## Detroit Auto Scene®

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GM's executive chief engineer for EVs Pamela Fletcher with Alan Batey

## Motor Trend Names Bolt 'Car of Year'

good year for the Chevrolet Bolt EV – just ask the editors at *Motor Trend* magazine

The editors have recognized the Chevrolet Bolt EV – "the new, affordable electric vehicle offering an EPA-estimated 238 miles of range on a full charge," said GM spokesman Fred Ligouri - as its 2017 Car of the Year.

The editors based their selection on the Bolt EV's performance in six evaluation categories: advancement in design, engineering excellence, efficiency, safety, value and performance of intended function, Ligouri said.

"Chevrolet is the fastest-grow-

dustry, thanks to an exceptional vehicle lineup, which includes groundbreaking products like the Bolt EV," said Alan Batey, president of GM North America and Global Chevrolet brand chief.

"Being recognized once again as Motor Trend Car of the Year is a great honor for the entire Chevrolet team."

It is the fourth Motor Trend award for Chevrolet in three years, with the Camaro recognized as the 2016 Car of the Year and Colorado named the 2015 and 2016 Truck of the Year, Batey

"Chevrolet is on a roll with new

2016 has turned out to be a ing full-line retail brand in the in- and compelling vehicles that have reset the bar for trucks in 2015, trucks and sports cars in 2016, and for 2017, electric cars," said Ed Loh, Motor Trend's editor-in-chief. "The Bolt EV is certainly a game-changing vehicle and we look forward to seeing whether we'll be recognizing another Chevrolet next year in our annual awards."

In the article announcing the Bolt EV selection, editors wrote, "The Bolt EV is not GM's first pure electric car. The company has been experimenting with electric vehicles for decades,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## 2017 Charger Called Best in Residual Value

All new cars have value when a quartered in Santa Monica, Calif., customer has just purchased it. Keeping value after owning one for a while is another thing. But that's not a problem Dodge Charger owners have, at least according to ALG.

For the third time in three years, the 2017 Dodge Charger has earned the Residual Value Award in the "Full-Size" category from ALG, the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Kristin

Founded in 1964 and head-

Starnes said ALG is an industry authority on automotive residual value projections in both the United States and Canada.

By analyzing nearly 2,500 vehicle trims each year to assess residual value, ALG provides auto industry and financial services clients with market industry insights, residual value forecasts, consulting and vehicle portfolio management and risk services.

ALG judges liked a lot of the Dodge Charger's capabilities, Starnes said. It is the quickest, fastest and most powerful sedan in the world, delivering 707 horsepower, up to 30 miles per gallon with its Pentastar V6, hightech Uconnect features. It is also America's only four-door muscle car and comes with a naturally aspirated Dodge 5.7-liter and 392

"Striking a delicate balance between traditional sedan and muscle car, the Dodge Charger represents the shifting trends in the full-size segment," said Eric Lyman, vice president of industry insights for ALG. "A wide range

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 



2017 Dodge Charger four-door sedan

## F-Series Super Duty Earns 'Truck of Year'

It was a good day for Detroit

Not only did the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV win Motor Trend's Car of the Year award, the new 2017 Ford F-Series Super Duty has won the 2017 Motor Trend Truck of the Year title – both on the same day, Nov. 14.

This is the the first time the Super Duty has taken home this prize, said Ford spokesman Jiyan Cadiz.

"We are honored to win this year's Motor Trend Truck of the Year Award as it underscores how the all-new 2017 Ford Super Dutys are the toughest, smartest and most capable trucks we've ever built," said Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of The Americ-

"For 39 consecutive years, Ford F-Series has been America's favorite truck, and now Motor Trend has given one of our F-Series top honors for the fifth

Using advanced materials to reduce weight, Super Duty introduces "all-new segment-exclusive smart technology features to help increase customer productivity, comfort and convenience," Hinrichs said.

The backbone of the truck is a new fully boxed frame comprising more than 95 percent highstrength steel that's up to 24 times stiffer than the previous frame - enabling best-in-class towing and hauling capability, said Hinrichs.

than outgoing steel and not subject to red rust corrosion, he pounds, with Ford engineers reinvesting that savings "everywhere it counts to give customers more towing and hauling capability than ever," Hinrichs

The new F-Series Super Duty also features heavier-duty fourwheel-drive components, driveline, axles and towing hard-

With towing central to the mission, Hinrichs said driving and work situations are made easier and more comfortable with 17 segment-first productivity technologies.

Up to seven cameras help drivers see angles and monitor conditions surrounding the truck to make not just conventional towing, but gooseneck and fifthwheel towing, simpler and more efficient than ever.

Available adaptive steering also results in improved efficiency and effort.

With more power than ever, the Ford-designed, Ford-engineered, Ford-built 6.7-liter Power

Stroke turbo diesel V8 now delivers a best-in-class combination of 440 horsepower and a staggering 925 lb.-ft. of torque, Cadiz said.

That power is standard for every diesel pickup, from F-250 to F-450, with no special tuning or unique hardware required – "making the all-new F-Series Super Duty the undisputed powerhouse," Cadiz

"We judge the contenders based on six categories," said Ed Loh, Motor Trend editor-in-chief, from design to efficiency to performance, characterizing the things consumers want most in their next vehicle.

