

2017 Cruze Offers 52-mpg Diesel

GM is using several different powertrains to achieve fuel efficiency standards, including improved diesel.

The 2017 Cruze Diesel Sedan offers up to an EPA-estimated highway mileage of 52 mpg – the highest highway fuel economy of any non-hybrid/non-EV in America. Based upon the EPA highway estimate, Cruze Diesel with the six-speed manual transmission has an estimated range of up to 702 highway miles on one tank of diesel fuel, said GM spokesman Nick Jaynes Morgan.

“Chevrolet is dedicated to offering customers a wide range of propulsion options,” said Steven Majoros, Chevrolet Marketing director. “We know there are customers looking for the right combination of fuel efficiency, driving dynamics, fuel type and more. With the EPA-estimated 52-mpg highway Cruze Diesel Sedan, they can get it all.”

The 2017 Cruze Diesel Sedan features a new Ecotec 1.6-liter inline four-cylinder turbo-diesel engine offering an SAE-certified 137 horsepower and 240 lb.-ft. of torque. Cruze Diesel passed all stringent U.S. environmental standards and validation, including Tier 3 Bin 125 emissions standards.

Morgan said that despite recent scandals in the media concerning diesel technology, there is still a demand for diesel vehicles.

“First and foremost,” Morgan said, “a lot buyers have not been scared away from diesel. There

are a lot of enthusiasts out there and many have just received checks for getting rid of their diesels. They don’t need a lot of convincing to get another diesel because they understand the fuel economy and they understand the fun of driving a diesel.”

It’s important to remember that the Cruze diesel sedan achieves hybrid levels of fuel economy while at the same time producing some of the highest levels of torque in the car’s segment, said Morgan, adding that it comes with great price points.

Buyers will be able to option their Cruze diesel sedans with either a standard six-speed manual or a new, optional Hydra-Matic nine-speed automatic transmission that includes fuel-saving stop/start technology, Morgan said.

In addition to its segment-leading EPA-estimated 52 mpg high-

way fuel economy, Cruze diesel with the six-speed manual returns an EPA-estimated city mileage of 30 mpg, resulting in 37 mpg combined, Morgan said.

Cruze Diesel with the nine-speed automatic achieves an EPA-estimated highway economy of up to 47 mpg and 31 city mpg, or 37 mpg combined, he said.

A suite of connectivity features complements the Cruze Diesel Sedan’s inherent efficiency, Morgan said.

These include available OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity and built-in Wi-Fi hotspot and available Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility through Chevrolet MyLink.

Pricing for the 2017 Cruze diesel sedan starts at \$24,670 including \$875 destination charge.

The Cruze Diesel Sedans are on their way to dealerships right now, Morgan said.



2017 Chevrolet Cruze Diesel



Comedian Jerry Seinfeld drives GM retiree Wayne Kady’s 1967 Cadillac.

Driving Kady’s Caddy is A Big Hit With Seinfeld

by Jim Stickford

You never know when famed comedian Jerry Seinfeld will come knocking on your door.

For retired GM designer Wayne Kady it was at last year’s Woodward Dream Cruise, when a member of Seinfeld’s staff contacted Kady about possibly using his 1967 Cadillac in a Web show called “Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee.”

The show is put on by Seinfeld and is available on Sony Studio’s Crackle Web site. The premise is simple – Seinfeld picks up a new comedian every week in a classic automobile and takes that comedian out for coffee. The car is supposed to match the guest comedian’s personality and Seinfeld and the guest discuss their ideas on comedy.

On Jan. 26, Seinfeld picked up comedian Lewis Black in

Kady’s black 1967 El Dorado.

“I was first contacted about my car being used for the show last August,” Kady said. “My wife was in the hospital at the time and I wasn’t sure that the request was real after I got a call from a guy on his staff.”

Kady’s El Dorado had been seen at the Cruise and caught the eye of one of Seinfeld’s staff. Kady said he was not that familiar with Seinfeld or his work, having only seen the comedian’s show a couple of times.

Kady was told that they wanted to put his car on a trailer and have it driven to New York.

“I didn’t want to send my car to New York without knowing more, so I had a friend check out the offer and it turned out to be legitimate,” Kady said. “I was aware of Jerry, but my son Brian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



GM hourly employees at 1936-37 sit-down strike

Hourly Employees Wear White Shirts as Message

There is dignity in manual labor and the UAW celebrates that every Feb. 11 by holding “White Shirt Day” events.

According to the UAW Web site, White Shirt Day got its start back in 1948 when Bert Christenson, a member of GM’s UAW Local 598, initiated National White Shirt/White T-shirt Day on Feb. 11, 1948, as a way to honor the Flint sit-down strikers of 1936-1937.

The strike had lasted 44 days, beginning on Dec. 30, 1936, and ending on Feb. 11, 1937.

Current UAW President Dennis Williams said that Christenson believed if workers wore white-colored shirts that were traditionally worn by management, the message would be sent that blue col-

lar workers deserved the same respect and recognition as management.

When workers wore the white shirts, he said, they would demonstrate the strength and unity of UAW members. So every Feb. 11, members are urged to wear white shirts to honor those who came before.

“It’s been 80 years since the Flint Sit-Downers’ victory,” Williams said. “The Flint Sit-Down Strike was called the strike heard around the world because it was more than a strike. It started a mass movement for change in this country.”

“What was at stake for them 80

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UAW Looks Back at Its Black History

February is Black History Month, and the UAW has taken the time to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout the union’s history.

Among those honored on the union’s Web site uaw.org are Lillian Hatcher, Ben Gross, Marc Stepp, Ruben Burks and Nelson “Jack” Edwards.

The Web site noted that World War II was the start of Lillian Hatcher’s many years fighting for social justice. While doing defense work at Briggs Manufacturing in Detroit, she noticed that African-American women were passed over for promotions to riveter positions. Determined to do something about it, she joined UAW Local 742 and the Double Victory Club, an African-American group that advocated for equal rights in the war industries. She eventually was promoted to a riveter position.

From there, she won election to Local 742’s executive board and soon after was appointed an International representative with the UAW’s newly formed Women’s Bureau, the first African-American woman to be appointed a UAW International representative.

