Detroit Auto Scene

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

VOL. 84 NO. 38

OCTOBER 3, 2016



The winning team, Integrity Tool & Mold Inc., throws all their weight into the final pull in charity competition.

FCA Says, 'Pull Your Weight for Charity'

The transport carrier was Fiat Chrysler Canada's Windsor loaded with six Ram 1500 pickup trucks and the folks pulling the carrier were loaded with muscle.

The scene took place along the banks of the Detroit River in late September.

headquarters to participate in the fourth annual Ram Tough Truck Pull for United Way. The competition was sponsored by the FCA Foundation.

Participants rose to the chal-More than 375 competitors lenge of hauling the Fiat Chrysler took to Riverside Drive in front of transport carrier loaded with

feet in the shortest amount of time, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Liam Price. This year's event comprised a

record-high 25 different teams

pickup trucks weighing nearly

80,000 pounds, a distance of 100

XT5 Cited as Tough, Safe

The crossover with optional front crash prevention has earned a rating of 2016 Top Safety Pick+ (TSP+) by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

The rating is the highest rating a vehicle can earn from the IIHS.

To qualify for a TSP+ rating, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the five crashworthiness tests small overlap front, moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraints - and an advanced or superior rating for front crash prevention.

"Passenger safety was one of our top priorities when we engineered the XT5," said Paul

2017 Cadillac XT5 Spadafora, XT5 chief engineer. "We equipped the XT5 with Cadillac's full set of driver awareness and driver assistance systems to aid collision avoidance. Just as importantly, we designed an advanced structure that is both stiffer and lighter, for excellent crashworthiness. This included a revised front structure that specifically targets the challenging offset barrier scenario."

IIHS editors wrote of the 2017 XT5 that it "earns good ratings in all five of the Institute's crashworthiness evaluations. When equipped with optional front

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 The 2017 Cadillac XT5, shown here, is being safety-tested by IIHS.



On-the-Go H2O system collects, filters and pumps water to cupholders.

Ford Employees' Creative Efforts Pump Out Ideas

It's not exactly turning water employees in recent years. The

World Mobility Leaders See a Bold Future Where Private Cars Leave Big Cities

by Jim Stickford

A lot of bold statements were made at the recent World Mobility Leadership Forum held last week at the Detroit Westin Airport Hotel, including one prediction that perhaps as soon as in a decade, privately-owned cars would disappear from big cities.

The statement was made by Emily Castor, director of Transportation Policy for Lyft.

She was just one of several speakers at the conference who talked about the future of the automotive industry in general, and autonomous transportation in particular.

Hans-Werner Kaas, a senior partner and head of the Detroit office of McKinsey & Company, a

ship of private vehicles, he said, the services that replace them -Uber, Lyft, public transportation, etc. - must work on very basic levels.

First, the technology making any new services possible must be reliable and be operable in a safe way. Second, the experience of using new ways of traveling must be pleasant. Finally, it must

"A redefined mobility experience and shared vehicle experiences will depend on maintaining the independence that ownership provides people," Kaas said. "They will want that experience to be preserved."

He said this in an exclusive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

90-year-old firm that advises both businesses and governbe affordable, Kaas said. ments, said that the key thing to remember about the new concepts of mobility is that they must work as services. If people are to give up owner-

into wine.

When Doug Martin read about a billboard in Lima, Peru, that advertised a system that turned humidity into drinking water for the local population, an innovative idea struck: What if cars the only figure increasing at could be a source of water? And that was the beginning of a great idea, said Ford spokesman Alan Hall.

Condensation from vehicle air conditioners, which usually just drips to the pavement below, could be used in much the same way. Hall said Martin, a powertrain controls engineer, worked with colleague John Rollinger to bring the idea to life, creating a prototype system that collects, filters and pumps the condensation directly to a faucet located inside the car.

Martin and Rollinger's innovation is one of a growing number of inventions created by Ford

increase in innovation – as measured by invention disclosures is expected to reach a company record in 2016, topping last year's record of more than 6,000.

The number of inventions isn't Ford. The number of individual Ford employees creating inventions has reached record levels since the start of 2015, with more than 3,500 first-time inventors submitting new innovations, Hall said.

"The significant increase in first-time inventors is a result of our push to drive innovation in all parts of our business," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president, Product Development, and chief technical officer. "At the same time, we've ramped up global innovation challenges, where we seek new ideas compa-

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(From left) Mal, Sheikha, Gulash and Fernandez talk about creating an ideal mobility ecosystem for the future.