"The all-new 2017 Ford Super Duty met and exceeded our criteria, truly proving it is the undisputed leader in towing, capability and power - exactly what truck customers want.

"Motor Trend is excited to crown this purpose-built machine this year's Truck of the



Ford Marketing's Dan Gray with 2017 F-Series Super Duty

Batteries (circled) propel the 2017 Cadillac CT6 plug-in hybrid.

Luxury, Prestige are Top

Selling Points for CT6

GM electric vehicle making news last week. Cadillac revealed the first-ever

plug-in hybrid prestige sedan the 2017 CT6 – will go on sale in the spring of 2017. The important thing to note is

that this luxury vehicle comes with a total driving range of more than 400 miles, said Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen.

Advanced plug-in hybrid technology enables the luxury sedan to reward drivers with environmentally conscious driving without compromising on performance, de Nysschen said.

The CT6 plug-in hybrid system is designed to provide responsive, all-electric driving for most daily commutes, he said, while maximizing fuel efficiency by providing blended power from the engine and battery at higher speeds and higher loads.

All-electric range for the CT6

The Bolt EV wasn't the only plug-in hybrid is an estimated 30 miles, said de Nysschen

However, he added, the car's combination of efficient engine and battery power enables drivers the freedom of more than 400 miles of total driving range, with no requirement to find charging stations along the way.

Thanks to the advanced propulsion system, the CT6 plug-in Hybrid "removes all range anxiety for our customers," said de Nysschen.

"The CT6 is a technological showcase throughout, and by far the lightest car in its class, making it an ideal platform for electrification," he said.

"In the CT6, Cadillac presents a new formula for prestige luxury. The advanced plug-in hybrid system is a key addition, providing a combination of exceptional fuel economy, crisp acceleration

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 10** 

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## Dodge Charger **Delivers Value** Over Time

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

of powertrain and comfort features ensure there is a perfect Charger for every personality. High performance teams up with high value as the Dodge Charger lands back-to-back Residual Value Awards in 2017.

"ALG recognizes vehicles and brands that stand out from the rest of the market, and that is exactly what the Dodge Charger does," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands - Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat, FCA -North America.

"The only four-door muscle car in the market has now won this award from ALG three years in a row, and that is a testament to the fact that there is nothing else like Charger on the road to-

Starnes said ALG recognizes vehicles with segment awards, along with two brands representing the mainstream and premium sectors of the industry.

This year's awards are based on 2017 model-year vehicles, Starnes said.

Award winners are determined through careful study of the competition in each segment, historical vehicle performance and industry trends. Vehicle quality, production levels relative to demand and pricing and marketing strategies represent key factors that impact ALG's residual value forecasts.

## **U-M Economists Predict Lower** Unemployment

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) -Economists at the University of Michigan say in an annual forecast that they think the U.S. unemployment rate will stay below 5 percent next year.

Five researchers at the university's Department of Economics put out the report Nov. 17. They say they found a tightening U.S. labor market with a national economy forecast to add 3.7 million more jobs over the next two

That's a slower pace than over the last two years. But they say the predicted falling unemployment rate should help part-time workers who want full-time jobs.

The researchers say they believe new light vehicle sales may have peaked and will slow gradually. They say that's because their analysis found young adults own fewer vehicles because they can't afford to own detached single-family homes. Real disposable income growth surged to 5.5 percent in 2015 with the drop in local prices. Real income growth retreats in 2016 to 2.1 percent with the return to moderate inflation and slower nominal income growth. It should slow further to 1.4 percent in 2017 with accelerating inflation and a larger increase in federal personal taxes.

## Chevrolet's Bolt EV 'Twice the Car for Half the Price'

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

stuffing batteries into Corvairs in the mid-1960s and developing the fiendishly complex EV-1 in the 1990s. You can buy an allelectric version of the Spark from your friendly local Chevy dealer right now. But the Bolt EV is the first conceived from the get-go by GM to be a viable, affordable mass-market electric vehicle. And it's a game-changer.

"Two numbers – 238 and 29,995 - are why. The first is the number of miles the EPA has certified the Bolt EV will travel on a full charge. The second is the price, in dollars, of the Bolt EV, after allowing for a \$7,500 federal tax rebate.

"By offering that range at that price, the Bolt EV has made just about every other electric vehicle on sale obsolete.

"Simply put," said guest judge Chris Theodore, "it's twice the car for half the price of a BMW i3. A better car, better package, much better handling, with twice the range."

The article stated that even the folks at Tesla, "the electric vehicle masters of the universe," have been put on notice, and that the Bolt EV sets a benchmark for value and performance they'll have to work overtime to

This is a direct challenge for Tesla to make the Model 3 anything near the Bolt EV for the same price," said Motor Trend executive editor Mark Rechtin. "Chevrolet has made affordable long-range electric transportation available to the masses. Elon Musk should be afraid. Very, very

Range anxiety shouldn't be a problem for a Bolt EV driver, Batey said.

