

Army, GM Develop Special Off-Road-Capable Colorado ZH2

Talk about an extreme concept vehicle.

The Chevrolet Colorado ZH2 is the most extreme off-road-capable fuel-cell-powered electric vehicle ever produced by General Motors.

Standing more than 6½ feet tall and more than seven feet wide, the ZH2 was revealed Oct. 3 at the Washington, D.C. fall meeting of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

The Colorado ZH2 was built on a stretched midsize pickup chassis, said GM spokesman Alan Adler.

Reinforced inside and out, the ZH2 rides on 37-inch tires and a specially modified suspension that helps the vehicle climb over and descend all manner of terrain.

The U.S. Army will test the Colorado ZH2 in extreme field conditions next year to determine the viability of hydrogen-powered vehicles on military missions, said GM spokesman Alan Adler.

The ZH2 features an Exportable Power Take-Off unit (EPTO) that allows the fuel cell to power activity away from the vehicle, such as remote locations where electric power may otherwise be unavailable.

GM and the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Adler said, collaborat-

ed to develop the Colorado ZH2 from contract to concept in less than a year.

GM is leveraging a range of advanced technologies for multiple applications, including military.

"The speed with which innovative ideas can be demonstrated and assessed is why relationships with industry are so important to the Army," said Paul Rogers, director of TARDEC.

"Fuel cells have the potential to expand the capabilities of Army vehicles significantly through quiet operation, exportable power and solid torque performance, all advances that drove us to investigate this technology further."

The Army will evaluate the ZH2 fuel cell for:

- Near-silent operation enabling silent watch capability;
- Reduced acoustic and thermal signatures;
- High wheel torque at all speeds via electric drive;
- Low fuel consumption across operating range;
- Water by-product for field uses.

GM and TARDEC have fuel cell development laboratories located 20 miles apart in southeast Michigan, Adler said.

Most of the Colorado ZH2 was assembled in GM's Advanced Vehicle Integration facility in Warren. Calibration testing at



Fuel-cell-powered electric Chevrolet Colorado ZH2 test vehicle

GM's Milford Proving Ground will continue into early 2017, when the vehicle will be turned over to the Army for a year of field testing.

"The Colorado ZH2 is a terrific example of GM's engineering and design skill in creating an off-road vehicle relevant to a range of potential users," said Charlie Freese, executive director of GM Global Fuel Cell Activities.

"Over the next year, we expect to learn from the Army the limits of what a fuel cell propulsion system can do when really put to the test."

The Colorado ZH2 contract is GM's second vehicle develop-

ment with a U.S. military branch announced this year. In June, the U.S. Navy unveiled a GM fuel cell-powered Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (UUV) that is currently in pool testing before eventual deployment, Adler said.

The UUV leverages GM fuel cell technology common with the Colorado ZH2, demonstrating the flexibility to power a range of mobile and stationary devices.

General Motors has accumulated 3.1 million miles of hydrogen fuel cell testing via Project Driveway, a 119-vehicle fleet driven by more than 5,000 people in a multi-year fuel cell experience program.

Avenir Expected To Attract Future Luxury Buyers

Buick customers soon will be introduced to a new Avenir sub-brand designed to grow with the needs of future luxury buyers.

That, according to Duncan Aldred, vice president of Global Buick Sales, Service and Marketing, is because "Buick is becoming a world brand," he said.

As a result, said Aldred, around the world, a growing set of new customers are discovering unexpected and attainable luxury experiences from Buick.

"These customers aren't the traditional Buick buyer," he said, "and Buick would like to offer vehicles that match up with the brand's growing and shifting demographics."

The Avenir sub-brand is inspired by Buick's evolving customer base.

This makes sense, Aldred said, because the brand has grown quickly with female buyers, and one in two Buick customers today are coming from competitive brands.

"They're expecting a high-end experience and premium quality. For example, 90 percent of Enclave buyers purchase one of the top two trim levels," Aldred said.

The name, "Avenir," French for

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NADA Head Says Group a Major Aid For Auto Buyers

by Jim Stickford

Auto dealers make the best advocates for the interests of auto buyers.

At least, that was the message of National Automobile Dealer Association (NADA) Chairman Jeff Carlson, who spoke to the Automotive Press Association at the Detroit Athletic Club on Oct. 5.

He began his talk by saying that NADA got its start in 1917 to oppose a movement by the federal government to tax automobiles as a luxury item.

"That might have made sense 10 years earlier, when cars were still rare, but by 1915, Ford made 570,000 vehicles and GM made 216,000 vehicles," Carlson said.

"The world had changed and people had come to depend on their motor vehicles and cars had become affordable."

As a result of this government proposal, Carlson said, several auto dealers got together to lobby Congress against the proposed luxury tax. Congress listened, but the dealers decided it made sense for them to stick together as an organization that could protect the interests of both dealers and the public.

Thus, NADA was born. The organization continues the work to this day.

"If Washington wanted to implement a policy that would add \$600 to the cost of financing a new car, what would you call that?" Carlson said. "What about a policy that would take anywhere from \$1,200 to \$6,000 out



2016 Chevrolet Malibu



2017 Jeep Patriot



2016 Ford Expedition

Three GM Brands' Sales Up

General Motors sold 204,449 vehicles to individual or "retail" customers in the U.S. in September. Combined with fleet sales of 45,346, GM sold a total of 249,795.

Chevrolet's retail sales in September grew 1 percent, while Buick and Cadillac retail sales rose 7 percent and 5 percent, respectively, said GM spokesman Dan Flores. Fleet sales accounted for 18.2 percent of GM's September sales.

And based on initial estimates,

GM's retail market share rose 0.3 percentage points in September to 16.6 percent, the largest retail share gain of any full-line manufacturer, Flores said. GM has gained retail market share in 15 of the past 18 months, dating to April 2015.

Chevrolet is the main driver of GM's sales. The brand gained 0.3 percentage points of retail share in September to 11 percent, Flores said, selling a total of

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Ram Truck Posts Huge Gains

Fiat Chrysler has reported U.S. September sales of 192,883 units, a 1 percent decrease compared with sales in September 2015 (194,666 units), said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ralph Kiesel.

Broken down, Fiat Chrysler's retail sales were 146,453 units in September, while fleet sales were 46,430 units, Kiesel said. Retail sales represented 76 percent of total sales, while fleet sales were 24 percent.

The big winner for the company was the Ram Truck brand, which posted a 27 percent sales gain in September compared with the same month a year ago, as pickup truck sales increased 29 percent year over year, Kiesel said.

And both the Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger turned in double-digit percentage increases in September while the Jeep

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Lincoln Sales See Big Jump

Ford Transit vans' U.S. sales grew 6 percent last month with 10,799 vans sold. Overall, Ford U.S. September sales totaled 204,447 vehicles, an 8 percent decline versus a year ago.

"So there were a couple factors that really shaped September for us," said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle.

"One of them is Ford had its strongest year-over-year comparison of the year in September, so we had an incredibly good

September a year ago where retail sales and overall sales were up 23 percent, so (this year) we had a very difficult year-over-year comparison. In addition to that, and as we have been talking about throughout the year, our sales for the year would be more front-end-loaded with fleet, but the second half of the year, the fleet sales would dissipate and that's exactly what we saw."

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Chrysler Sales In September Up Slightly

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Grand Cherokee posted an 18 percent sales gain.

Sales of the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica minivan increased 23 percent in September, versus sales in August of last year. Sales of the new 2017 Fiat 124 Spider, the latest addition to the Fiat brand product lineup, were up 7 percent in September, compared with August 2015.