Through the next decades, she served on countless social justice boards and committees, including the U.S. Labor Department’s War Production Board and Advisory Council to the Women’s Bureau, the United Nation’s Education and Economic Council.



Lillian Hatcher



Ben Gross

She died in 1998.

Gross became a UAW member in 1949 when he joined UAW Local 560 at Ford Motor Co. in Richmond, Calif., and began a 62-year-long affiliation with the UAW that included a string of groundbreaking positions. In 1950, he became the first African-American elected to the local’s bargaining committee. Four years later, as chair of the local’s housing committee, he helped create the Sunnyhills cooperative development in Milpitas, Calif., the first labor-sponsored, planned, interracial community in the United States.

In 1961, Gross was elected to the Milpitas City Council, a first for an African-American. In 1966 and 1968, city residents elected him mayor, the first African-American mayor to represent a predominantly white California town. He came to Detroit to

serve as the UAW’s assistant director of the Civil Rights Department in 1971, and stood strong with the UAW at key civil rights demonstrations across the country, bringing his pursuit of justice and racial equality to all of his work with the UAW until his retirement in 1986. He died in 2012.

Marc Stepp was drafted into the Army in 1943, right after beginning work at the Chrysler Highland Park Plant. In the Army, he saw the authoritarian regimentation of the military, which led to his belief that unions are key to individuals having a strong voice in an organization.

When he returned to Chrysler, he began years of devotion to union ideals and held numerous leadership positions in UAW Local 490. From 1974 to 1989, he served as vice president of the

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

William Springer II, publisher
Lisa A. Torretta, operations
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Warren Library Holding Events

An Oscars preview, estate planning and the Big Bang Theory are on tap in the next few weeks at the Warren Public Library.

On Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m., movie enthusiasts will present an Oscar Night Preview. Those attending will see clips of the nominated films and cast votes on which ones should win.

On Thursday, March 2, at 6 p.m., attorney Nick Daniels will discuss the ins and outs of estate planning.

On Monday, March 6, physics professor Jesse Mason will give a lecture on the Big Bang Theory, and will use telescopes, weather permitting. All events will be at the Civic Center branch. To learn more, call 586-751-0770.

TACOM is Getting New Acting ILSC Executive Director

Officials with the Department of the Army Senior Executive Talent Management Program have appointed Marion G. Whicker of Trenton the acting executive director of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC) in Warren. The post is effective Feb. 19.

U.S. Army TACOM's ILSC sustains warfighting readiness and manages a large part of the Army's investment in warfighting capacity; integrating nearly 3,000 weapon systems forming the core of Army readiness, said Army spokesman Don Jarosz.

The ILSC's approximately 3,500 active-duty soldiers and Army civilians are charged with com-

plete cycle support of aircraft armament, small arms, field artillery, mortars, tools and training systems, tactical vehicles, light and heavy combat vehicles, watercraft, soldier/biological/chemical systems and deployment/support equipment.

"In this position, Ms. Whicker will oversee the readiness of the majority of Army maintenance, fielding, new equipment training, supply chain management, and systems readiness.

"She has the full confidence and support of the TACOM commanding general and myself, and we look forward to what will most certainly be her positive contributions to the Command," said Brian Butler, U.S. Army

TACOM's deputy to the commanding general.

Prior to this appointment, Whicker served as the Command's deputy chief of staff since March 2015. A career Army civilian since 1984, she has held numerous supply chain, fleet planning, project management, asset management, fielding and training leadership and fiscal planning roles of increasing responsibility. She is regarded as one of the Army's premier logisticians.

A member of the Army Acquisition Corps, she holds the Army's highest certification in Life Cycle Logistics.

She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Iowa Wesleyan College and a



MarionWhicker

master of science in administration in Leadership from Central Michigan University.

Shift in Vehicle Popularity Offers Consumer Opportunities

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – If you do your homework, now is the time to practically steal a new sedan from your car dealer.

For more than a year, sales of cars have been tanking because Americans have gone nuts over SUVs and trucks. As stockpiles of sedans such as the Chevrolet Malibu and Chrysler 200 stretch across car lots, automakers are forced to offer big discounts to move them.

There are a few steps to finding the best bargain, but it boils down to this: Figure out which

cars aren't selling, research discounts and don't buy until the end of the month when dealers are more desperate to sell.

Brad Korner, general manager of AIS Rebate, an Ann Arbor firm that follows the labyrinth of automaker discounts, equates buying a car cheap with purchasing discounted baked goods. To get the good deal, you have to really look. "You go into the store and the day-old bakery stuff is on a different shelf," he says.

Be wary of offers that seem too good to be true, like \$69 per month payments. Earl Stewart, a North Palm Beach, Fla., Toyota dealer who is critical of other dealers' sales tactics, advises people to ignore dealer advertising. "Probably 99 percent of it is misleading," he says. The low-price deals often are on stripped-down models that the dealer may not even have. They also can include hefty down payments.

But armed with the right information, you can navigate the new car sales maze and get 20 percent or more off a car's sticker price:

- Pick a target and find slow sellers.

For more than a year, many compact, midsize and large cars, gas-electric hybrids, and many lower-level luxury cars haven't sold well. So dealers have big supplies. Because they're paying interest on the cars, they're eager to sell. So figure out the size of car you want. Then look for automaker monthly sales press releases on the internet and find models with big year-over-year declines.

The sales figures are released early in the month. To get the best deal, you can't be too picky about color or equipment because you need to buy what's on dealer lots.

- Look for discounts online.

Many websites, including those from the auto companies as well as kbb.com, truecar.com and Edmunds.com, list publicly

available discounts called incentives. Say you decide on a midsize car. Sales of the Nissan Altima were off nearly 15 percent in January, so incentives are likely. On its website, Nissan was offering \$4,550 off a nicely equipped \$25,460 Altima Midnight edition.

That's nearly 18 percent off the sticker without haggling! There often are combinations of zero percent financing and cash back. According to Wards Automotive, midsize cars with the biggest inventories include the Chevrolet Malibu, Honda Accord, Toyota Camry, Hyundai Sonata and Ford Fusion – some of the top-selling cars in the U.S.

