

Harley Earl's 1938 Buick 'Y-Job' Earns Historic Status

This car was truly a car of the future.

The 1938 Buick "Y-Job" was announced to the public as such in early 1940. And, sure enough, many of its design features were adopted over the next several decades.

The car, considered to be the world's first concept car, was created as an extremely modern experimental car by the General Motors Styling Section and Buick engineers.

The Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) last week named the Buick Y-Job as the 14th vehicle recognized on the National Historic Vehicle Register. The recognition was approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Engineering Record and archives of the Library of Congress.

The Buick Y-Job was created under the direction of GM's legendary design chief, Harley J. Earl.

The car was described at the time as a "convertible coupe," hand-built on a custom Buick chassis and powered by a Buick Series 50 engine with special experimental features.

The low and wider design eliminated the need for running boards and improved stability. The car incorporated 13-inch wheels and brakes, along with

features used on airplanes at the time, such as finned brake drums and turbine-vented hubcaps.

"What's amazing about this car," said GM Heritage Center Manager Greg Wallace, "is how ahead of its time it was.

"It has hidden headlights and things like push-button door openers."

The body was streamlined – more aerodynamic – extending the front fenders into the doors. The rear of the car featured a fully concealed convertible top, boat tail design, and the hint of the tailfins that became iconic design elements of cars in the 1950s.

The grille was far lower and wider than what was typical of the period and included novel retractable headlamps. The hood was described as "alligator-type" of one piece that was a departure from the two-piece hoods of the era.

"Harley Earl and the Buick Y-Job expanded the boundaries of car design and drew the blueprint for concept vehicle design and execution," said GM Global Design Vice President Michael Simcoe.

"We thank the HVA for ensuring the world's first concept car is documented and preserved for future generations."

The Buick Y-Job was docu-

mented during the grand opening of the HVA National Laboratory in Allentown, Pa. The laboratory is a pristine, purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility for automotive photography, photogrammetry, 3D scanning, videography and the HVA's growing physical and digital archives. The laboratory was built to standardize and streamline the expansion of the

National Historic Vehicle Register program.

The laboratory environment includes a large 40-foot-by-40-foot white room with infinity walls on all sides and turntable integrated into the floor to efficiently rotate historic automobiles during photography.

The lab is believed to be the only facility of its kind in the

world. The work done there will provide current and future generations a highly detailed, accurate and consistent record of some of the nation's most significant automotive classics.

"The Buick Y-Job is a true American design treasure and an incredibly appropriate vehicle to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



This 1938 Buick 'Y-Job,' seen here being driven by Harley J. Earl, has appeared in numerous displays.

Art Van Hosting a 'Pit Stop' at the Woodward Cruise

Art Van Furniture is the Art Van Pit Stop during the Woodward Dream Cruise.

The annual classic car event draws about 1.5 million people each year, with more than 40,000 cars driving past the Art Van Furniture showroom located at 32301 Woodward Avenue in Royal Oak – at the epicenter of the Dream Cruise, said Art Van spokeswoman Diane Charles.

Art Van will host an all-day cruise bash for spectators to join in the fun on Saturday, Aug. 20, Charles said.

The Art Van Pit Stop is open to the public and will display a Trans Am SE Bandit Edition, an updated version of the 1977 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am made famous by Burt Reynolds in the cult classic, "Smokey and the Bandit" movie.

The car is one of only 77 Bandit Editions built and will be shown courtesy of media sponsor 94.7 WCSX radio, broadcasting live on-site all day playing classic rock favorites.

"The Woodward Dream Cruise is one of the highlights of a Detroit summer," said Kim Yost, CEO of Art Van Furniture. "We are proud to be a community partner and support this great annual event. Our team is looking forward to welcoming members of the public to a fun event at a fantastic location, and watching thousands of incredible classic cars cruise by."

The Art Van Pit Stop will also feature games, a relaxation station, and refreshments from Detroit Water Ice, the philanthropic dessert company founded by journalist Mitch Albom.

GM July Share Up 1 Percent

GM had a hot July, saleswise, improving its market share. The company sold 236,235 vehicles to individual or "retail" customers in July, up 5 percent year-over-year, driven by across-the-board increases at Chevrolet, GMC, Buick and Cadillac.

GM's brands collectively had their best July retail sales performance since 2007, said GM spokesman Dan Flores.