Ram Truck brand sales, which include the Ram pickup, Ram ProMaster and Ram ProMaster City, were driven by the strong 29 percent increase in Ram pickup truck sales, Kisiel said. In addition, Ram ProMaster sales are up 17 percent year over year. Ram Truck brand sales are up 11 percent calendar year to date, compared with the same nine months in 2015.

Jeep brand sales were down 3 percent in September compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. The Jeep Grand Cherokee posted an 18 percent sales gain in September, compared with the same month in 2015. In addition, Jeep Patriot sales were up a strong 33 percent versus September a year ago.

On the other hand, Wrangler sales went from 17,486 in September of 2015 to 14,255 in 2016 – a decline of 18 percent. Compass sales declined 16 percent from September to September, going from 7,701 in 2015 to 6,482 in 2016. Cherokee sales declined 12 percent, going from 20,484 to 17,995, while Renegade sales declined 13 percent, going from 7,774 to 6,776.

Overall, Kisiel said, the news for the Jeep brand is good for 2016, with sales up 12 percent calendar year to date, compared with the first three quarters of 2015.

Dodge brand sales were down 6 percent in September compared with the same month a year ago, Kisiel said. But, the Dodge Charger and Dodge Challenger each posted year-over-year sales gains in September. Charger sales were up 35 percent, selling 10,056 compared with 7,466, while the Challenger turned in a 19 percent sales gain in the month, going from 4,771 to 5,698.

In addition, the Dodge Journey crossover recorded a 6 percent year-over-year increase, Kisiel said, selling 12,091 in 2016 versus 11,442 in 2015. Dodge brand sales are up 2 percent calendar year to date compared with the first nine months in 2015.

Chrysler brand sales were down 27 percent in September versus the same month in 2015. The 200's sales in September went from 9,944 in 2015 to 3,185, Kisiel said. The 300 saw a 17 percent decline in September. Chrysler sold 6,606 in 2015 compared with sales of 5,459 in 2016.

The 2017 Chrysler Pacifica minivan posted 9,172 units in September, up 23 percent compared with August 2015.

Healthy Dealerships Are Best Advocates for the Public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of a customer's pocket when they went to trade in a used vehicle in order to buy a new one?

How about a policy that would add thousands of dollars to every single new vehicle that every manufacturer makes, up and down their entire lineups, right out of the gate?

Or, what if new-car buyers had to pay hundreds of dollars more at the retail level because Washington thought it was no longer beneficial to consumers to have multiple, independent retailers competing with each other for the same customers?

"Leaving aside what Washington calls it, what would that feel like as a customer? Do you think that customer feels like they just got taxed? You're darn right they do."

Carlson said that the government has good intentions, that safety regulations are important. He said controlling greenhouse emissions matters – and improved vehicle mileage helps everyone.

But, all too often, he said, the proposals the government develops to achieve these goals have the potential for unintended consequences, including increasing the cost of purchasing a new car. And, when monthly payments move from, say, \$400 to \$460, it affects the ability of many to purchase cars and that affects the economy as a whole.

And, Carlson said, having



NADA Chairman Jeff Carlson talking about the group's history.

healthy dealership networks competing for customers only benefits the consumer.

Because, Carlson said, dealers will give discounts and work with customers to get them the best deal. If they don't, their competition will.

Carlson, when asked by members of the media what he thought of Elon Musk's plan to have no dealer network for Teslas, said that every state has to look to their residents and decide what's best for them.

"Either they can continue to support the franchised dealers' discount of up to \$700, or the choice for policy makers is they can offer the consumer a vertically integrated model that prices vehicles at retail."

Carlson quoted Musk, who

said that he expects to pay retail for his purchases, and so should Tesla buyers.

"We embrace the franchise dealership network as the most pro-consumer way to sell cars," Carlson said. "What we do at the end of the day is stick up for consumers, while helping Washington decide the most efficient ways to achieve its goals. Dealers are the solution and not the problem. And I believe consumers would also prefer the ability to get discounts over vertical integration models."

Carlson was also asked about the upcoming presidential election.

"We at NADA don't endorse presidential candidates," Carlson said. "We will wait until after the election is over before deciding

on future political actions. We do this because it is difficult to form public policy strategies before knowing who will actually be president of the United States."

Carlson was also asked about recalls and how they affect dealers. He said recalls can actually be good for dealerships because when people bring their vehicles in to be repaired, it gives dealership staff the opportunity to sit down with that customer and talk about what's new in terms of product.

But Carlson also said that recalls can also present automakers and dealers with problems because car owners have to be notified when there is a recall, even if the parts to fix the problem aren't available as is the case with Takata airbags.

Customers will be later notified that parts are available, but the problem of recall notification has kicked in.

That, Carlson said, is when a driver is notified several times of recalls with his or her car. The first couple of recalls might be over small things like the way a floor mat fits.

After getting a couple of those, Carlson said, consumers can begin to tune out recall notices, even ones for serious problems, which can mean that important recall notices are ignored.

He said it was a tricky issue and input from NADA members can only help the government develop the best policies possible concerning the issue.

A Conundrum: Who Owns Data Your Smart Car Collects?

DETROIT (AP) – Your car knows more about you than you think.

Newer cars that connect to the internet can collect vast amounts of data about drivers, such as where you went to dinner, if you broke the speed limit or if your seat belt was buckled.

When you buy a car, you cede data control to your car company. Most automakers say they won't sell information without an owner's consent. But they're not legally required to inform you if they do.

Car data is about to become big business. A new report from consulting firm McKinsey says automotive data could be worth \$450 billion to \$750 billion globally by 2030. Automakers, insurers, high-tech firms, city planners and advertisers are among those who could use data to refine services. Drivers could share data in exchange for navigation systems, or they could pay extra for perks like a parking spot finder.

Here's a primer on the emerging issue of connected-car data:

Q: Which cars collect data?

A: Just under 20 percent of new cars sold globally now can be linked to the internet, according to BI Intelligence. That figure is expected to reach 75 percent by 2020.

For example, General Motors Co. will have 12 million connected vehicles by the end of this year worldwide, which it says is the most for any automaker.

Q: Do I own data that's collected?

A: That's unclear. Under feder-

al law, drivers own data stored in event data recorders, or "black boxes," which monitor vehicles in a crash. Police and insurers need a driver's consent – or a court order – to get that data. But there are no laws addressing data collected by automakers through vehicle internet connections.

Q: How do automakers use the data?

A: It depends on the vehicle and the manufacturer. Some turn data into notifications. Cars can automatically signal for help if an air bag deploys, for example. Some will send a message if oil needs to be changed or a vehicle is being recalled.

Tesla Motors has used data to reveal – sometimes within hours of a crash – how fast the driver was going and whether or not the company's semi-autonomous Autopilot system was engaged.

Q: Can automakers sell data without my knowledge?

A: They could, depending on language in owners' manuals. But under voluntary principles established by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers in 2014, most agreed to get permission before sharing anything about a driver's location, health or behavior with third parties.

Twenty companies – including GM, Toyota, Ford, Hyundai and Mercedes-Benz – signed that agreement, which is effective by the 2017 model year.

The policy doesn't require consent for automakers to share data with emergency workers or to share it internally for research.

Q: Can I stop an automaker from collecting my data?

A: Most automakers let owners opt out, but that's usually buried in fine print, says Khaliah Barnes, former associate director of the nonprofit Electronic Privacy Information Center, who now works on privacy issues for the federal government.

Under the 2014 agreement, automakers committed to providing clear notices about data, the reasons for collecting it and where it can be shared. But that's not always happening. For example, some GM owners' manuals tell people about data storage, but they must track down separate policies to learn more, Barnes says.

Q: Are there benefits to sharing data?