- Visit dealers.

During the first two weeks of the month, go to a few dealers. Confirm the incentives you found online – then ask for more. Often automakers add deals by region, or they offer rebates if you own a competitor's model or have one of their models.

There also are other discounts for being an AAA member, serving in the military or being a recent college graduate. Most salespeople, when they find out you've done your homework, will be honest and give you a good price, says Korner. Michelle Krebs, an analyst for Autotrader.com, says at this point, don't mention a trade-in. Work that into the deal later. Don't agree to buy at this time.

- Pick a dealer, and go back later.

You'll get an even better price by waiting until the last few days of a month or quarter. First, dealers offer salespeople bonuses to meet monthly sales goals. If they are close to the bonus, they'll be more willing to deal. Also, dealers get what are called "stair step" incentives from automakers for hitting sales goals. It's big money, so dealers close to their targets are more willing to bargain.

For a larger dealer, Stewart says hitting stair step goals can mean \$250,000 or more, the difference between a monthly profit and loss. General Motors is helping some dealers get rid of 2016 cars by giving up to 20 percent off the sticker.

Bigger dealers can get higher payments from automakers and sometimes can offer better prices than smaller ones.

The bottom line is if you go through all these steps and you're a tough negotiator, you can get a well-equipped car for less than the price of a stripped-down SUV.

Even if you don't move this month, deals on cars probably will go on for a while. "Until the buying public loses its appetite for SUVs, it's not going to change," says Jeff Rogers, general manager of the Williamson Automotive Group in Miami.

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Dana Inc. Buys Warren-Based Factory

Dana Incorporated on Feb. 13 reached a definitive agreement to purchase axle housing and driveline shaft manufacturing operations from U.S. Manufacturing Corporation (USM).

Under terms of the agreement, Dana plans to acquire USM's Warren, Mich., assets in exchange for \$100 million in cash. This acquisition will increase Dana's revenue from passenger and commercial vehicle manufacturers and will transition significant purchased content to vertically integrated supply. It will also provide Dana with new product and process technologies for lightweighting.

The acquisition provides Dana with USM's proprietary tubemanufacturing processes and intellectual property for lightweight thin-wall axle tubes and hollow axle shafts, said Dana spokesman Jeff Cole. The purchase is subject to customary closing conditions.

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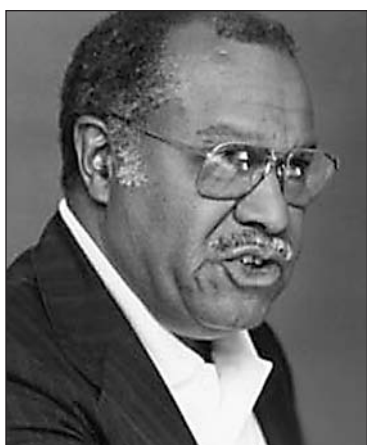
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Marc Stepp

Driving Kady's Caddy is A Big Hit With Seinfeld

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was really excited about the offer. They took comedian Lewis Black out in it, and what I'm really proud of is that I helped design that car when I worked for GM."

Kady said he grew up in a small California farming town near Fresno. He received his education at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He started working for GM in February of 1961 and retired from the company in April of 1999. During his tenure, he served as head of Design for both the Cadillac and Buick brands.

"I was head of Cadillac Design for almost 13 years," Kady said, "and moved over to be head of Buick Design for my last 10 years at the company."

Kady said he was working for Cadillac in the 1960s, when the El Dorado was designed. Restoring his 1967 brought back a lot of memories of the time he helped design the vehicle.

"My sister Laurece was the first owner of the El Dorado," Kady said. "She was going to scrap the car, but gave it to me back in 1986. I had it shipped from California back to Michigan. I ended up taking it apart, repairing it, painting it, the works. It was the first time I ever restored a car."

And, Kady said, much of the credit for the quality of the restoration goes to his colleagues at GM.

"This was the first time I ever painted a car, but there was a guy in the GM paint department - Mick Micelli - who I had worked with," Kady said. "He had his own small bump shop where he painted cars on the side. It was there that he showed me how to get started painting my car. He was very helpful."

Kady said he also received help from friends in GM's design departments.

"As far as I'm concerned, we have the best car design people who are the best of the best," Kady said. "Whether you're talking about mechanics or upholstery. A colleague who worked in upholstery did the seat work on the El Dorado. His name was Paul Greenspan and he did the work in his basement. He did a great job. I worked pretty steady on the El Dorado for six to eight months restoring it."

While that was the first car Kady restored, it wasn't the last. He also has a restored 1958 Corvette. It belonged to his younger brother Nasser.

"He died at age 40," Kady said. "I inherited the car. He was going to restore it, but died before he could get to it, so I completed the work. My other cars are a 1972 convertible El Dorado and a 1984 Cadillac Seville."

Kady said the 1972 El Dorado isn't really much longer than the 1967 version. What's different is that the 1972 is wider. It's also a little lower to the ground, and as a result looks much bigger than the 1967 version.

"That was the way cars were designed in those days," Kady said. "The goal was to get the cars as low and as wide as possible. That was something that started with Harley Earl. But the first gas crisis hit in 1973 and car design changed radically after that."

Kady said that he still believes GM designers do a great job, but he misses the interior space they had in older Cadillacs. "Back then, people could ride in back seats with plenty of leg room," he said.

UAW Looks Back at Its Black History

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UAW Chrysler Department. After negotiating steep concessions in the 1979 contract when Chrysler faced tremendous financial difficulties, Stepp lobbied Congress for \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees for the company, and then oversaw difficult negotiations for another round of concessions from membership totaling \$462.5 million.

After retirement, he became executive director of urban affairs and community relations at the University of Detroit. He died last June.

Jack Edwards would eventually be called Walter Reuther's "point man for civil rights." The road to that designation was filled with dedication to civil rights and the UAW for many years.

His achievements for workers are remembered because of the improvements he won at the negotiating table for foundry work-

ing conditions and safety equipment.

He helped establish the UAW's Independents, Parts and Suppliers Council, and later became the council's director. From 1962 to 1970, he served as a UAW International Executive Board member at large, as UAW vice president from 1970 to 1974 and as the first African-American elected to the UAW International Executive Board.

