenue North Builds 6 Millionth Vehicle

The Fiat Chrysler Jefferson North Assembly Plant celebrated a significant milestone May 25 when the six millionth vehicle produced at the Detroit facility a 75th anniversary edition 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee – rolled off the assembly line.

In its 24-year history, the plant has built enough vehicles to circle the globe one-and-a-half times, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine of the granite crystal Grand Cherokee Limited 4x4 came off the line around 8:30 p.m. as Jefferson North employees performed final quality checks and prepared it for delivery to a customer in Michigan, Tinson

"Reaching this milestone is a reflection of this plant's commitment to supporting the continued growth of the Jeep brand around the world and playing a role in the comeback of Detroit," said Curt Towne, Jefferson North plant manager.

"Our employees are proud to be part of this unique time in the history of both the company and the city.

"They understand that not only are they contributing to the success of FCA US, but they are proving that Detroit will always be the Motor City."

To keep up with demand, nearly 4.500 people work at the 3-million-square-foot facility on an alternative work schedule, meaning three crews work two 10hour shifts each day, six days a week.

It takes a day-and-a-half for a vehicle to travel from the body shop, Tinson said, where body panels are welded together, to when the vehicle rolls off the as-

sembly line. In 2015, the plant produced plant's production is shipped to 135 markets around the world.

The plant is one of three Fiat Chrysler manufacturing facilities located in Detroit (the other two are the Conner Avenue Assembly Plant, home of the Dodge Viper, and the Mack Avenue Engine Complex). Jefferson North has been pumping out vehicles since

Chrysler invested \$1.2 billion to bring the first Grand Cherokee to market, which included vehicle research and development, vehicle engineering, Tinson said, and construction of and equipment for the new Jefferson North plant.

The groundbreaking for the new plant was on May 31, 1989. The first Jeep Grand Cherokee rolled off the line on Jan. 14,

In addition to the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jefferson North also produced the Jeep Commander from 2005 to 2010 and began production of the Dodge Durango in December 2010. The plant celebrated the five millionth vehicle produced - also a Jeep Grand Cherokee – at the plant on Aug.

The former Jefferson Assembly Plant, built in 1907 by Chalmers Motor Car Company, was twice the size of the current plant's original footprint (3.6 million square feet compared with 1.75 million square feet, respectively) and produced 8,310,107 vehicles in its 83-year history.

In addition to the standard Trenton-built 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 engine and Kokomo, Ind.-built eight-speed transmission, Tinson said the six millionth Grand Cherokee has the following standard equipment - an 8.4-inch Touch Screen Radio, GPS navigation, Blind Spot Detection and embossed 75th anniversary logo on the seat.



Employees help raise money for Susan G. Komen's efforts to support breast cancer education and research.

Meritor's Exercise Mob Aids Cancer Research

Dressed in pink Meritor shirts and exercising to music, more than 350 employees of auto supplier Meritor, Inc. created the company's first-ever exercise flash mob event at the company's headquarters in Troy.

Overall, the company and its employees contributed approximately \$15,000 for the Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure, which benefits the drive against breast cancer, said Meritor spokeswoman Cheryl Kilborn.

Led by five professional fitness instructors, employees participated in 30 minutes of low-impact, warm-up calisthenics outside on May 20. The exercise event reinforced an ongoing commitment by Meritor and its employees to do their part and make a difference for the greater

"Many organizations across Southeast Michigan from health and human services to educational and cultural programs have benefitted from our employees' generosity - and we really do have a good time planning and organizing activities that help others," said Krista Sohm, vice president, Marketing & Communications.

Troy-based employees regularly work together on grassroots funding events and volunteer for a variety of organizations, Kilborn said.

Every Friday, for example, employees raise thousands of dollars for charities by donating \$5 to wear jeans to work. In this way, employees have raised

good – while having fun, Kilborn more than \$82,000 year-to-date in fiscal year 2016, which includes a 50 percent match from the Meritor Trust Fund, for 19 charities.

In fiscal year 2015, employees and the Meritor Trust Fund contributed almost \$144,000 to more than 30 charities.

Sponsors of Meritor's exercise flash mob event, including Chamberlain Marketing, Kona Ice. Creative Solutions Group, Meijer, Bluewater, Z Spot Fitness, A. Key Productions and EEI Global. donated branded merchandise, staging, banners, signage, food and beverages, photography and audio, Kilborn said.

The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is the world's largest and most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer, Kilborn said.

365,542 vehicles.

