

Young Thomas Maier Needs Your Support This Christmas

Editor's Note: In an effort to create more awareness to a need, we are rerunning this story in part from our Nov. 28 edition.
Readers of the *Tech Center News* were introduced to 10-year-

old Thomas Maier of Macomb Township, who was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart defect. After numerous procedures, Thomas's only option is a heart and lung transplant.

After the newspaper hit the stands, the Maiers received a generous outpouring of support, seemingly from our readers, which put them closer to reaching their goal of \$75,000. However,

with medical bills mounting and the other costs associated with Thomas's care, the Maiers continue to need support.
The Maiers have been through the fight of their lives to save

Thomas. Any donation will be of tremendous help in easing the burden during this difficult time.
For more information and to make a donation, please visit www.youcaring.com.

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Tech Center News®

WARREN, MICHIGAN

VOL. 41 NO. 15

Covers the Tech Center and the Immediate Area

DECEMBER 19, 2016

GM to Begin Autonomous Vehicle Testing – Here and Now

So it begins.
On the heels of the signing of the SAVE Act legislation to support autonomous vehicle testing and deployment in Michigan, General Motors will immediately begin testing autonomous vehicles on public roads, said GM spokesman Kevin Kelly.
GM also announced on Dec. 15 that it will produce the next generation of its autonomous test vehicles at its Orion Township assembly plant beginning in early 2017.
“Revolutionizing transportation for our customers while improving safety on roads is the goal of our autonomous vehicle technology, and today’s announcement gets us one step closer to making this vision a reality,” said General Motors Chairman and CEO Mary Barra. “Our autonomous technology will be reliable and safe, as customers have come to expect from any of our vehicles.”
Testing is already under way on GM’s Technical Center campus in Warren, Kelly said, and with the passage of the SAVE Act legislation will now expand to public roads on the facility’s outskirts. Within the next few months, testing will expand to metro Detroit, which will become GM’s main location for develop-

ment of autonomous technology in winter climates.
Workers at the Orion Township assembly plant will build test fleet Bolt EVs equipped with fully autonomous technology, Kelly said. The plant currently manufactures the Chevrolet Bolt EV and Sonic. The new equipment will include LIDAR, cameras, sensors and other hardware designed to ensure system safety, leveraging GM’s proven manufacturing quality standards.
Barra said that the auto industry is going through exciting times that are being driven by the technologies.
“You’ve all heard me say we’re in the midst of seeing more change now than in the last 50 years,” Barra said.
The test fleet vehicles will be used by GM engineers for continued testing and validation of GM’s autonomous technology already under way on public roads in San Francisco and Scottsdale, Ariz., as well as part of the Michigan testing fleet.
Since the beginning of 2016, GM has taken significant steps in its development of autonomous vehicle technology.
This move is part of a larger effort by GM to embrace the concepts of autonomous driving and ride sharing. In January, the com-

pany announced the formation of a dedicated autonomous vehicle engineering team and a \$500 million investment in Lyft to develop an integrated network of on-demand autonomous vehicles in the U.S.
In March, the company announced the acquisition of Cruise Automation to provide deep software talent and rapid development expertise to help speed development.
In June, GM began testing autonomous Chevrolet Bolt EVs on the public roads in San Francisco and Scottsdale. The company has more than 40 autonomous vehicles testing in the two cities, Kelly said.



Autonomous Bolt on Tech Center Campus

Mound to Become State-of-the-Art Corridor

by Jim Stickford

A project called Innovate Mound got its start on Dec. 15 when representatives from Macomb County, Warren and Sterling Heights met with people who own property and operate businesses on Mound Road between I-696 and M-59.
County authorities are seeking \$150 million to improve Mound Road, said John Paul Rea, director of Planning and Economic

Development for Macomb County.
“The idea behind the Dec. 15 visioning session was to meet with stakeholders and to define the priorities for Innovate Mound project,” Rea said.
“That meant asking them what their biggest problems with the road are. The thing that we heard over and over, was that the condition of the road over the past few years made it difficult to get to and from their businesses,

and to be able to move inventory to and from their businesses.”
Rea described Innovate Mound as a collaborative effort between Macomb County, the city of Sterling Heights and the city of Warren with the ultimate goal of transforming the nine miles of Mound Road between I-696 and M-59 into a state-of-the-art corridor. The estimated investment needed for this project is \$150 million.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

’Tis the Season for Successful Toys for Tots

The employees who work at GM Transmission in Warren got to play elf for a day on Dec. 14 when they loaded up toys at their plant for the Marine Corps’ annual Toys for Tots gift drive.
Drive organizer John Giannetti, a UAW Local 909 rep, said the

group has been raising money for the toy drive all year.
“We held a golfing fundraiser last June,” Giannetti said. “Also during the year, we hold special fundraising lunches.”
Giannetti said he’s proud to co-chair the effort to raise money for the drive with Sheryl Yaldao

of GM. “It’s the work of a lot of people who make the drive possible,” he said.
“I have to thank my fellow Warren Transmission employees for their help. They include Raquel Erenfeicht-Hales, Eunice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



From left, Davis, Curtis and Giannetti thank employees for donating to buy hundreds of gifts for Toys for Tots.