Based on initial estimates, GM's retail market share rose 1

percentage point in July to 17.9 percent, GM's highest monthly retail market share since December 2011, Flores said. GM has gained retail market share in 14 of the past 15 months, dating to April 2015. From a retail share perspective, Chevrolet, GMC and Buick gained 0.4 percentage points, 0.3 percentage points and 0.2 percentage points in July, respectively. Less profitable daily

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



2016 Ford Transit

Jeep, Ram Were Hot Sellers

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 180,727 units, up 0.3 percent compared with sales in July 2015 (180,124 units), said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ralph Kisiel.

Fiat Chrysler retail sales of 155,885 were down 2 percent in July, while fleet sales of 24,842 were up 22 percent year-over-year, Kisiel said.

Both the Jeep and Ram Truck brands were up 5 percent in July compared with the same month a year ago.

The Jeep Renegade, Jeep

Grand Cherokee, Jeep Compass and Jeep Patriot posted sales gains in July versus July 2015, as did the Ram pickup truck and the Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City vans, Kisiel said. Two Dodge brand models – the Dodge Grand Caravan and the Dodge Challenger – also turned in year-over-year sales gains in July. Sales of the Fiat 500X were up year-over-year as well.

Jeep brand sales were up 5 percent in July versus the same

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



2016 Buick Regal

Transit Leads Ford Sales

Ford Motor Company's total truck sales, including pickups and vans, grew 5 percent in July versus a year ago with 87,104 sold. Overall company U.S. sales were down 3 percent, with 216,479 total vehicles sold, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle.

"We start in the second half getting into some very difficult year-over-year comparisons," Merkle said. "So we estimate that the industry was flat in July, but

for the remainder of the year, we continue to see retail and industry sales strong, but down versus record 2015 levels and not as strong as we previously expected."

Fleet sales – sales to large companies, government customers and rental car companies – were up 6 percent, with 55,321 sold. Retail sales were down 6 percent,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2016 Jeep Renegade

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31201 Chicago Road South
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586-939-6800

Contact us:

Info@TechCenterNews.com

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Col. Jeffrey D. Witt

Army's TACOM Gets New Chief of Staff

The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, headquartered in Warren, welcomed Col. Jeffrey D. Witt as its new chief of staff on Aug. 1. He replaces Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter, who retired from active duty with more than 28 years of service.

A native of Wisconsin, Witt comes to TACOM from the U.S. Central Command Deployment and Distribution Center, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where he served as deputy director, said TACOM spokeswoman Rae Higgins.

Among this Logistics officer's assignments, he commanded the 88th Brigade Support Battalion; served on the commanding general's initiatives group, U.S. Army Sustainment Command; served in a variety of key battalion, brigade, and corps logistics billets; and also completed Training with Industry in Logistics Management with SUPERVALU, Inc.

His service has included overseas assignments as well as numerous combat and operational deployments to Haiti, Iraq, and Kuwait.

The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command is the only active-duty U.S. Army installation in the tristate area of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, Higgins said. TACOM's 19,000 military and civilian acquisition, logistics and technology professionals research, develop, procure, field, maintain, upgrade and sustain approximately 65 percent of the equipment an Army Brigade Combat Team uses.

The TACOM Life Cycle Management Team includes Anniston Army Depot, Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima, Red River Army Depot, Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing Technology Center, Sierra Army Depot, and Watervliet Arsenal.

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GM Cares Gets Ready to Help Residents of Cody Rouge

It'll be all hands (and arms and legs) on deck when 2,500 General Motors employees return to Detroit's Cody Rouge community to volunteer the week of Aug. 15.

Employees will donate their time and talent to board up vacant homes, clean empty lots, spruce up streets and tackle other neighborhood and school improvements.

The transformation is part of teamGM Cares, a company-wide volunteerism initiative that is partnering with the Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance (CRCAA), Cody High School and other corporations. Several of GM's senior executives will join employees throughout the week.

The CRCAA and residents have been working with GM and The Skillman Foundation since early 2016 to determine the community's needs and develop plans.

"Our organization has been working for 10 years to create a strong, sustainable community for residents and businesses," says Kenyetta Campbell, CRCAA executive director. "We are excited to partner with GM to help amplify our work."

GM's improvements to Cody High will include a concession stand, fitness park, dugout, soccer field, pavilion and a complete field cleaning.

"GM's employees made great progress two years ago and now we are returning to work with residents and community leaders to create a safer, sustainable neighborhood where families and businesses can thrive," said Heidi Magyar, director of General



Volunteers fill backpacks to be distributed to youths in Cody Rouge.