With an EPA-estimated range of 238 miles, Chevy Bolt EV owners



GM CEO Mary Barra introduces 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV at Consumer Electronics Show Jan. 6 in Las Vegas.

can expect to go beyond their average daily driving needs with range to spare, when charging regularly.

Cost is not the problem that many think of when they think of an EV, Batey said. The manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$37,495 includes destination and freight charges, but excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees.

Depending on individual tax situations, customers may receive an available federal tax credit of up to \$7,500.

Editors also had great things to say about the Chevrolet Bolt EV performance. They wrote perhaps the most impressive thing about the Bolt EV is there are no caveats, no "for an electric car" qualifiers needed in any discussion.

It is, simply, a world-class small car, the editors said, "and that's before you factor in the benefits inherent in the smoothness, silence, and instant-on torque provided by the electric

The ride is firm and sporty, but transmitted road noise is very well damped.

The magazine went on to say, "The steering has slightly artificial weighting, but brake feel is natural, and once you learn to use the higher regenerative braking modes, you can pretty much drive all the time without touching the friction brakes at all."

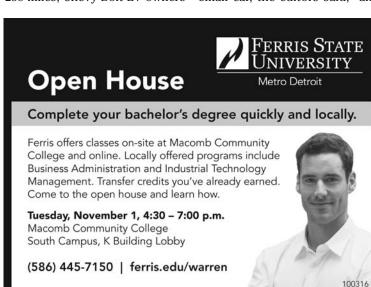
Standard features include such sophisticated technology features as electronic precision shift, Regen on Demand steering wheel paddle and 10.2-inchdiagonal color touch screen.

The top-trim Premier model

adds leather-appointed seats, front and rear heated seats, Surround Vision, Rear Camera Mirror and more.

More information on driving electric can be found at ChevyEVlife.com. More information about all that the Bolt EV can do may be found at Chevrolet.com/bolt.

'There may be some who see the selection of an electric vehicle as Motor Trend's Car of the Year – for only the second time in the award's seven decades—as controversial," editors wrote. "But to do so would be to suggest the Bolt EV is nothing more than an automotive oddity, a publicity stunt, or a technological dead end of limited use or value. Nothing could be further from the truth.'





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## Fiat Chrysler's Attempt to Fix Gear Shifter Ongoing

signed to fix confusing gear shifters on 1.1 million Fiat Chrysler vehicles didn't work on 29,000 of them. Now the owners are being asked to take the vehicles back to dealers again.

The new software was supposed to make the cars and SUVs automatically shift into park when the driver's door is opened while the engine is running. But Fiat Chrysler says the change didn't properly fix 13,000 vehicles in the U.S. and 16,000 in other countries

Jeep Grand Cherokees from the 2014 and 2015 model years and the 2012 through 2014 Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300 were recalled in April due to complaints from drivers who had trouble telling if the transmission was in "park" after stopping.

A U.S. government investigation that led to the recall found 266 crashes that injured 68 people. Many owners reported that the vehicles rolled off after the driver exited.

FCA says it's calling and sending letters and emails to the 29,000 owners. The software fix worked properly on the rest of the 406,000 vehicles that have been fixed worldwide, the company said.

The problem, reported in a document released this week by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, was dis-

DETROIT (AP) - Software de- covered in a Fiat Chrysler audit. Company spokesman Eric Mayne says the vehicles may not shift into park automatically, or they may shift into park without the gear selector showing it. Fiat Chrysler has no reports of crashes or injuries among the 29,000 vehicles. Many were at dealerships for other reasons and were given the new software.

The software didn't work in a small number of vehicles with certain engine, transmission and two- or four-wheel-drive combinations, Mayne said. "In most cases, we initiated the installation of that software without the customer having to show up with the recall notice. It just wasn't the right software for their particular vehicles.

A second software update will take care of the problem, Mayne said. A spokesman for the government safety agency said he was checking into the matter.

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

## Three Chevy Models in Top '10Best' Vehicles

Looking for a top-rate vehicle that won't cost you an arm and a leg? Car and Driver has some suggestions for you.

On Nov. 16, Car and Driver magazine unveiled its annual "10Best Cars" list for 2017, recognizing the best cars on the market under \$80,000.

"We keep the 10Best rules to a minimum and simply let the best rise to the top," Car and Driver editors wrote in the announcement naming the vehicles. "Contenders must have a base price of \$80,000 or less, be on sale in January 2017, and show up for our September testing. That's it.

"It's damned hard to make our 10Best Cars list. A contender must execute its mission at the highest level and deliver a driving experience somewhere between sublime and messianic."

In addition, Car and Driver will announce its first-ever 10Best Trucks & SUVs awards at Carand-Driver.com on Dec. 6, magazine spokeswoman Lauren Demitry

The 10Best Trucks & SUVs awards will recognize honorees in 10 different segments: subcompact SUV, subcompact luxury SUV, compact SUV, compact luxury SUV, midsize SUV, midsize luxury SUV, large SUV, midsize pickup, full-size pickup, and van.