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

With American Flag Behind It, Silverado HD Sets Record

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Cadillac's XT5 **Awarded Top Safety Rating**

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crash prevention, it earns a superior or advanced rating, depending on the package selected.

"When equipped with both Front Automatic Braking and Low-Speed Front Automatic Braking, the SUV earns a superior rating for front crash prevention.

"In the 12 mph IIHS track test, it consistently avoided a collision

"In the 25 mph test, it avoided a collision in four out of five runs and slowed but didn't stop completely in the fifth.

"When equipped with lowspeed autobrake only, the XT5 earns an advanced rating.

"It avoided a collision in the 12 mph test, while in the 25 mph test, the impact speed was cut by 9 mph.

"Both front crash prevention packages also include forward collision warning that meets National Highway Traffic Safety Administration criteria."

The 2017 XT5 is standard with seven airbags, said Donny Cadillac spokesman Nordlicht.

OnStar's suite of emergency services, including Automatic Crash Response, is available. The XT5 also offers numerous advanced safety systems included in the Driver Awareness and Driver Assist Packages.

The Driver Awareness Package includes the Safety Alert Seat, Forward Collision Alert, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, front pedestrian detection, Front Automatic Braking headlights IntelliBeam and (automatic high beam)

It is available on the XT5 Luxury trim level and is standard on XT5 Premium Luxury and Platinum.

The Driver Assist Package includes adaptive cruise control, Automatic Safety Belt Tightening, Automatic Park Assist, Automatic Collision Braking and

They have world records for just about everything, including 'World's Largest Flag Pulled by a Moving Vehicle.'

And Chevrolet on Sept. 28 set that Guinness World Record.

Chevy did it with a 2017 Silverado HD powered by a new, more powerful version of the Duramax 6.6L V8 turbo-diesel engine, said Chevy spokesman Monte Doran.

With an SAE-certified 445 horsepower (332 kW) and 910 lb.ft. of torque (1,234 Nm) - a 19 percent increase over the current Duramax 6.6L - the new engine produces the most torque ever in a Chevrolet vehicle, for exceptional pulling power and effortless trailering and hauling. That includes flying nearly 3,200square-foot flags.

'This is something we first did for the Indy 500 this year," Doran said. "We used a 30- by 50-foot flag for the driver introduction before the race started. And it was a huge hit with consumers. You could hear the roar of the crowd before you could actually see the flag coming. What we then decided was to see if it could be certified as a world record.

"The people at Guiness said the flag had to be larger than 250 square meters to be a record. We decided if you're going to go, go big. This flag is 296 square meters.

"It was an amazing thing to watch the flag go around. It gives vou goose bumps seeing an American flag this big flapping in the breeze as it's being pulled by a truck.'

"The Duramax 6.6L's 445 horsepower and 910 pound-feet of torque are dramatic numbers, deserving of a dramatic introduction," said Sandor Piszar, Chevrolet Truck marketing director.

"And it's all the more fitting to introduce it on the eve of the State Fair of Texas, in the country's largest truck market.'

The United States flag flown by the Silverado HD for the recordsetting drive measured nearly 40 by 80 feet, with an area of 3,186 square feet, Doran said.

This 2017 Chevrolet Silverado HD set a Guinness World Record last month for pulling the biggest flag. To set the record, the truck had to travel 100 meters (328 feet) without the flag touching the ground. The Silverado more than exceeded that requirement, completing four laps around the Texas Motor Speedway's 1.5-mile

oval. Chevrolet actually created two flags for the event, Doran said, the U.S. flag used for the world record and a State of Texas flag to commemorate the start of the 2016 State Fair of Texas. Both flags will be on display at the State Fair through Oct. 23.

Unique 40-foot riggings on the trucks were designed to fold rearward, enabling the Silverado HDs to quickly enter and exit the track, Doran said.

That design requirement made it impossible to enable a driving roll-out of the massive flags. Instead, a team of 20 people launched and retrieved the flags, ensuring they did not touch the ground.

"The new Duramax delivers impressive output, but what customers will appreciate the most is an improved driving experience," said Eric Stanczak, Silverado chief engineer.

"It delivers quicker acceleration in virtually all measures, more confidence when trailering up a steep grade, better engine braking on descent and more refined noise levels cruising on the highway.'

The new Duramax 6.6L, Doran said, represents a next-generation redesign, featuring an all-

new, stronger cylinder block and rotating assembly, as well as a new, GM-developed control system.