Motors Community Outreach.

Torri Moncrief, Community Outreach, Communications lead at General Motors, said that it's important to the volunteers at GM to continue the work they've done in the Cody Rouge neighborhood.

"There are GM employees who live in this neighborhood," Moncrief said. "There are students at the local high school who participate in the GM Student Corps program. We've done our due diligence and want to continue to help this neighborhood."

Moncrief credits the CRCAA for being an active community partner with GM.

"We work with them to see what they need to build on what they've been doing for the past decade," Moncrief said. "It's been amazing for us at GM to work with neighborhood residents and

the alliance. They deserve praise and credit for what's happened in that neighborhood."

GM Cares, Moncrief said, is always looking for ways to help the communities in which the company operates.

"I have to say that the people at GM have responded," Moncrief said. "We have been swamped with people asking to participate in the Cody Rouge event. More than 2,500 have signed up."

"We're so swamped that we have a waiting list. It's so great that that so many people want to help and give back to our local communities and get involved in improving the lives of so many people. This is a core value here at GM. It's a duty we have and we're glad to be back in the Cody Rouge neighborhood to help."

Other partners working with GM in Cody Rouge, Moncrief said, include Quicken Loans, DTE Energy, The Skillman Foundation, PwC, Roncelli, Inc., and Oak Pointe Church. Their projects will include:

- Quicken Loans: Employee volunteers will clean and paint boarded-up vacant structures and renovate the walking path at Rouge Park.

- DTE Energy: Deploying DTE Care Force employee volunteers to support boarded-up efforts by clearing trees, assessing utilities and service reliability and by planting new trees in the neighborhood.

- The Skillman Foundation: Providing logistical support to all employee volunteers.

- PwC: Cleaning and painting at Cody High School.

- Roncelli, Inc.: Project management oversight.

- Oak Pointe Church: Strong partner of Cody High School providing onsite support.

The week of sweat equity concludes with an Employee and Community Family Fun Day on Aug. 20, where residents and employee volunteers will relax over food and music.

GM employees will distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to neighborhood students at the Fun Day.

General Motors employees stuffed 5,000 backpacks at Cobo Center in June alongside attendees at Points of Light, the world's largest volunteering and service conference, Moncrief said.

Jeep's July Sales Continue to Shine for Fiat Chrysler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

month in 2015. The Jeep Renegade's 57 percent increase was the largest percentage increase of any Jeep brand model in July. In addition, the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jeep Compass and the Jeep Patriot each logged a year-over-year sales gain.

Last month, Kisiel said, the Jeep Grand Cherokee won the Web site AutoPacific's Ideal Vehicle Award for the Mid-Size SUV segment for the sixth consecutive year.

The news for the Ram brand was good as well, Kisiel said. Ram Truck brand sales, which include the Ram pickup, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City, were up 5 percent in July versus the same month a year ago.

The increase was driven in part by double-digit percentage increases by the Ram ProMaster and the Ram ProMaster City vans.

In addition, sales of the Ram pickup truck were up 2 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

As a result of such strong sales, Fiat Chrysler announced in July that the company will invest \$1.48 billion in its Sterling Heights Assembly Plant to retool it to build the next-generation Ram 1500 truck and support the future growth of the Ram Truck brand.

While Chrysler brand sales were down 4 percent in July compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said, the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica continues to build momentum in the marketplace.

Sales of the Chrysler 200 dropped 43 percent compared with July 2015, when they sold 9,526. Sales of the 300 also dropped 38 percent going from 3,820 in July 2015 to 2,369.

Sales of the Pacifica were up 1 percent in July compared with the previous month of June, Kisiel said. July was the minivan's fourth month in the marketplace.

The Pacifica has proven to be popular with both the public and the media, Kisiel said, in terms of sales and quality.

The vehicle earned an Editor's

Choice pick in July from "Roadshow by CNET," in part, Kisiel said, for the "nicest interior and smart, family-minded technology."

Dodge brand sales were down 10 percent in July compared with the same month a year ago.

The Dodge Grand Caravan and the Dodge Challenger each posted year-over-year increases in July versus the same month a year ago.

Sales of the Grand Caravan were up 28 percent, while sales of the Challenger muscle car increased 7 percent in July.

