# Tech Center News...

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**Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area** 

**JULY 4, 2016** 

## Welburn Leaves Legacy of 'Innovation and Collaboration'

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

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 between engineers and designers as his second legacy at General

"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

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 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 be- in. But starting about six years lieve 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

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

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 



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

2017 GMC Canyon Denali

## Trucks Drive GM Sales for Month of June

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  $1\overline{3}$  of the past 14months, dating to April 2015.

General Motors sold 209,295 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.

fastest-growing full-line brand in the industry, Flores said. Year to

Year to date, Chevrolet retail

sales are up 3 percent and retail

share has grown 0.5 percentage

points. Chevrolet remains the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 

#### Autonomous Tech **Fails to Prevent Fatal Accident**

DETROIT (AP) - It was the crash the auto industry knew was coming but still feared.

The death of a driver who was using Tesla Motors' semi-autonomous mode could add to the public's apprehension of driverless cars even before they reach the road in big numbers. Most major automakers and technology companies, including Google and Uber, are working on fully autonomous cars, and have worried that a highly publicized crash could hurt those efforts.

Joshua D. Brown, 40, of Canton, Ohio, died in the accident May 7 in Williston, Fla. According to a Tesla statement issued June 30, the cameras on Brown's Tesla Model S failed to distinguish the white side of a turning tractor-trailer from a brightly lit sky and didn't automatically activate its brakes. Brown didn't take control and activate the brakes either, Tesla said.

Brown was an enthusiastic booster of his 2015 Tesla Model S and in an April video he posted online he credited its sophisticated Autopilot system for avoiding a crash when a commercial truck swerved into his

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## Chevy Plans Big Camaro 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Ain't no party like a Camaro Crossovers. "It's memorate Camaro's anniversary made the Camaro an icon." 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 all-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 direcof Chevrolet Cars and

party. Fifty years to the day after Chevrolet takes seriously and the the Camaro name was publically activities this summer are a way revealed, Chevrolet will com- of giving back to those who have

> More details and event updates will be available at www.camarofifty.com. A special media site - camarofiftymedia.com will offer 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 Oppen-

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 op-

portunity to get a behind-thescenes look at building the Camaro from the ground up," said Todd Christensen, Camaro marketing manager. "Whether you're a Camaro owner or simply a fan, miss."

Reservations are not required for the tours, but registration is required on site. Additional information and directions to the plant are at 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

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 



The 50th anniversary edition of the Camaro is coming.

#### **Tech Center News**

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#### **Autonomous Tech Fails to Prevent** Fatal Accident

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lane on an interstate.

Automakers and analysts have said they need to be careful as they introduce more and more semi-autonomous features, from automatic braking to adaptive cruise control. People can quickly learn to rely on them, or assume they work better than they actually do. The possibility of a fatal accident was always a con-

"For years people have been saying the technology is ready, and it's one of my pet peeves, because no it's not," said Bryant Walker Smith, a law professor at the University of South Carolina and an expert on autonomous driving issues.

Tesla stressed that its Autopilot system is new, noting that drivers must manually enable it and that they "must maintain control and responsibility for your vehicle" while using the system.

"Autopilot is getting better all the time, but it is not perfect and still requires the driver to remain alert," the Palo Alto, Californiabased company said in a statement.

Karl Brauer, a senior analyst with Kelley Blue Book, said the accident is a huge hit to Tesla's reputation.

They have been touting their safety and they have been touting their advanced technology," he said. "This situation flies in the face of both."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said June 30 that it would investigate how Tesla's Autopilot system performed at the time of the crash.

But beyond Tesla, the accident could increase public skepticism about semi-autonomous and autonomous driving. In a survey released in June by the University of Michigan, two-thirds of drivers said they are moderately or very concerned about riding in a self-driving vehicle. Just 16 percent of the 618 drivers surveyed said they would rather ride in a self-driving car.

Walker Smith said it was inevitable that a semi-autonomous or autonomous car would crash. The Brown crash can help focus the discussion of regulators and others on driverless technology and its limitations, he said. It could also remind drivers that the technology isn't perfect and they need to stay alert.

But Walker Smith said it would be unfortunate if public sentiment swung so far against driverless cars that people would never benefit from their lifesaving potential. On the day the Tesla driver died, he said, approximately 100 other people died on U.S. roads. No one knows how many of those deaths could have been prevented by cars that could predict crashes before they happen and brake by themselves.

"Driving today is dangerous, and there is no panacea. Every solution creates its own set of problems," Smith said.

## **Chevrolet Holding Celebration For 50 Years of the Camaro**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

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 this was the first and last meeting of the group, be-

fore revealing 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 car a 'C" name to follow the convention of its other car models such as Chevelle and Corvette.

The "Panther society" press

conference playfully put to rest the speculated name for the new

The public got its first look at the new Camaro in September 1966. In its first model year, the

Camaro achieved 220,906 sales.

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

## Chrysler LEEDS - A Green Path to Better Manufacturing

ing 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

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 (III.)

While most of the manufactur- 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, includ-

- \$2.5 million in annual energy 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 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 Vir-



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

ginia later this year" Driehorst turing process." 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 manufac-



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GM's Ed Welburn talking with Jay Leno at Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in 2015.

### Trucks Drive GM Sales for Month of June

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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 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.

General Motors 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, General Motors continues to reduce daily rental deliveries, as planned, Flores said.