Winning couple with their cash prize

Prestige Tech Center Cadillac Chooses Its Contest Winner

We have a winner!
Prestige Tech Center Cadillac has chosen the winner of its “Car Giveaway” promotion.
The event, said Prestige spokeswoman Rene Logan, was held as a way to celebrate the October grand opening of the dealership at its new location on Van Dyke, across the street from the GM Tech Center in Warren.
“We, as a management team, wanted to do something on our part for opening of the new location,” Logan said. “We thought a raffle was a good way to get the

public involved. It was also a way to get people energized about the Cadillac brand, our products and our new location.”
The rules of the contest were simple, Logan said. Contestants could stop by the dealership and submit their names to be chosen for the final drawing.
Over a period of several weeks, names were drawn and chosen for the final drawing. And one final drawing would be held to pick the ultimate winner.

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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.
for the next edition of Monday

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Club GM Selling
Discount Auto
Show Tickets

As GM prepares for the 2017 NAIAS, so does its employees.

Club GM is selling tickets for the upcoming North American International Auto Show at a discounted price. Club spokesman Ardin Hammel said that tickets will be good Jan. 14 through Jan. 22, 2017.

Those purchasing their tickets through Club GM will shave \$3 off the \$13 adult ticket door price, Hammel said. Club GM ticket sellers include:

- Joe Wrobel at VEC East, 586-201-5553;
- Jeff LaCharite at the GM Design Center, 586-689-5782;
- Katie Murphy at the VEC Tower - third floor, 586-441-8670;
- John Giannetti at Warren Transmission, 586-497-6116.
- Barry Hensel at the Pontiac Powertrain World Headquarters Store in Building B, 248-904-0398;
- Joya Shepard at Lake Orion Assembly, 248-377-5103;
- Beth Cichon at Milford Proving Ground - Building 104, 248-953-3331.



Prestige Tech Center Cadillac employees congratulated the winners of the dealership's grand opening promotion contest.

Prestige Tech Center Cadillac Chooses Contest Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The winner would then have the option of choosing a two-year lease of a 2016 Cadillac CTS, or take \$7,500 in cash.

The winner was Mrs. Shirley Jackson, who along with her husband Robert, was on hand at Prestige Cadillac to pick up her prize.

Shirley said that she decided to take the \$7,500 in cash.

"I decided to enter the contest after Robert and I attended the Prestige grand opening in October," Shirley said. "Overall, I had six opportunities for my entry to be chosen for the final selection. It was a real honor to win the contest."

Robert said that it was a difficult decision, choosing between a new Cadillac for two years or the cash.

"We have 13 grandchildren," Robert said. "You can be sure that we would have found ways to use that car."

But, ultimately, the couple decided to go for the cash.

"This contest was part of our grand opening celebration," Logan said. "We don't have any plans for now to hold another contest in the future, but that doesn't mean we won't do something like this again."

"So stay tuned. People can do that by downloading the Prestige Automotive Group mobile app."

Local Governments Ponder Plan for Mound Improvements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Mound Road is a part of Michigan's Defense Corridor and an important artery for many other businesses, too," said Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel. "I am encouraged to see the community gather to learn more about the possibilities and offer their input and support for the project."

Rea said that part of the plan for the project is to receive grants and funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) as well as the federal government.

"There is a federal grant program called First Lane that calls for the building of inventive transportation systems that can optimize passenger travel

and freight movement," Rea said. "Right now, Macomb County and M-DOT are spending time and money doing maintenance, but what we are planning is really a complete redesign and reconstruction of Mound."

The design considerations that are tentatively in place for this project include complete roadway surface reconstruction, widening north of 17 Mile Road, landscaping, lighting, signs, driveway controls, additions of non-motorized facilities, 10-foot-wide safety path along the bike trail or corridor, connections to trail network, and improvements to transit stops, Rea said.

This corridor could also be equipped with smart street technology to include computerized traffic signal systems, real-time traffic speed monitoring, cameras, communications to signals and more, Rea said. This technology would be able to increase

emergency management and enhance safety and mobility.

Innovate Macomb has identified several federal sources that could help to fund project costs, but gaining strong stakeholder support for the project is crucial for securing funding, Rea said.

The average life expectancy of a roadway is about 25 years. The selected portion of Mound Road is nearly 30 years old and in poor condition.

Each year, Macomb County spends between \$3 to \$4 million on maintenance and patching.

Rea said the next step is to submit project plans to state and federal authorities for approval.

"Realistically, we can't say how long the project would take until we hear back about the grant proposals, which we will be making this winter," Rea said.

For more information on the Innovate Mound project, visit InnovateMound.org or follow on Twitter @InnovateMound.

Warren City Holiday Office Hours

Due to the upcoming holiday season, Warren city offices will be open on a reduced schedule.

City offices will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, and will not reopen until regular business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 27. Offices will follow a similar schedule for the new year. They will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30. They open again on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The Warren Library will hold

some events. On Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Warren Civic Center branch of the library will host for free a program called "Holidaze."

Tweens and teens are invited to relax and make their own ornaments for the upcoming winter holiday seasons, said Warren Librarian Jennifer Lund. The program will be in the City Hall atrium. Registration is required. Call 586-751-0770 to reserve a spot.

Art Van-WXYZ Food Drive a 'Success'

The eighth annual "Together We Can" food drive was another recipe for success, said Art Van spokeswoman Diane Charles.

Art Van Furniture and WXYZ-TV/Channel 7 teamed up with community members to more than double last year's donation with 20,319 pounds of assorted food collected for Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. The food donations will provide approximately 16,933 meals to local residents in need this holiday season.