For the fourth year, the Challenger won AutoPacific's Ideal Vehicle Award in the Sporty Car segment, having the "Most Ideal Sporty Car" in its segment.

Sales of the Dart, on the other hand, declined 42 percent over July of 2015, going from 5,797 to 3,341.

And, sales of the Dodge Journey dropped 31 percent over the same time period, going from 9,255 to 6,376.

Fiat brand sales, which include the Fiat 500, Fiat 500L and 500X, were down 14 percent in July. In

its first month on sale, the all-new 2017 Fiat 124 Spider posted 480 sales in July. The 124 Spider revives the storied nameplate, bringing its classic Italian styling and performance to a new generation.

Paying homage to the original 124 Spider nearly 50 years after its introduction, the 2017 Fiat 124 Spider delivers the "ultimate Italian roadster experience" with driving excitement, technology and safety combined with iconic design, Kisiel said.

In July, sales of the Fiat 500X were up 1 percent compared with the same period a year ago.

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Buick Avista Named Concept Car of Year

Buick, since the days of Harley Earl, has had a reputation for elegance, so the recent news about the Buick Avista shouldn't come as that much of a surprise.

The Buick Avista received the 2016 Concept Car of the Year and the Most Significant Concept Vehicle of the Year at the 2016 North American Concept Vehicle Awards ceremony last week at the Concours d'Elegance of America in Plymouth, said Buick spokesman Stuart Fowle.

The awards recognize the vehicle that makes the strongest impact in terms of automotive design, engineering and market responsiveness.

"The Avista is both an indicator of Buick's future design direction and a celebration of its deep design heritage," Fowle said.

"The design process of the Avista," said Bryan Nesbitt, Buick's Global Design executive director, "brought the team together to unite around a future direction for the brand and the great teamwork and enthusiasm it generated."

"While looking to the future," he said, "we also wanted to honor the rich heritage of Buick by integrating timeless design cues in this beautifully

progressive concept vehicle."

Judges praised the Avista's futuristic interior and intuitive design, with *Detroit Free Press* auto critic Mark Phelan saying the vehicle "cements Buick's surprising status as one of the auto industry's most intriguing brands."

The Avista's cabin is defined by gliding, seamless lines melded with leather and aluminum details, Nesbitt said. The latest connected technology is accessible through touchscreens on the instrument panel and the floating

center console, which extends between the rear seats. The exterior also boasts titanium and carbon-fiber accents that make for optimal durability. The sleek design reinforces the balance of beauty and precision during the driving experience.

Following its introduction at the 2016 North American International Auto Show, the Avista also received the EyesOn Design Excellence Award and was named "Best Future Concept" by *Detroit News* readers.



The 2016 Buick Avista



The award-winning 1938 Buick Y-Job concept car

Historic Vehicle Association Honors Famed Buick Y-Job

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

document during our National Laboratory grand opening," said HVA President Mark Gessler.

The HVA National Laboratory is located adjacent to the 27-acre NB Center for American Automotive Heritage that includes a half-mile circular track, conference facilities and full-time staff dedicated to automotive restoration, preservation and collection curation.

The HVA National Laboratory has been very active lately, Gessler said.

It recently used the track facility to record movement and sounds of the first Camaro built

and the Thomas Flyer that won the New York to Paris Round the World Race in 1908.

The design, development, construction and ongoing maintenance of the HVA National Laboratory have been underwritten by the NB Center for American Automotive Heritage.

The documentation of the Buick Y-Job on the National Historic Vehicle Register is being organized by the Historic Vehicle Association and underwritten by the GM Design Center, Hagerty (the classic car insurer), and Shell (including their Pennzoil and Quaker State brands), said Steve Keyes, spokesman for the HVA.

Cadillac Wins Altair Lightweighting Award

Altair, together with the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), has named the winners of the 4th annual Altair Enlighten Award.

The recognition is the automotive industry's only award program created specifically to acknowledge innovation in vehicle weight reduction, said Altair spokeswoman Biba A. Bedi.

The winner of the OEM-focused Full-Vehicle category was GM for the 2016 Cadillac CT6, a vehicle 157 pounds lighter than the BFI construction, Bedi said. For the Module category, which focuses on the achievements from within the automotive supplier base, the winner was ContiTech for its unique polyamide rear cross beam for the 2016 Mercedes S-Class.

The awards were presented during the 2016 CAR Management Briefing Seminars (MBS) in Traverse City last week.