In 1963, he went to Birmingham, Ala., at the request of Walter Reuther to help with the civil rights struggles there. In 1964, Edwards was elected vice president of the NAACP, and later co-founded the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. He died in 1974.

Ruben Burks' long history of

unionism and advocacy started in 1955 when he began working as an assembler at the former General Motors Fisher Body Plant 2 in Flint where he joined UAW Local 598.

Born in 1922, Burks steadily rose through the ranks of the local, serving in various leadership posts, including shop committeeperson and executive board member. In 1970, then-UAW President Walter Reuther appointed Burks to be an International representative in Region 1C. By 1989, he was the director of Region 1C and held that position for three terms.

In 1998, he became the first African-American International UAW Secretary-Treasurer, a post he held until 2002.

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Ford Wind Tunnel Complex To House New Technology

Consumers' appetite for vehicles with greater fuel efficiency and performance has led Ford to invest in a new aerodynamic testing complex that will house a next-generation rolling road wind tunnel and state-of-the-art climatic chamber.

The new facility will come complete with testing advancements that better match the technological development of Ford products – both production vehicles and racing vehicles, said Ford spokeswoman Deeptie Sethi.

"This investment in new world-class test facilities underpins Ford's ongoing commitment to advance our capabilities to continue to provide our customers with high-quality vehicles," said Raj Nair, Ford executive vice president, Global Product Development and chief technical officer.

The new wind tunnel complex will sit on 13 acres next to Ford's current Driveability Test Facility in Allen Park. The complex will house new innovative technology that delivers state-of-the-art, real-world driving simulations to advance improvements in fuel economy.

Construction starts this year, Sethi said.

Dennis Paige, lab manager for Ford's Driveability Testing Facilities, pointed out that advanced features, development and innovation require that testing and verification technology keep pace with the evolution of the automobile and the industry as a whole. That's where the new facility comes into play, he said.

Ford's new wind tunnel complex better positions its engineers to conduct testing that proves out advancements in vehicle design. A new five-belt conveyor system can replicate real-world drag through a rolling road aerodynamic tunnel that enables Ford to bring the road to the vehicle, rather than the vehicle to the road.

To test for optimal fuel efficiency, each wheel gets its own belt. The massive fifth belt runs under the center of the vehicle, allowing airflow around the entire vehicle at speeds up to 155 mph.

As a part of the rolling road belt cartridge system, a crane will be used to switch between the five-belt and single-belt systems – an industrial-sized plug-and-play approach bringing two testing methods into one.

The single belt – which operates at up to 200 mph – opens up a new breed of testing for high-speed performance and racing vehicles.

Together with the rolling road, the wind tunnel complex will produce full environmental airflow simulation, with speeds from 155 mph to 200 mph, Sethi said. This expanded air flow will enable engineers to validate vehicle designs at a higher quality and repeatability, which strengthens testing for aerodynamic shielding, high-speed performance and other design features.

The climatic chamber can get as low as minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, colder than the Arctic, and as high as 140 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than the Sahara.

"This new wind tunnel facility will not only allow us to test our performance and racing vehicle lineup but will also enable us to share innovations across all our global Ford products," said Dave Pericak, Ford Performance global director.

To accommodate large-frame vehicles, including Super Duty trucks, the new aerodynamic complex will "super-size" wind tunnel chambers, Pericak said.



New state-of-the-art wind tunnel will improve tests like this.

Car Sales Decline in China

BEIJING (AP) – China's auto sales shrank in January following a sales tax increase, an industry group reported Feb. 13.

Sales in the world's biggest auto market declined 1.1 percent from a year earlier to 2.2 million, compared with December's 9.1 percent expansion, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 0.2 percent from a year ago to 2.5 million.

China's auto sales rose 15 percent last year after Beijing cut in half a 10 percent sales tax on small-engine vehicles. The government restored part of that reduction in January, raising the tax from 5 percent to 7.5 percent.

Demand for SUVs helped to offset weakness in sedan sales.

SUV sales rose 10.5 percent in January to 881,000, while sedan sales shrank 3 percent to 1.1 million, according to CAAM. Sales of lower-priced Chinese brand SUVs rose 15.2 percent to 543,000.

China's trade figures can be distorted by the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls at different times in January and February each year. This year, the two-week holiday began Jan. 27, depressing retail activity in January, while last year's break didn't begin until Feb. 7.

"January was an unusual month with the earlier timing of the Chinese New Year holiday and the impact of the reduced tax incentive," Ford Motor Co.'s vice president for sales, Peter Fleet said.

- General Motors Co. reported earlier that January sales of GM-brand vehicles by the company and its Chinese partners fell 24 percent to 321,264. It blamed the Lunar New Year sales lull.
- Ford Motor Co. said its sales were off 32 percent at 88,432 vehicles.
- BMW AG, Europe's biggest luxury brand, said sales of BMW- and Mini-brand vehicles rose 18.2 percent to 51,345, exceeding 50,000 for the first time.

Mopar Debuts Its Special 80th Anniversary Challenger

Sometimes the best way to celebrate an anniversary is to do what one does best, and the Mopar brand continues the celebration of its 80th anniversary with the introduction of the limited-edition Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger.

The vehicle offers a pair of hand-painted, custom, show car trim options. Only 80 cars will be available in Pitch Black/Contusion Blue, with another 80 in Pitch Black/Billet Silver, in a nod to 80 years of the Mopar brand.

The Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger also includes Mopar performance parts, accessories, an exclusive owner's kit and a serialized badge, said Mopar spokesman Darren Jacobs.

"Since its birth in 1937, Mopar has evolved from the name of an antifreeze product to a global customer-care brand," said Pietro Gorlier, head of Parts and Service (Mopar), FCA – Global.

"The Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger, our latest limited-edition vehicle, is a testament to this philosophy, showcasing how Mopar assists owners in personalizing all FCA US vehicles."

The Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger joins an exclusive club as the eighth limited-edition, Mopar-modified vehicle delivered straight from the factory, Jacobs said.