"We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all community members and businesses who contributed to our Art Van Furniture and WXYZ 'Together We Can' food drive. With all of us coming together as one for a

common cause, we were able to smash last year's donations," said Kim Yost, CEO of Art Van Furniture. "The generosity exhibited throughout this event has ensured that thousands of individuals can gather around the table to enjoy a hot meal together and celebrate the true meaning of the season."

"The 'Together We Can' food drive was hosted Nov. 1 through Nov. 23 at all Art Van Furniture stores throughout metro Detroit, including the Ann Arbor, Flint, Port Huron and Howell locations, Charles said.

The campaign is part of the Art Van's and WXYZ-TV's ongoing efforts to end hunger across Southeastern Michigan through its partnership with Gleaners.

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'Tis the Season



DECEMBER 19, 2016

TECH CENTER NEWS

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GM Transmission Gives Joy to Tots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Madison, Jim Pew, Regina Hill and Debi Dalpizzol-Waters. They all worked hard and they all deserve a round of applause."

"The generosity of our workforce has continued to exceed everyone's expectations. Employee donations and support of our local charitable programs have distinguished UAW Local 909 and Warren Transmission as key members of the community," said Michael Davis, chairman – UAW Local 909.

"We feel there is a social responsibility to give back to the community we live and work in," said Pat Curtis, plant manager, Warren Transmission. "We are

proud to know that many children will have a bright holiday season because of the generosity and sense of sharing demonstrated by the men and women of Warren Transmission Operations."

On hand to accept the gifts from Warren Transmission were Corp. Victor Hamlet, Lance Corp. Jesse Vang and Corp. Andrew Kush.

"You guys should be proud of what you've been able to raise," Hamlet said. "I've been going to events to pick up toys since November and I can say that you have raised the biggest amount of any group I've seen this year. It just shows the generosity of the community and the people who work at this plant. I've been com-

ing here for the last three years and you guys kill it every year."

Davis said it was good to see the Marines and noted that they were in good shape.

"They remind me of my time at boot camp," Davis said. "When I was their age, I was that slim myself and built like those Marines. They and everyone at this plant who participated in the fund drive deserve a round of applause. They are helping make this community better."



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Chinese May Slam GM for 'Behavior'

DETROIT (AP) – A Chinese state-run newspaper reported Dec. 14 that the government will penalize an unidentified U.S. automaker soon for alleged anti-competitive behavior. With signs pointing to General Motors, shares of the Detroit company fell 2 percent.

The *China Daily* quoted the government's top price regulator as saying an automaker would be fined for "impeding competition."

Some trade experts say China might single out GM, the U.S. automaker with the largest sales in China, as retaliation against U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, who has suggested he might formally recognize Taiwan as an independent nation and impose trade tariffs on Chinese goods.

A government official warned Dec. 14 that recognition of Taiwan could undermine relations between Beijing and Washington.

The threatened fine comes as authorities have stepped up antitrust oversight and expanded the industries they scrutinize in order to promote fair market competition, said Zhang Handong, director of the National Development and Reform Commission's price supervision bureau, in an interview with *The China Daily*.

A GM joint venture was targeted in a 2014 investigation into overcharges for replacement parts.

No penalty was announced but authorities gave no indication the probe had ended. GM said in a statement that it "fully respects local laws and regulations wherever we operate," and it wouldn't comment on "media speculation."

It's unlikely that Ford, the only other U.S.-based automaker with a large presence in China, would be targeted. The company said it wasn't aware of any inquiries in China.

Amanda DeBusk, chair of the

international trade department at the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP in Washington said the timing of the anti-monopoly penalty makes it likely that the Chinese are punching back against Trump.

"They had a list of things they could pull the trigger on. They decided to pull the trigger," she said.

While such a penalty could be a warning to Trump, it also is consistent with China's stance on other automakers and may have roots in a slowing economy, said Linda Lim, a professor at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

The government may be using the fines to further force down auto prices to stimulate the economy, even though car prices already are falling, she said.

But the issue of recognizing Taiwan is a "red line" for the Chinese, and Trump's recent phone call with Taiwan's president could also be a motivator, she said.

"They've picked on U.S. companies previously," she said. "The timing could just be serendipitous."

Chinese regulators launched a sweeping probe of the auto industry in 2014 following complaints global automakers were abusing control of supplies to

overcharge for replacement parts.

Volkswagen's Audi was fined \$40.5 million and Fiat Chrysler received a smaller penalty on charges they suppressed competition. An official cited by state media said Mercedes also violated the law but no penalty was announced.

Toyota's Lexus unit also said it was being scrutinized.

Regulators have punished a series of global companies in industries from milk to medical devices under China's 2008 anti-monopoly law.

Foreign business groups welcomed passage of the law, which they said would help to clarify operating conditions in China's state-dominated economy. But since then, they have complained regulators use it to protect Chinese companies from competition.

In the biggest penalty so far, Qualcomm was fined \$975 million in February 2015 on charges it abused control over patents that are part of industry standards for mobile phones to charge excessive license fees to Chinese handset makers.

Earlier in December, medical device maker Medtronic was fined \$17 million on charges it suppressed competition by enforcing minimum prices distributors were required to charge.

GKN Partnership with BMW Creates International Sales

Auburn Hills-based GKN Driveline has continued its global electric axle (eAxle) drive partnership with the BMW Group, supplying eAxle technology for a plug-in hybrid version of the BMW X1 for the Chinese market.