The four domestic cars making the 34th annual Car and Driver 10Best Cars list are:

• Chevrolet Bolt - The editors say. "Bolt is irrefutably a landmark car, as sensible as you'd ex-



2017 Chevrolet Camaro Coupe

an electron-powered Chevrolet to be, and welcome proof that established automakers can indeed make class-leading electric vehicles.'

- Chevrolet Camaro V6/V8 Coupes - The editors say, "1LE delivers stunningly sharp and accurate turn-in response and a level of front-end grip that belies its size. And like the other Camaro coupes, its steering is nicely weighted and accurate to a degree that those unfamiliar with the newest Camaro would simply not believe.
- Chevrolet Corvette Grand Sport - The editors say, "A drysump 6.2-liter unit with 460 horsepower, this pushrod engine spins to its 6600-rpm rev limiter with ferocity. It has gobs of power. Every stomp on the accelera-

tor requires you to take in a lungful of air to counteract the shove of the V8's fierce torque and instant response. Celebrate it. It's a welcome reprieve from a world turning to narcoleptic turbo fours that refuse to redline.

Ford Shelby Mustang GT350/GT350R - The editors say, "GT350 busts through its first two gears quickly enough that the raspy moans it makes at low revs are fleeting spine tinglers. Running to 60 mph takes only 4.3 seconds. But rev it out in higher gears, and the engine sounds as if it's munching on itself, ready to rocket some pistons through the hood. From outside, the GT350 sounds the way a Jackson Pollock painting looks. It's a splattering of sound - fiery, shocking, angry, and somehow perfect."





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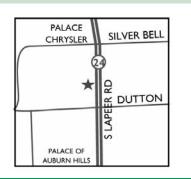




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## 2017 Chrysler Pacifica a True 'Best Buy'

Kelley Blue Book's www.kbb.com last week declared the new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica as a winner of the Kelley Blue Book Best Buy Awards, honoring the top new model-year vehicle choices available in the U.S. market.

"Chrysler's all-new Pacifica minivan doesn't just replace the long-running Town & Country, it blends luxury and practicality like no other minivan before it," said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director and executive market analyst for *Kelley Blue Book's* KBB.com.

"Luxury-level dash design up front is complemented by rear quarters that offer all the utility you expect in a minivan, but with uncommon design sensibilities. It's also a pleasure to drive, helping it lock up a Best Buy Award in its first year on the market."

The Kelley Blue Book Best Buy Awards are designed to provide a significant service to new-car buyers by identifying the cream of the crop of all available 2017 model-year motor vehicles, Nerad said.

The awards are the culmination of a year-long regimen of expert vehicle evaluation and testing of nearly every new vehicle available in America, along with analysis of a broad swath of vehicle-related data, including vehicle pricing/transaction prices, five-year cost-to-own data (which includes depreciation, insurance, maintenance, financing, fuel, fees and taxes for new cars), consumer reviews and ratings, and vehicle sales/retail sales information.

Kelley's judges wrote of the Pacifica, "earlier this year we suggested the new Chrysler Pacifica was the best minivan in its class. With its win as our Minivan Best Buy for 2017, we can confirm it. The interior offers the kind of utility you expect from a

minivan but with an unexpected dose of luxury, while the exterior is ready to go straight from the soccer game to the valet stand.

"Combine it with safety features and other family-friendly touches not available in any other minivan on the market, and the 2017 Chrysler Pacifica simply kills it."

*Kelley* judges had particularly nice things to say about the Pacifica's interior.

"A minivan's interior is a makeor-break proposition. It has to seat eight people comfortably, provide plenty of entertainment options for the kids, be flexible enough to offer a vast amount of flexible cargo space, and ideally it should be a pleasant environment as well.

"The Pacifica shines in all these categories. Stow 'n Go returns, but with a twist: Not only are they easier than ever to stow under the floor, they're actually comfortable to sit in."

Editors also liked the third-row access, writing, ". . . they cantilever forward, so you don't need to remove your kid's booster for easy third-row access.

"And finally, Chrysler has made its minivan an 8-passenger hauler, thanks to a small center seat that's both lightweight for easy removal, and comfortable to sit in as well. The third-row bench is also comfortable, and folds neatly into the floor with the tug of a couple handles. When upright, there's no seat hardware cluttering up the cargo space to catch grocery bags or get crammed with Cheerios. If there is a spill, the Pacifica's available vacuum cleaner can make short work of it."

Of more than 300 new-car models available for 2017, *Kelley Blue Book's* expert editors initially narrowed the field to a few dozen Best Buy Award contenders in 12 major vehicle categories and then spent several weeks testing and evaluating all of the finalists head-to-head to ultimately determine the winners.

"Vehicles in all segments are becoming better equipped with more safety and tech features every year, so the competition is stiff for which models will take home a prestigious Best Buy Award," Nerad said.



kind of utility you expect from a *Pacifica's storage capabilities impressed Kelley Blue Book judges*.





Mark Fields speaking at the 2016 AutoMobility conference.

## Ford CEO Mark Fields Says Company Ready for Future

Ford CEO Mark Fields spoke as the keynote speaker about the car of tomorrow operating in the city of tomorrow at the 2016 AutoMobility LA on Nov. 15.

