Detroit Auto Scene

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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A 1993 "regular" Viper and the Defender it turns into.

Designer Remembers His Hollywood Viper Career

by Jim Stickford

Dodge is retiring the Viper after 2017. It was the brand's first supercar and even had its own TV show back in the 1990s.

Steve Ferrerio was a car designer at Chrysler in the early 1990s when the producers of "Viper" the TV show approached the company with a proposition.

They were producing a show for NBC featuring a Viper that would turn into a "super" car that helped fight crime. And Chrysler would lend its expertise

and help with the design of the Defender.

"Basically," Ferrerio said, "the hero would drive what appeared to be a regular Viper, but with the press of a button, this vehicle would transform into the Defender, which was capable of doing all kinds of super car things in the name of keeping the streets safe."

So, Ferrerio said, a number of Chrysler car designers were asked to develop sketches on

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Legacy of 'Innovation and Collaboration' Marks Welburn's General Motors Career

by Jim Stickford

After 44 years and many award-winning designs, Ed Welburn officially retired on July 1 as the sixth GM Vice President of Design.

Actually, Welburn is the GM Vice President of Global Design.

"I would say that my main legacy is the transformation of global design at GM," Welburn said. "My predecessor was responsible for North America. He had some relationships with GM design centers around the world, but I am the first to lead GM Design on a global basis. Creating that relationship is very important. It allows GM to have seemless designs that are original and global. So collaboration among the different design centers is very important now."

Welburn is a link in a chain that began when Harley Earl was made head of GM Design. He was followed by Bill Mitchell, Irv Rybicki, Chuck Jordan and Wayne Cherry. Welburn's successor is Michael Simcoe. He is a 33-year veteran of GM and his previous position was as vice president of GM International Design.

Welburn said he would consider the stronger collaboration beas his second legacy at General Motors.

"Engineers and designers are very different from each other," Welburn said. "And when they work together well they produce something amazing. And working together is important because that's the only way amazing things are able to happen."

When asked what design he is most proud of, Welburn said designs are like his children. He's proud of them all.

"I really, really do love all my designs," Welburn said. "I am as passionate about the design of a small car for a smaller market as I am for the all-mighty Corvette Z-6.

Another part of Welburn's legacy has been the development of clear identities for all of GM's brands.

"The lines between regions around the world have been blurred," Welburn said. "It's more important to develop a clear brand identity than focus on where a vehicle originally comes

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In 2013 Ed Welburn showed off the new 2014 Corvette Stingray.



2017 GMC Canyon Denali

Trucks Drive GM Sales for Month of June

General Motors sold 209,295 vehicles to individual or "retail" customers in June, up more than 1 percent year-over-year, driven by increases at Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac of 3 percent, 2 percent and 5 percent, respectively, said GM spokesman Dan Flores.

Based on initial estimates, GM gained 0.1 percentage points of retail share in June to remain the fastest growing full-line automaker. GM has gained retail market share in 13 of the past 14 months, dating to April 2015.

Less profitable daily rental sales were down 5,690 vehicles or 22 percent, as planned. GM's total sales in June were down less than 2 percent to 255,210 vehicles, Flores said.

Through the first six months of the year, GM retail sales are up more than 1 percent and retail share is up 0.4 percentage points, the largest retail share gain of any full-line automaker and more than double the industry's average over that timeframe, Flores said.

Year to date, Chevrolet retail sales are up 3 percent and retail share has grown 0.5 percentage points. Chevrolet remains the fastest-growing full-line brand in the industry, Flores said. Year to date, Buick retail deliveries have grown 4 percent and Buick has gained 0.1 percentage points of retail share.

GM's retail sales strength is reflected in the ongoing sales performance of the Chevrolet Silverado

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Fiat Chrysler Sees Strong Jeep, Ram Sales

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 197,073 units, a 7 percent brand sales fueled our best June increase compared with sales in sales in 11 years," said Reid June 2015 (185,035 units), and Bigland, senior vice president the group's best June sales in 11 Sales, FCA - North America. "In years,

"Strong Jeep and Ram Truck pass and Jeep Renegade each posted their best June sales ever. The Jeep brand continues to set records by logging its best June sales ever. In addition, the Ram said Fiat Chrysler spite of some severe stock mar- ProMaster City van and the Fiat



tween engineers and designers

spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

The Jeep, Dodge and Ram Truck brands each posted year-overyear sales gains in June compared with the same month a year ago. The Jeep brand's 17 percent increase was the brand's best June sales ever, while Ram achieved its best June sales in a decade.

ket volatility in June, the American consumer stayed focus on buying new vehicles and propelled FCA to six vehicle sales records last month."

Four of the six sales records in June were set by Jeep brand models, Kisiel said. The Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Patriot, Jeep Com-

500X each turned in their best June sales ever.

Jeep brand sales were up 17 percent for its best June sales ever and its 33rd-consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Jeep brand has set a

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2016 Ram Rebel



2016 Ford Escape

2016 Proving a Good Year for Ford Sales

Ford Motor Company's firsthalf total U.S. sales grew 5 percent with 1,353,048 vehicles sold - its best first-half performance since 2006.

June sales were up 6 percent, with 240,109 vehicles sold, said Ford spokesman Eric Merkle.

Ford truck performance remains the standout for the first half of the year, Merkle said. The company sold 531,500 pickups and vans - a 13 percent gain ver-

sus a year ago. Truck sales were up 24 percent in June, driven by strong F-Series sales of 70,937 vehicles – a 29 percent increase versus a year ago and their best June sales performance in more than a decade.