In 2010, the brand produced the first of an ongoing series of

limited-edition vehicles, the Mopar 2010 Challenger. Other low-run, factory-produced Mopar rides would follow: the Mopar 2011 Charger, Mopar 2012 300, Mopar 2013 Dart, Mopar 2014 Challenger, Mopar 2015 Dodge Charger R/T and Mopar 2016 Ram Rebel.

A special Mopar 392 logo, hand-painted on at the Mopar Custom Shop, gives an additional custom touch, Jacobs said.

The upper exterior is unified with Pitch Black accents. The standard satin black of the Shaker Hood package by Mopar and Shaker Hood scoop surround is painted Pitch Black.

The rear decklid spoiler also receives the Pitch Black treatment, and the Mopar Design badge on the spoiler is turned black-on-black.

The 20-x-9-inch aluminum wheels are embellished with semi-gloss accents, while center caps feature the Dodge logo. Standard chrome exhaust tips are replaced with Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat black exhaust tips.

The six-speed manual transmission Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger also makes a performance statement that enhances the base Dodge Challenger R/T 392. The 6.4-liter, 392 Hemi engine pumps out 485 horsepower and 475 lb.-ft. of torque and is augmented by the Shaker Hood



Gorlier shows off limited-edition 2017 Mopar Dodge Challengers.

package by Mopar, which provides performance gains with a hint of vintage styling, Jacobs said. The scoop is embellished with Shaker badging.

A Mopar cold air intake also delivers a performance boost and is aided by an air catcher duct system via the headlamp. The upgrade, inspired by the Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat, feeds additional cold air into the vehicle.

Mopar Shaker strut tower braces and caps are silver powder-coated and increase rigidity and handling of the Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger. Four-piston Brembo brakes provide stopping power.

The limited-edition vehicle will be available in both the United States and Canada, with a U.S. Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$55,790, excluding, of course, taxes and destination fees.

The Mopar 2017 Dodge Challenger will begin arriving in select dealerships early in the second quarter of 2017.

General Motors' Mobility Brand Expanding in L.A.

Maven, General Motors' personal mobility brand, is working with the City of Los Angeles to create mobility and provide easier, more sustainable and more convenient options for Angelenos to navigate the city, said GM spokeswoman Annalisa Esposito Bluhm.

Maven's car-sharing application is meant to complement Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's vision to leverage multi-modal transportation solutions to advance mobility and encourage more electric vehicles in the market, Bluhm said.

The collaboration is expected to increase opportunities in L.A. neighborhoods, from reducing mobility barriers to exposing cities to transportation electrification.

Maven City car sharing in Los Angeles has seen an average of 56 percent member growth month-over-month since launching in October of the year 2016, Bluhm said.

Ford Promotes STEM Learning Programs

Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL) has teamed up with the Ford STEM program to award \$50,000 in grants to creative high school students who are using their STEM skills to advance sustainable communities and make people's lives better, said Ford spokesman Todd Nissen.

Building on the success of Ford's College Community Challenge, the Ford STEM High School Community Challenge was launched to empower students in the nationwide Ford NGL network to put their knowledge to work making positive changes for people in the community.

Student leadership was an essential part of each winning proposal, along with the participation of community partners. Students explored real-life issues and ways to address unmet needs in technology, alternative energy, health and other areas, Nissen said.

Winning projects were selected by a panel of Ford reviewers with first place awarded \$20,000, second place winners awarded \$10,000 each and third place receiving grants of \$5,000 each to implement their solutions.

Representing their schools, Nissen said these winning teams of students will lead these initiatives.

- Whites Creek High School, Nashville, Tenn. (\$20,000) – Students will convert a Ford F-Series truck and a tractor to run on renewable hydrogen fuel. Students will also develop a solar farm to produce electricity and power the new hydrogen processor they plan to build.

- Guilford High School, Rockford, Ill. (\$10,000) – Students will develop solar-powered charging stations with LED lights throughout the city of Rockford. Students will also create an outdoor learning lab at their school with floating decks and solar charging stations.

- Bartow High School, Bartow, Fla. (\$5,000) – Students will host #PolkHacks, a hack-a-thon for underserved youth ages 13-18. Students will engage business and tech professionals as they develop applications to solve a local problem during a three-day event.

- Harlingen High School, Har-

lingen, Texas (\$5,000) – The Skeeterbots team will program and outfit drones to battle the high population of mosquitoes in the Harlingen Community.

- Newton College and Career Academy, Covington, Ga. (\$5,000) – Students will transform a school bus into a mobile learning lab to help members of the community explore STEM.

- Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Memorial ECHS, Alamo, Texas (\$5,000) – Students are creating a Community IT Engagement Center to promote the use of technology to support community economic growth. Students will share their IT knowledge with members of the community.

"Innovation and sustainability are two essential elements that will help strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for the people who call them home," said Mike Schmidt, director, Education and Global Community Development, Ford Motor Company Fund. "Through creative initiatives like the Ford STEM High School Community Challenge, we hope to encourage innovative approaches to learning that spark student interest and imagination."

Ford NGL is a signature program of Ford Motor Company Fund – the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, Nissen said.

Ford NGL is nationally recognized for the innovative way it is transforming U.S. high schools with career-themed academies that give students an opportunity to learn by doing in fields they'd like to explore, such as engineering or healthcare, Nissen said.

Ford Motor Company and Ford Fund invest more than \$18 million each year in forward-thinking education programs around the globe that empower people to develop creative solutions to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The Ford STEM High School Community Challenge was developed to encourage students to pursue a STEAM education and help meet a growing need in business, while also helping Ford and the rest of the automotive industry develop a future pipeline of skilled technical talent, Nissen said. Ford STEAM adds arts to

the familiar STEM curriculum to emphasize the importance of design and creativity in the development of innovative solutions

To view this year's winning projects and get more information, visit: www.fordblueovalnetwork.org/stem-community-challenge.

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Want to Kiss a Wookiee? Chrysler Designer Can Help You

by Jim Stickford

Ryan Nagode, chief designer for Truck, Commercial and Performance Car Interiors at Fiat Chrysler, has a wide variety of skills that help design and shape vehicle interiors for work.