"I think we should all take a second to recognize the significance of this moment," Fields said. "We're attending the first major auto show in the world that's not just about cars. That's an amazing sign of something that's happening all around us.

"It's occurring on the streets outside this conference hall, on the roads in cities on every continent, and in our day-to-day lives. We're on the cusp of a mobility revolution.

"And we at Ford are excited about that because we've literally spent more than 100 years getting ready for this moment. At Ford, we've always used world fairs as an opportunity to talk about how we envision the future."

Fields said that Ford is no stranger to introducing new ideas at gatherings designed to look at the future.

"At the 1939 world's fair, we talked about how soybeans and cane sugar could be used to make key components of our vehicles," Fields said. "Those were innovations in sustainability that we put into mass production in the early half of the 20th century. We also had an exhibit there we called the 'Road of Tomorrow.'

"It featured a service station and presented the idea that infrastructure upgrades would soon allow drivers to travel the entire country with ease. Both of these are things we take for granted now. But back then, they were new and provocative ideas.

"At the 1964 world's fair, Ford created a seven-acre journey 'into the fabulous future.' Visitors could drive to a space city. There were laser beams and radio telescopes. I was at that world's fair in New York and I still have fond memories of it. This exhibit was designed to give a glimpse of what the future of transportation could look like. From its beginning, Ford has always been a company that used innovation to help create a better tomorrow."

He said that the Ford of more than 100 years ago revolutionized the way people moved around. With the horse, a trip of four miles was a big deal. The debut of the car changed that.

But in the 21st century, Fields said, cars are only a part of the equation when it comes to personal transportation.

"Today, we're not only dreaming about the Road of Tomorrow, but also focused on creating the City of Tomorrow," Fields said. "Which means continuing to find ways to make people's lives better whether they own a car or not. Consider this – right here, in Los Angeles - commuters can easily spend more than an hour each way getting to work. That's two hours out of the day when you're trapped in traffic. Over a lifetime, that's nearly 25 percent of your free time - the hours you're not working or sleeping.

"Congestion is costly in other ways, too. L.A. congestion accounts for one-fifth of the congestion in the U.S. and costs the city \$23 billion every year. If you zoom out, you see that every year in the U.S., drivers spend roughly 160 million hours in their vehicles."

And it's going to get worse, Fields said. Some estimates say population growth and the extension of today's transportation options will increase total miles driven by as much as 25 percent by 2040.

There are serious challenges, Fields said, which is why Ford created the Ford City Solutions team to work with cities around the world to help map the future, starting with San Francisco and growing from there.

"We know every city is unique, with different needs and unique transportation challenges," Fields said. "Instead of offering a single set of solutions to all cities, we're working with each city directly to identify the needs of its citizens and tailor transportation solutions for them.

"It's also why the innovative team at Chariot is now part of our Ford mobility team. Chariot is an app-based, crowd-sourced shuttle service that adapts to customer demand. It started in San Francisco and now has launched in Austin with plans to work with at least four more cities in the next 15 months."

Doing all of this, Fields said, is just good business. Ford has been a longtime partner to cities as a leading provider of vehicles for police, rescue and taxis in cities around the world. "That will continue and even grow as we become closer to key cities, which will improve Ford's core business of building great vehicles," he said.

"At the same time, we will see substantial revenue opportunity in providing mobility solutions to millions of commuters in the U.S. and the growing workforce in several major cities globally – many of whom do not own vehicles today or do business with Ford.

"All of this work will help us unlock the future of transportation systems. And, beginning next year, we will be directly engaging city leaders, tech visionaries, urban planners, designers and local communities – bringing public and private together – to discuss and develop solutions for the transportation system that can improve people's lives in ways we can only just begin to imagine.

"Ford is beginning to collaborate with Mike Bloomberg in his philanthropic work with a coalition of mayors worldwide. We're discussing how we can work together to help create the City of Tomorrow, incubating ideas around mobility and to accelerate solutions in cities. Working with Bloomberg, we will collect the best ideas from around the world and put them into action."

## Mopar Racing Team Wins at NHRA Finals

The 52nd annual NHRA Finals at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona proved to be a time of celebration for Team Mopar on Nov. 13.

On Nov. 12 during qualifying for the final event of the 2016 Mello Yello Drag Racing Series season, Mopar Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car driver Ron Capps secured his first world championship, and on Nov. 13, it was his Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) teammate Tommy Johnson Jr. in the spotlight in a Dodge of his own. Johnson wheeled his Make-A-Wish Dodge Charger to the 15th victory of his career in a thrilling final round to claim the 14th event win of the season for Team Mopar.

Over the course of the 2016 season, Mopar remained consistently powerful. A total of 16 low qualifier awards complemented the 14 trophies accumulated by hemi-powered Mopar Dodge Charger R/T Funny Cars. In all, Mopar reached 18 final rounds in 24 events in 2016, including nine all-Mopar Funny Car standoffs for the trophy. Mopar held the points lead for 16 of the 24 races with Capps and ultimately earned the fourth Funny Car world title for the brand in six years. The championship was the sixth for Mopar in six years overall, including two Pro Stock championships.