"Strong customer demand has helped us continue growing our truck leadership position, further widening the gap with our nearest competitor versus last year," said Mark LaNeve, Ford

vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service. "Consumer demand for Ford SUVs also continues to surge to all-time highs, allowing us to introduce new levels of capability, versatility and technology to a whole new generation of SUV fans.'

Ford brand SUVs had their best-ever first half with 395,116 total vehicles sold - up 9 percent

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

Chrysler LEEDS – A Green Path to Better Manufacturing

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GM Sales Strong, **New Retail Plan Paying Off**

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and GMC Sierra full-size pickups, Flores said. Every month since January 2014. GM has sold more full-size pickups than any other original equipment manufacturer, according to POLK retail registrations and J.D. Power PIN retail sales data.

GM is achieving these results while spending less on incentives than its competitors and commanding record Average Transaction Prices (ATPs). In June, GM full-size pickup ATPs were up \$3,300 compared to last year and Silverado recorded its highest monthly ATP in history. Year to date, GM full-size pickup ATPs are up \$2,600 compared to last year.

'Our retail-focused strategy is resulting in the highest share gains in the industry. Chevrolet is the fastest growing full-line brand and we expect that trend to continue as the availability of newly launched products improves in the second half of the year," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of Sales Operations. "Our reduction in daily rental deliveries, disciplined incentive spending and well-managed inventories are showing real benefit in the residual values of our latest launched vehicles.

GM expects better availability of midsize pickups, full-size pickups and small, compact and midsize crossovers in the second half of the year due to planned production schedules.

As part of its retail-focused strategy, GM continues to reduce rental deliveries, as daily planned. Year to date, GM's daily rental deliveries are down about 88,499 vehicles or 37 percent from a year ago.

Overall, Flores said, Chevrolet has had its best June since 2006. The Colorado saw a sales increase over June 2015 of 27 percent. The Impala saw sales jump 77 percent over June of last year and the Volt saw a 57 percent increase.

GMC also enjoyed strong

While most of the manufacturing and operating improvements Fiat Chrysler makes are to existing processes and plants, the company also looks to improve from the ground up, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Mike Driehorst

'When we built a new body shop at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, achieving LEED Gold Certification - and all the benefits that come from it - was a major objective." Driehorst said.

LEED, administered by the United States Green Building Council, is a comprehensive system to define, measure and validate green buildings, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson. Certification in the national recognition program is based on strict standards in five key areas: site planning, water management, energy, material use and indoor environmental quality.

Based on the number of points awarded in each category, a project can achieve a LEED certified silver, gold or platinum status.

In addition to the SHAP body shop and ZF Axle Drives Marysville, two other FCA US facilities have been LEED Gold certified - the body shop at the Belvidere Assembly Plant (Ill.) and the Trenton South Engine Plant (Mich.).

Trenton, which builds the acclaimed Pentastar V6 engine, was one of only four automotive manufacturing facilities to receive a LEED rating of any kind and the only engine manufacturing facility in the world to achieve the honor when it was announced in March 2010, Tinson said. Belvidere was awarded LEED in 2014 and builds the Dodge Dart. Jeep Compass and Jeep Patriot.

As you can see in the video, LEED certification was achieved with numerous operational and environmental benefits, including:

\$2.5 million in annual energy ٠ savings at the SHAP Body Shop through the life of the building.

• A 95 percent reduction of construction waste that would normally go to landfills.

• 600,000 gallons of water saved each year.

The SHAP Body Shop is one of four FCA-owned facilities to



SHAP was one of the Chrysler plants to earn its LEEDS designation.

achieve LEED certification. The other three are Trenton South Engine Plant; Belvidere, Ill., Assembly Plant Body Shop and ZF Axle Drive Marysville (Ohio).

"We hope to add a fifth one when the new Mopar Parts Distribution Center is finished in Virginia later this year" Driehorst said. "LEED certification is a goal of that new distribution center. This and many other manufacturing and operational improvements are the result of an internal program at Fiat Chrysler. Employees have the opportunity to submit projects for an Environment, Health and Safety Leadership Award. In this periodic series, we're giving you an exclusive look inside to see the nominees and the impact that these ideas have on vehicle owners and our manufacturing process."



The 50th anniversary edition of the Camaro is coming.

FCA June Sales Up 7 Percent

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sales record in every month dating back to November 2013. Four Jeep brand vehicles set June sales records. The Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Patriot, Jeep Compass and Jeep Renegade each posted their best June sales ever. Sales of the Jeep Grand Cherokee were up 9 percent for its best June sales since 2005.

Ram Truck brand sales, which include the Ram pickup, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City, were up 14 percent for its best June sales in a decade, Kisiel said. Ram pickup truck sales increased 14 percent in June, the pickup's best June sales since 2004. In addition, the Ram ProMaster City van recorded its best June sales ever.

Dodge brand sales were up 3 percent in June compared with the same month a year ago. Sales of the Dodge Grand Caravan were up 79 percent last month for the minivan's best June sales since 2008. In down 20 percent in June comaddition, sales of the Dodge Durango increased 38 percent for

the full-size SUV's best June sales in a decade. The Dodge brand is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Dodge Viper with five limitededition models that commemorate the final year of Viper production and highlight several of the most iconic special edition Vipers of the past.

Sales of the Fiat 500X - in its second month of year-over-year comparisons - were up significantly in June compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. Fiat brand sales, which include the Fiat 500, Fiat 500L and 500X, were down 19 percent in June, compared with the same month a year ago.

The new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica continues to gain momentum in the marketplace, Kisiel said. In its third month on sale, the Pacifica minivan posted sales of 7,207 units, up significantly from its sales in the previous month of May. Chrysler brand sales were pared with the same month a year ago.