The system is part of the same scalable family of eAxles used in the plug-in hybrid BMW 2 Series Active Tourer 225xe, said GKN spokeswoman Lori Petrelecan.

"This latest program launch for The BMW Group in China shows GKN's global leadership in electric drive systems," said GKN Driveline Chief Executive Officer Phil Swash.

"From the i8 sports car to the X1, GKN's work with the BMW Group reflects our position as the development partner of choice for the new wave of plug-in hybrids with electric AWD."

Early adopters of GKN's electric axle drive used the technology

to create plug-in hybrid sports cars with electric all-wheel drive that enhanced performance and efficiency. Automakers are now equipping a new generation of compact vehicles with GKN electric drive technology, Swash said.

"Automakers' evolving powertrain strategies require suppliers with a focus on mass production of key technologies – and system integration capability," said Peter Moelgg, chief executive of GKN Driveline's AW&E Drive business division. "The combination of our proven driveline innovation experience, all-wheel drive expertise and eAxle production capabilities are making eAWD viable in compact vehicles. GKN's hardware and software expertise is also supporting the development of future platforms – these will need driveline suppliers to interface effectively with the rest of the vehicle's electronic architecture."

The system will be supplied from GKN's facility in Bruneck, Italy, but application and development work for the technology was conducted by GKN's operations in Shanghai, China, Petrelecan said.

For compact car applications, GKN's single-speed design has a transmission ratio of 12.5:1, reducing the electric motor speed in two stages. The system generates up to 2,000Nm and 70kW of additional torque and power – enough for a vehicle's pure electric mode to achieve speeds of up to 125km/h and for an all-wheel drive (AWD) mode that accelerates faster than conventional mechanical AWD systems.

The lightweight electric axle weighs just 20.2kg and its compact dimensions facilitate packaging and installation in smaller vehicles. The unit has a length of 457 mm, a width of 229 mm and a height of 259 mm.

When hybrid operation is not required, an electromechanically actuated dog clutch disconnects the e-machine from the driveline, minimizing losses at higher vehicle speeds. GKN has also optimized gear and bearing arrangements for optimum efficiency, NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and durability.

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Detroit's Lyft Services Are Big Success

The Fed chair stressed that she wasn't providing advice or guidance to the incoming Trump administration. And she downplayed any expectations that

"This single quarter-point move in interest rates will go largely unnoticed at the house-

She said Fed officials, during their meeting, discussed Trump's economic plans as well as the surge in stock prices, bond yields and the dollar that's followed his

Overall, the Fed's policy statement showed only modest changes in wording from the previous meeting. It did note that inflation expectations "have moved up considerably but still are low."

"Lyft is providing flexible economic opportunities for drivers and improved transportation access for passengers in Detroit and across the country," said Elliot Darvick, Lyft's Detroit general manager. "About 37 percent of Detroit passengers use Lyft to commute to and from work, and we're proud to play a role in improving people's mobility and in helping to grow the economy."

A GM notice sent to government regulators warned that the affected vehicles' cooling fan could trigger an electrical short circuit due to corrosion from

GM's referral number for the recall is 16145.

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Faurecia Purchases Danish Tech Company

International auto supplier Faurecia, which has its North American headquarters in Auburn Hills, has increased its participation in the Danish company Amminex to 91.5 percent through a share purchase.

Amminex has developed an Ammonia Storage and Delivery System (ASDS) that has demonstrated its efficiency to almost completely eliminate nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollutants from diesel engines, said Faurecia spokesman Tony Sapienza.

Faurecia has worked closely with Amminex since mid-2009 and previously owned 42 percent of the company. At the recent Paris Motor Show, Faurecia showed the Amminex solution for commercial vehicles, as well as an ASDS system in a new format for passenger cars, Sapienza said.

In increasing its participation to 91.5 percent, Faurecia expects to intensify the development of this technology for both commercial vehicles and passenger cars.

Faurecia is also investigating closely other applications of ASDS, such as for off-road vehicles and high horsepower engines used on ships and vessels, Sapienza said. The remaining shares are held by the Danish Foundation Nordea-fonden.

Christophe Schmitt, EVP Faurecia Emissions Control Technologies, said ASDS is a breakthrough technology for improving air quality validated in real-driving conditions over millions of kilometers.

"I am delighted with this increased participation in Amminex as it will enable us to accelerate the deployment of this clean mobility solution for all types of vehicles," Schmitt said.

Amminex employs 50 people at its headquarters in Søborg, near Copenhagen, and its 6,500 m² state-of-the-art production facility in Nyborg, Sapienza said.

Both Amminex CEO Annika Isaksson and Chief Technology Officer Tue Johannsen, who invented the technology and founded Amminex, will remain in their positions to accompany the technology in this new stage of its development.

ASDS is a new generation of NOx reduction technology. It is designed ultimately to replace conventional heavy tanks containing a diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) or AdBlue with lighter, high-efficiency cartridges con-

taining a solid material called AdAmmine, developed by Amminex. ASDS functions at lower exhaust temperatures, even in winter driving conditions, Sapienza said. Moreover, for equivalent quantities of ammonia, ASDS requires only half the volume than that required for AdBlue.