Nearly 25 percent of the

Museum Splits the Difference in Mustangs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

significance to progress, innovation, and culture in America, as well as how trademarks, patents, and other forms of intellectual property make modern amenities possible.

The interactive display is designed to highlight the importance of patents and the tremendous march of technology over the decades. It calls out various patents in the current vehicle, as well as those in the original pony

Brentley said the NIHF sought out Ford as its partner for the project because the company has played such an important part in the long history of American innovation with the Mustang being such an icon for half a century. Ford and its employee volunteers have also been involved for the past 20 years with Camp Invention, a program of NIHF.

nation's premier summer enrichment programs and leverages hands-on activities to promote science, technology, engineering and math and builds 21st century skills, Brentley said.

When Mustang was launched, no specific styling patents were granted, Brentley said. Only after the car proved such a huge success – selling more than 1 million cars in its first 18 months – were styling patents even considered and applied for over time.

"Everything moved so fast in the design and run-up to production of the original Mustang that there were no styling patents issued back then," says Chris Danowski, Ford director of technology commercialization and intellectual property licensing.

Now look at the current car; 2015 Mustang Convertible alone was granted 36 styling patents, which ensure the unique look stays with the car. It also has many unique functional patents for things like the airbag structures, 911 Assist and so many other technologies baked right

In 1965, Brentley said Mustang utilized more than 100 of Ford's existing functional patents. Those patents reflect some of the touches customers loved back then, including a rear-seat speak-

Toyota Invests Money in **Uber Outfit**

NEW YORK (AP) - Toyota said May 24 that the company is investing in Uber, making it the latest automobile manufacturer to put significant money in a ridehailing app.

The Japanese company did not say how much the investment is worth.

As part of the deal, Uber drivers can lease Toyota vehicles with money earned from their driving riders they picked up using the Uber app.

Investing in ride-hailing services can be a way for automakers to sell more cars.

Earlier this year, General Motors Co. invested \$500 million in Uber rival Lyft.

Uber relies on drivers who use their own cars to give customers rides. Riders request and pay for their rides through the Uber phone app.

The company has entered more than four hundred cities around the world, despite pushback from regulators and the taxi industry about how it vets drivers.

Toyota is investing in San Francisco-based Uber alongside Mirai Creation Investment Limited Partnership, an investment fund backed by Toyota and Japanese bank Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.



Dashboards, now instrument panels, have changed a lot since 1965, left.

er and a power convertible top. Normal conveniences we now take for granted were also involved, like Patent 3,271,540 the origin of Ford's self-canceling turn signal.

Today, Brentley said the Mus-Camp Invention is one of the tang is a wellspring of creative design and engineering. The car introduced the first passenger knee airbag system packaged inside the glove box door, with 15 patents granted. It debuted electronic line-lock, along with standard launch control - designed to help bracket racers achieve more consistent performance at the drag strip.

Mustang incorporates features specific to modern times, with patented relief in the seat cushion to allow a wallet or phone in an occupant's back pocket to protrude further into the seat for more comfort.

Many of these patents and more, Brentley said, will be illustrated in the display, crafted by Classic Design Concepts, which combines about 60 percent of the driver's compartment of the original Mustang and about 60 percent that of a new pony car - both including the console area and technology of their times.

The left side consists of a reproduction 1965 left-hand-drive Mustang licensed for modern production by Ford and built to the same specifications as the original car – in itself an example of the licensing benefits of intellectual property. The other side is a right-hand-drive 2015 Mustang that is sold in several of the 150 countries where the car is now available.

Visitors to the museum will be able to sit in either side of the car and directly compare features and styling details, from the AM radio, roll-up window, vent air window, and optional retractable color-keyed and seat belts available in 1965 to the working touch-screen display in the 2015

Some patents and other intellectual property will be displayed on accompanying monitors and over speakers. Visitors to the display will also be able to hear the sounds of the original 1965 Mustang V8 engine and a 2015 Mustang V8 engine at

Autistic Talents Fit in with Ford-Autism Alliance Pilot

Those with autism are getting a chance to work for Ford Motor Company.

Autism Alliance of Michigan and Ford have developed a pilot program to provide those individuals an opportunity to gain work experience in an on-the-job training program funded by the alliance.

FordInclusiveWorks kicks off June 1. It will provide work roles in Ford's product development organization, said Ford spokeswoman Monique Brentley.

"We are committed to making people's lives better," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president, Product Development and chief technical officer.