Chevrolet Pulling Out Stops, **Celebrates Camaro History**

Ain't no party like a Camaro marketing manager. party. Fifty years to the day after the Camaro name was publically revealed, Chevrolet will commemorate Camaro's anniversary this summer during the Woodward Dream Cruise presented by Chevrolet, said GM spokesman Ron Kiino.

The activities include:

 A celebration at and tours of the Lansing Grand River plant, where the Camaro is built, on Aug. 18;

"Camaros and Coffee" in Detroit, on Aug. 19;

• A special Camaro heritage display at Chevrolet's site for the Woodward Dream Cruise, on Aug. 20.

Chevrolet's Woodward Dream Cruise display will include rare and milestone examples from the car's six generations, including the new 2017 Camaro ZL1 and 1LE models, Kiino said.

"Over the past half-century, the Camaro has fostered enthusiasm, camaraderie and memories like few other vehicles," said Steve Majoros, marketing director of Chevrolet Cars and Crossovers.

"It's a passion Chevrolet takes seriously and the activities this summer are a way of giving back to those who have made the Camaro an icon."

More details and event updates will be available at www.camarofifty.com.

marofiftymedia.com - will offer ing of the group, before revealing

'Whether you're a Camaro owner or simply a fan, it's an event you won't want to miss.'

Reservations are not required for the tours, but registration is required on site.

Additional information and directions to the plant are at the site camarofifty.com.

Everyone with a Camaro is invited to participate on Friday, Aug. 19. The event starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Joe Louis Arena Riverfront parking lot, at 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., in downtown Detroit. Space for 500 cars is available to consumers on a first come, first served basis.

At 9:45 a.m. 50th Anniversary edition Camaros will lead the Camaro Rally participants toward Woodward Avenue, where they can drive the cruise route into the afternoon.

Camaro has been special to Chevrolet since the beginning, Kiino said. The June 28, 1966, announcement of the Camaro's name was a tongue-in-cheek press conference hosted by Chevrolet general manager Pete Estes, who announced everyone in attendance - including reporters from 14 cities on the line in a first-of-its kind teleconference - were charter members of the Society for the Elimination of Panthers from the Automotive World Kiino said

Estes said at thge time that A special media site - ca- this was the first and last meet-

sales, Flores said. The Canyon saw a 34 percent increase over June of 2015 and the Denali had its top penetration of the year at over 25 percent of GMC sales.

2016 Proving a Good Year for Ford Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

versus a year ago, Merkle said. Ford SUVs posted a 7 percent increase last month with 69,641 vehicles sold, marking the best June in 15 years. Escape sales were up 20 percent, driven by the new 2017 model.

Ford commercial van performance grew 17 percent in the first half with a total of 128,378 vehicles sold - largely driven by Transit's 36 percent gain in the same period with 78,480 sold, Merkle said. Transit sales increased 19 percent in June, with 14.437 sold.

Overall, Ford's monthly van sales grew 14 percent - the comsince 1978 - with 24,404 sold.

For the first half. Lincoln sales totaled 53,297 vehicles - a 13 percent increase versus a year ago, Merkle said.

Lincoln sales were up 6 percent in June with 8,809 vehicles sold

Growth came from the marque's newest products, with Lincoln MKX up 27 percent, the new Lincoln MKZ up 9 percent and Lincoln MKC up 2 percent.

Ford sales figures key models for June 2016:

• Fusion - sold 26,520, a 4.4 percent increase over June 2015's sales of 25,409.

• Focus sold 19,491, a 11.6 per-

pany's best commercial van sales cent decrease over June 2015's sales of 22,051

• Escape sold 29,003, a 20.2 percent increase over June 2015's sales of 24,126.

• Expedition sold 7,507, an 86.2 percent increase over the 2015 June sales of 4,032

• F-Series sold 70,937. Up 28.6 percent over June 2015 sales of 55,171.

• Taurus sold 2,514, a 44 percent decrease over June 2015 sales of 4,493.

• 9,776 Mustangs were sold, down 16.6 percent from June of 2015.

• Transit sold 14,437, up 19 percent from the June 2015 sales of 12,134.

historic images, design illustrations and historic information, Kiino said.

The Camaro 50th Anniversary Celebration kicks off Aug. 18 at the Lansing Grand River plant, near downtown Lansing, Kiino said.

Chevrolet will host Camaro owners and enthusiasts throughout the day, with a car show, heritage display and discussions with Camaro team members, including Chief Engineer Al Oppenheiser.

There will also be a Camaroonly parking area for up to 500 cars, a tent offering unique Camaro 50th merchandise and onsite food vendors.

Tours of the plant begin at 7 a.m. and run through 3:30 p.m., each lasting approximately 45 minutes.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity to get a behindthe-scenes look at building the Camaro from the ground up," said Todd Christensen, Camaro

the name Camaro.

The Panther reference had floated in the news for the previous two years, when word got out Chevrolet was working on the Camaro.

The project was code-named Panther, but Chevrolet had always intended to give the vehicle a "C" name to follow the convention of its other car models such as Chevelle and Corvette and Corvair.

The "Panther society" press conference playfully put to rest the speculated name for the new car

The public got its first look at the new Camaro in September 1966. In its first model year, the Camaro achieved sales numbers of 220,906.

When asked about the meaning of Camaro upon its introduction, Kiino said some Chevrolet managers reportedly said to the press that the Camaro was a small, vicious animal that ate Mustangs.

Detroit Auto Scene

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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

Legacy of 'Innovation and Collaboration' **Marks Welburn's General Motors Career**

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from. We focus on the customer and when it comes to design we want to exceed what they want."