"The winners of this year's awards deserve the auto industry's recognition and respect for their innovative use of lightweighting methodologies. Cadillac's CT6 is a work of art that was carefully and skillfully designed and engineered by General Motors," said Richard Yen, senior vice president of Altair Global Automotive.

"ContiTech's use of a fiberglass-reinforced polyamide crossmember in an area with

such critical loads is a breakthrough in design and sets a high standard for others to follow."

Cadillac's entry, Bedi said, was one of 21 finalists that competed for the awards, winning its category for its strategic approach to weight reduction. Simulation methodologies, including topology and multi-disciplinary optimization studies, were used extensively throughout the vehicle's development to ensure an efficient use of material.

In addition, an innovative use of mixed materials were employed across the CT6 to further minimize weight without compromise to performance.

"This award is recognition of one of the most-advanced body systems we've ever produced," said Lyndon Lie, Cadillac CT6 chief engineer.

"Even better than the award,

this new formula of producing a prestige luxury sedan directly benefits CT6 buyers with a vehicle that is lighter, more efficient, and more fun to drive than any other vehicle of its size."

ContiTech's Polyamide crossmember developed for the 2016 Mercedes S-Class achieved a 30 percent weight savings compared to the previous aluminum component, Bedi said. The award judging panel had not seen an application of polyamide materials in this manner before making it a standout entry and a worthy winner of the Module category.

The runners-up for this year's award were BMW for its multi-material 2016 7 Series in the Full-Vehicle category, and Alcoa, who took second place for the Module category for its Micromill aluminum processing technology used on the Ford F150.



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MIT Students work on a Ford/MIT LiDAR test vehicle.

Ford Goes Back to School by Joining with MIT to Develop New LiDAR Technology

Ford Motor Company and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are collaborating on a new research project that measures how pedestrians move in urban areas.

The study is geared toward improving certain public transportation services, such as ride-hailing and point-to-point shuttle services.

The project will introduce a fleet of on-demand electric vehicle shuttles that operate on both city roads and campus walkways on the university's Cambridge, Mass., campus, said Ford spokeswoman Angie Kozleski.

The vehicles use LiDAR sensors and cameras to measure pedestrian flow, which ultimately helps predict demand for the shuttles. This, in turn, helps researchers and drivers route shuttles toward areas with the highest demand to better accommodate riders.

"The onboard sensors and cameras gather pedestrian data to estimate the flow of foot traffic," said Ken Washington, vice president of Research and Advanced Engineering at Ford.

"This helps us develop efficient algorithms that bring together relevant data. It improves mobility-on-demand services, and aids ongoing pedestrian detection and mapping efforts for autonomous vehicle research."

The MIT research is being conducted by the Aeronautics and Astronautics Department's Aerospace Controls Lab. ACL researches topics related to autonomous systems and control design for aircraft, spacecraft, and ground vehicles, Kozleski said.

Theoretical and experimental research is pursued in such areas as estimation and navigation,

planning and learning under uncertainty, and vehicle autonomy.

"Through the mobility-on-demand system being developed for MIT's campus, ACL can investigate new planning and prediction algorithms in a complex, but controlled, environment, while simultaneously providing a test-bed framework for researchers and a service to the MIT community," said ACL director Professor Jonathan How.

Ford and MIT researchers plan to introduce the service to a group of students and faculty beginning in September, Kozleski said.

This group will use a mobile application to hail one of three electric urban vehicles to their location and request to be dropped off at another destination on campus.

The electric vehicles are small enough to be able to navigate the campus's sidewalks, while still leaving plenty of room for traditional pedestrian traffic.

Each is outfitted with weather-proof enclosures that shield out inclement weather – a feature particularly useful for New England's punishing winters, Kozleski said.

After requesting the shuttles via a smartphone app, MIT students and faculty won't be waiting long for their ride, he said.

During the past five months, Ford and MIT have used LiDAR sensors and cameras mounted to the vehicles to document pedestrian flow between different points on campus.

LiDAR is the most efficient way to detect and localize objects from the environment surrounding the shuttles, Kozleski said. The technology is much more accurate than GPS, emitting short pulses of laser light to precisely pinpoint the vehicles' location on a map and detect the movement of nearby pedestrians and objects.

Using this data, researchers study the overall pattern of how pedestrian traffic moves across campus, which helps the researchers anticipate where the most demand for the shuttles will be at any given moment.

This allows the shuttles to be carefully pre-positioned and routed to serve the MIT population as efficiently as possible.