"And this pilot program has the potential to not only make the participants' lives better, but also help Ford be an even more diverse and inclusive workforce.'

"Autism affects many people in our communities, and I'm proud we're taking on this important initiative.'

Five new positions in product development were created to suit the skills and capabilities of people with autism, Nair said. As part of this pilot, Ford will evaluate participants for future employment, as well as the program in general. If there is a potential fit, the individual will enter into standard Ford's recruiting process.

"Individuals with autism bring a unique set of talents to our business," said Felicia Fields, Ford group vice president, Human Resources and Corporate Services. "We recognize that having a diverse and inclusive workforce allows us to leverage a said.

wider range of innovative ideas to make our customers' lives bet-

Through FordInclusiveWorks, individuals with autism will not only gain work experience, but also contribute to business obiectives and enhance diversity at Ford. The program supports the company's goal to contribute to a better world and support the communities in which it operates, Fields said.

The pilot is beneficial for everyone involved - individuals with autism will gain work experience that uses their unique skill sets, while the work they complete will contribute to Ford's product development efforts.

"We are truly excited to be collaborating with Ford on this pilot program," said Colleen Allen. president and CEO, Autism Alliance of Michigan.

"For so many individuals with autism spectrum disorder, getting and keeping a job is a challenge. Often, companies lack understanding of the unique characteristics associated autism, which can be challenging, and unfortunately this can lead to perceptions of a poor fit for the individual and coworkers.

"I applaud Ford for taking these critical steps to understand autism, and for giving those who have struggled to find competitive employment real career opportunities that could be life-changing for them.'

For example, in the vehicle evaluation and verification test lab, a FordInclusiveWorks participant will log and prep tires for test vehicles used by engineers for product assessment, Fields



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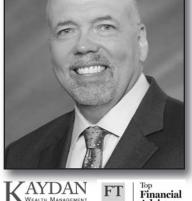
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New Gesture-Based Tech Revealed at Wards Confab

Gesture-based control is already known from the world of entertainment electronics and has been making inroads into vehicles for some time now.

Further development of this new control system in the car is being driven by international technology and auto supplier Continental, said Mary Arraf, manager, Communications, Continental Automotive Systems.

The company's North American headquarters in Auburn Hills showed the world where Continental is when the company unveiled some of its gesture-based tech at the Wards-Auto Interiors Conference held in Detroit on May 11.

Arraf said that Continental's innovation project focuses for the first time on detection zone of gestures on the steering wheel. This is possible due to a time-offlight sensor, which is integrated into the instrument cluster.

Using this approach, the solution minimizes driver distraction and further enhances the development of the holistic humanmachine interface, Arraf said.

Where previous gesture-based control systems in the area of the center console meant that drivers had to take their hands off the steering wheel or take their eyes off the road, Continental's innovation brings the controls to your fingertips while your hands remain safely on the steering wheel.

"With gestures in a clearly defined area on the steering wheel, we can minimize distractions that can lead to increased safety. This level of precision also prevents the driver from unintentionally starting gesture-based control and making unwanted selections by means of casual

gesturing," said Tejas Desai, Continental's head of Interior Electronics Solutions in North America.

The new operating concept integrates seamlessly into the holistic human-machine interface and can replace other elements such as buttons or even touchsensitive surfaces on the steering wheel, Arraf said.

Instead, it uses two transparent plastic panels - without any electronic components - behind the steering wheel, which drivers can operate with their thumbs, almost like a touchpad.

As a result, a driver will benefit from intuitive operation, while vehicle manufacturers benefit from optimized system costs for innovative operating concepts. The clear design of the panels is compatible with almost any control geometry and new gestures can be added at any time. In addition, the variable complexity ensures that the system can be integrated in many different vehicle classes and not just in the luxury segments.

The time-of-flight sensor detects the motion of the hand and converts it into actions, Arraf said. The driver can navigate through the menus by swiping up and down, and confirm the selection with a brief tapping mo-

Touch-free operation is also possible for other functions. For example, if the driver moves his fingers up and down in a uniform movement while keeping his hands on the steering wheel, he can accept calls or reject them.

"These gestures are intuitive for the driver and are closely based on the familiar operating methods of smartphones and other smart devices," Desai said.

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Cadillac Racing Team Has Poor Weekend

Racing Cadillac Michael Cooper and Johnny O'Connell finished race two in eighth and tenth, respectively, at the Pirelli World Challenge GT Championship Victoria Day Speedfest run at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park (CTMP) on May 22.