A: Yes. Upon a driver's request, GM will send driving data to insurance companies like Progressive and State Farm to see if the driver qualifies for lower rates. OnStar will send coupons to your phone for businesses along your route.

Tesla collects data in order to improve cars via software updates.

There is evidence people

aren't fretting about data sharing. McKinsey found 79 percent of the 3,000 customers it interviewed in the U.S., China and Germany were willing to share. More than 70 percent were willing to pay for data-enabled services that would save time, like a parking spot finder.

Q: What's the downside to sharing data?

A: Insurance companies could require drivers to let them monitor driving before they grant a policy. They could see if you go fast around curves, accelerate too quickly or if you don't wear a seat belt. That could raise rates. You could also get overwhelmed with unwanted coupons.

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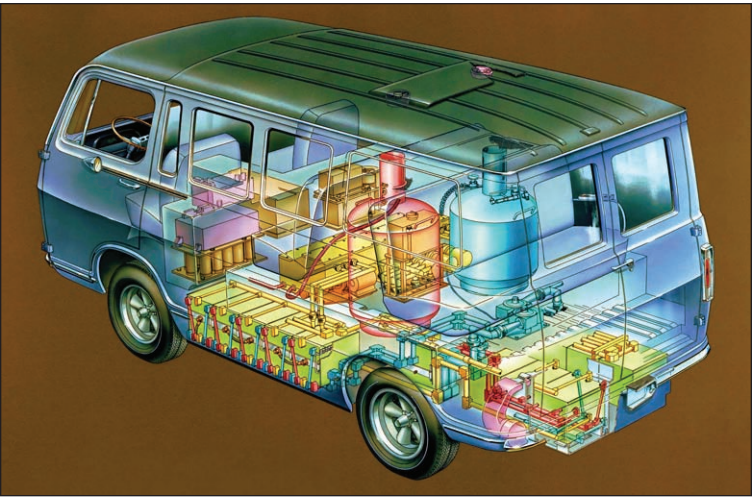
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GM's original hydrogen-powered vehicle – the Electrovan is 50 years old.

Orchestra to Hold Concerts

The Motor City (Warren) Symphony Orchestra (MCSO) has been awarded a grant of \$17,500 from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA).

The grant was awarded through the MCACA peer review process and was one of nearly 559 applications to compete for MCACA fiscal year 2016-17 funding, said MCACA spokeswoman Jessica Trepton.

The grant will allow the orchestra to present to the community two concerts this season, Trepton said.

The first is a Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Andiamo Celebrity Showroom.

"We are presenting 'A Holiday Extravaganza with the Motor City Symphony Orchestra,'" Trepton said. "Our second concert will take place on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 3 p.m., at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township.

"Tickets for the Holiday Concert may be purchased through the Andiamo Celebrity Show Room (586-268-3200). Tickets for the April concert may be purchased through the Macomb Center Box Office (586-286-2222)."

In addition, Trepton said, this grant will provide funding for annual Youth Concerts to be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 9:30 and 11 a.m. in the Warren

Woods Community Auditorium at Warren Woods Middle School, 13400 E. Twelve Mile Road.

"These concerts are supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts," Trepton said. "The MCACA peer review process allows for each grant application to be competitively considered by a panel of in-state and out-of-state arts and culture professionals. This ensures the taxpayers, who support this project through legislative appropriations, and all other visitors or residents in Michigan will have access to the highest quality arts and cultural experiences."

The Motor City Symphony Orchestra, originally named the Warren Symphony Orchestra, was first conceived in 1971, Trepton said. After two years of work, the orchestra gave its first concert. David Daniels was named its first music director in 1974.

Daniels retired as music director in 2009, Trepton said. After an extensive search, he was replaced by Gregory Cunningham in the year 2010.

MCSO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing cultural experiences and musical education throughout the tri-county area.

To learn more about the MCSO, Trepton said people should visit the group's Web site at motorcitysymphony.org.

GM's Hydrovan Celebrates Its 50th Year

The year 1966 brought the TV debuts of "Batman" and "Star Trek," which both enjoy a cult-like following 50 years later.

With less fanfare in the same season, General Motors tested the Electrovan, the world's first hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle, said GM spokesman Alan Adler.

Floyd Wyczalek, 91, was project manager of Electrovan fuel cell development and recalls the 200-person team working on the first technology transfer of fuel cells from President John F. Kennedy's 1962 challenge to NASA to safely land a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

"We had three shifts of people on this project starting in January 1966 and finishing 10 months later," Wyczalek said. "We had one running demo for the Progress of Power press conference in October that year."

Fast-forwarding to 2016, Adler said GM has invested more than \$2.5 billion in hydrogen fuel cell technology and is among patent leaders along with Honda, its collaborator since 2013 in developing a next-generation system that will be much more powerful but a fraction of the size of the equipment-crammed Electrovan, which had room for only a driver and two passengers.

Several fuel cell demo programs have helped GM amass more than 3.1 million miles of real-world experience on modern fuel cell systems. On Oct. 3 at the

Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) annual meeting and exhibition in Washington, D.C., GM revealed its latest fuel cell demo, the Chevrolet Colorado ZH2, an off-road midsize pickup that the Army will test in extreme conditions next year.

Coincidentally, Adler said, the ZH2 went from contract to completion in about 10 months, the same timing as the Electrovan. It will be the first fuel cell vehicle to wear the GM Hydrotec badge, a familial tie to the Ecotec gasoline engines.

"We see broad potential for fuel cell systems in military, aerospace and other applications while we continue on the path to a commercial vehicle," said Charlie Freese, executive director, GM

Global Fuel Cell Business. "It is pretty special to celebrate the Electrovan's 50th anniversary."

The Electrovan was strictly a test vehicle to explore hydrogen as an energy source for vehicle propulsion, Freese said.

"Fuel cell durability was performed over a period of several months in a test cell," Wyczalek said. "Driving acceleration and top speed tests were conducted on a chassis dynamometer."

Following the end of the project, the Electrovan was stored in a Pontiac warehouse for 31 years before being rediscovered in 2001.

It is now assigned for use in fuel cell displays and loaned to museums when not at home in the GM Heritage Center.



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Dundee high school students release a covey of quail from their pen at Fiat Chrysler's Dundee engine plant.

Takata Experiences New Air Bag Troubles

DETROIT (AP) – Another potentially deadly problem has surfaced with Takata air bags, this one forcing BMW to recall over 4,000 SUVs in the U.S. and Canada.

The new problem was traced to improper welds, and it's separate from the trouble that has caused the largest automotive recall in U.S. history.

The latest recall, unveiled Sept. 30 in documents posted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, affects certain BMW X3 and X4 SUVs from the 2015 model year, and X5s from 2014 and 2015. The driver's front air bag inflator can separate from a plate, shooting out metal and other debris.

"This may result in injury or

death to vehicle occupants," BMW said in the documents.

No injuries have been reported, and NHTSA says the problem inflators from this manufacturing lot were not installed in any other vehicles made by BMW or other automakers. The agency says the inflators will be tested as a precaution to make sure there are no other problems.

BMW says the inflators were not part of any earlier Takata recalls.

It's a new problem for Takata in addition to the one that brought the recall of 69 million vehicles in the U.S. and about 100 million worldwide. In those vehicles, the ammonium nitrate used by Takata to inflate air bags can deteriorate when exposed to high heat and humidity. That can

cause it to burn faster than designed, blowing apart a metal inflator canister and sending shrapnel into drivers and passengers. As many as 16 people, including 11 in the U.S., have been killed by exploding Takata inflators, and more than 100 have been hurt.