Year to date. General Motor's daily rental deliveries are down about 88,499 vehicles or 37 percent from the same time a year

Overall, Flores said, Chevrolet has had its best June since 2006. The Colorado saw a sales increase over June 2015 of 27 per-

The Impala saw sales jump 77 percent over June of last year and the Volt saw a 57 percent in-

GMC also enjoyed strong sales, Flores said. The Canyon saw a 34 percent increase over June of 2015 and the Denali had its highest penetration of the year at more than 25 percent of GMC sales, maintaining the best firsthalf penetration on record.

The Buick Encore was up 25 percent for the 30th consecutive month of year-over-year increas-

The Cadillac Escalade sales were up 21 percent over June of 2015 and Flores said the launch of both the XT5 - 3,844 sold in June – and the CT6 – 958 sold in June – got off to a strong start.

## **Ed Welburn Remembers Fruitful Career at GM**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

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 successful for us in China."

And because GM 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 advanced, 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 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 talented. Working with them has been an honor.'



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**Century Charities 8th Annual Golf Outing** 

## Art Van Charity Drive Raised \$2,272,188

The 8th annual Art Van Charity charities receiving grants in-Challenge raised a staggering \$2.272.188 in just five weeks. A total of 147 charities across the Power Company Kids Club, Pon-Midwest vied for \$300,000 in grants from Art Van Furniture.

\$100,000 grant is Grace Centers gan, Grand Rapids. Raised of Hope from Pontiac, an organization committed to positively changing the lives of the homeless, addicted and unwanted.

Leveraging grants received from Art Van Furniture, Grace Centers of Hope raised and won a total of \$500,000 in just over five weeks, to support their community programs, said Art Van spokeswoman Diane Charles.

In addition to \$225,000 in prize grants, the company also donated \$94,000 in bonus grants, which were awarded to winning charities in special competitions throughout the program, Charles

Since the Art Van Charity Challenge launched in 2009, Art Van Furniture has donated more than \$8 million and raised over \$24 million for more than 350 charities who provide assistance to children, health care and human services.

This year's top charities are based in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. Along with Grace Centers of Hope, the 2016 Ar Van top

clude:

- Second Place \$50,000: The tiac. Raised \$339,807.
- Third Place \$25.000: Mental The first place winner of the Health Foundation of West Michi-\$254,096.
- Fourth Place \$15,000: Benjamin's Hope, Holland. Raised

Fifth Place - \$12,500: Cass Community Social Services, Detroit, Mich. Raised \$96,653.

Sixth Place - \$10,000: The Jackson Chance Foundation, Chicago,

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# Volkswagen Agrees to Pay Record \$14.7 Billion Penalty

DETROIT (AP) – Volkswagen will spend \$14.7 billion to settle 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.

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 broke.

DETROIT (AP) – Volkswagen will spend \$14.7 billion to settle consumer lawsuits and government allegations that it cheated repair, it must be approved by the Environmental Protection 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 per-

forms, 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-

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.

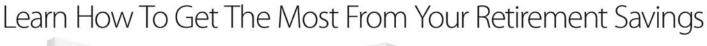
Toyota Motor Corp. said it has not received any reports of injuries or fatalities related to either recall. Some 932,000 vehicles are involved in both recalls, so the total number of affected vehicles is 3.37 million.

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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## **Viper Designer Recalls His Hollywood Days**

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 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 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."

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.

ed working on the actual car prototype," Ferrerio said. placed it on a Viper chassis, which was tricky because we stretched the wheel-base by 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 of them were running models that could be driven on the street and there was even a half-model that was created so they could film the driver from 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.

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

"After we watched the tapes, we were moving to another part 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 that would run on independent stations, so a couple of years later the show was revived and ran an additional three seasons as a syndicated show, going off the air in 1999.

"That all happened a long time ago," Ferrerio said. "I've lost touch 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."



"Once that happened, we start- A 1993 "regular" Viper and the Defender it turns into.

## Chrysler Seeing Strong Jeep, Ram Sales

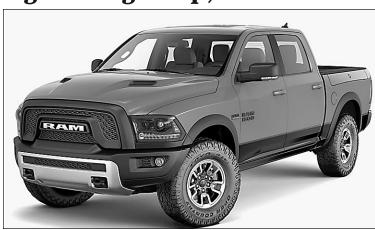
Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 197,073 units, a 7 percent increase compared with sales in June 2015 (185,035 units), and the group's best June sales in 11 said Fiat Chrysler vears. spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

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.

"Strong Jeep and Ram Truck brand sales fueled our best June sales in 11 years," said Reid Bigland, senior vice president -Sales, FCA – North America. "In spite of some severe stock market 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 Compass and Jeep Renegade each posted their best June sales ever. The Jeep brand continues to set records by logging its 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 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



The 2016 Ram Rebel.

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 addition, 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 limited-edition 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

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

Chrysler brand sales were down 20 percent in June compared with the same month a year ago.

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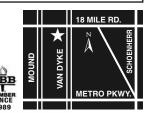
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## **Chevrolet Lowers the Price OnStar Users Pay for Data**

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

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

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 fol-

- 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 peri-

"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 pricing, please visit: https://www.onstar.com/us/en/4 glte-subscriber.html

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GM's Bowling Green facility will undergo further upgrades.

## **GM Investing in 'Vette Site**

General Motors is investing an ticipate in the Kentucky Business 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 parIncentive (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 automo-



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#### Chevy Sets Price For New 2017 Cruze Hatchback

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 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 cor-

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.