"It has been a tremendous year for Team Mopar, and ending this season of great performance with a Dodge Charger Funny Car victory for Tommy Johnson Jr. and the NHRA Championship for Ron Capps at the NHRA Finals is the perfect conclusion," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar).

## Chrysler Appeal Fails to Sway Georgia Court

DETROIT (AP) – A Georgia court has rejected Fiat Chrysler's appeal of a \$40 million award to a family whose child died in a Jeep fire.

The Court of Appeals on Nov. 16 ruled against the company.

Last year, a jury awarded \$150 million to the family of 4-year-old Remington Walden. He died in 2012 after a Jeep Grand Cherokee he was riding in was hit from behind and burst into flames. The gas tank was mounted behind the rear axle, leaving it vulnerable in a crash.

Decatur County Superior Court Judge J. Kevin Chason reduced the damages to \$40 million.

The appeals court ruled against Fiat Chrysler's allegations that Chason abused his judicial discretion at the trial.

Fiat Chrysler says it is considering an appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court.

The company says the crash was caused by a reckless pickup truck driver who hit the Grand Cherokee at a high speed. Fiat Chrysler maintains the Jeep's fuel system met federal safety standards and does not pose an unreasonable safety risk.

At least 75 people have died in post-crash fires involving several Jeep models with rear-mounted gas tanks. The problem led to the recall of 1.56 million Grand Cherokees and Libertys to install trailer hitches to protect the tanks in low-speed crashes.

Last year, Fiat Chrysler agreed in a deal with government safety regulators to offer \$100 gift cards to entice owners of recalled Jeeps to get the trailer hitch installation. The company also agreed to offer an extra \$1,000 for people trading in 1993 to 1998 Grand Cherokees for a new Fiat Chrysler vehicle.



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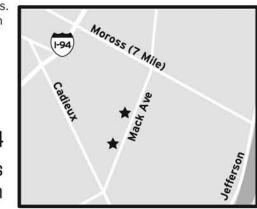
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## General Motors Taps the Wind for Energy

General Motors has made its largest renewable energy procurement to date, purchasing enough wind power to equal the electricity needs of 16 of its U.S. facilities, including business offices in Fort Worth and Austin, Texas, a major assembly and stamping complex in Arlington, Texas, and 13 parts warehouses east of the Mississippi River.

GM will source wind power through an agreement with Renewable Energy Systems, a global renewable energy and energy storage development and construction company.

purchase will megawatts of power produced at Cactus Flats, a 150-megawatt wind farm being developed by RES in Concho County, Texas, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc. When the contract begins in the first half of 2018, 6 percent of GM's global energy use will be powered by renewable energy.

'GM's commitment to renewable energy is helping transform the way electricity is produced, distributed and consumed around the world, and we're doing it in a way that makes our company and communities stronger," said Rob Threlkeld, GM global manager of Renewable Energy. "These renewable energy investments drive down greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our dependence on finite resources, and help keep our air and water clean.

"Investing in Texas wind energy is an important step on a journey that will see clean, renewable sources account for 100 percent of GM's global energy footprint by 2050.

Threlkeld said that starting in 2018, GM will source more than 193,000 megawatt hours of electricity from wind annually, enough to power the Austin IT Innovation Center, a GM Financial



GM is buying Renewable Energy Systems to power 16 sites.

office in Fort Worth and 13 parts warehouses. GM Arlington Assembly, which is already 50 percent powered by renewable energy, will have all of its electricity needs met with green power.

GM worked with Altenex, an Edison Energy Company and an independent renewable energy advisor, to identify renewable energy projects in the Texas market and execute the deal, Oberc said.

"RES is proud to support General Motors in reaching its 100 percent renewable energy goal," said Glen Davis, CEO of RES in the Americas. "RES brings decades of experience to GM and other companies to reduce their carbon footprint and secure lowcost renewable energy for the

GM is a founding member of the BRC, an organization backed by the Rocky Mountain Institute that streamlines and accelerates corporate purchasing of wind and solar energy, Oberc said.

In addition to an anticipated 114 megawatts of wind power, GM hosts 24 solar installations around the world.

## Volvo Issues an SUV Recall

DETROIT (AP) - Volvo is recall- happens, the belt may not hold ing about 74,000 cars and SUVs in the U.S. because the front passenger seat belt may not hold people in a crash.

The recall covers certain S60, S90, V60, XC60 and XC90 vehicles from the 2016 and 2017 model years.

Volvo says in government documents that a buckle stud can come loose, allowing the buckle to separate from a bracket. If that the front passenger in a crash.

Dealers will replace the buckle if needed at no cost to owners starting Dec. 12.

Volvo began investigating the problem after getting reports of buckle failures starting in August. It traced the trouble to cars made from Feb. 16, 2015, to Aug. 22, 2016.

No reports of injuries were listed in the documents Nov. 9.



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total due at signing

2017 GMC Acadia SLE1 FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$33,770

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INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model

6<sub>months</sub> 10.000 miles

total due at signing

2016 GMC Sierra DBL CAB SLE 4WD 1500 MSRP: \$43,715

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10.000 miles



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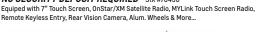
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## Tesla's Stock Swap Deal **Raises Some Questions**

by DEE-ANN DURBIN

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla Motors got approval from investors to combine with SolarCity Corp. in an effort to expand the market for solar power and give electric car owners new options for solar charging.