According to the documents, Takata traced the new problem to incorrect welds at a factory in Mexico. The defect was discovered after BMW was told of a July 22 crash in Georgia involving a 2014 X5 in which shrapnel from the air bag caused "unusual damage to the vehicle interior."

Dealers will replace the air bags at no cost, but parts aren't available yet. BMW plans to start notifying owners on Nov. 11.

Fiat Chrysler Unveils Covey Of Quails at Dundee Plant

As the saying goes, birds of a feather flock together. But that usually doesn't apply to a major manufacturing facility.

More than 400 pen-raised northern bobwhite quail moved to their new home, 132 acres of authentic Michigan prairie grassland surrounding the Fiat Chrysler Dundee Engine Plant in Dundee on Oct. 5, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Kaileen Connelly. The quail were released by approximately 115 students from Dundee High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter as part of an effort to increase the birds' population.

Planted in 2006, the native Michigan prairie grass at the Dundee Engine Plant has matured enough to be an ideal wildlife habitat for the northern bobwhite quail, Connelly said.

"When the company planted the grassland on this property nearly 10 years ago, they knew it would take time for the natural biodiversity to flourish," said Tania Pratinicki Young, plant manager at Dundee Engine Plant. "Now that the habitat is well established, we are happy to welcome the 400 new members to our family and to continue working with the local high school to support the quail as they settle in to their new home."

The bobwhite is a small bird that stands around 9-12 inches tall and weighs an average of six ounces. Known for its distinctive "bob-white" whistle and ground-dwelling behavior, the quail have been in sharp decline since the 1970s – likely owing to habitat loss and changes in agriculture.

The plant and FFA chapter will let the quail adjust to native seeds and insects on the property for two to four weeks. Then,

volunteers from the plant will install feeders to supplement their diet, Connelly said.

"When we embarked on this project to help restore bobwhites in Michigan, we wanted to find a local property that could offer them the best ecosystem where they could thrive and multiply," said Tom Stahl, agriculture teacher at Dundee High School. "We approached representatives at the Dundee Engine Plant and they were quick to support our students' learning opportunity and to offer the feed and feeders to help condition the birds to their new environments."

Dundee High School students and Fiat Chrysler employees will monitor and support the four-year project, Connelly said.

In May 2015, Dundee Engine was awarded silver status for its results in implementing World Class Manufacturing (WCM). WCM is a methodology that focuses on reducing waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way, Connelly said. The bobwhite quail reintroduction supports the "Environment" pillar, one of 10 technical pillars that form the foundation of WCM.

Ralph Wilson's \$1.2B to be Given to Charity

DETROIT (AP) – A charitable foundation that was created after longtime Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson died will begin accepting applications for \$1.2 billion it plans to give away over the next 20 years in the upstate New York city and his hometown of Detroit.

The money comes from the sale of the Bills following Wilson's 2014 death at age 95 at his home in in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe Shores.

David Egner, the president and CEO of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, said the organization has been focused on planning, hiring, and developing its operating policies that would put Wilson's plans into operation.

The 10-person staff is looking for ways to have an impact. It began accepting applications for grant propositions on Oct. 3, Egner said.

"We're building strategy as we go," Egner told the *Detroit Free Press*. "Early on, we'll be doing a lot of pilots and experiments and trying to find things to educate ourselves as well as things that make a difference in the community."

The foundation will partner with other organizations on projects of mutual interest, Egner said.

"Those foundations have not only found their mark and what they want to do, but they're acting collaboratively," Egner said. "It leads to greater knowledge but it also leads to a lot of activity that wouldn't be in place if we were just writing checks."

Wilson directed the money go to the two cities where he devoted his energies and in four areas of his particular interest: children and youth; young adults and working-class families; caregivers who help others in need; and what he called "healthy communities," as defined by economic development and non-profit productivity and innovation.

The foundation staff is looking ahead to moving to Detroit's New Center business district next year from its tiny suite of offices in Grosse Pointe, Egner said.

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Buick's Avenir concepts will become a reality in the future.

Avenir Key to Buick Growth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“future,” is taken from the award-winning concept sedan from 2015, said GM spokeswoman Arianna Kughn. That concept and this year’s Avista coupe concept – from which the new sub-brand borrows its grille pattern – have served as guideposts for designers sketching and modeling Buick’s future.

This year, an unprecedented number of new global products such as the Envision compact SUV and the 2017 LaCrosse sedan offer an elevated luxury experience that’s encouraging new car buyers to reassess what they know about Buick.

“Through the first half of 2016, Buick has been the industry’s fastest-growing major international brand, and Avenir is key to future growth and delivering on the high expectations of new customers coming to our showrooms,” said Aldred.

“Avenir will be Buick’s signature – the highest expression of the luxury experiences we’re de-

livering now and in the future.” Avenir vehicles will add distinct touches to Buick’s “timeless, sculpted designs, including a three-dimensional mesh grille, large-diameter wheels, and unique trim finishes,” Aldred said. Inside, Avenir models will enhance the brand’s quiet, inviting environment with unique seat details, modern trim materials and Avenir script identification.

“Stretching the Buick brand’s international appeal and potential has been a major focus of exploration in our design studios,” said Helen Emsley, executive director of Buick Global Design.

“Concept cars stretch the boundaries of what is possible and every new Buick is benefiting from this vision work. As the Avenir concept expressed the prestige vision for the portfolio, the addition of an Avenir sub-brand illustrates an important piece of future direction.”

Additional Avenir details and product specifics will be announced sometime in the future, said Kughn.

Ford, U-D Mercy Join Forces

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Bill Ford Better World Challenge, University of Detroit Mercy engineering professors, students and alumni will team up to develop an app that connects nonprofit organizations with volunteers who can move resources and materials.

The new Bill Ford Better World Challenge grant, said U-D Mercy spokesman Ron Bernas, is an innovative global program in which Ford employees work through the Ford Volunteer Corps on transformational community projects. The idea for the nonprofit mobility app came from Ford employees Robert Collard, Cecil St. Pierre and Ashley Levi who envisioned a way Ford workers and others could assist nonprofits by using the hauling power of their vehicles.

“It might be an organization like Habitat for Humanity that needs large items moved to a job site,” said Associate Dean for the

College of Engineering & Science Katy Snyder.

Snyder said the grant is exciting for many reasons. First, two of the three people who came up with the plan for the app – Collard and St. Pierre – are alumni of U-D Mercy. Also, she said it appears the app would be the first of its kind. The grant gives the school the ability to further develop and expand the app, providing the potential for broader impact in future releases.

The excitement generated by the collaboration can be felt over at Ford as well, Bernas said.

“This is a great opportunity to put Ford’s commitment to smart mobility to work for nonprofits and people in need,” said Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps, Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

“Ford and U-D Mercy have a long history of successful collaboration.”

Electric Vehicles Stand Out at Paris Show

by DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – Carmakers are finding the Paris auto show, held in a city whose mayor wants to ban diesels to reduce pollution, to be a fine place to show off new zero-emission electric vehicles.

Most prominently, Volkswagen will unveil a small electric car as part of its pivot from diesel to more electric models as it struggles to recover from its scandal of rigging more than 11 million cars to evade diesel emissions tests.

And Daimler AG’s Mercedes-Benz will unveil a luxury electric SUV aimed at warding off competition from, among others, all-electric upstart Tesla.

Showing electric cars will help avoid a faux pas in a city where the mayor, Anne Hidalgo, has campaigned against pollution from conventional autos. She recently held a second “Day Without Cars.” About half the city was off-limits to private cars for seven hours.

Here’s what to expect at the show, which will begin Oct. 16.

Volkswagen has vowed to launch more than 30 fully electric vehicle designs by 2025 and to sell 2 million to 3 million of them a year.