And today's customer wants it all, Welburn said.

"Not all customers look for the same thing in their vehicles," Welburn said. "That's why we have all these different brands and models.'

And that's why it's important to make sure each model is designed as best as it can be.

One thing that's changed since Welburn started in the auto business 44 years ago has been the rise the SUV and the CUV.

'The trend has been away from the sedan and toward the SUV and the CUV." Welburn said. "I suspect the sedan market will continue to shrink. I don't believe sedans will go away, but the sedans that remain in that market niche will have to be great to compete and to survive.

Welburn said SUVs have evolved. For a long time, they were an "American" thing that customers in other markets weren't particularly interested in. But starting about six years ago in Europe and four years ago in China, those markets started becoming very interested in SU-Vs as well.

The shift in SUV demand has been fast," Welburn said. "Every car company is moving so fast to develop them that the American auto makers really don't enjoy an advantage anymore. Now the Buick Encore was ahead of the trend for small, premium SUVs. It was really successful for us in China."

And because General Motors is thinking globally now, the company was able to rebadge that vehicle as an Opel and it's been a big success in Europe, Welburn said

While technology has ad-



Welburn with GM retiree Paul Deesen at Design On Woodward in 2014.

vanced, Welburn said, with the development of Computer Assisted Design (CAD), there's still a need for sculptors and others who still create real-world three dimensional models using traditional clay sculpting tools.

"I'm at the studios every day," Welburn said. "The work between the hands-on sculptors and the digital modelers is collaborative and amazing. But that is not the most amazing change I've seen at GM in my time there. It's the diversity of the workforce. The world has changed and GM has made it a priority to be more diverse."

This has paid off for the company, Welburn said. It has brought diversity of thought and experience to the company and this has resulted in a stronger GM with stronger product.

Welburn said that he isn't through with GM just yet. He will have a "very cool" office downtown and will be a consultant on the expansion of the Design Building at the Tech Center. He also has a couple of book projects going and will continue to judge classic cars at Pebble Beach.

Because at his heart, Welburn said he is a car guy who loves the business and its history.

"Bill Mitchell was a great inspiration for me," Welburn said. "I've always admired his work. His designs throughout the 1960s were just spectacular."

When asked what his favorite classic cars are. Welburn admitted a weakness for the Cadillacs of the late 1930s and 1940s, which he said were a strong period for automotive design.

"The 1949 Cadillac sedan is just a beautiful car," Welburn said. "Nice lines and just well done. I also like the 1934 Cadillac. When I think of classic vehicles, I think of Cadillac and Buick. Harley Earl was really ahead of the pack when it came to design.'

Welburn said he's enjoyed his time at GM.

"After 44 years with the company, it's time to move on," Welburn said. "I am going to the miss the design challenges, but I think I'll miss the people the most. We have amazing design teams that are so talented. Working with them over the years has been an honor."

Continental's MK C1 System **Alfa Romeo Selects Brakes**

Automotive supplier Continental, which has its North American headquarters in Auburn Hills, will be supplying Alfa Romeo with its MK C1 for the Integrated Brake System (IBS) of the new Giulia.

This marks the first time that the MK C1 electronic brake system enters series production worldwide, said Continental spokeswaom Kathryn Blackwell. The new integrated system is more dynamic, lighter and more compact than conventional brake systems. In addition, it reduces pedal vibrations and the driver always feels the same force-path characteristics in the pedal, which provides a high level of comfort.

"We are very proud that our MK C1 debuts in the Alfa Romeo Giulia. The MK C1 offers great braking force for safety systems and short braking distances help prevent accidents and reduce accident severity. In addition, reduced weight of the unit directly translates into reduced emissions," said Robert Beaver, chief engineer Electronic Brake Systems at Continental North America.

The MK C1 makes a major contribution to safe and dynamic driving as well as energy efficiency, Beaver said. The new electronic brake system integrates the brake actuation, brake booster and control systems (ABS and ESC) into a compact, weight-saving braking module that weighs about nine pounds less than a conventional braking system. Continental's electro-hydraulic MK C1 can build up braking pressure significantly faster than conventional hydraulic systems, fulfilling the increased pressure dynamics requirements for new advanced driver assistance systems in order to prevent accidents and protect pedestrians. In addition, the system meets the requirements for a recuperative braking system without any additional measures, while providing a high level of comfort.

Continental develops intelligent technologies for transporting people and their goods, Blackwell said. As a partner, the automotive supplier and tire manufacturer, the company provides sustainable, safe, comfortable, individual, and affordable solutions. In 2015, the corporation generated sales of €39.2 billion with its five divisions, Chassis & Safety, Interior, Powertrain, Tire, and ContiTech. Continental currently employs more than 212,000 people in 55 countries.

The Chassis & Safety division develops and produces integrated active and passive driving safety technologies as well as products that support vehicle dynamics, Black well said. The product portfolio ranges from electronic and hydraulic brake and chassis control systems to sensors, advanced driver assistance systems, airbag electronics and sensorics.



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Viper Designer Recalls Hollywood Days

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what the Defender could look like.

"Paramount, the studio making the show, sent some people to our design studio here in Detroit back in 1993," Ferrerio said. "Several of us were given the task of coming up with designs. Tom Gale, who was vice president of Design at the time, and Neil they could film the driver from Walling looked at our sketches. And they showed them to the producers – Danny Bilson, Don Kurt and Paul DeMeo. We pitched our ideas to them and that was the start."

about 20 inches. We kept the car length pretty much the same. So we built prototypes with unique proportions on a modified Viper chassis.'