Researchers, Kozleski said, also take into account other factors that affect pedestrian movement on MIT's campus, such as varying weather conditions, and class schedules, as well as the dynamic habits of students and professors across different semesters.

This collaboration further enhances Ford's Dynamic Shuttle project, which provides point-to-point shuttle rides to employees requesting rides using a mobile application on its Dearborn campus, Kozleski said.

The collaboration advances the ride-hailing concept to new heights by examining the movement of pedestrians to predict demand and reduce wait times for shuttles.

What's more, the algorithms and methods learned when navigating densely crowded pedestrian areas using LiDAR will also strengthen Ford's autonomous and driver-assist technologies as the company continues develop autonomous vehicles.

The project is one of more than 30 mobility solutions where research projects between Ford and universities in the U.S., Germany and China are aimed at helping the company and academic world better understand how to improve mobility for millions of people globally, Kozleski said.

University research partnerships are an important part of Ford's broader effort to change the way the world moves, said Kozleski.

Transit Leads Ford Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with 161,158 vehicles sold.

Van sales reached their best July sales since 1978, with 20,236 sold. F-Series pickups posted a 1 percent decline, with 65,657 sold. Merkle called these sales a bright spot for Ford.

"When you look at the bright spot within our sales for the month, Ford vans were up 26 percent, and a lot of that was driven by the success of Transit, which was up 41 percent," Merkle said.

"So we continue to do very well on the van side of our business, but we continue to caution people about the industry and that it'll likely be down just a little bit here as we move through the second half of the year."

"Trucks and vans continue to be market strengths for Ford," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president,

U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service. "Van customers rewarded us with another strong year-over-year gain, and F-Series had its best retail sales this year."

"So we were down one percent which is pretty comparable to what we had last year, however if we take a look at the retail portion of F-Series you would actually find that, retail we had our best July in a decade and it was our best retail sales performance for F-Series so far this year," Merkle said.

Ford's overall transaction pricing also grew \$1,600 in July versus a year ago – more than double the industry average – driven by the continued higher mix shift to trucks and SUVs.

On the success of its newest products, Lincoln retail sales rose 2 percent in July. Lincoln MKZ sales were up 12 percent, while Lincoln MKX was up 5 percent.

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Ford Issues Latch Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Ford is recalling about 830,000 vehicles in the U.S. and Mexico because parts in the side door latches can break and the doors can open while the vehicles are moving.

The recall announced Aug. 4 covers certain 2013 to 2015 Ford Escape SUVs and C-Max cars, and 2012 to 2015 Focus cars. Also included are 2014 to 2016 Ford Transit Connect vans, and Ford Mustang sports cars and Lincoln MKC SUVs from 2015.

Ford says a faulty spring part can break, stopping the doors from latching. The company says the rate of problems is higher in states with high temperatures, so the recall is focused on all of

Mexico and 16 states mainly in the south and west. States included are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Oregon and Washington.

Dealers will replace all latches in the recall states and Mexico. In other states, they will replace the latches if they break.

The company says it knows of one crash and one injury that could have been caused by the problem.

The recall will cost Ford about \$270 million, and that figure will be included in the company's third-quarter pretax results.

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Fiesta, Spark Perfect for Back-to-School

The Ford Fiesta and the Chevy Spark made the 10 Best Back-to-School Cars of 2016, according to *Kelley Blue Book's* KBB.com.

This is the second year in a row *Kelley Blue Book* has named Fiesta to the list, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones, who added that the uniquely designed Ford Fiesta is “one of America’s most popular small cars, offering customers a safe, fun, dynamic experience with nimble handling and a comfortable ride – all at an appealing value.”

As another school semester kicks off, KBB.com’s expert editors handpicked a selection of new cars they recommend for students and parents of teen drivers, said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director and executive market analyst, Kelley Blue Book’s KBB.com.

“Safety is the paramount decision when it comes to back-to-school cars, and practicality and affordability are also high on the list of desirable characteristics, at least according to parents,” said Nerad.

“The kids involved prefer to have a car they’re happy to be seen in, which suggests style is part of the equation, too. Ford Fiesta addresses all of these wants, with an array of features return-

ing students are sure to appreciate.”

Available in a hatch or sedan bodystyle, the Fiesta, said Jones, has a number of safety features that help “keep you and your occupants protected with seven total airbags, including dual-stage front airbags, driver’s knee airbag, and front and rear side-curtain airbags.”