Its new electric car is billed as a “design study” for future models.

Volkswagen has admitted equipping diesel cars with software that illegally helped them pass lab tests of their emissions. In normal driving, the cars emitted as much as 40 times the U.S. limit of nitrous oxides, pollutants that can harm peoples’ health. Separate reports have shown that other automakers’ diesel cars also exceed emission limits in normal driving, although without resorting to cheating.

Mercedes-Benz is expected to show off an SUV that would compete with other luxury carmakers, in particular Tesla and its Model X. Tesla loses money but its buzz and rising sales to rich customers appear to have been noticed by German automakers.

General Motors Co.’s Opel division has the Ampera-e, the European version of the Chevrolet Bolt, which attracted attention when U.S. regulators said it had a range of 238 miles on a full charge.

Now for the reality check: Not many people buy electric cars, due to limited range and higher cost, and when they do, it’s often with a fat tax break. And they’re not really zero emission, either, if coal or natural gas is burned to generate the electricity to charge them.

Only 4.2 percent of all passenger car registrations in the European Union last year were alternative-fuel vehicles. Yet automak-

ers need to sell at least a few electrics to help meet increasingly tough government requirements. The EU is lowering its limit on average carbon dioxide emissions in 2021; the U.S. will require fleetwide average mileage of 54.5 mpg by 2025.

Paris Mayor Hidalgo wants to “eradicate” diesel in the city by 2020.

“You have to come with something new. With Dieselgate, the world understood that diesel is last year’s model, that the environmental problems are too big and that a change of direction is needed,” said Ferdinand Dudenhofer, director of the Center for Automotive Research (CAR) at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

“It makes little sense to make a big deal about diesel in Paris. You will only get disdainful looks.”

Luxury and sports cars are a regular feature of auto shows, and this one is no exception.

One of the more breathtaking examples is Ferrari’s limited edition, open-top hybrid LaFerrari Aperta.

The company has shown photographs of a ferocious-looking, low-slung two-seater in black with red accents and big side air scoops.

Porsche has the Panamera 4 E-Hybrid, a four-door sedan with sports car performance. Mercedes-Benz will show off its Mercedes-AMG GT Roadster and GT C Roadster, two-seat sports cars with fabric roofs that can open or close in around 11 seconds.

The more-powerful GT C has 557 horsepower and goes from zero to 62 mph in just 3.7 seconds.

Carmakers just keep coming out with new SUVs and crossovers, which are basically regular cars with SUV features such as bigger wheel wells and more ground clearance.

It’s a hot category. Analytical firm IHS Markit says sales of SUVs and crossovers in the mid-size category grew over a decade from 432,500 to just under 1.71 million in 2015.

The forecast is for more growth in SUV and CUV sales in the future.

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Ford Motor Fund donates 10,000 books to Detroit Public Schools.

Feds End Jeep Investigation

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. safety regulators have closed a yearlong investigation into the Jeep Grand Cherokee’s automatic braking system without seeking a recall.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began the probe in June of last year after getting complaints that the system braked for no reason, increasing the risk of rear-end crashes.

But investigators, in documents posted Sept. 30, found in testing that there was no single cause for unintended braking, and that the brakes came on only for short periods and didn’t cause any crashes. The agency says the Jeep system performs as well or better than similar systems from other automakers. Its tests found that the braking at the root of the complaints reduced the SUV speeds by less than 3 mph.

Forward collision alert and automatic emergency braking are available on many high-end luxury vehicles and are moving rapidly into more mainstream cars. The systems are an important step in the march toward self-driving vehicles, and are being championed by safety advocates and NHTSA as a breakthrough in reducing crashes and highway deaths.

Earlier this year, 20 auto manufacturers reached agreement with NHTSA to make the braking feature standard on most cars and light trucks by 2022, and on heavier SUVs and pickup trucks within eight years.

If the Jeep investigation had found fault with the new technology, it could have slowed the spread of the systems. NHTSA, however, is still investigating Tesla Motors Inc.’s Autopilot sys-

tem, which failed to spot and brake for a crossing tractor-trailer in a May crash that killed a man in Florida. Tesla has since made changes to improve the system.

The systems use cameras and radar to spot cars and other objects and a computer to automatically brake to avoid a collision. Some systems will fully stop vehicles, while others, like the Jeep’s, will only slow vehicles to reduce damage in a crash.

The Jeep investigation covered just over 95,000 SUVs from the 2014 and 2015 model years. It began after the agency received nine complaints that the Grand Cherokees braked on their own without reason “with no pending threats in the line of travel.” Investigators eventually found 176 complaints to the agency and to Fiat Chrysler, which makes Jeeps.

Several of those who complained to NHTSA said the brakes came on and nearly caused other cars to hit them from behind. Many reported that the malfunction happened multiple times.

But NHTSA said in documents that any unintended braking was short and didn’t reduce the speed of the vehicles by very much.

The short braking in the Jeep system is meant to act as a warning to drivers if they don’t take action after getting audible and visual alerts of a potential vehicle crash.

“Analysis of field data found that unintended braking events occur randomly for a variety of causes and are not driven by any single environmental factor, traffic condition or vehicle fault,” NHTSA said in the documents.

NHTSA Checking Ford Brakes

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. safety regulators are investigating whether a recall of Ford F-150 pickup trucks for brake failures should be expanded to more model years.

The probe covers about 282,000 pickups with 3.5-liter six-cylinder engines from 2015 and 2016. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it has received 25 complaints alleging sudden brake loss in the trucks. No crashes or injuries were reported.

In May, Ford recalled about 271,000 six-cylinder F-150s from 2013 and 2014 because brake fluid could leak from the master cylinder and cause brake failure.

The safety agency says it received 10 complaints about 2015 brake failures and another 15 about the 2016 models. Investigators will decide if the 2015 and 2016 models should be added to the recall. The F-series pickup is the top-selling vehicle in the U.S.

Ford says it’s cooperating in the investigation. “We continuously evaluate our processes for potential improvements and when the data indicates a safety

recall is needed, we move quickly on behalf of our customers,” the company said in a statement.

In one of the complaints, a driver from Loxahatchee, Fla., told NHTSA that the brakes failed July 22 while the truck was on the Florida Turnpike. The person, who was not identified in the agency’s complaint database, tried to slow for stopped traffic and the pedal went all the way to the floor, the complaint said.

“I put it in neutral and swerved onto the side of the road to avoid hitting traffic at 70 mph,” the driver wrote. The truck was taken to the nearest dealership, where the owner was told that the master brake cylinder was failing and it was a known problem. “Why is there not a recall? I could have killed somebody,” the driver wrote.

In the recall of the 2013 and 2014 trucks, Ford said brake fluid can leak from the master cylinder. Dealers were to replace the master cylinder and also the brake booster if they found leaks from the master cylinder, the company said.

The investigation is the third probe of Ford vehicles announced by NHTSA in the past week.

Ford Promotes Reading for Kids

Knowledge is power, Sir Francis Bacon said. And the Ford Motor Company Fund is helping empower the youth of Detroit.

The fund is bringing the Ford Driving Dreams initiative to students in the Detroit area, said Ford spokeswoman Maria Ibañez.

Ford Fund, in collaboration with First Book, is donating 10,000 new books to kindergarten through elementary school students and will celebrate last week with a reading party at the Ford Research and Engagement Center (FREC) for 65 third graders from Amelia Earhart Elementary School in Detroit.

Former professional boxer Oscar De La Hoya, along with Ford representatives, will read to the students.

“Education is central to our mission of improving people’s lives,” said Jim Vella, president of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

“Encouraging our young people to read and explore the world through books is a tremendous way to empower future genera-

tions and enable them to reach their full potential.”