The Duramax's signature lowrpm torque production hasn't changed, said Doran, offering 90 percent of peak torque at a low 1,550 rpm and sustaining it through 2,850 rpm.

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Tesla Updates Its Autopilot

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla Motors says a software update to its Autopilot system will disable automatic steering if drivers don't keep their hands on the wheel.

The update also adds multiple features, including improved radar, better voice commands and an industry-first temperature control system that helps prevent kids and pets from overheating.

Tesla started moving the update to Model X SUV and Model S sedan owners Sept. 22 over the internet.

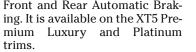
Autopilot system, Tesla's which was unveiled last fall, uses

Critics questioned whether the system was ready to be on the road this summer after a driver using Autopilot was killed when his Model S sedan struck a tractor-trailer in Florida

Tesla says the software update should help avoid crashes, since it will enhance the radar system and make Tesla's vehicles rely more on radar signals - which can see through snow, bright sun and other weather conditions than cameras. The new radar can detect braking in cars up to two lengths ahead and has a clearer picture of the road than the previous version.







These features are required for the XT5 to earn the TSP+ rating

cameras and radar to maintain a set speed, brake automatically and change lanes without the driver's input. Drivers can keep their hands off the wheel for minutes at a time, depending on road conditions.



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"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

Chrysler's Windsor Team Helps United Way Fund

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

competing for the sought-after Guts and Glory Cup, up from the 18 teams that competed in 2015, Price said.

The 2016 Ram Tough Truck championship Pull team, "Integrity Tool & Mold Inc.," took home the trophy with a combined time of 56.90 minutes over three pulls.

The event raised a cumulative donation of nearly \$77,639 (and counting) to support the United Way/Centraide Windsor-Essex County as part of their annual fundraising campaign, Price said.

Since the Ram Tough Truck Pull's inception in 2013, the event has generated more than \$181,000 toward local outreach programs.

The funds raised by the Ram Tough Truck Pull will help United Way in taking bold action against poverty across Windsor and Essex County.

United Way projects include:

• Healthy and fresh food so kids and families don't go hungry

• Emergency Assistance to help people get through tough times when there's nowhere else to turn;

• After-school programs to give kids a safe place to go and get homework help:

• Programs that help kids



Reid Bigland

graduate through mentorship and support, and counseling programs that reduce stress for parents

"To pay homage to our Ram trucks," said Reid Bigland, president and CEO, FCA Canada, "we are proud to award the coveted Guts, Glory, Ram Cup to the winning team.

"This cup symbolizes the hard work, strength and teamwork that is needed to overcome obstacles.

"This is our fourth year sponsoring the Ram Tough Truck Pull through the FCA Foundation. By underwriting the cost of the event for United Way, 100 percent of the funds collected are used to help those in need in Windsor-Essex."

Chrysler Cheers Jeep Compass Production

In celebration of the start of production at Fiat Chrysler's Jeep Assembly Plant in Goiana, Pernambuco, the Jeep brand introduced the new 2017 Jeep Compass Sept. 26 in Brazil.

Fiat Chrysler spokesman Todd Goyer called the new Compass "a truly global all-new compact SUV" and said that it will be produced with fuel-efficient powertrain options for consumers in more than 100 countries around the world.

The new Jeep Compass, said Goyer, expands the brand's global reach with "an unmatched combination of attributes that includes best-in-class 4x4 off-road capability, advanced fuel-efficient powertrains, premium and authentic Jeep design, superior on-road driving dynamics, openair freedom, and a host of safety and advanced technology offerings.

Jeep released specifications on the 2017 Compass in early September. Highlights include:

• The 2017 Jeep Compass is powered by the 2.0-liter I-4 World Gas Engine, which produces 158 horsepower and 141 lb.-ft. of torque, mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

• The 2017 Jeep Compass offers an optional 2.4-liter I-4 DOHC 16-valve dual variable-valve timing (VVT) engine, which produces 172 horsepower. Optional transmissions include the CVT2 transmission, the Powertech sixspeed automatic transmission or the continuously-variable



Critics see the Compass' resemblance to the Grand Cherokee.

with low range transaxle (CVT2L) with the Freedom Drive II Off-road Package that delivers a 19:1 overall crawl ratio.

· Jeep Compass will be available in three drivetrain configurations - standard front-wheel drive, available Freedom Drive I and the Trail-rated Freedom Drive II Off-road Package.