For fun, he's created a Wookiee costume that allows him to stand seven feet tall. (For the uninitiated, a Wookiee is an alien creature in the "Star Wars" movies that is hairy all over and stands taller than seven feet. The most famous Wookiee is named Chewbacca and is the co-pilot of the Harrison Ford-piloted Millennium Falcon.)

"I've worked for Chrysler, now Fiat Chrysler, for 14 years," Nagode said. "Normally, I stand about six-feet-one-inch tall. I've always been fascinated by movie props that have a real sense of theatricality."

"I like those kinds of things and the skills needed to carry them off to what we do here at Fiat Chrysler. It's all about getting the details right and it's a hands-on kind of work where you think things through to their logical end."

"And, as someone who enjoys looking at the details, the world-building that has gone into the 'Star Wars' movies is impressive."

"The props they've built for those movies look great, like they really exist in our world. They have a well-worn look that gives a weight that makes them not look like movie props."

Nagode said his skills as an interior designer for Fiat Chrysler have also given him a reputation as someone who can make great Halloween costumes. So in 2015, when "Star Wars - The Force Awakens" came out in December, Nagode and his colleagues decided to have their Christmas party with a "Star Wars" theme

because it was the same day as the movie came out. That allowed him to show his co-workers his Wookiee suit.

"I had originally put together the suit for Halloween," Nagode said. "But I wasn't able to get it done in time, so the Christmas party allowed me to show them what I did."

This suit was based off of photographs of Chewbacca, Nagode said. And he did a lot of research on how to make a Wookiee costume. He said a quick search online revealed several different Web sites that carry do-it-yourself instructions on how to build a Wookiee suit. He used a substance called kanekalon to make the Wookiee fur.

"Kanekalon is used to make wigs," Nagode said. "It's a faux hair product. I tell you, I had to weed out a lot of stuff I saw on forums to come up with my design for my suit. The skills I learned at the Cleveland Institute of Art were helpful. I have a degree in industrial design from there."

Nagode said he grew up in the greater Buffalo, N.Y., town of East Aurora. That part of the country is known for its arts and crafts, he said. There's even a model company called Aurora. His father was an industrial designer in the toy industry, Nagode said, and would take him to work.

"Dad would give me pieces of foam to work on and I would go to town and create stuff," Nagode said. "I liked the hands-on approach and that helped me choose a career path."

One of the things Nagode learned growing up was how to sew because that's an important part of the toy business, and that came in handy when creating his suit. He is also comfortable around machines.

"Making the costume and de-



Ryan Nagode, inset, acts as a Wookiee with colleague Nick Cappa.

signing interiors is all about the details," Nagode said. "In this day and age, when everyone has upped their game, it's the attention to details that make a car more attractive."

And having the skills to design an attractive vehicle interior helped with the design of his Wookiee suit.

After all, Nagode said, all kinds of people have to fit inside a Ram truck and people come in different sizes.

That knowledge helped him

build a suit with stilts to make him stand at a height of about seven feet.

Nagode said he has a seven-year-old son named Trace who thinks his dad's hobby is "cool."

"I have some more ideas for some other costumes," Nagode said.

"My mind is constantly spinning. Chewbacca took me a lot of time to construct, but it was fun to do, to be able to take the skills I need for my work life and apply them to my home life."

Hourly Employees Wear White Shirts To Send Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

years ago? Everything. The laws were stacked against them. They risked their lives to gain respect and dignity."

The success of the Flint Sit-Downers showed the country – and most importantly, it showed other workers – that they deserved to have a seat at the bargaining table with the boss as equals, Williams said. "There are many lessons to draw from the Flint Sit-Down Strike," he said, "but the biggest one is that worker solidarity is how we keep our seat at the bargaining table. It's a lesson we should never take for granted or forget. The UAW is a movement. Solidarity isn't a slogan. It's a way of life."

"If there was ever a time to channel the strength of the Flint Sit-Down Strikers' character and their solidarity, it is now. We wear white shirts on Feb. 11, the anniversary of the day the strike ended, to send the message that we have the right to the same respect as those in management."



Fiat Chrysler's "MotorCitizens" donated 3,400 pairs of gloves and mittens to Hamtramck students this winter.

Chrysler Gives Helping Hand This Winter

Employees from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles have lent a helping hand.

On Jan. 19, volunteers from FCA known as the "MotorCitizens," delivered 3,400 pairs of mittens to Hamtramck Public Schools.

That's 34,000 fingers wrapped in warmth.

This is the third year that FCA has worked with Mittens for Detroit, a local nonprofit that is known for "warming hearts, two hands at a time."

"It's a wonderful community effort at FCA, the employees hold 'MittenRaisers' at the headquarters in Auburn Hills as well as

the 13 manufacturing plants in the Metro area," said Wendy Shepherd, executive director of Mittens For Detroit.

FCA has donated more than 100,000 pairs of unused mittens and gloves since 2014, giving a huge hand of support to MFD.

"It's such an exciting partnership. What FCA is doing with Mittens For Detroit says so much about their corporate culture," said Shepherd.

Since the inception of MotorCitizens, FCA employees have participated in dozens of service projects and programs, donating their time, energy and expertise to efforts that help dif-

ferent areas of the community.

"It's all about people stepping up, and the whole team at FCA wants to be active in helping the community," said Shepherd.

Mittens for Detroit is a nonprofit that distributes new mittens and gloves to children and adults in need through partner agencies, schools, organizations and charities throughout the Metro area.

Since it began in 2010, MFD is responsible for bringing 168,000 pairs of mittens to cold hands across Detroit.

For more information about Mittens for Detroit or to donate, visit www.mittensfordetroit.org.