Shareholders of both companies backed the merger by a wide margin Nov. 17. Tesla said 85 percent of shareholders who voted approved the deal.

The deal, first proposed by Tesla CEO Elon Musk in June, has had more of a mixed reaction on Wall Street. Analysts wondered why Tesla would want to take on SolarCity while it's building a big battery factory in Nevada and preparing to launch its first mass-market car, the Model 3, due out at the end of 2017. Shares of both companies dropped in the ensuing months.

There were also complaints of a conflict of interest for Musk. He is the chairman of both companies, and SolarCity is run by his

But Musk convinced shareholders that the deal was, as he originally stated, "a no-brainer." Earlier this month, he said SolarCity - the largest home solar panel installer in the U.S. – could add \$1 billion in revenue to the combined company next year and could add \$500 million in cash to Tesla's coffers over three years.

And at a big party in Hollywood, he unveiled what he hoped would be the combined companies' first product: glass solar roof panels that look like traditional roof tiles.

"I think your faith will be rewarded," Musk told shareholders Nov. 17. He said the solar roof tiles would be ready for installation in large volumes by next summer.

The all-stock deal was worth \$2.6 billion when the companies approved it in August, but the final terms will be determined by

the value of Tesla shares on the day the merger goes into effect. SolarCity said it expects the deal to close in the coming days.

Tesla shares rose 2.6 percent to close at \$188.66 Nov. 17. That's down from \$219.61 on June 21, the day before the merger was proposed. SolarCity shares rose 2.9 percent to \$20.40, down from \$26.40 in June.

Musk and two other Tesla directors who sit on SolarCity's board recused themselves from the vote, but that didn't stop some shareholders from suing.

They claim the merger is an attempt to use one company to bail out another. Musk owns 22 percent of both companies.

Neither company has achieved sustained profitability, and both operate in markets where demand is uncertain. Plug-in electric vehicles make up less than 1 percent of U.S. sales, and less than 1 percent of U.S. electricity generation comes from solar power, according to government

Tesla posted a net profit of \$22 million in the third quarter, its first quarterly profit in three years. SolarCity reported a thirdquarter loss of \$225.3 million.

Efraim Levy, an equity analyst at CFRA Research, was among those against the deal because it could distract Tesla's management and increase the company's need to raise cash next year. He has a "hold" rating on Tesla's

"Elon Musk is clearly a force for change, but we think TSLA shareholders will see rewards delayed," Levy wrote in a note to clients.

Down the road, Levy said, there are some potential upsides. Tesla and SolarCity have said they could save \$150 million in the first full year thanks to reduced marketing costs and other synergies.

Levy said the deal could also reduce the cost of financing for

## Green Journal Likes Bolt

The all-electric 2017 Chevrolet Bolt, which offers a breakthrough EPA-estimated 238 miles of range on a full electric charge, was named Green Car Journal's 2017 Green Car of the Year during AutoMobility LA. Other finalists for the 2017 Green Car of the Year award included Chrysler Pacifica.

Green Car Journal editors selected the 2017 Bolt for its impressive 238-mile zero-emission driving range, stylish design, pleasing driving dynamics, and welcome suite of advanced and connected technologies, said magazine spokeswoman Sanaz

Along with its distinction as the first production battery electric vehicle to achieve a 200-plusmile driving range, the 2017 Bolt offers an array of features that provide a unique and catered ride to the driver, magazine editors wrote. Specifically, the Bolt's Regen-On-Demand feature allows the driver to use a steering wheel paddle to initiate more aggressive regenerative braking to slow down without using the brake pedal, while transferring electrical energy back to the battery.

"The 2017 Bolt EV is a gamechanging electric vehicle that delivers long range at an affordable price," said Steve Majoros, marketing director, Chevrolet Cars & Crossovers. "We're excited to have the Bolt EV arrive to select dealer showrooms later this year and honored to have it named as Green Car Journal's Green Car of the Year.'

Each year, an expanding number of environmentally positive

vehicle models are considered for the Green Car of the Year program. Marblev said. This is an illustration that the auto industry is continuing to expand its efforts in offering new vehicles with higher efficiency and improved environmental impact.

For more than 10 years, Green Car Journal has honored the most influential "green" vehicles at the LA Auto Show and now Auto Mobility LA, Marbley said. The Green Car of the Year award is an honor widely recognized as the auto industry's most important environmental accolade.

"Chevrolet's all-new 2017 Bolt is a breakthrough vehicle in every sense," said Ron Cogan, editor and publisher of Green Car GreenCar-**Journal** and Journal.com. "From the time modern electric vehicles emerged in the 1990s, limited driving range has presented a core challenge to the commercialization of electric cars affordable to everyday drivers. Bolt overcomes this with its 238-mile battery electric driving range and approachable price, the first production electric car to achieve this milestone.'