• Jeep Freedom Drive I 4x4 is an available full-time, active fourwheel-drive system with lock mode designed to give drivers year-round assurance with the ability to handle rough weather and low-traction conditions.

This active four-wheel-drive system is recommended for daily use, including slick conditions that come with rain and light snow. Freedom Drive I also features a lockable center coupling,

giving drivers the ability to put the Jeep Compass in four-wheeldrive lock mode to handle deep snow, sand and other low-traction surfaces.

• The Jeep Freedom Drive II 4x4 Off-road Package is an available four-wheel-drive system that delivers Jeep Trail-Rated capability in Compass form.

The new Jeep Compass will be available in North America in the first quarter of 2017. The Jeep Compass will also be built in the United States at the Fiat Chrysler Belvidere (Ill.) Assembly Plant, Goyer said.

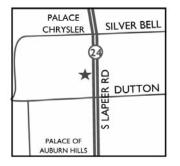
Additional images and information about the new Compass will be available at the vehicle's North American debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November, Goyer said.



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Ford Employees' Creativity Pumps Out Ideas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ny-wide and then – coupled with input from employees - see how we can further those ideas.'

Ford innovations highlighted recently at the company's annual "Further with Ford Trends" conference include a passenger-centric, remote-control SYNC system that could give ride-sharing passengers control of the infotainment screen; and a transportable device that can move people and objects short distances where cars aren't accessible.

Martin's idea to turn cars into a source of water boils down to the reality that fresh water is a scarce resource.

"All that water going to waste should be recovered to serve a purpose," said Martin. "The real vision is that this idea could eventually help people who don't have easy access to water, in remote locations such as the Australian Outback, for example."

As an explanation for his work on this project, he said, "I'm trying to make my twin daughters proud, and make the world a better place for them.'

To test his idea, Martin discovered that a car can produce more than 64 ounces of water per hour, the equivalent of nearly four water bottles. Naturally, this means fewer roadside stops to pick up bottled water on a road trip, a nice convenience, along with fewer plastic bottles filling trash heaps.

But the benefits extend much further, potentially curbing the global water crisis, which, according to the World Health Organization, affects one in 10 people and leaves hundreds of millions without clean drinking water.

Innovation comes easily to Martin, who holds roughly 70 auto-related patents. After graduating with bachelor's and mas-

Apple

Pie Blizzard

ter's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, he came to work for Ford. He's been with the company for 22 years.

This Ford innovator envisions a day in which people might say, "I can't believe we used to waste all that water."

Hall said this idea is just one of the many great ideas generated by Ford employees.

For example, when the question came up about empowering the passenger in a ride-sharing service who typically has little control over the journey, a few Ford employees had an answer.

For Ford's Oleg Gusikhin, Omar Makke and Jeff Yeung, the challenge was easily addressed through their experience working with Ford SYNC.

"By rethinking mobile connectivity from the passenger's perspective, we saw how we can use smartphones to give riders control through SYNC without the need to be directly paired via Bluetooth," said Gusikhin.

Ultimately, this thinking spawned a new software invention - SYNC Remote Control -Hall said. With the support of Ford's Perry MacNeille and Jack Van Hoecke, the idea evolved in a matter of months into a remote function that allows passengers to control SYNC features like radio and climate settings.

When a passenger gets into a ride-sharing car, he or she taps a mobile device that automatically opens an app interface that gives him or her control of the radio and climate.

Eventually, any controllable feature, like the passenger seat and more, could be added. It works, because it uses opensource software to connect the rider's phone to SYNC through the driver's phone - without additional pairing.

Apple vs.Pumpkin

A Blizzard Battle

The software includes a translation feature for when driver and rider don't speak the same language. The rider simply types what he or she wants to say into the phone, and SYNC conveys it in the language of the driver.

'You don't have to talk long to Gusikhin, Makke, Yeung and the support team to tell they're as excited as anyone about a future in which the smartphone becomes the main way to not only order, but also manage, your ride," Hall said.

"Effectively, your smartphone becomes your car, helping personalize and control your journey in a way that's familiar to you."

In another example, Kilian Vas, a Ford systems engineer in Cologne, Germany, knows that the last part of any urban commute can be tricky.

"You've just stepped off the train, or drove into and parked in the city, and you still need to walk or bike to your destination," Hall said.

So when Ford issued an innovation challenge for a device to help people handle city life and get around town, the forwardthinking Vas couldn't help but answer. For many, his innovation a four-wheeled electric pedestrian assistant called Carr-E - is a welcome alternative to getting around the city.