In the end, Ferrerio said, they ended up making several different models. Two were running models that could be driven on the street and there was even a half-model that was created so the interior seat position of the vehicle to give the impression someone was driving a real Viper on the streets. "This experience was not something that I expected to go through when I decided to become a car designer," Ferrerio said. "I started working for Chrysler in 1983 and retired from the company in 2008. So by this time I had worked on a number of vehicles, including the original LH series of cars, the Dodge Daytona GT and I had done a lot of work on the Wrangler. "So doing this work for Hollywood was a new and exciting experience." Ferrerio said that he was even flown out to Hollywood and shown around the set. He had the chance to play golf with the show's lead James McCaffrey.

one day McCaffrey told him he was leaving Boston and was going to Hollywood to be an actor."

Ferrerio said that while he and Neil Walling were in Hollywood, they had the opportunity to watch some tapes of early shows at the studio before they were broadcast.

"After we watched the tapes, we were moving to another part **Century Charities 8th Annual Golf Outing** sponsored by **The American Polish Century Club** Sunday, July 31, 2016 Maple Lane Golf Club - 14 Mile & Hoover

The producers liked Ferrerio's sketches, so the moved onto the next phase.

"I was sent to an auxiliary location and given a clay buck to work with," Ferrerio said. "That's a clay model built around a substructure that you add clay around to build a three-dimensional design from a two-dimensional sketch.'

The producers liked what they saw, Ferrerio said, and the next step was getting approval from the people in Hollywood with the final say.

"Once that happened, we started working on the actual car prototype," Ferrerio said. 'We placed it on a Viper chassis, which was tricky because we stretched the wheel-base by

"Funny story," Ferrerio said. "I ended up knowing a guy who knew Mr. McCaffrey back in Boston. This man told me that

of the studio lot, when a Mercedes pulled up," Ferrerio said. "We were dressed nicely, in suits and ties, when the driver of the Mercedes rolled down the window of the car. It was Jay Leno, who said 'love the ties, but it's after 5, take them off. We all had a good laugh."

"Viper" lasted one season on NBC and was cancelled in 1994, Ferrerio said. But back in the 1990s, there was a market for syndicated original programming for independent stations, so a couple of years later the show was revived and ran an additional three seasons as a syndicated show, finally going off the air in 1999.

"That all happened a long time ago," Ferrerio said. "I've losttouch with all the Hollywood people, but I see James McCaffrey on shows like 'Law & Order' every now and then.

"I have a lot of toy scale models of the Viper Defender. I'm my own little kid."

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Local Vocational High School Scholarships

Volkswagen Agrees to Pay Record \$14.7 Billion Penalty

will spend \$14.7 billion to settle the Environmental Protection consumer lawsuits and government allegations that it cheated on emissions tests in what lawyers are calling the largest auto-related class-action settlement in U.S. history.

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Under the settlement revealed June 28 by a U.S. District Court in San Francisco, VW will pay just over \$10 billion to either buy back or repair about 475,000 vehicles with cheating 2-liter diesel engines. The company also will compensate owners with payments of \$5,100 to \$10,000, depending on the age of their vehicles.

The German automaker also has to pay governments \$2.7 billion for environmental mitigation and spend another \$2 billion for research on zero-emissions vehicles

VW is still facing billions more in fines and penalties as well as possible criminal charges. A lawsuit by state attorneys general against the company apparently has been settled, but terms were not available June 28.

Volkswagen has admitted that the 2-liter diesels were programmed to turn on emissions controls during government lab tests and turn them off while on the road. Lawyers are still working on settlements for another 80.000 vehicles with 3-liter diesel engines. The company got away with the scheme for seven years.

As part of the settlement, VW must offer to buy back most of the affected cars, or terminate their leases. That's because, according to court documents filed June 28, there currently is no repair that can bring the cars into compliance with U.S. pollution regulations. If VW does propose a

DETROIT (AP) - Volkswagen repair, it must be approved by Agency and the California Air Resources Board.

Owners who choose to have VW buy back their cars would get the clean trade-in value from before the scandal became public on Sept. 18, 2015. The average value of a VW diesel has dropped 19 percent since just before the scandal began. In August of 2015, the average was \$13,196; this May it was \$10,674, according to Kelley Blue Book.

If VW can come up with a repair that meets EPA and California standards, it's likely to hurt the cars' acceleration and fuel economy. Volkswagen marketed the cars as both more fuel efficient and better performing that those with regular gasoline engines.

The settlement still requires a judge's approval before it can go into effect. Owners can choose to decline Volkswagen's offer and sue the company on their own.

The company has to buy back or repair 85 percent of the vehicles or pay even more money into an environmental trust fund.

"This historic agreement holds Volkswagen accountable for its betrayal of consumer trust and requires Volkswagen to repair the environmental damage it caused," said Elizabeth Cabraser, the lead attorney for consumers who sued the company.

Unless it can develop a suitable fix, VW may be forced to buy back all the 2-liter vehicles. But it appears from documents filed by the Justice Department and EPA that the technology might not be available to fix them. VW has been working on a fix since around the time the scandal broke.

"At the present time, there are no practical engineering solutions that would, without negative impact to vehicle functions and unacceptable delay, bring the 2.0 Liter subject vehicles into compliance with the exhaust emission standards and the onboard diagnostics requirements," the order said.

Don Marron, a banker from Allentown, Pennsylvania, who owns a 2012 Jetta SportWagen diesel, said he's glad Volkswagen is offering more compensation than earlier reports had suggested. But Marron wants assurance that if Volkswagen fixes his car but he doesn't like the way it performs, the company will still buy it back. And if he keeps his car and saves Volkswagen money, he wants compensation for doing that.