Most important for the pursuit of clean mobility, ASDS has been proven to reduce NOx emissions by as much as 99 percent on over 15 million kilometers of real-world use on buses, while AdBlue reduces only an average of 32 percent of the NOx in the same city driving conditions, Sapienza said.

Google Creates Waymo

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – The self-driving car project that Google started seven years ago has grown into a company called Waymo, signaling its confidence that it will be able to bring robot-controlled vehicles to the masses within the next few years.

"We are getting close and we are getting ready," Waymo CEO John Krafcik said Dec. 13 after unveiling the company's identity.

To underscore his point, Krafcik revealed the project had hit a key milestone in the journey to having fully autonomous cars cruising around public roads. In a trip taken in October 2015, a pod-like car with no steering wheel and brake pads drove a legally blind passenger around Austin, Texas, without another human in the vehicle.

This was the first time one of the project's cars had given a passenger a ride without a human on hand to take control if something went wrong.

Krafcik called that trip taken by Steve Mahan, former director of the Santa Clara Valley Blind Center, an "inflection point" in the development of self-driving cars. It came a year before a Budweiser beer truck equipped with self-driving technology owned by ride-hailing service Uber completed a 120-mile trip through Colorado while being steered by a robot while a human sat in the back of a trailer.

In doing so, Krafcik and other supporters of self-driving cars believe the technology will drastically reduce the number of deaths on the roads each year because they contend robots don't get distracted or drunk, nor ignore the rules of the road – like humans do.

While Google's self-driving cars were still in the research-and-development stage, its leaders indicated the vehicles would be commonplace by 2020. Krafcik declined to update the timetable Dec. 13, saying only that "we are close to bringing this to a lot of people."

Waymo's transition from what once was viewed as a longshot experiment to a full-fledged company marks another step in an effort to revolutionize the way people get around.

Instead of driving themselves and having to find a place to park, people will be chauffeured in robot-controlled vehicles if Waymo, automakers and Uber realize their vision within the next few years. Waymo's name is meant to be shorthand for "a new way forward in mobility."

The newly minted company will operate within Google's parent company, Alphabet, which was created last year to oversee far-flung projects that have nothing to do with Google's main business of online search and advertising.

Those projects, which Alphabet CEO Larry Page likens to "moonshots," have lost \$8 billion since 2014, with the research into self-driving cars accounting for a significant chunk of that.

Google began working on its self-driving technology in 2009 in a secretive lab called "X" run by company co-founder Sergey Brin. Since then, its fleet of cars has covered more than 2.3 million miles in the San Francisco Bay Area, Austin, Arizona and Washington state.

The self-driving vehicles have been involved in 35 traffic accidents. Google has said its self-driving vehicles were at fault in only one collision with a bus earlier this year.

As its own company, Waymo will now face more pressure to generate a profit under Alphabet's management instead of simply focusing on research.

Rather than make its own cars, Waymo intends to license its technology to traditional automakers and trucking companies.

"We are not in the business of making better cars," Krafcik said. "We are in the business of making better drivers."

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Lights put up by Fiat Chrysler volunteers brighten Pontiac neighborhood.

40 Fiat Chrysler Volunteers Light Up Lives of Neighbors

by Jim Stickford

Fiat Chrysler employees recently took the opportunity to brighten up the lives of people in Pontiac – literally.

Forty volunteers, mostly from the company's Supply Chain Management Department, put up 16,000 Christmas lights at the Grace Centers of Hope's homes on Seneca in Pontiac Nov. 30.

The homes, said Grace spokeswoman Ashley Veenstra, make up what is referred to as the "Grace Village" – a place where people undergoing treatment can receive the help they need to get back on their feet.

Veenstra said that Grace owns several homes in the neighborhood and that the people who stay in the houses pay rent, buy their own groceries.

But because of the proximity to Grace's main campus, still have access to the support networks provided by the organization.

"The people in the homes have already taken Grace's life skills program," Veenstra said. "That is a year-long program where peo-

ple get counseling and education to help with drug addiction, as well as to gain life skills needed to maintain a life in the world."

The life's skills program is held at Grace's main facility in Pontiac, Veenstra said. There are two dormitories. One for men and one for women and children where people can stay while taking the course.

Many people, once they complete the year-long life-skills course, move into the Grace's homes in Pontiac, Veenstra said.

And that's right where Fiat Chrysler employees came in, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Kevin Frazier.Frazier said.

On Nov. 30, 40 volunteers put up Christmas lights outside the Grace homes.

"We provided the lights," Frazier said."The volunteers were provided mostly by the Supply Chain Management department. They have 'adopted' Grace Centers as an organization to help. In the past, volunteers have given their time to fix homes. They see the value to the work they do at Grace and have been generous with their time."

GM Donates Trucks to Honor Fallen Soldiers

For the seventh year in a row, Chevrolet has served as the official vehicle of the Army-Navy Game presented by USAA.

Dan Akerson, former chairman and CEO of General Motors and a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, recognized the work being done by Wreaths Across America to honor fallen soldiers with an on-field presentation during the Dec. 10 game, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

Akerson presented a Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty pickup and 40-foot trailer to the founder of Wreaths Across America, Morrill Worcester; and a Silverado Special Ops edition pickup to one of the group's most dedicated volunteers, Gold Star Parent Scott Harris, for his loyalty and commitment to the organization. Harris, who lost his son, Army Spec. Dustin Harris, in 2006 in Iraq, delivers wreaths across the country in a semi wrapped in a portrait of his son.