Local Students Honored for Charity Work

Sarah Maisano, 17, of Clinton Township and Ewan Drum, 10, of New Haven this month were named Michigan's top two youth volunteers of 2017 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. As State Honorees, Sarah and Ewan each will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., said Prudential spokesman Harold Banks.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, now in its 22nd year, is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). The program judges also rec-

ognized other Michigan students as Distinguished Finalists for their community service activities. Other honorees include:

- Carolyn Cohn, 17, of Huntington Woods, a senior at Berkley High School, started "Teen Screens," a nonprofit that has provided dozens of laptops to students in need in her school district. After finding and anonymously donating a laptop to a classmate who didn't have one, Carolyn was determined to help others in a similar situation. She now works with a computer programmer who clears the computers of old data and installs helpful software.
- Stephanie Sills, 18, of Bloomfield Hills, a senior at Ernest W. Seaholm High School, has helped

to raise more than \$44,000 for lung cancer research over the past two years as co-organizer of "The Lung Run" a 5K walk/run. Stephanie, a cross-country runner, worked with her friends to start the race after learning that her mom had been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

- Nikki Sorgi, 17, of Shelby Township, a senior at Henry Ford II High School, helped to provide more than 200 blankets to sick children over the past two years by coordinating a fundraiser and blanket drive. She worked with her National Honor Society, student council, teachers and peers to collect donations and then make blankets for groups like the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Kids Kicking Cancer.

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/MONTH

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GM employees

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/MONTH

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39 MONTH/10K PER YEAR
\$3,559 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

CTS 2017
STANDARD COLLECTION
Ultra Low mileage
Lease for
well qualified
GM employees

EMPLOYEE PRICING

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/MONTH

Complimentary Car Wash
Most cars & light trucks

39 MONTH/10K PER YEAR
\$3,409 DUE AT SIGNING AFTER ALL OFFERS

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STANDARD COLLECTION
Ultra Low mileage
Lease for
well qualified
GM employees

EMPLOYEE PRICING

\$459
/MONTH

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General Motors Considering Selling Opel to Peugeot

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – France’s PSA Group, maker of Peugeot and Citroen cars, says it’s exploring a “potential acquisition” of Opel, General Motors’ money-losing European business.

PSA Group said in a statement Feb. 14 that it was considering “numerous strategic initiatives” that would expand the existing cooperation between the two companies, and that a takeover of Opel was one of them.

PSA Group and GM are already involved in several joint projects in Europe. The Detroit-based automaker acknowledged the talks and cautioned that “there can be no assurance that an agreement will be reached.”

A PSA-Opel combination would create the second-largest carmaker by market share in Europe, with 16.6 percent of sales according to 2016 figures. It would be second only to Volkswagen, with 23.9 percent – but would vault ahead of the Renault-Nissan alliance with 13.9 percent.

GM has endured years of losses at its European business, which makes cars under the Opel and Vauxhall brands.

It had hoped to reach break-even by now, but last year posted a loss of \$257 million for the year even as GM as a whole turned in a robust profit of \$9.4 billion.

The company’s earnings in Europe took a \$300 million hit from the British vote to leave the European Union. The resulting plunge in the British pound shrinks the dollar value of earnings from its Vauxhall models in that market.

GM CEO Mary Barra has underlined the company’s commitment to Opel several times in recent years. But the unexpected

loss last year has increased pressure on the company to find a solution in Europe, and she expressed dissatisfaction with the situation there after the company’s most recent earnings report.

Barra said on a conference call that “without the negative impact of Brexit we would have achieved break-even in 2016.”

“We aren’t satisfied with these results,” she said, “and the team is focused on mitigating the effect through further cost efficiencies” and new models.

GM Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said the company expected only a “relatively flat performance” in Europe this year.

Opel has struggled to control costs due to stronger worker protections in Europe that make it harder to adjust production capacity to demand than in the U.S. or other locations. Opel and Vauxhall also face tough competition for sales of less profitable mass-market vehicles.

Opel has had success with models such as the Mokka small SUV, and sales rose 4 percent last year. Its mainstay Astra model, which competes with the Volkswagen Golf, won the European Car of the Year award at the Geneva auto show.

But it lacks larger SUV models that would bring fatter profits.

GM and PSA Group formed an alliance in 2012 but in 2013 GM announced it was selling its stake.

In 2009, GM agreed on a sale of a majority stake in Opel to Canadian car parts firm Magna International and Russian lender Sberbank but called the deal off as GM’s fortunes improved following its bankruptcy restructuring.

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Chevrolet Creates Special ‘Redline’ Vehicles

Chevrolet introduced the brand’s new Redline special edition series at the Chicago Auto Show last week.

Available on nine Chevrolet cars, trucks and crossovers, Redline is the broadest cross-portfolio special edition ever offered by the brand, said GM spokesman Kyle Suba.

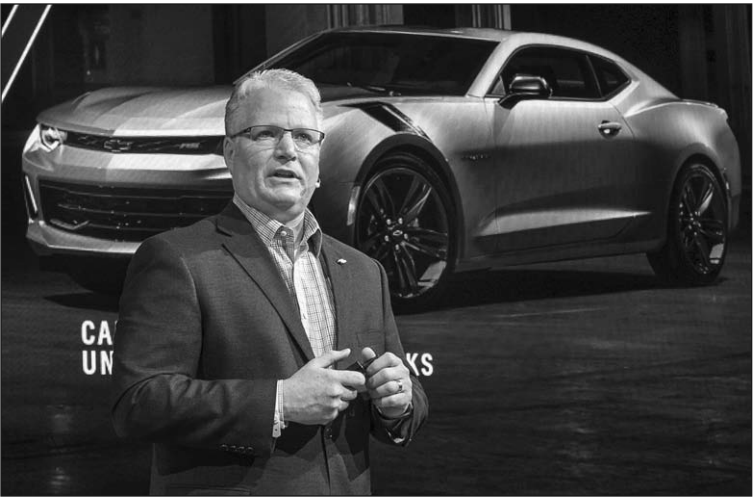
Redline made its debut in concept form at the 2015 SEMA Show in Las Vegas, Suba said. Inspired by a strong positive reception from customers and the success of special editions across the portfolio, Chevrolet expanded Redline across nine vehicles in the car, truck and crossover segments:

- Cruze LT (sedan and hatchback);
- Malibu LT;
- Camaro LT/SS (coupe and convertible);
- Trax LT;
- Equinox LT;
- Traverse Premier;
- Colorado LT;
- Silverado Double Cab LT Z71, Crew Cab LTZ Z71.

“Redline is another example of Chevrolet bringing SEMA concepts to showrooms,” said Brian Sweeney, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet. “The SEMA show has proven to be a great way to identify customization trends in the industry, and quickly apply those trends to our most popular Chevrolet models. Based on the strong interest Redline attracted at the show, we believe they will be very popular with customers looking for standout cars, trucks, and crossovers.”