Cooper started race two from the tenth position. Teammate O'Connell took the start from 13th. With rain on part of the 2.4mile, 10-turn circuit the race officially started under full course caution. The highlight of the weekend for Cadillac was that the Cadillac ATS-V Coupe Pace Car led two official laps before the green flag flew to start the real battle.

On the first lap between turns two and three, two cars got together bringing out a full course caution. As a result, the two Cadillac ATS-V.R Coupes moved up two positions into the top ten.

When the race returned to green, Cooper and O'Connell could not make up any more positions due to a lack of series-reduced horsepower.

"It was slippery at the beginning of the race," said Cooper. "The two cars went off early. Maybe if it didn't go yellow, we could have passed a couple of cars using the rain line. The good part is we have a car to run at Lime Rock at the test on Tuesday. Cadillac Racing gave it their all this weekend.

'We are just lacking straight line speed, so that makes it tough to compete."

O'Connell is frustrated.

"It is pretty clear to everyone watching that we were taken out of this weekend," said O'Connell. "We would just get motored down the straightaway. It is frustrating for the whole team. We can't pass anyone. I got passed by Andrew Davis in the Porsche, but he just drove by me down the straight. We haven't forgotten how to drive and the team hasn't forgotten how to prepare a race car.

You go from where Michael and I were first and second row guys to being relegated to rows

GM to Reimburse Customers for Bad MPG Stickers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which monitors the gas mileage window stickers, said it has asked GM for information in the case.

Owners who go for the extended warranty will get coverage for four years or 60,000 miles, which is longer than the standard warranty of three years or 36,000

The reimbursement is based on the same formula that the EPA uses to calculate future fuel costs, with a gas price of \$3 per gallon and annual driving mileage of 15,000, for a period of five years, GM said in a statement.

The company wouldn't reveal the total cost of the payments and warranties but said it will not materially affect GM's earn-

The mileage mistake was discovered recently by engineers who were working on the 2017 model stickers. The company said it informed the EPA.

For a front-wheel-drive version, the 2016 fuel economy of the SUVs was revised to 15 mpg city, 22 mpg highway and 18 mpg combined. The 2015 models got 17 mpg in the city, 24 on the highway and 19 combined.





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Buick Envisions Better Sales Growth Through Technology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

model year starting price of \$34,990.

In the industry's most popular segment, Envision will offer the longest available list of standard safety and a starting price \$1,300 below the Acura RDX and \$6,000 less than an Audi Q5, Aldred said.

More than 57 percent of Encore customers in 2016 have come from competitive brands. he said, with customers citing value, quality and exterior styling as the top reasons for purchase. Priced to offer a premium entry point into the brand, the Encore now represents 40 percent of Buick sales.

As some competitors prepare their first entries into the small SUV segment, Buick is already doubling down on the Encore with an updated 2017 model available later this year, Fowle said. In addition to more sophisticated styling, it offers the con-

nectivity features customers want most, including Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and 4G LTE Wi-Fi for up to seven devices.

Positioned as attainable luxury, Fowle said Buick's pricing strategy is meant to give customers the refinement and technology expected in the luxury market with starting prices closer to that of mainstream competitors.

This approach has earned Buick recognition as Kelley Blue Book's "Best Value Luxury Brand" four years in a row, Fowle

"With the 2017 Encore, along with a new LaCrosse sedan, the Envision and the Cascada, Buick will have four new vehicles this year in U.S. showrooms alone," said Aldred.

"It's a year in which we'll stop asking customers to question their preconceptions of the brand and instead make a strong statement about what the brand is today.'

Fiat and Germans Clash

BERLIN (AP) - Germany's transport minister has accused Fiat Chrysler of "uncooperative behavior" after the Italian-American automaker failed to show up for a meeting to discuss the emissions levels of its diesel vehicles.

Alexander Dobrindt said in a statement May 19 that Fiat's behavior was "completely incomprehensible" as there were "concrete allegations" against the automaker.

Dobrindt had asked Fiat representatives to meet with officials May 19 as part of a broader probe into illegal diesel emissions controls sparked by the Volkswagen emissions testing scandal that has rocked the German automotive industry.

The German carmaker last year admitted to using software to cheat on United States emissions tests.

The transport ministry said it received a letter from Fiat's lawyer canceling the meeting on the grounds that the company's cars are certified by Italian authorities, meaning that country is responsible for any investigation into possible emission testing inconsistencies that might occur in Fiat Chrysler vehicles.

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