De La Hoya, known as the “Golden Boy” and 10-time world champion, will read to the students from his children’s book, “Super Oscar.”

Through his firm, Golden Boy Productions, De La Hoya started a charitable foundation to help underprivileged youth find a path in education, Ibañez said.

“Reading is a fundamental skill that needs to begin at an early age, but unfortunately, not all children have access to books in their community. I am honored and excited to be a part of an initiative that educates and inspires the kids of Detroit to get excited about reading books every day,” said De La Hoya.

Ford Driving Dreams is part of Ford’s overall education efforts in Detroit with a focus on keeping students in school and promoting reading at an early age, Ibañez said. According to a 2015 report from The Nation’s Report Card, only seven percent of Detroit eighth graders were proficient in reading.

Nationally, research shows that in some low-income commu-

nities, there is only one book per 300 children, Ibañez said.

First Book is a nonprofit group that provides new books and educational resources to kids. Ford Driving Dreams was designed by Ford Motor Company Fund to help youth stay in school and pursue higher education.

Launched in 2012, the program has reached more than 75,000 students in California, Illinois, Indiana, Florida, Texas, and Panama. Ford and its philanthropic arm have invested \$161 million over 10 years in southeast Michigan.

In the past year, Ford has invested \$20 million in local education, arts, cultural, diversity, hunger relief, and social organizations.

By the end of 2016, 50,000 new books will have been delivered to children in need in Detroit, Houston, North Texas and Florida.

In addition to Ford Driving Dreams, Ford Fund educational programs include Ford Blue Oval Scholars Ford Blue Oval Scholarships, Ford Freedom Award, Ford STEAM Lab, hackathons and Detroit career academies.

Rao Named as CEO of Ford Smart Mobility

Ford Motor Company has appointed Rajendra “Raj” Rao as chief executive officer of Ford Smart Mobility LLC, Ford’s subsidiary working to design, build, grow and invest in emerging mobility services. Rao will report to Jim Hackett, Ford Smart Mobility LLC chairman, and be based in Palo Alto, Calif.

“Ford Smart Mobility is a significant growth opportunity for Ford,” said Hackett. “Raj has deep experience in digital transformation, new business model cultivation and start-up partnerships. He is the right leader to lead the delivery of mobility services globally and bring to life our vision to change the way the world moves.”

As CEO, Hackett said Rao will lead the creation and growth of Ford Smart Mobility’s various businesses, including the recently announced City Solutions business and Greenfield Labs, Ford Smart Mobility’s business model incubator.

Rao has created, built and transformed businesses for iGATE Capital, Brunswick Corporation and, most recently, 3M, Hackett said. As the vice president of digital business model innovation at 3M, Rao led the company’s Silicon Valley digital hub and Internet-of-Things projects, based in Redwood City, Calif.

He was in charge of developing new business models for the commercialization of customer solutions in the connectivity space with a special focus on smart cities, wearables and digital wellness. Rao also was responsible for championing ecosystem partnerships in collaboration with Silicon Valley accelerators and Internet-of-Things labs.

Prior to 3M, Rao led the international operations of Life Fitness as part of the Brunswick Corporation leadership team. In this role, Rao improved sales by nearly 35 percent and drove profit margins from five percent to 12 percent.

During his time at Brunswick, Rao also co-created Redberri, an open source XML-based middleware system for connecting systems not originally designed to talk to each other. In addition, he secured several patents for Vivo, a wireless fitness management product used widely in the industry.

“I am energized by the opportunity to develop and grow Ford’s new mobility businesses,

leveraging the company’s inherent strengths,” said Rao. “I have spent the better part of my career unleashing the power that exists globally with ecommerce, connected devices and digitization.

“The opportunity now to apply that experience and passion for innovation to helping Ford change the way the world moves is the perfect culmination.”

A native of Bangalore, India, Rao began his career as a financial analyst at Procter & Gamble. He has significant global experience, having worked in and led business operations in Asia, Europe, Middle East and North America.

He has a bachelor’s degree in economics from the Shri Ram College of Commerce at Delhi University and a master’s degree in management from Boston University.

Ford Smart Mobility is part of Ford’s expanded business model to be both an auto and a mobility company. Ford Smart Mobility is working with Ford’s product de-



Raj Rao

velopment, research and advanced engineering, marketing and data analytics teams to develop commercially ready mobility services and invest in promising mobility-related ventures.

Designed to compete like a startup company, Ford Smart Mobility is designing and building mobility services on its own through its Greenfield Labs business incubation team.

Lincoln Sales See Big Jump

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Retail sales declined 4 percent in September, with 162,327 vehicles sold for the month, Merkle said. Fleet sales of 42,120 vehicles, including daily rental, commercial and government segments, were down 21 percent, consistent with the company’s plan to front-load fleet sales this year.

The Expedition was the big gainer for the month, Merkle said. Sales were up 72.9 percent over September of 2015. Ford sold 6,033 in 2016 compared with the same time in 2015 when the company sold 3,489.

“We continue seeing strong customer demand, especially for vans and pickup trucks, including our all-new Super Duty,” said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

“Demand for a rich mix of our all-new Super Duty pickups helped boost Ford’s average transaction prices by \$1,100 versus a year ago, outpacing the industry’s \$400 average.”

September marked 2016’s best month for F-Series’ retail sales. Ford F-Series sales totaled 67,809 vehicles, a 3 percent decline.

“Since September, we had our best retail sales performance for

F-Series for the year,” Merkle said. “Now we are going up against a really strong competition from a year ago, but even so our retail share in September of the full-size pickup truck market was up.

Merkle said sales for the Lincoln brand are also good news.

“When you take a look at September, our retail sales results for Lincoln were up 8 percent,” Merkle said. “And if you look at the overall strength of the brand year-to-date, Lincoln sales are up nine percent, and when you compare that to the overall segment, the premium segment is actually down about 2 to 3 percent this year, so we’re actually running against the grain with Lincoln and we are one of the few luxury brands that are up this year.

“And what’s really driving that has been things like MKX and the MKC, which were up again last month, but also last month we introduced our new Lincoln Continental.”

“We sold 775 of them last month and we continue to expand and getting more and more of our inventory out to all of the dealers across America.

“But right now, that car is really hot, turning just six days on dealer lots. We’re very pleased with Lincoln’s performance.”

Chevrolet Active in October's Fight Against Breast Cancer

For the sixth consecutive year, Chevrolet and General Motors employees, dealers and customers are banding together to fight breast cancer this October by supporting the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks.

Additionally, Chevrolet and participating dealers across the country are supporting the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer program through event sponsorships, team participation, customer engagement and other activities, said GM spokesman Craig Daitch.

"All across Chevrolet, we are proud to be part of the fight against breast cancer," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet Marketing.

"Last year was a record year in



Chevrolet is holding events to support the fight against breast cancer all through the month of October.

Chevrolet helping the American Cancer Society sponsor 84 walks and raising nearly \$1.6 million

for its programs. We fully expect to exceed last year's contributions."

Chevrolet plans to participate in several events and activities throughout October, including social media campaigns, Daitch said.

Chevrolet will support the partnership through a social media engagement program in October that encourages people to show their support by using the hashtag, #IDriveFor.

Chevrolet will contribute \$5 for every social post (up to \$500,000) on Twitter or Instagram using #IDriveFor, Edwards said.

Team Chevy will commission a pink Chevrolet SS Pace Car and caution lap donations at two NASCAR Sprint Cup Races at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 23 and Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 30. The donations will consist of \$350 (up to \$50,000) for each caution lap taken in the pink Chevy SS pace car at the two events.