"At this moment, I don't know anything more than I did a couple of months ago," he said.

The scandal erupted in September when U.S. regulators revealed that the German automaker had fitted many of its cars with software to fool emissions tests and had put dirty vehicles on the road.

Investigators determined that the cars emitted more than 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems in humans. Car owners and the U.S. Department of Justice sued.

The company, which knew the EPA's testing routine, got away with the scam for seven years before being caught by the International Council on Clean Transportation, which hired West Virginia University to test a VW in real roads conditions. The EPA has since changed its testing to include on-road tailpipe checks.

Volkswagen said this April that it has set aside \$18.2 billion charge to cover the cost of the global scandal, which includes a total of 11 million vehicles worldwide.

Chrysler Faces Scrutiny Over Shifter Issue

DETROIT (AP) – A government investigation into confusing gear shifters like the one in the SUV that crushed and killed Star Trek actor Anton Yelchin found 266 crashes that injured 68 people.

The numbers are in documents posted June 28 on the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website. The agency closed the investigation June 24 after Fiat Chrysler agreed to recall 1.1 million vehicles.

Investigators also found 686 consumer complaints about the shifters and said that Fiat Chrysler received negative customer feedback shortly after the vehicles went on sale. The company also appeared to violate basic design guidelines for vehicle controls with the shifters, according to the agency.

A Fiat Chrysler spokesman was checking into the document.

Yelchin, 27, known for playing Chekov in the rebooted series, died June 19 after his 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee pinned him against a mailbox pillar and fence at his home in Los Angeles. Police are investigating.

His Jeep was among vehicles recalled in April due to complaints from drivers who had trouble telling if they put the transmission in "park" after stopping. Many reported the vehicles rolled off after the driver exited.

Last week, FCA said it would speed up the global recall. The safety agency mentioned the Yelchin case in its documents as possibly being related to the shifters. He was not named in the documents.

Fiat Chrysler has said that it began providing its 2,427 dealers with a software update shortly before Yelchin died. Previously the company had said the update would be ready in July or August.

Yelchin may have received a letter warning him about the problem. The documents posted June 28 said such letters were mailed out by Fiat Chrysler on May 14 with instructions telling owners to make sure their vehi-

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cles are in park and the parking brake is on before they exit.

Two week ago, Fiat Chrysler said it would start sending letters to owners on June 24 telling them to make a service appointment. Safety advocates have questioned why the fix was taking so long.

The recalled vehicles have an electronic shift lever that toggles forward or backward to let the driver select the gear instead of moving along a track with notches for each gear like a conventional shifter. A light shows which gear is selected, but to get from drive to park, drivers must push the lever forward three times. If a vehicle is in drive and the lever is pressed just once, it goes into neutral and could roll if on a slope.

Dealers will be able to load the software into the vehicles, and it will automatically shift the cars into park if the driver's door opens while the engine is running. The software will repair vehicles with 3.6-liter and 5.7-liter engines, which account for the bulk of those being recalled. Fiat Chrsyler said software availability for the rest of the vehicles is "imminent."

The recall also covers the 2014 Grand Cherokee as well as the 2012 through 2014 Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300.

Toyota Faces Trouble Over Air Bags

TOKYO (AP) - Toyota announced June 28 it is recalling 1.43 million vehicles for defective air bags and another 2.87 million vehicles for faulty fuel emissions controls.

Toyota Motor Corp. said it has not received any reports of injuries or fatalities related to either recall. Some 932,000 vehicles are involved in both recalls, so the total number of affected vehicles is 3.37 million. The first recall for defective air bags affects Prius hybrids, Prius plug-ins and Lexus CT200h vehicles produced between October 2008 and April 2012 - 743,000 vehicles in Japan, 495,000 in North America, 141,000 in Europe, 9,000 in China and 46,000 in other regions. The faulty air bags are not related to recent massive recalls of Takata air bags that have ballooned to millions of vehicles and affected nearly all major automakers. In June 28 recall, Toyota said a small crack in some inflators in the air bags on the driver and passenger sides may expand, causing the air bags to partially inflate. The second recall affects various Prius models, the Auris, Corolla, Zelas, Lucas and Lexus HS250h and CT200h produced from April 2006 through August 2015 - 1.55 million vehicles in Japan, 713,000 in Europe, 35,000 in China and 568,000 elsewhere, but none in North America.



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Special Edition Dodge Vipers Sell Out Fast

Dodge Vipers certainly do go fast, both literally and figuratively. After first going on sale Friday, June 24, 206 special-edition 2017 Dodge Vipers designed with exclusive content to celebrate the 25th anniversary and final year of Viper production are totally sold out, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Kristin Starnes.

Leading the selling spree was the new 1:28 Edition ACR. All 28 units sold out in just 40 minutes, Starnes said. All 31 units of the VoooDoo II Edition ACRs had new owners within two hours. The Snakeskin Edition GTC (25 units) and GTS-R Commemorative Edition ACR (100 units) took only two ordering days to sell out. All 22 units of the Dodge Dealer Edition ACR sold out within five ordering days.

"From just 40 minutes to five days, the 25th Anniversary special-edition Dodge Vipers sold out incredibly fast, insuring their future collectability," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Cars – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America. "Our customers are asking, so we're adding one more special edition — the Dodge Viper Snakeskin ACR."

An all-new ACR version of the Snakeskin Edition will be made available with up to 31 units to continue the 25th Viper Anniversary celebration. Orders for the Snakeskin ACR special edition will open in mid-July, Starnes said.