All Redline vehicles are equipped with black wheels featuring distinct red hash marks, black nameplates with a red outline, blacked-out grilles and black Chevrolet bowtie logos.

From there, vehicles feature design elements tailored to the



Sweeney talks about GM’s Redline vehicles at the Chicago Auto Show.

preferences of those specific customers. For example, the Silverado and Colorado Redlines feature red tow hooks, while Camaro Redline features unique black hash marks above the wheels, a design cue taken from Chevy’s long heritage in motorsports.

“Our special edition lineup has been popular with customers and dealers alike,” said Sweeney. “Since the introduction of special editions on vehicles like the Silverado and Camaro, vehicle average transaction prices have in-

creased, time to turn has decreased, and conquest rates have risen, which has contributed to making Chevrolet the fastest-growing brand in the industry two years in a row.”

Silverado Redlines are the first available for purchase; orders can be placed at Chevrolet dealerships now, Suba said.

As to the availability of the vehicles, all Redlines will be available for purchase by the end of 2017 calendar year, Sweeney said.

Britain Nervous Over Opel Situation

LONDON (AP) – Britain’s business secretary says he had constructive talks with the president of General Motors amid alarm that thousands of jobs could be lost by the possible takeover of GM’s Opel division by France’s PSA Group.

GM’s Dan Amman spoke with Business Secretary Greg Clark and the Unite’s union’s Len McCluskey about the consequences about PSA’s possible takeover of GM’s loss-making Europe operations.

Clark said Feb. 16 he was reassured by GM’s intention “to build on the success of these operations rather than rationalize them.”

Opel’s British brand, Vauxhall, employs 4,500 people at plants in Ellesmere and Luton.

McCluskey urged the government to back Vauxhall – just as it did for rival automaker Nissan to ensure the Japanese automaker kept operations in the U.K. once Britain leaves the European Union.

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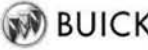

2017 Buick Encore

FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$25,430

\$188 per month

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INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT
INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model



24 months 10,000 miles year **\$322** total due at signing (includes first month payment)

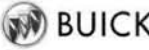

2017 Buick Enclave

CONVENIENCE FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$40,060

\$237 per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT
INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model



24 months 10,000 miles year **\$696** total due at signing (includes first month payment)



2017 GMC Terrain

SLE1 FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$28,225

\$167 per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT
INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model



24 months 10,000 miles year **\$360** total due at signing (includes first month payment)



2017 GMC Acadia

SLE1 FWD Lease Offer MSRP: \$33,770

\$261 per month

TRANSPARENT PRICING

INCLUDES: ALL TAXES & FEES, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT
INCENTIVES INCLUDED: GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty + Select Model



24 months 10,000 miles year **\$474** total due at signing (includes first month payment)

Offers include: Tax, Title, Plate, Transfer, CVR, Doc Fee, GM Employee Pricing, GM Lease Loyalty (must have a 1999 or newer GM lease in household), Select Model and 1st Month's Payment. No security deposit required. See dealer for details.

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STK# BG463

Was \$25,430
Sale Price \$20,899*

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24 MONTH LEASE
\$107* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 BUICK ENCLAVE



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- POWER LIFTGATE!
- 19" ALUMINUM WHEELS!
- ONSTAR w/4G LTE w/BUILT-IN WI-FI HOTSPOT!

STK# BG586

Was \$40,140
Sale Price \$30,899*

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

24 MONTH LEASE
\$159* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 BUICK REGAL "SPORT"



- 2.0 TURBO DOHC 4 CYL. SIDI ENGINE!
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- REAR SPOILER!
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- REAR VISION CAMERA!
- BLUETOOTH FOR PHONE!
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STK# BG145

Was \$29,540
Sale Price \$22,789*

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

39 MONTH LEASE
\$169* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 BUICK LaCROSSE



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- INTELLINK RADIO w/8" DIAGONAL COLOR TOUCH SCREEN!
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STK# BG307

Was \$36,900
Sale Price \$29,490*

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

39 MONTH LEASE
\$239* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

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2017 GMC TERRAIN "SLE 1"



- 2.4L DOHC VVT ENGINE!
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- REAR VISION CAMERA!
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- HEATED MIRRORS!
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STK# BG109

Was \$28,225
Sale Price \$21,999*

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

24 MONTH LEASE
\$89* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 "ALL NEW" GMC ACADIA "SLE 1"



- 2.5L DOHC SIDI VVT ENGINE!
- INTELLINK RADIO w/7" DIAGONAL COLOR TOUCH SCREEN!
- KEYLESS OPEN AND START!
- REAR VISION CAMERA!
- 7 PASSENGER SEATING!
- ALUMINUM WHEELS!
- BLUETOOTH FOR PHONE!
- ONSTAR w/4G LTE w/BUILT-IN WI-FI HOTSPOT!

STK# BG109

Was \$33,375
Sale Price \$26,735*

**NO EMPLOYEE
DISCOUNT REQUIRED!**

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

24 MONTH LEASE
\$189* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2017 GMC SIERRA DOUBLE CAB 4x4



- ELEVATION EDITION!
- 5.3L V8 ECOTEC3 ENGINE!
- INTELLINK RADIO w/7" DIAGONAL COLOR TOUCH SCREEN!
- REAR VISION CAMERA!
- TRAILERING PACKAGE!
- REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY!
- 20" ALUMINUM WHEELS!
- ONSTAR w/4G LTE w/BUILT-IN WI-FI HOTSPOT!

STK# BG352

Was \$41,900
Sale Price \$31,769*

**The Best Price...
PERIOD!**

36 MONTH LEASE
\$268* PER MONTH
\$999 DOWN
NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED

2016 GMC SIERRA "SLE" DOUBLE CAB 4x4



- 5.3L V8 ECOTEC3 ENGINE!
- INTELLINK RADIO w/8" COLOR TOUCH SCREEN!
- REAR VISION CAMERA w/PARK ASSIST!
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STK# BG80

Was \$44,645

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