Furthermore, Edwards said, the American Cancer Society and Chevrolet will host breast cancer survivor events where survivors and caregivers will

be treated to once-in-a-lifetime experiences on the tracks.

Daitch said Chevrolet's efforts to support the fight against breast cancer go beyond big events that might seem remote to the average American. The company is also sponsoring local, more intimate efforts.

Employees across the country are participating in local Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks by gathering coworkers, family and friends to show their support.

A large contingent of employees participated in the Detroit walk originating at Hart Plaza on Oct. 8, Daitch said.

Hundreds of dealerships are also sponsoring teams in community walks throughout October.

Those interested in participating in a Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk in their community can visit www.makingstrideswalk.org, Daitch said.

"The American Cancer Society is grateful for the support of corporate partners such as Chevrolet, who have encouraged their customers and communities to become involved in raising awareness and funds to end breast cancer through our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks and social media," said Sharon Byers, chief development and marketing officer for the American Cancer Society.

"We're excited to collaborate during October to increase breast cancer awareness and help end the pain and suffering caused by this disease.

"Thanks in part to the progress we're making together against breast cancer, death rates from the disease dropped 36 percent between 1989 and 2012, which means 249,000 fewer breast cancer deaths."



Fiat Chrysler volunteers put their backs into building equipment for Habitat for Humanity.

Chrysler Helps Out Habitat for Humanity

by Jim Stickford

The production line came to the parking lot of the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills Oct. 3 to help make the lives of people in metro Detroit better.

A hundred and twenty-five Fiat Chrysler employees through the company's Motor City volunteer program worked together to celebrate World Habitat Day by making sheds, wheelchair ramps and picnic tables for Habitat for Humanity. They were joined by volunteers and representatives from Detroit, Oakland and Macomb Habitat affiliates.

"We're doing this for the new homeowners who gained their houses by working with Habitat for Humanity," said Habitat Spokeswoman Julie Nemeth. "It's nice to be able to help people who use wheelchairs have access to these homes. And it's nice to be able to have some nice things for these new homes."

Nemeth said Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to families who are unable to obtain conventional house financing. Generally, this includes those whose income is 30 to 50 percent of the area's median income.

In most cases, prospective Habitat homeowner families make a \$500 down payment. Additionally, they contribute 300 to 500 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction of their home or someone else's home.

Because Habitat houses are built using donations of land, material and labor, mortgage payments are kept affordable.

"We are so thankful to begin the FCA US collaboration right here in our southeast Michigan region while bringing awareness to world housing needs," said Sandy Pearson, president and

CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Michigan.

"The Motor Citizens program keeps employees connected to the communities where they live and work, and Habitat for Humanity is proud to provide a platform and partnership for Motor Citizens in action."

Lesley Slavitt, head of Civic Engagement and CEO for the FCA Foundation, said the organization decided to help Habitat because she had met Chrysler employees who volunteered their time to Habitat all year long.

"I was moved by the work they were doing and their ability to help and serve others in southeast Michigan," Slavitt said. "Today is a moment where we can highlight their work. This is the first year we've done this and it's World Habitat Day, so why not have our employees show their support for the group by volunteering their time today."

Kristie Pozzo is an administrative assistant who works at

Chrysler's headquarters.

"When I heard about this project, I was pleased to sign up," Pozzo said. "It's close to work, and that's nice. And I really enjoy working with my hands and I don't mind getting them dirty."

Pozzo worked with fellow Chrysler employees Josie Steele, an IT asset specialist; and Mike Crowley, an engineer in the company's Diesel Products Department, making picnic tables.

"I also volunteered because this is close to work," Steele said. "But it really is a great cause. I believe that everyone should have a place to live. I just bought my first house myself and I know how important that this kind of thing is."

"This really seems like a worthwhile event," Crowley said. "And it gives me a chance to use my engineering skills in a new way that directly helps people. I mean I help design cars, but this has a direct impact on people's lives, and that is a great feeling."

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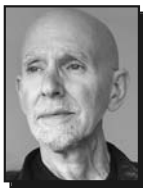
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Read said that according to the 2015 Skills Gap Report issued by the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte, at current trend, 2 million U.S. manufacturing jobs will go unfilled by 2025 due to a shortage of required skills. Man-

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"GM again outperformed the retail industry and gained profitable market share. We continue to lead the retail truck industry and gained share in the two

Among the big winners in September for GM, Flores said, were the Chevy Malibu, which saw a year-over-year increase of 26 percent – 21,521 compared to 17,066; and the Chevy Colorado, which saw a 41.6 percent year-over-year increase – 10,383 versus 7,334.

A unique feature of the facility, Szykula said, will be an area labeled by the company as the "Design Studio." This space will enhance its capabilities as a full-service, quick-response advanced product development source, from design assist and validation through manufacturing support.



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OnStar Celebrates 20 Years
By Rewarding Rescuers

OnStar celebrated its 20th anniversary Oct. 6 by giving \$20,000 each to 20 public safety personnel who experienced serious physical injury or hardship that impacted their ability to perform their jobs.

OnStar identified the 20 recipients, said GM spokeswoman Leslie Warnke, by working with the International Association of Chiefs of Police Foundation (IACPF), Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) – Sunshine Fund, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

“Each day, OnStar receives more than 245,000 calls from drivers in need of some support, so we understand the importance of a human connection, especially in an emergency situation,” said Christine Sitek, OnStar chief operating officer for General Motors’ Global Connected Customer Experience team.

“The first responder community plays a vital role in working with OnStar advisors to quickly deliver emergency services to our drivers and passengers in need. We couldn’t have become a leader in safety and security without their support.”

One of the selected first responders, Andy Allison, was a firefighter at the Lewisville Fire Department in Lewisville, Texas, when he sustained career-altering injuries while responding to a structure fire, Warnke said.

Since his injury, Allison has dedicated his life to helping others manage occupational medicine and advocating for others suffering debilitating injuries in the line of duty. He has been speaking around the country on how to prepare for worst-case scenarios and manage life after a debilitating injury.

“My goal is to help other firefighters prepare for if, or when, they get hurt,” said Allison. “In this career, you need to know what can be done proactively to protect yourself and your family, both physically and financially, and I want to help others be equipped to manage whatever comes their way.”

“Thanks to public safety responders across the nation, OnStar is able to provide a life-saving connection that is needed every hour, every day for the past 20 years,” said Cathy Bishop, OnStar Global Emergency Services senior manager. “This donation demonstrates our great appreciation for all first responders, especially those who suffer serious injury and financial hardship in the name of public service.”

The 20 public safety departments gifted by OnStar are:

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- Lewisville, Texas
- Jacksonville, Ark.
- Palos Hill, Ill.
- Anderson, Ind.
- Phoenix
- Park Forest, Ill.
- Alexandria, Va.
- East Baton Rouge, La.
- Pearl, Miss.
- Gilbert, Ariz.
- Cocoa, Fla.
- Macon, Ga.
- Valley View, Texas
- Greensboro, N.C.
- Hutchinson, Kan.
- Woodstock, N.Y.
- Steamboat Springs, Colo.
- Solomon, Kan.

When GM debuted OnStar in 1996, it was the first in-vehicle technology in the industry to automatically connect to a live person when the vehicle’s airbags deployed, Warnke said. That advisor would work with first responders to provide assistance.

Along with industry-leading technology, OnStar’s emergency advisors receive innovative training, allowing them to be prepared for all situations, from vehicle crashes to mothers giving birth to natural disasters. OnStar has implemented Emergency Medical Dispatch with its advisors, which uses set protocols to assess the situation and provide pre-arrival information to first responders.