Mopar Hemi Challenge Returning

The Mopar Hemi Challenge is set to return for its 16th consecutive season at the prestigious NHRA U.S. Nationals in Brownsburg, Ind., Sept. 1-2. Mopar-powered Super Stock/Automatic-HE-MI (SS/AH) Sportsman class competitors will go head-to-head on the quarter-mile at Lucas Oil Raceway in 1968 HEMI-powered Dodge Dart and Plymouth Barracuda machines, the original Mopar package cars, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Darren Jacobs.

With the coveted victory comes a \$15,000 winner's prize, a unique Hemi Challenge trophy weighing 42.6 lbs. and a custom Mopar HEMI Challenge winner's jacket, Jacobs said. The Mopar HEMI Challenge also provides a cash prize payout to the top 16 finishers competing in elimination rounds.

The Mopar Hemi Challenge made its debut in 2001 at the U.S. Nationals, featuring the classic muscle cars that contributed to the brand's legendary reputation



and success at the drag strip, Jacobs said. The 1968 Dodge Dart and Plymouth Barracuda "package cars," factory-built for the strip, were precursors to the Mopar Dodge Challenger Drag Pak vehicles that compete today in the NHRA Stock and Super Stock classes, Jacobs said.

"We're very proud of how popular our Mopar vehicles have remained since their introduction over 40 years ago, and the passion we continue to see from Sportsman competitors and fans," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA – Global.

"We can't emphasize enough how much NHRA Sportsman drag racers that compete in the Mopar HEMI Challenge are truly the backbone of the sport. In recognizing our roots and their dedication to the brand and drag racing, we're always looking at ways to improve competition and support for our Sportsman racers." PAGE 6

BUICK/GMC LEASE PULL AHEAD IS BACK...

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The new 2017 Cruze Hatchback will start at \$22,190 when it arrives in dealerships this fall. The price includes the destination charge, but not tax, title and other dealer fees.

The Cruze Hatch is the latest addition to the expanding Cruze lineup, which was redesigned for 2016, said GM spokeswoman Emily Moran. It will be offered in LT and Premier trims, and with the RS package.

Sharing the Ecotec 1.4L turbo and dynamic driving experience of the sedan, the Cruze Hatch offers increased cargo space of up to 42 cubic feet. Along with the sedan, Moran said it is the most connected car on the road, with segment-exclusive technologies such as 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot, Teen Driver and wireless charging. Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility make the most of Cruze's connectivity with a smartphone.

New Baseball League Gets Trico Support

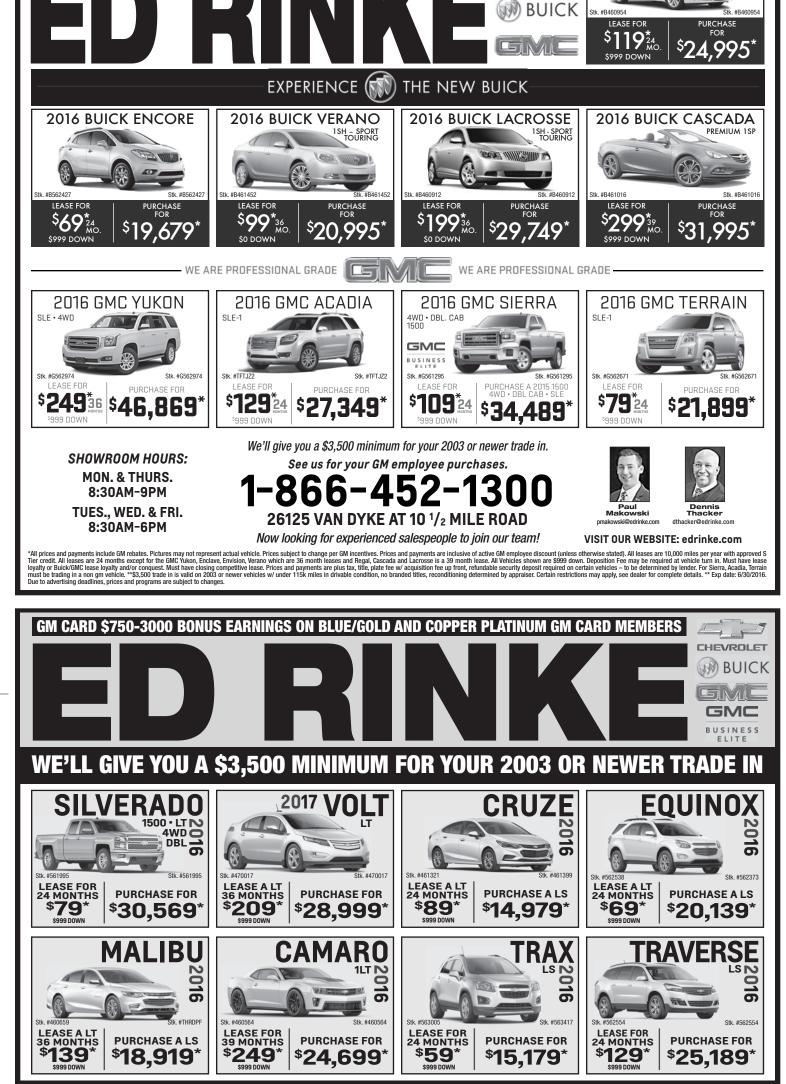
Trico Products Corporation, a global maker of wiper blade technology, on June 28 entered into a five year partnership with the United Shore Professional Baseball League (USPBL), a professional baseball league founded in May 2016 based in Utica.