Carr-E's multipurpose functionality separates it from other electric personal transportation devices. In addition to carrying riders, Carr-E can be used to transport heavy objects. Users simply place the object on the device and it will follow an electronic transmitter they keep in their possession.

Vas was inspired to create the device's compact, circular design, Hall said, when he noticed the empty space inside the spare

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wheel well of his car. Commuters can easily store it in a vehicle, then pull it out and use it in places where cars aren't permitted or practical.

This Carr-E device is one of Ford's many new inventions.

"Innovation is really important for me," said Vas, who collaborated with colleagues Daniel Hari and Dr. Uwe Wagner, and worked with designers from Ford of Europe and prototyping specialists from RWTH Aachen University to create Carr-E.

"I was inspired by Ford's expansion into both an auto and a mobility company, as well as our founder Henry Ford's dedication to transforming transportation."

Vas has been innovating since coming to Ford three years ago with a bachelor's degree in automotive engineering and a master's in mechanical engineering, both from the University of Applied Science Dortmund, Hall said.

Vas's first innovation at Ford, a head restraint that folds to allow space for a child seat and has foldable wings for napping, was patented.

Free Adult Dental Care

providing adults with free dental care on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Wortman's efforts are part of a larger effort by the organization Dentistry From The Heart, said group spokeswoman Michelle Sotil.

"In 2001, Dentistry From The Heart started with Dr. Vincent Monticciolo as a way to giving back to the community and provide aid to the growing number of Americans without dental in-

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Dr. Krista L. Wortman will be surance," Sotil said. "Dentistry From The Heart has grown to include over 200 annual events nationwide and around the world. More than 80,000 people have now been served. Free extractions, fillings and cleanings are offered."

Wortman's practice, called Summit Family Dental, is located at 8136 21 Mile Road in Shelby Township, Sotil said.

Those interested in setting up an appointment should call 586-726-0606. The contact is Denye.

Dentistry From The Heart is based in New Port Richey, Fla., Sotil said, and is a worldwide nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free dental care to those in need. The work is done by dentists and hygienists volunteering time and resources.

Chrysler Orders Large Recall of 2010-2014 Cars

DETROIT (AP) - Fiat Chrysler Automobiles said Sept. 15 it's recalling more than 1.9 million vehicles worldwide because their air bags might not deploy in a crash.

The recall affects certain Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Lancia vehicles from the 2010-2014 model years. Most are in the U.S., but 224,860 were sold in Canada and Mexico and 284,051 were sold outside North Ameri-



Pumpkin

Blizzarď





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FCA says an airbag and seatbelt control module with a certain wiring design may not deploy the air bags or tighten the seat belts if the vehicle is involved in a frontal crash. That could increase the risk of injury.

FCA says it's aware of three deaths and five injuries that may be related to the issue.

FCA will contact owners and replace the defective parts for free. The vehicles involved are:

- 2010 Chrysler Sebring;
- 2010 Chrysler Cirrus;
- 2011-2014 Chrysler 200;
- 2010-2012 Dodge Caliber;
- 2010-2014 Dodge Avenger;
- 2010-2014 Jeep Patriot;
- 2010-2014 Jeep Compass;
- 2012-2013 Lancia Flavia.

The recall is unrelated to General Motors Co.'s recent recall of more than 4 million vehicles with faulty air bag and seat belt modules. In that recall, a software glitch, not a wiring problem, was the issue.

now

Pruett.



"My dream is to work in trauma, where only the most prepared and capable CSTs and CSFAs work, ready for any case," said Spiewak. Kavanaugh said Platinum Educational Group last year launched its inaugural scholarships program geared at EMS students. The company has since expanded its product line to include the nursing and allied health fields and its 2016 scholarships program to support students obtaining higher education in these healthcare industries, According to Platinum CEO Doug Smith, the scholarship program goal is to provide students entering the EMS, nursing and allied health fields with assistance funding his or her education. A former high school teacher and paramedic, Smith said that with the rising costs of tuition and program fees, it's an honor to assist others embarking on their dream of providing needed healthcare services.



World Mobility Forum Raises Issues on Autonomous Cars

Piquette Plant That Changed World Now Open

PAGE 6

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Fans of Detroit's automotive history can again visit the plant where Henry Ford first created the assembly line and built the first Model Ts.