"It is so important that we never forget the sacrifice that our military families make to ensure the safety and security of our country," said Akerson. "Helping Wreaths Across America honor our fallen soldiers demonstrates

in a small but powerful way the gratitude that the entire Chevrolet and GM family has for their service and their sacrifice."

Chevrolet will support Wreaths Across America for the third year in a row as it honors America's military heroes by helping the organization place more than 1 million wreaths at military cemeteries across the country, Farah said.

A fleet of Chevrolet vehicles provided to Wreaths Across

America – including several decorated Tahoes and Suburbans – will lead the Wreaths Across America journey from its Maine headquarters to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., beginning Dec. 11.

Along the route, Chevrolet and its dealers will donate more than 17,000 wreaths and help the organization accomplish its mission to remember, honor and teach during several stops at schools and community centers.



Worcester, left, and Akerson at the Dec. 10, 2016, Army-Navy game.

Love Is in the Air – and in Boxes for Hungry

UAW-Ford kicked off its fourth annual Boxes of Love program Dec. 17 when it distributed more than 25,000 meals to families across 17 states.

Nearly \$1 million will go toward feeding families in need in communities where Ford has facilities – with the bulk of the boxes being distributed throughout metro Detroit, said UAW-Ford spokeswoman Talitha Johnson.

Beginning Dec. 17, until the last box is distributed, metro Detroit residents can pick up a free holiday food box at any of the following locations:

- Trade Union Labor Council Building, 8670 Grand River, Detroit;
- Butzel Family Recreation Center, 7737 Kercheval, Detroit;
- Highland Park Fire Station, 25 Gerald Street, Highland Park;
- Fellowship Chapel, 7707 West Outer Drive, Detroit.

Each box includes a 12- to 14-pound turkey, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, cornbread mix, vegetables, cake mix and frosting, Johnson said. Retail value amounts to nearly \$75 per box.

"We are proud to organize not only for our members, but also for the people in need in our communities, so that they, too, can have a holiday with dignity and warm food," said UAW-Ford vice president Jimmy Settles. "Our dedication to helping improve the quality of life for those communities in which our members live, work and play is even stronger. On this day – just as we offer a helping hand year-round – UAW-Ford stands in solidarity with families in need."

Boxes of Love is part of UAW-

Ford's national community giving initiative.

"Ford Motor Company is glad to be able to lend a helping hand this holiday season, as we stand committed to helping people in need," said Bill Dirksen, Ford Motor Company vice president, Labor Affairs. "This is one of the many ways in which we are invested in Detroit and communities across the United States."

In addition to local distribution sites, nearly 154 churches throughout metro Detroit have identified families in need and will distribute meals from the Boxes of Love program.

Participating states include California, Colorado, Ohio, Oregon, Missouri, Florida, Texas, Georgia, New York, Virginia, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina and Illinois.

In addition to the financial contribution, more than 1,000 volunteers including UAW-Ford members, retirees, family members, businesses, organizations and youth will help assemble and distribute Boxes of Love.

Warren Truck Employees Collect for Tots



Thanks to the efforts of employees at Chrysler's Warren Truck, Warren Stamping and FCA Transport, many children will have a merry Christmas.

Members of UAW locals 869, 140 and 212, along with the United Way Committee of Local 140, raised money for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign.

Warren Stamping Plant Press Room Team Leader Hiram Henry (above) and friends in the stamping plant's choir performed Christmas tunes during a special ceremony.

At the event, after all the gifts were collected, a sleigh (Santa's?) was filled with toys to officially turn over to a special Marine contingent.



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GM, SAE Announce 3-Year
Autonomous Competition

It can be a very good idea when business and academia join forces.

That's why the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International and General Motors have partnered to be the headline sponsors of the AutoDrive Challenge, the latest offering in the SAE International's Collegiate Design Series.

This newly established, three-year autonomous vehicle competition will task students with developing and demonstrating a fully autonomous driving passenger vehicle, said GM spokesman Chris Bonelli.

The technical goal of the competition is to navigate an urban driving course in an automated driving mode as described by SAE Standard level 4 definition by year three.

Throughout the AutoDrive Challenge competition cycle, students and faculty will be invited to attend technology-specific workshops to help them in their concept refinement and overall autonomous technical understanding, Bonelli said.

The competition will consist of up to 10 teams from select universities that were invited to participate in the inaugural competition. The foundational teams will be announced April 2017. The first of three yearly competitions will take place the following spring in 2018.

"SAE International is excited to expand our partnership with GM to build the future STEM workforce through the AutoDrive Challenge," said Chris Ciuca, director of Pre-Professional Programs at SAE International.

"Building on our success through programs like Formula SAE, the AutoDrive Challenge launches a new platform to engage industry and academia in working toward a common goal of preparing the brightest young minds for the future of autonomous technologies."

During the AutoDrive Challenge, students will focus on autonomous technologies and

allow for modification and testing throughout the three-year competition, said SAE spokesman Shawn Andreassi.

General Motors will provide a Chevrolet Bolt EV to competing schools to use as the platform for their autonomous vehicle solutions, Bonelli said.

The focus will be on real-world applications of sensing technologies, computing platforms, software design implementation and advanced computation methods such as: computer vision, pattern recognition, machine learning, artificial intelligence, sensor fusion and autonomous vehicle controls.