Together, OnStar’s technology and advisors give first responders the information they need before arriving on the scene, Warnke said.

GM Employee
Finally Retires –
After 63 Years

FLINT, Mich. (AP) – Paul Edwards accepted promotions at General Motors but the new assignments didn’t last long.

Instead of telling people what to do, Edwards said he preferred to do it himself. And he did – for nearly 63 years.

The 84-year-old retired Sept. 30 at GM’s Flint Metal Center after more than six decades at the automaker. *The Flint Journal* said dozens of co-workers, past and present, joined Edwards for cake and kind words.

“I’ve had enough. . . . I spent just as much time with them as I did with my wife,” Edwards said of his co-workers. “So, yeah, it’s sad. But we’ll see them around.”

His last job at GM was machine repairman. GM retiree Al Hudkins said he always thought he would be there.

Edwards and his wife Mary have been married for 65 years. She’s glad to have him home – but for how long?

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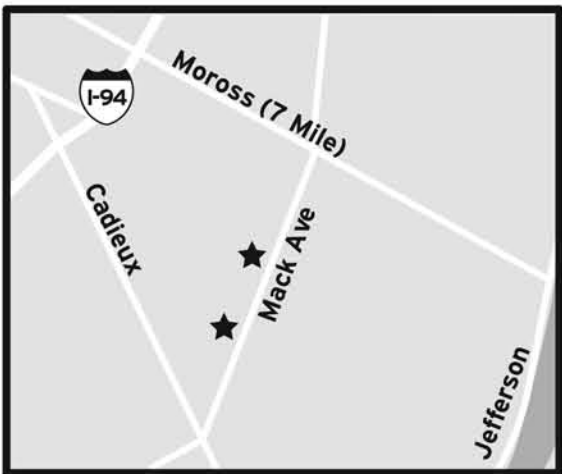
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Chevrolet Racing Team Earns Season Title

Oliver Gavin and Tommy Milner captured the season-long GT Le Mans (GTLM) Driver's Championship in the WeatherTech SportsCar Championship on Oct. 1 with a third-place finish alongside Marcel Fässler at Petit Le Mans presented by Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.

It is the second championship for the pairing, the 10th for Corvette Racing and goes with Chevrolet's GTLM Manufacturer's Championship clinched earlier in the day.

The No. 4 Mobil 1/SiriusXM Chevrolet Corvette C7.R also won the GTLM Team Championship – the 11th in program history. Gavin and Milner needed to finish seventh in class or better to clinch the title.

“Oliver, Tommy and Marcel teamed up again to drive a smart race and capture a podium finish that delivered valuable points,” said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president, Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. “As a result, Oliver and Tommy clinched the 2016 GTLM Driver's Championship.

“Congratulations to the entire Corvette C7.R team on their preparation and execution all season long.”

Jan Magnussen, Antonio Garcia and Mike Rockenfeller placed fourth in class in the No. 4 Mobil 1/SiriusXM Chevrolet Corvette C7.R after losing four laps due to a mechanical problem early in the race.

The fight-back and race result was good enough to give Garcia and Magnussen third place in the GTLM Driver's Championship.

Corvette Racing will open the 2017 IMSA season in the Rolex 24 At Daytona Jan. 28-29.

Cadillac Sales Continue to Rise Across Globe

Cadillac sold 30,061 vehicles globally in September, an increase of 22.2 percent. This is the fourth consecutive month of double-digit percentage increases for Cadillac, the last three of which have topped 20 percent, said GM spokesman David Caldwell.

Both the XT5 crossover and the CT6 prestige sedan reached their highest sales since launch. Now firmly established as the brand's top-selling product line, XT5 sold 9,421 units in September, a jump of 10.5 percent above the previous month. CT6 sales grew 19.9 percent compared with the previous month. All other Cadillac product lines currently in production grew in September, including the Escalade (up 28.4 percent), XTS luxury sedan (29.7 percent), CTS (10.1 percent) and ATS (5.9 percent).

Cadillac sales rose in its four largest markets, led by a 63.1 percent increase in China. In the U.S., the brand experienced volume growth of 3.1 percent while continuing to earn a premium position in the marketplace.

Cadillac average transaction prices topped \$53,000 per unit (according to J.D. Power Information Network, Sept. 25). Cadillac sales also saw substantial growth in Canada, Europe, Middle East and South Korea. For the year to date, Cadillac global sales are up 6.7 percent.

“Our results show Cadillac is earning growth through a disciplined strategy built on a foundation of product substance,” said Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen. “Both products launched in 2016 are gaining momentum, as we elevate all aspects of our business to a more premium position globally.”

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SILVERADO 1500 • 4WD LT DBL CAB 2016

LEASE A LT 36 MONTHS \$129* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$32,819*

2017 VOLT LT

LEASE A LT 36 MONTHS \$259* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$31,592*

CRUZE LT 2017

LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$139* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE A LS \$18,844*

NO EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT REQUIRED EQUINOX LT 2017

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$99* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$22,989*

MALIBU 2016

LEASE A LT 36 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE A LS \$22,309*

CAMARO 1LT 2017

LEASE FOR 39 MONTHS \$299* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$27,319*

TRAX LS 2016

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$59* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$15,429*

TRAVERSE S 2017

LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$159* \$999 DOWN

PURCHASE FOR \$26,889*

– NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY FOR OIL CHANGES –

ED RINKE • FAST • FRIENDLY • DISCOUNTS

Certified Service

GM SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN'S LARGEST

•SERVICE DEPT. •PARTS •BODY SHOP

866-452-1547

26125 Van Dyke @ 10 1/2 Mile Center Line, MI 48015

SERVICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 6:30am-9:00pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 6:30am-6:00pm • Shuttle at 6:30am - Pick-up Both Ways • All Day starting at 6:30am.

Quick Oil Change EXPRESS LANE

LUBE OIL FILTER

\$23.95 Up to 5 qts.

We use Genuine GM Oil & Filter. No additional or hidden charges. Out the door pricing.

Certified Service

Fluid Level, Brake & Alignment Check Included.

Open Mondays & Thursdays until 8:30pm

Excludes synthetic, Diesel & Med. Duty Trucks. Most GM cars & trucks. One coupon per customer. Must present coupon with order. Plus tax. Expires 10-31-16.

BODY SHOP

586-754-7000 ext 1231

INSURANCE WRECK AMENDED.

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE During Scheduled Repairs

FREE OIL CHANGE With Each Major Repair

Certified Service

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26125 VAN DYKE AT 10 1/2 MILE ROAD

Now looking for experienced salespeople to join our team!

Nicole Dodge
nhuminski@edrinke.com

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jpfeifle@edrinke.com

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. & THURS. 8:30AM-9PM / TUES., WED. & FRI. 8:30AM-6PM

FIND NEW ROADS

*All applicable rebates including lease loyalty, Chevrolet lease loyalty or lease conquest offers have been deducted from sale price/payment. Traverse, Equinox, Cruze, Trax are 24 month leases. Volt, Malibu, and Silverado are 36 month leases. Camaro is a 39 month lease. Pricing is subject to select model vehicles, while supplies last. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM Employee Discount (Unless otherwise stated). Pricing is subject to select model vehicles while supplies last. All leases are 10k miles per year w/ approved S Tier credit w/ \$999 due at signing. Prices & payments are plus tax, title, and plate fees with acquisition fee up front. Disposition Fee may be required at vehicle turn in. Refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles - to be determined by lender. **\$3500 trade-in is valid on 2003 or newer vehicles with under 115k miles in drivable condition, no branded titles, less reconditioning determined by appraiser. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details. ** Expiration Date - 10/31/16.