It also offers the latest in driver-assist technology, with standard integrated blind spot mirrors to help reduce rear-vision blind spots and AdvanceTrac electronic stability control that can automatically detect wheel slippage, adjusting torque and braking to maintain control and traction.

KBB editors wrote of the Fiesta, “the boldly styled, fun-to-drive Fiesta subcompact car gets even better for 2016 with the addition of Ford’s new and improved Sync 3 infotainment system. Pull down a 4.0 GPA or better and maybe you can talk your parents into the overachieving, high-performance Fiesta ST model, which landed a spot on this year’s list of 10 Coolest Cars Under \$25,000.”

The editors wrote of the Spark that it is the “second most affordable car of 2016 according to our 5-Year Cost to Own data. Chevy’s 4-door minicar has been redesigned for 2016 and now offers more refinement to go with the low price and user-friendly infotainment system. It’s also surprisingly accommodating for four people, or two people and their gear.”

“The Chevrolet Spark,” said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet Car and Crossover Marketing director, “has an exceptional reputation as a mini-car with a great deal to offer. From a comprehensive suite of standard and available safety features that help protect those inside to an efficient powertrain and infotainment technologies like Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, the Spark gives customers more than is typically offered in its segment.”

Historical Fiats Showcased at ‘FreakOut’

From a deep heritage in Italy to a now-deep heritage in America. Fiat’s history began in Italy in 1899 and continued in the United States in 1908. Two world wars interrupted the U.S. production, but it returned in the 1950s, left in the early ‘80s and returned again as a partner with Chrysler in 2009.

Those facts were celebrated at the 33rd annual Fiat FreakOut 2016.

The celebration took place July 27-31 in Auburn Hills. Fans of the Fiat brand were able to get together and show off the vehicles they love.

Those who attended the car show at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum on July 29, were able to see the new 2017 Fiat Spider 124, which is returning to the United States after being gone for many years.

“This event is a great opportunity to not only showcase our products to enthusiasts,” said Bob Broderdorf, director of Fiat Brand North America – Fiat Chrysler, “but to bring in new people who maybe aren’t familiar with Fiat and don’t understand that this thing is bigger than just the last five years.

“This brand goes back to a deep heritage in Italy and that heritage extends all the way to the United States.”

While there was a number of historical displays to see on the inside of the museum, more than 100 classic Fiats – along with new 2017 Fiat 124 Spiders parked in the lot – were the main attractions for attendees, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Edward Cardenas.

“Every year, this is a little like family reunion for people,” said Fiat Club America vice president Thad Kirk.

“It is really special this year for our members to come out here and see the (new) 124 Spider in the flesh.”

The 33rd annual Fiat FreakOut attracted the old and the young from across the United States, Canada and even Europe, Cardenas said.

Nearly 150 vehicles registered for the five-day celebration, Cardenas said.

In addition to the event at the museum on the Auburn Hills campus of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles headquarters, there

was a poker run, tours of Detroit and a display of Fiat cars at The Inn at St. John’s.

The was also an awards banquet, Cardenas said.

This is the Fiat Club America’s 33rd Fiat FreakOut.

The event dates back to 1983 when a small group of Fiat owners met on the infield of the Pocono International Raceway for a one-day gathering, Cardenas said.

It has grown to attract owners from across the country, and even some international visitors as well, Cardenas said.

This is the first time the event has been held in Metro Detroit since 2007, Kirk said. The 2015 FreakOut was held at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix race track in Pittsburgh.

“This event is a great opportunity for us to not only showcase our product to our enthusiasts, but really bring in new people that maybe aren’t familiar with Fiat, and understand this thing is really bigger than just the last five years,” said Broderdorf.

“This goes back to a deep heritage inside Italy and all the way here to the United States.”

Michigan, Ontario Agree to Join Forces

ACME TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) – Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signed on Aug. 3 a memo of understanding with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne to promote the region’s automotive industry.

Snyder said at the Center for Automotive Research Management Briefing Seminars near Traverse City that collaborating globally is important to the future. He tells *The Detroit News*: “It’s about being good neighbors and good partners to do things together.”

Snyder said the memo, which he signed on the afternoon of Aug. 3 with Wynne, will provide the state and province a framework to create future agreements and work together. He says working groups will be formed to look at different areas such as mobility.

The Detroit Free Press reports Snyder says it’s designed in part to help Michigan and Ontario attract R&D for self-driving cars.