"AutoDrive Challenge is another way General Motors is preparing the next generation of automotive engineers," said Ken Kelzer, GM vice president of global vehicle components and subsystems.

"By partnering with SAE, we will offer a unique experience for students to work with industry professionals to tackle the next big opportunity facing vehicle technology - autonomous driving."

Bonelli said that GM and SAE have received several Request For Proposals (RFPs) from the universities that have received invitations to participate.

"We limited the number of invitations to schools with already-strong autonomous programs," Bonelli said. "Because this is the first program of this type, we've kept the list of invited schools small and targeted."

"GM and SAE are doing this as a way of helping create the next generation of automotive engineers who will be working in an autonomous technology world."

Bonelli said that RFPs that have already been submitted show that the schools also share GM's enthusiasm for autonomous technology.

"Our developing autonomous technology is growing," Bonelli said. "And we need engineers to develop that tech. This program is a good way to do that."

Tax Cut, SUVs Aid China Sales

BEIJING (AP) - China's explosive demand for SUVs helped boost auto sales 17.2 percent in November over a year ago, an industry group said Dec. 12, as automakers prepared for the end of a key tax break and a potential slump in demand.

Drivers in the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold bought 2.6 million cars, minivans and SUVs, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 16.5 percent to 2.9 million.

The government helped shore up this year's demand by cutting the sales tax, but that is due to end Dec. 31. Industry analysts expect sales growth to cool to mid-single digits unless the govern-

ment extends that tax break.

SUV sales jumped 41.5 percent in November over a year earlier to just over 1 million vehicles.

For the first 11 months of the year, passenger vehicle sales rose 15.6 percent over the same period last year to 21.7 million.

The popularity of lower-priced models, a segment in which Chinese brands dominate, has helped domestic automakers claw back market share from bigger global rivals.

Sales by Chinese brands rose 21.7 percent in November over a year ago to 1.1 million vehicles.

Sales of domestic brand SUVs soared 53.1 percent to 605,000. Chinese competitors expanded their share of the SUV market by 4.5 percentage points to 59.4 percent.

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Colorado ZR2 Gets Eaton's New ELocker Technology

Eaton Vehicle Group out of Southfield is now supplying its ELocker electronic-locking differentials for the new Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 mid-size truck.

The class-exclusive differentials are applied to both the front and rear axles and help deliver exceptional off-road performance, said Eaton spokesman Jim Michels.

Eaton's ELocker provides off-road control at the touch of a button via an electro-magnet that locks the differential to prevent a single wheel from spinning, Michels said. The driver can independently lock only the rear axle, or both the front and rear axles for very extreme conditions.

The product includes Eaton's latest design advancements for on-command engagement and disengagement.

"Eaton designed this generation of ELocker technology to help deliver the most sophisticated four-wheel-drive system in the mid-size truck segment," said Deborah Kullman, vice president/general manager, Chassis Driveline Controls, Eaton Vehicle Group.



Eaton ELocker

"The work to combine the software and controls logic from General Motors with the Eaton differential and actuator resulted in the design and development of a solution that satisfies the range of drivers who enjoy both on- and off-road experiences."

Eaton's ELocker technology is part of its overall Torque Control portfolio that features a range of products for passenger car, sport utility and truck applications, Kullman said. Eaton also supplies the automatic rear locking differential that is available on other Colorado models, as well as Chevrolet's Silverado, Tahoe, and Suburban.

Light at End of the Tunnel For Takata Air Bag Recall

DETROIT (AP) – The Takata tally: 42 million vehicles to be recalled, up to 69 million air bag inflators to be replaced.

That's what the government said Dec. 9 will be the end result of the series of recalls of defective air bag inflators made by the Japanese auto parts supplier.

The inflators can explode with too much force and spew shrapnel into the vehicle. They are responsible so far for at least 11 deaths and about 180 injuries in the U.S., and at least 5 deaths in Malaysia.

Here's what car owners need to know about the recall.

Q. What is wrong with these air bags?

Three independent reports concluded that the chemical Takata uses to ignite its air bags – ammonium nitrate – can degrade after long-term exposure to environmental moisture and high temperatures. If the ammonium nitrate degrades substantially, it can cause the inflators to become over-pressurized and rupture during air bag deployment. In the air bags being recalled, Takata didn't use a chemical desiccant, a drying agent that can counteract the effects of moisture.

Q. How can I find out if my car has been recalled?

A. NHTSA released a complete list of models covered by current and future Takata recalls. The full list can be found in an announcement issued Dec. 9. Click on "Amended Coordinated Remedy Order" and scroll to "Amended Annex A" at the end to search for your vehicle.

The government also has a website – www.safercar.gov – that lets drivers search for open recalls. Owners should input the car's vehicle identification number, or VIN, which can be found on the title or registration card, or on the driver's side dash or door jamb. The VIN check page will be updated as automakers announce more recalls.

Q. Which cars are most at risk?

A. The government says vehicles younger than six years old aren't currently at risk of an air bag inflator rupture even if they're in a high humidity region, because it takes time for the ammonium nitrate to degrade. But the risk grows as the vehicle

ages. The government added sports car maker McLaren to the list of automakers with Takata recalls, bringing the total to 19.

Q. How long will I have to wait for a replacement?

A. Years, potentially. Only about 12.5 million inflators so far have been replaced, and some of those will have to be replaced again because they are also Takata inflators without a drying agent. Other manufacturers are also supplying replacement air bags.