The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant has reopened to the public. Visiting hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tours are held at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. The site is located at 61 Piquette Avenue in Detroit. Call 313-872-8759 for more information

According to the Piquette Plant Web site, "the Model T was revolutionary. Inexpensive, lightweight, durable, and easy to drive and repair, it was a great value for ordinary families. It quickly became the most popular car on the planet."

interview with Tech Center News in response to a panel discussion titled, "Creating an Ideal Mobility Ecosystem for the Future."

The three panelists - Chuck Gulash. director of Collaborative Safety Research at Toyota; Mudassir Sheikha, co-founder and managing director of the ride service Careen in Dubai; and Steven Fernandez, director of Investor Relations for Abertis Infraestructuras in Spain - talked about what infrastructure would be needed for future mobility and how to make that infrastructure possible.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gulash said the first thing to remember is that any infrastructure must be seamless. It must work without anyone having to think about it.

Fernandez said that new infra-

structure will only be possible through a partnership between government and "stakeholders" who will use the system. They will have to work together to discover the problems and find the solutions.

Sheikha said that he has another consideration. His company operates across the Middle East. There isn't a lot of infrastructure there, he said, but governments are willing to work with his company as a way of building a new kind of infrastructure.

Moderator Andreas Mal, director of Smart Connected Vehicles - Cisco Systems, said that ride sharing isn't all that popular in the U.S. or in Europe. He asked, how is that a solution to the problems of congestion and pollution?

Fernandez said that it's important for local governments to sit

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down and work out solutions to make sure there is no disconnect between the development of technologies and the infrastructure to support them.

"It's like owning a 5G phone," Fernandez said. "It does you no good to own such a phone if you live in an area without 5G service.

Fernandez added that there is no such thing as a free road. These new technologies built into the infrastructure of roads, such as charging stations or sensor systems to guide automated vehicles, he said, will have to be paid for somehow.

"I believe the private sector can be a bridge between drivers and roads," Fernandez said. "But all the people in the private sector will have to get value for their investment. In France, they have separate lanes that can be used to charge electric cars.³

Gulash said Toyota views itself as a mobility company now and that means vehicles having access to data provided by road infrastructure. That will be critical in the future.

In a separate speech, Jose Viegas, secretary-general of the International Transport Forum, which represents 57 nations, talked about share mobility solutions for livable cities.

Viegas said that traditional public transportation isn't the solution. The more transfers someone has to use to get to one place or another, the worse the system will work.

"If you have to use three transfers to get to work every day," Viegas said. "It's almost certain that at least once a week one of those three links will experience a problem - which is bad for people who depend on the system."

What if, Viegas said, public transportation worked differently? What if there were electric buses or cars that would pick up people and take them to the places they needed to go. The cars would only hold, say, four people and the buses would be small, holding only about 16 people.

A simulation using this system based on the traffic conditions of Lisbon, Portugal, showed that traffic would be greatly reduced,



Emily Castor

there would be no need for parking and it would improve air quality. Further simulations will be done using the cities of Dublin, Ireland, and Auckland, New Zealand.

Viegas said space would be freed up for walking as well. This system would require a limitation on the number of private vehicles in the particular zones where this system would operate and there would be a need to develop new governance models. He noted that cities like London and Paris already have private vehicle limits in certain parts of those cities.

Castor predicted that, within a decade, private cars could be gone from cities. She said that as technology improves, fleets of automated cars connected via Lyft apps on smart devices would come and pick up people and take them where they needed to go.

When questioned by the media, she said that, over the next decade, vehicles would transition from just human drivers to human drivers using assisted driving technology to automated cars. These cars would operate in what are referred to as "geo fences" zones. These zones would have the infrastructure needed to guide automated vehicles.

Castor said visionaries at Lyft imagine that people would buy transportation plans in a manner similar to the way they buy cell phone time. One plan might give someone 200 miles a month, another 400 miles.

Vinnie Johnson's Business Buys Takata Subsidiary

Takata.

DETROIT (AP) – Troubled air bag maker Takata Corp. of Japan is selling its automotive interior trim and seating material operation, raising cash as its inflator recall costs continue to mount.

The Japanese company is selling Pontiac-based Irvin Automotive Products to Piston Group, an auto parts supplier run by former Detroit Pistons guard Vinnie Johnson. The sale price wasn't disclosed, but Piston Group, based in suburban Detroit, said in a statement Sept. 28 that Irvin has annual sales of \$500 million. Takata faces billions in costs for what is now the largest auto recall in U.S. history. Its inflators can explode with too much force, spewing shrapnel. They've been linked to at least 15 deaths and more than 100 injuries worldwide.

yen (\$19.8 million), down 33 percent from the same period the previous year. Tokyo-based Takata, which had two straight years of losses over the recalls, has said it will return to the black this fiscal year, although some analysts note that recall costs now being paid by automakers eventually will be billed to

Takata also faces class-action lawsuits and possible government fines over its defective air bag inflators.