USPBL, founded by Rochesterbased General Sports and Entertainment, is the result of a 10year effort by General Sports to bring professional baseball to the Detroit area, said Trico spokeswoman Jennifer Ferris. The league is comprised of three teams, the Utica Unicorns, the Eastside Diamond Hoppers and the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers, that are competing in the USPBL's inaugural 75-game season at Jimmy John's Field in downtown Utica.

"Partnering with the United Shore Professional Baseball League for a five year sponsorship is an opportunity to help foster the growth and revitalization of the Detroit-area, home to Trico and many other major automotive product manufacturers," said Dawn Gonzalez, brand manager at Trico Products Corporation.

USPBL fans can look forward to a number of exciting events throughout the upcoming seasons as a result of Trico's sponsorship, including annual charity baseball clinics, "Baseball Buddies" youth baseball team pregame parades and game-day Trico Force wiper blade give-aways, Ferris said.

Continuing its commitment to promoting safety and protecting



- NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY FOR OIL CHANGES -



individuals in adverse weather conditions, rain delay announcements and updates will be brought to spectators by Trico, Ferris said. Additionally, there will be a Trico-branded poncho give-away at one game each season throughout the five year partnership.

"USPBL is bringing America's favorite pastime to Detroit," said Gonzalez. "Trico is excited to be a part of this celebration of patriotism, especially with the Fourth of July holiday right around the corner."

For nearly 100 years, Trico Products Corporation has been one of the world's largest manufacturers of wiper blade products and systems with major operations in Asia, Australia, North America, South America and Europe, Ferris said. The company develops advanced wiper technologies for automotive manufacturers and drivers worldwide. Every wiper blade is designed with innovative technologies. JULY 4, 2016

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GM's Bowling Green facility will undergo further upgrades.

GM Investing in 'Vette Site

additional \$290 million into the Bowling Green Assembly plant to upgrade and modify the plant's vehicle assembly operations with new technologies and processes. The announcement was made on June 24.

The Bowling Green facility is where GM assembles the Chevrolet Corvette, said GM spokesman Kevin Nadrowski.

This is the latest investment in that facility," Nadrowski said. "Over the past five years of so, GM has invested about \$900 in the facility and this investment shows the confidence GM has in the Bowling Green facility and it also showcases the sense of pride our employees have in the vehicles they build."

This investment continues GM's drive for flexible manufacturing systems, Nadrowki said. These changes are being made in conjunction with the construction and startup of the previously announced \$439 million paint shop investment.

A portion of the new investment, \$153 million, has been included in an application to par-

General Motors is investing an ticipate in the Kentucky Business Incentive (KBI).

> "GM has a long tradition of commitment to southcentral Kentucky and to producing, in Warren County, the finest sports cars in America," said Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin.

Facility improvements, which include technology upgrades and manufacturing process improvements, are planned to begin this summer, Nadrowski said.

"We are making technology investments that will continue to improve our manufacturing processes and ultimately the quality of our vehicles," said North American Manufacturing Manager Arvin Jones. "We are putting Corvette customers first by building upon our world-class manufacturing process."

"For over 35 years our members in Bowling Green have built quality products with pride," said UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada. "This investment will give UAW members the tools of a world-class production facility to continue to craft one of the world's most iconic automobiles.'



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Chevrolet Lowers the Price OnStar Users Pay for Data

value of digital data is greater than ever, and GM is doing something that ought to please the public.

Chevrolet is reducing its On-Star 4G LTE data plan pricing by up to 50 percent just in time for the Independence Day weekend, when AAA projects 36 million Americans will drive to holiday destinations, said GM spokesman Phil Colley.

As the first automaker to offer 4G LTE connectivity across its entire retail portfolio, Colley said Chevrolet has sold more than 2.1 million OnStar 4G LTE-connected vehicles since June 2014 and the brand is an industry leader in bringing this technology to the masses.

In only two years, Chevrolet customers have consumed more than 3 million gigabytes of data the equivalent of streaming more than 100 million hours of music and Chevy in-vehicle data usage continues to trend upward, Colley said.

"Wireless connectivity has proven to be a beneficial technology for many Chevrolet customers, from contractors who use their Silverado as a mobile office to families using their Suburban on a summer road trip," said Sandor Piszar, Chevrolet truck marketing director. "As our customers increase their usage of the technology, we are able to make it more affordable for them.'

More than 60 percent of Suburban owners and passengers use their OnStar 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, with Tahoe and Traverse hotspot usage not far behind, Piszar said.

These figures should not be surprising when considering

NOVĽ

In this connected world, the those vehicles are typically for families and you can connect up to seven devices to the hotspot, Piszar said.

The high-volume Silverado accounts for the largest amount of data usage, with customers consuming more than a million gigabytes of data to date.

A 4G LTE connection comes standard on all new Chevrolet retail models with the OnStar Basic Plan, which also features remote vehicle access and the AtYourService marketplace via the my-Chevrolet mobile app, Colley said.

The new data pricing constitutes a 50 percent reduction for most plans with the all-new 4 GB monthly plan representing four times the amount of data available previously for \$20 per month.

The new data plan is as follows:

• 1 GB per month formerly \$20 is now \$10.

• 4GB per month is \$20;

• 10 GB per month was formerly \$80 and is now \$40;

• 10GB over a 12-month period was formerly \$150. Now \$150 buys 20GB over a 12-month period.

"As more people embrace the technology, it brings down the cost of entry for all users," said Laura Keck, GM OnStar Subscriber Marketing Strategy manager. "With these lower prices, we expect even more customers to use 4G LTE connectivity during this busy summer driving season."

Data is provided by AT&T for Chevrolet customers. For more information on the new plans and pricing, please visit: https://www.onstar.com/us/en/4 glte-subscriber.html

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