Remaining recalls are being phased in through the end of 2020. The phases are based on the age of the vehicles and exposure to high humidity and high temperatures. Owners will be notified when there is a remedy available and should get the repair immediately.

Some automakers are offering loaner cars until replacement parts are available.

Q. How can I see if a used car has had the recall repair?

A. Dealers can legally sell used cars without notifying customers about open recalls. The government's VIN search goes back 15 years, so check the NHTSA website. Carfax, which sells vehicle history reports, also lets people check open recalls for free.

Q. Should I disable my air bag while I'm waiting for a repair?

A. No. If you're in a crash, it's far more likely that the air bag will protect you than hurt you. NHTSA estimates that front air bags have saved 43,000 lives since they were required in the 1990s.

Fuel Up 41 Cents Over Last Year

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 6 cents per gallon in the past couple of weeks.

The Dearborn-based auto club says late Dec. 11 that the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.27 per gallon. That's about 41 cents more than it was at the same point last year.

The lowest average price was about \$2.25 per gallon in the Marquette area, while the highest average was about \$2.34 per gallon in the Saginaw area.

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New Michigan Law: Driverless Car Tests OK

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Companies can now test self-driving cars on Michigan public roads without a driver or steering wheel under new laws that could push the state to the forefront of autonomous vehicle development.

The package of bills signed into law Dec. 9 comes with few specific state regulations and leaves many decisions up to automakers and companies like Google and Uber.

It also allows automakers and tech companies to run autonomous taxi services and permits test parades of self-driving tractor-trailers as long as humans are in each truck.

And they allow the sale of self-driving vehicles to the public once they are tested and certified, according to the state.

The bills allow testing without burdensome regulations so the industry can move forward with potential life-saving technology, said Gov. Rick Snyder, who signed the bills.

“It makes Michigan a place where, particularly for the auto industry, it’s a good place to do work,” he said.

The bills give Michigan the potential to be a leader by giving the companies more autonomy than say, California, which now requires human backup drivers in case something goes awry.

Here are answers to some questions about the laws:

Q: Companies are making a lot of the decisions in putting the cars on public roads. Why does the state think they’ll be safe?

A: Michigan Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said the laws put Michigan ahead of most other states with the possible exception of Florida in specifically

allowing tests without a human driver.

Companies, he said, will make the decision as to when the cars are ready for that, based on more than a century of experience of testing cars on public roads.

Automakers have a long history of testing cars on public roads in Michigan with few, if any, incidents, Steudle said.

The cars also have to comply with federal safety standards and may have to be certified as road-worthy by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if proposed federal guidelines are adopted.

“I don’t want to regulate the vehicles. There is nobody in state government that has any knowledge to be able to say that vehicle is ready to go on the road,” Steudle said.

If the vehicles crash, Steudle said they would be governed by Michigan’s no-fault insurance laws that require each driver’s insurance to pay for damage. The companies also could be sued under product liability laws, he said.

The self-driving laws also allow only reputable companies such as automakers and tech companies to do tests, Steudle said. “These are responsible parties,” said Snyder.

Q: Does this put the state ahead in allowing self-driving vehicles on public roads?

A: Steudle said the laws put Michigan ahead of most other states with the possible exception of Florida in specifically allowing tests without a human driver.

Companies, he said, will make the decision as to when the cars are ready for that, based on more than a century of experience of testing automobiles on public roads.

Steudle said yes because the

laws specifically authorize use without human drivers.

He also said Michigan has an advantage over Florida and warm-weather states because companies can test the vehicles in snow.

But Bryant Walker Smith, a law professor at the University of South Carolina who tracks the technology, said Florida has almost no restrictions.

Other states, he said, don’t expressly prohibit such testing and have entered into agreements with individual companies to do it.

Michigan’s laws also make defining who is a driver ambiguous, he said.

Drivers could be companies running autonomous taxi services, engineers who start autonomous vehicles, passengers who ride in the cars and the automated systems themselves, he said.

Q: Unlike California, Michigan isn’t tracking autonomous car crashes. How will the state spot problems?

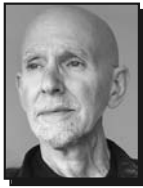
A: Police will investigate any crashes and presumably would report any trends to the state, which could suspend a company’s manufacturer license plates, which would put an end to the tests, Steudle said.

He conceded that there will be crashes and probably a fatality sometime in the future involving autonomous cars operating on public roads.

But the technology can eliminate human errors that cause 94 percent of crashes and cut the 100 highway deaths that occur in the United States every day, he said.

“It’s a risk worth taking because the future of the technologies we know are going to help reduce those crashes and reduce those fatalities,” Steudle said.

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2017 Buick Enclave

FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$39,990

\$297 per month

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



expires: 12.31.2016

36 months **10,000 miles year** **\$657** total due at signing (includes first month payment)

2016 GMC Terrain

SLE1 FWD MSRP: \$28,360

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36 months **10,000 miles year** **\$517** total due at signing (includes first month payment)

2016 GMC Sierra

DBL CAB SLE 4WD 1500 MSRP: \$43,115

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- Remote Keyless Entry!
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Stock# H34660

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- Remote Keyless Entry!
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- OnStar w/4G LTE w/built-in Wi-Fi Hotspot!
- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

Stock# H34413

Was \$32,745 Sale Price: \$23,899*

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- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

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