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The company is recalling 69 million inflators in the U.S. and around 100 million across the globe.

"For Takata, this transaction gives us additional financial flexibility and enables us to focus on our safety operations, with a particular focus on managing the complex, global airbag recalls alongside our automotive customers and regulators," Takata CEO Shigehisa Takada said in a statement.

In August, Takata reported a second-quarter profit of 2 billion

Takata has hired the advisory firm Lazard to engineer a restructuring of its finances, likely with the help of some of its biggest customers. An air bag analyst has estimated the cost of making and distributing replacement inflators could cost more than \$20 billion.

Honda, Toyota and Fiat Chrysler are among the biggest customers for Takata inflators. In all, 17 automakers are affected by the recalls. Many automakers have said they will stop using Takata air bag inflators in models under development, and they will be billing Takata for the recall costs.

Analysts expect Takata to go through a bankruptcy restructuring to shed some recall costs, with investors taking control of the company and changing its management.

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Is Premium Gas Worth It?

DETROIT (AP) - There is no gas, while 16 percent are resense paying a premium for premium gasoline if your car is designed to run on regular, according to research by the automobile club AAA.

Some drivers occasionally like to treat their cars to higher-octane fuel in the belief it boosts performance. But premium blends can cost around 50 cents a gallon more than regular.

AAA says it's just money out the tailpipe - lots of it. In a national survey on gasoline use, AAA said 16.5 million U.S. drivers spent \$2.1 billion they didn't need to in the past year on premium gasoline.

Many think premium means quality. But AAA researchers found that while it has more octane, it didn't increase horsepower or fuel economy, decrease emissions or clean engines any better than regular gas in cars that are designed by the manufacturer to run on 87octane regular.

"Drivers see the 'premium' name at the pump and may assume the fuel is better for their vehicle," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of automotive engineering.

However, if your owner's manual specifically says to run your car on 93 octane premium or 89 octane mid-grade gas, you should do it to make it perform optimally, according to the researchers. More luxury and performance brands are using turbocharging or supercharging to get better performance out of smaller engines, and those may require premium gas, Nielsen said

AAA researchers joined with the Automobile Club of Southern California to test V8, V6 and fourcylinder engines, coming up with the same results each time, Nielsen said.

Seventy percent of U.S. drivers own vehicles that require regular

quired to use premium fuel. The rest, about 14 percent, must use at least mid-grade gas or have an alternative fuel such as electricity, AAA says.

People also waste money on gasoline in another key way, according to AAA. Earlier this year, the association studied fuel quality at a number of gas stations to see if some were better than others.

Researchers found that brands that meet the industry's "Top Tier" standards had better additives that prevented ash deposits on valves and cleaned engines better than non-Top Tier brands. And the Top Tier gasoline usually costs about the same as other brands, the association said.

Researchers found that ash deposits could cause cars to hesitate. run rough and make the engines run less efficiently, Nielsen said.

Generally, the major brands meet the Top Tier standards, including BP, Exxon, Mobil, Amoco and Shell. But lesser-known brands also are in there, such as Holiday, Costco and Kwik Star.

Chrysler Granted State Incentives

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan is giving Fiat Chrysler nearly \$4.6 million in incentives to retool a suburban Detroit factory so it can make Ram pickup trucks as part of a plan to add 700 jobs.

The Michigan Strategic Fund approved the performance-based grant Sept. 27, saying the automaker could have built a new assembly plant or moved production to other existing plants. The incentive is part of Fiat Chrysler's previously announced investment in July of \$1.5 billion to retool its Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.







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Cadillac Racing driver Johnny O'Connell was the big winner at the Pirelli World Challenge (PWC) Grand Prix of Sonoma presented by Cadillac on Sept. 18.

Based upon their fast laps from Race One on Sept. 17, O'Connell (Flowery Branch, Ga.) took the green flag for Race Two with teammate Michael Cooper (Syosset, N.Y.) in fifth on the GT grid.

O'Connell was able to get a signature Cadillac start by passing two cars before Turn 1. Timing the drop of the green allowed him to miss what was to come – a carousel melee that had competitors bottled up in the long left turn resulting in race car carnage.