Cogan said The Green Car of the Year is selected through a majority vote by an esteemed jury that includes celebrity auto enthusiast Jay Leno, as well as leaders of environmental and efficiency organizations including Jean-Michel Cousteau, president of Ocean Futures Society; Matt Petersen, of Global Green USA; and Dr. Alan Lloyd, president Emeritus of the International Council on Clean Transportation.

## Team Chevrolet Racers Put on Show at PIR

Four drivers delivered the drama, intensity, and sparks that were expected in NASCAR's penultimate race at Phoenix International Raceway (PIR) on Nov. 13 to determine its 2016 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship. The Can-Am 500, as well as the final two positions for the Championship Four at Homestead-Miami Speedway, was determined in overtime following a number of aggressive restarts and cautions in the waning laps.

Kyle Larson, No. 42 Target Chevrolet SS, was the highest finishing Chevrolet SS driver out of six that made up the top 10 at PIR. His third-place finish was his ninth top-five finish of 2016.

Chevrolet Chase contenders Kevin Harvick, No. 4 Jimmy John's Chevrolet SS, and Kurt Busch, No. 41 Monster Energy/Haas Automation Chevrolet SS, finished fourth and fifth respectively. Both drivers came into the Can-Am 500 at PIR in a must-win situation and struggled with their cars' handling for most of the 312-lap contest.

However, late in the race, both drivers had opportunities to take over the top spot on a few of the restarts that played out over the finish, but were never able to get a stronghold on the top spot. The Stewart-Haas Racing pair had their chances at another championship title thwarted when the checkered flag fell in the valley of the Avondale

Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman, subbing for the injured Dale Earnhardt Jr., dominated the day in his No. 88 Nationwide Chevrolet SS. The 23year old Arizona native earned his first career pole on Nov. 11 at PIR and looked to be a strong contender as he led the event on three separate occasions for a race-high 194 laps. On the second to last restart of the afternoon. Bowman was involved in an on-track incident, but was able to salvage a sixth-place finish, the best of the nine races he has competed in this season while serving as interim driver of the No. 88 Chevy.

Chase Elliott, No. 24 SunEnergy1 Chevrolet SS, ended the day in the ninth position and Paul Menard, No. 27 Rustoleum/Menards Chevrolet SS, finished 10th to round out the Chevrolet power in the top 10.

Joey Logano (Ford) was the race winner and Kyle Busch (Toyota) was second to round out the top five finishers.

## **General Motors Finding Work For Employees**

DETROIT (AP) - The head of the United Auto Workers union says about 2,000 General Motors factory workers who face layoff in January could be placed at other company factories.

President Dennis Williams told reporters Nov. 10 that the UAW is talking with GM. He says there may be enough jobs for all the workers but he's not sure yet.

GM announced Nov. 9 it would indefinitely lay off third-shift workers at two car factories in Ohio and Michigan due to falling demand.

But there may be more jobs available at truck and SUV factories where sales of these vehicles are growing.

GM confirmed it's talking to the union about jobs for laid-off workers but says nothing is final-

One spot may be an engine plant in Spring Hill, Tenn., where General Motors says it will be adding up to 800 jobs in the near future.





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2017 Cadillac CT6 plug-in hybrid

## **Luxury, Prestige are Top Selling Points for CT6**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and strong electric-driving range.

Cadillac's prestige plug-in hybrid entry achieves the same zero-to-60-mph performance as its V6-powered competitors, said de Nysschen, while achieving roughly twice the full EV range and MPGe figures.

The CT6 plug-in hybrid is expected to have fuel economy estimated at 65 MPGe.

Miles per gallon equivalence -MPGe - is an EPA formula that compares energy consumption of plug-in electric vehicles and other advanced technology vehicles with the fuel economy of conventional internal combustion vehicles in miles per U.S. gallon.

CT6 plug-in hybrid The combines an all-new, rear-wheeldrive electric variable transmission to provide the smooth, powerful acceleration expected driver's car, said from a de Nysschen.

The two-motor EVT system combines with the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder gas engine to produce an estimated total system power of 335 hp and 432 lb.-ft. of torque.

This helps propel the vehicle

from zero to 60 mph in an estimated 5.2 seconds, said Donny GM spokesman Nordlicht.

Each electric motor produces 100 hp of power.

On electric power only, the car is capable of approximately 30 miles of driving range and a top speed of 78 mph, with the additional power of the engine adding hundreds of miles of total range and a top speed of 150 mph on a track.

The CT6 plug-in hybrid launches in North America in the spring of 2017, starting in the U.S. at \$75,095 plus a \$995 freight destination charge before any applicable electric vehicle tax incentives, Nordlicht

In the U.S. market, the CT6 plug-in hybrid will be offered as its own unique package within the CT6 product line, with pricing and equipment comparable to the existing Premium Luxury model (second highest within the model range), Nordlicht said.

The plug-in model includes numerous optional equipment as standard, such as a Rear Seat Infotainment system, Enhanced Night Vision and Rear Camera mirror.





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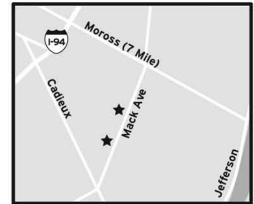
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