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GM Boosts July Market Share

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rental sales were down 10,160 vehicles, or 42 percent, in July as planned. GM's total sales in July were down less than 2 percent to 267,258 vehicles.

Through the first seven months of the year, GM retail sales are up 2 percent and retail share is up 0.6 percentage points, the largest retail share gain of any full-line automaker, Flores said.

Year to date, Chevrolet retail sales are up 3 percent and the brand's 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 6 percent and Buick has gained 0.1 percentage points of retail share. In addition, GMC's year-to-date retail sales are up slightly and GMC grew retail share by 0.1 percentage points.

GM continues to dominate the full-size pickup segment. The ongoing sales performance of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups shows GM's product portfolio strength with retail customers, said Flores.

According to JD Power PIN estimates, combined retail sales of the Silverado and Sierra grew to more than 43 percent of the full-size pickup segment in July.

"Our retail-focused plan is working and as availability of our new cars, trucks and crossovers continues to grow, we expect to keep our retail sales momentum going and our strong margins intact," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president of GM Sales Operations.

"We are growing our retail business while keeping inventories lean, incentive spend disci-

plined and growing our transaction prices faster than the industry average."

GM ended July with a 66 days supply of vehicles. GM's first and second quarters ended with 71 and 72 days supply of vehicles, respectively. Lean inventories reduce the pressure to use incentives to move product and positions the company well if the market begins to soften, McNeil said.

As part of its retail-focused strategy, Flores said GM continues to reduce daily rental deliveries, as planned.

Through July, General Motors' daily rental deliveries are down 38 percent from a year ago.

In addition, General Motors continues to take advantage of a strong, stable U.S. economy to grow its retail business.

"Low interest rates, full employment, stable fuel prices and increasing wages remain in place and these positive factors continue to point toward a strong second half of the year and another potential record year for the industry," said Mustafa Mohatarem, General Motors' chief economist.

Sales highlights for July 2016 include:

- Light-duty crew cab Silverado sales were the best ever for a July, and best ever for year to date.
- Canyon and Sierra were up 34 percent and 21 percent, respectively, compared with the same time in 2015.
- Regal was up 16 percent and Enclave and Encore were up 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively, compared with July 2015.
- ATS and Escalade were up 15 percent and 1 percent, respectively, compared with July 2015. Cadillac dealers delivered 4,844 XT5s with a "days to turn" at 25 days.

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2016 Chevrolet Volt

Volt Reaches 100,000 Sales

In an environment where the public is looking for the next big thing, a lot of GM customers have already found it, said GM spokesman Fred Ligouri.

The Chevrolet just completed the sale of 100,000 Volts, giving those owners "a no-compromise" electric driving experience with a plug-in vehicle offering an EPA-estimated 53 miles of electric vehicle range and a total range of 420 miles between gasoline fill-ups or full recharges, Ligouri said.

The EPA-estimated 53-mile EV range based on 106 mpg-e combined city/highway (electric) and 42 mpg combined city/highway (gas), Ligouri said. Actual range varies with conditions, he noted.

"The Chevrolet Volt delivers not just a fun driving experience behind the wheel, but has become the first vehicle with plug-in electrification technology to truly become mainstream," said Steve Majoros, director of marketing, Chevrolet Cars and Crossovers.

"Not only is the Volt a class-creator, it serves as the foundation of a Chevrolet electric family

that will soon add the first long-range, affordable EV available to customers across the U.S., the Chevrolet Bolt EV."

How much of an impact do 100,000 Volts out on the road make? As it turns out, quite a bit, Majoros said.

Since sales of the Chevrolet Volt began, owners have driven almost 1.5 billion miles in EV mode of a total 2.5 billion cumulative miles. Based on an average new car fuel economy of 25.3 miles per gallon, Volt drivers have saved nearly 58 million gallons of fuel. That is enough gasoline to fill more than 87 competition-size swimming pools.

The second-generation Volt improves on the pioneering work of the original, Majoros said, adding additional electric-only range, improved fuel economy of 106 mpg-e and 42 mpg, and a chassis that is lighter than the original.

The second-generation Volt is 220 pounds lighter than the first-generation and delivers 19 percent stronger 0-30 mph electric acceleration while providing 39 percent greater pure EV range.

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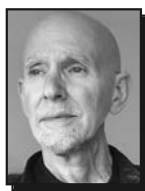
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