The aggression of the competitors behind him allowed O'Connell to get a gap on the first lap and he was able to manage the gift to his second race win of the weekend and third on the season, the first coming at the Circuit of America's season opening race weekend in March.

"I was laser-focused on the starter with the green flag," O'Connell said. "I had the revs up on the Cadillac ATS-V.R Coupe and was able to drive by the McLarens.

"I guess there was a lot of action behind me in the carousel and when I exited the last turn on the first lap, I had a pretty nice gap. Then when I came around on lap two I saw parts and pieces in the track from the lap one action.

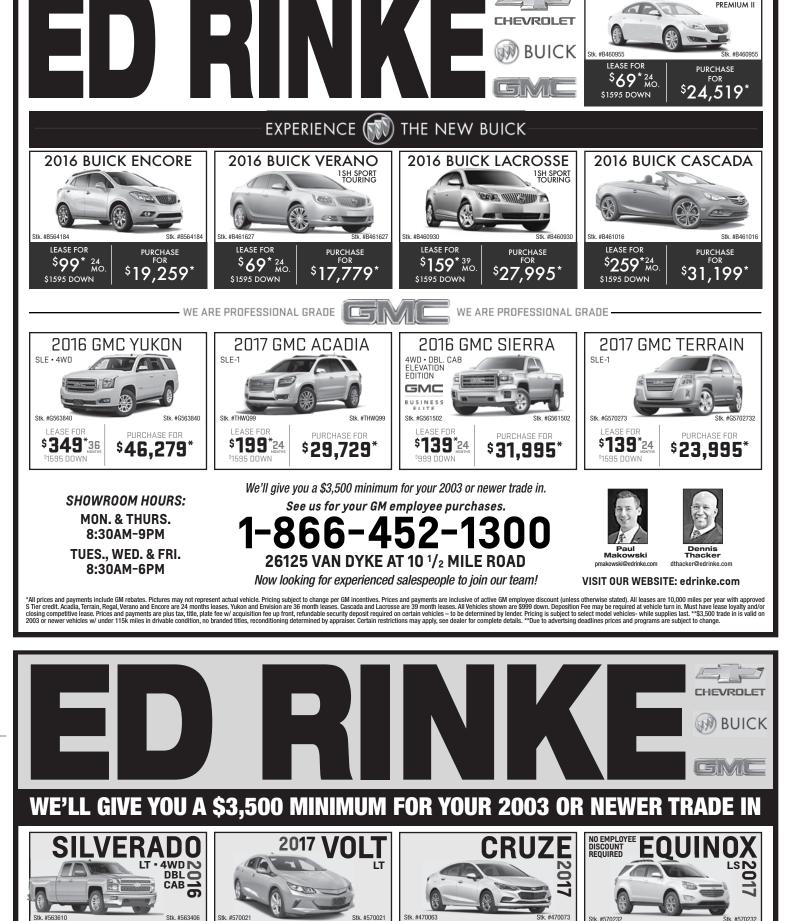
"It was a good weekend for Cadillac. I tell people this team is like Joe Montana. He was always a fourth-quarter player and we are headed to Laguna Seca with still a chance."

Teammate Cooper was one of those caught up in the carousel carnage. He hit the McLaren of Alvaro Parente, causing damage to the Cadillac ATS-V.R Coupe and had to pit for repairs, sending him down a lap where he was classified in 21st at the finish.

"I got bottled up at the start a little and was behind Alvaro going into the carousel," Cooper said. "It started to stack up and I got into the back of him, I just had nowhere to go. As a result, I had to pit for some body work removal and that sent us down a lap.

"I feel bad for the guys, as they worked very hard on the Cadillac since Utah to set it up for the nuances of this track. It paid off Johnny."

CEO Carlos Ghosn Not Yet Ready to Give Up on Diesel



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PARIS (AP) – Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn isn't ready to give up on diesel – though he admits that tougher emissions rules emerging from the Volkswagen scandal are a boon to his company's bet on electric cars.

In an interview Sept. 29 with *The Associated Press* at the Paris auto show, Ghosn said, "Without any doubt, we will continue to develop diesel," particularly for SUVs and other high-range cars.

Renault also invested early and big in electric cars, and he added, "Anything that goes toward more electric cars is good for us." Renault unveiled its latest Zoe electric car model Sept. 29, with 400 kilometers (240 miles) of autonomy.

European authorities are tightening environmental rules and investigating carmakers after Volkswagen was found to have used engine software to cheat on United States diesel emissions tests.