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GM Hydrogen-Powered Army Truck Runs Silent in Battle

by Jim Stickford

General Motors handed off the Chevrolet Colorado ZH2 Fuel Cell Truck to the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development Engineering Center (TARDEC) at a special ceremony held at GM's Milford Proving Ground on April 10.

Attending the ceremony was Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Michigan U.S. Senator Gary Peters and Paul Rogers, director of TARDEC

"They were there to witness the handover," said Doug Halleaux, a public affairs officer for TARDEC. "GM tested the vehicle at Milford, just to make sure that it worked. Now that the Army has it, the vehicle will be tested in areas that will provide conditions similar to the kind that the Army currently operates in."

The Colorado ZH2 will be tested at the Army's Fort Carson facility in Colorado and its Fort Briggs facility in North Carolina, Halleaux said.

This is an important vehicle for the Army," Halleaux said. "It is an electric drive vehicle, true. But it also produces electricity via its hydrogen fuel cell. That's important to the Army because the modern soldier is equipped with many devices that require electric power in order to run."

Having a vehicle that can also act as a portable generator is a two-for-one win for the Army, Halleaux said. Additionally, a hydrogen fuel-cell-powered vehicle is a silent vehicle. Given the importance of stealth in battle, he said, having a silent vehicle is something to be desired.

The Army testing phase will take the next couple of years, Halleaux said.

'What's important to understand is that we don't know if this vehicle will be practical for us," Halleaux said. "But testing is all about learning what works, and just as importantly, what doesn't work.

"Hydrodgen fuel-cell vehicles don't produce exhaust. They produce water. That might be useful. They are silent and they don't require gasoline.'

But the Army also has to find out if the system works out in the field and it has to work in a fiscally responsible way.

"It's not enough that it might work, it has to work in a way that doesn't require too much time or money," Halleaux said. "We are guardians of the taxpayers' money. That's an important point for any system the Army adopts."

According to GM, the Chevrolet Colorado ZH2 stands more than 6½ feet tall and more than seven feet wide. It was built on a



Freese shows off ZH2's hyrogen-powered powertrain at GM's Milford Proving Ground April 10.

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

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

GM and TARDEC collaborated The Colorado ZH2 features an to develop the Colorado ZH2

than a year, said GM spokesman Alan Adler.

"The speed with which innovative ideas can be demonstrated and assessed is why relation-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



This Max Motor device is the stuff dreams are made of - literally.

Parents Can 'Drive' Their Baby to Sleep - at Home

when people think of Ford vehicles, the phrase "sleeping like a drives, Gardiner said. To all apbaby," isn't the first thing that comes to mind.

Well, Ford has done something about that.

For many new parents, there is only one guaranteed solution to putting their baby down at the end of the day - a nighttime drive that soothes, calms and eventually helps a little one nod off, said Ford spokesman John Gardiner.

But that still means a disrupted night for mom or dad, who research shows can typically expect little more than five hours' equivalent of 44 days' sleep in just the first year of their child's life, Gardiner said. Help, however, could soon be at hand.

Ford has developed a cot that could simulate - in the comfort of a parent's own home - the mo-

It's probably safe to say that tion, engine noise, and even the street lighting of those nighttime pearances a regular cot, the Max Motor Dreams, comes to life using a smartphone app. This enables it to record and then reproduce the comforting movement, lights and sounds of a particular journey.

> "After many years of talking to mums and dads, we know that parents of newborns are often desperate for just one good night's sleep," said Max Motor Dreams designer Alejandro López Bravo, of Spanish creative studio Espada y Santa Cruz.

"The Max Motor Dreams could sleep a night while losing the make the everyday lives of a lot of people a little bit better.'

For now, the Max Motor Dreams is a one-off pilot. But following numerous enquiries, the company is considering putting the unique cot into full-scale production, Gardiner said.

Enclave Gives Owners More Interior Space

New and versatile functionality, spaciousness and intuitive technologies mark the next evolution of the Buick Enclave, said Duncan Aldred, vice president, Global Buick and GMC.

More third-row space, improved towing capability and a thoughtful combination of safety technologies, useful interior features and premium materials are a few highlights included on Buick's new seven-passenger midsize luxury SUV, Aldred said.

Within a visually lower and slimmer body, the Enclave boasts more interior space. The third row alone offers 5.6 more inches of standard legroom than an Acura MDX, 4.5 inches more than an Audi Q7 and nearly three inches more than an Infiniti QX60, he said.

The new Enclave also features a longer wheelbase than the pre-



2018 Buick Enclave

tomers need with added maneu- set the tone for a more progresverability, said GM spokeswoman Jennifer Korail.

game-changer for the Buick products stand for: smart, stylish vious generation, yet its turning brand and has since become one luxury." circle is 1.4 feet tighter than of our most successful and imbefore, pairing the space cusportant vehicles," said Aldred. "It

sive Buick, helping change perception for us and serving as the "Enclave was introduced as a standard-bearer of what our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rooney Promoted to CEO at Continental



Structural Plastics (CSP) of Auburn Hills, has been named CEO, while Steve Wisniewski, controller, has been promoted to vice president, Finance, said CSP spokeswoman Kim Zitny. Former CEO Frank Macher and

Steve Rooney, formerly presi-

dent and COO of Continental

CFO Jon Smith, are retiring from CSP, a worldwide manufacturer of lightweight composite materials, both effective April 1.

Rooney joined CSP as president and COO in 2011. He brings to the position more than 30 years of experience in the automotive manufacturing industry

with expertise in manufacturing, operations management, multiplant management and engineering, Zitny said.

Prior to joining CSP, Rooney served as vice president of operations at Johnson Controls; vice president of operations at Plastic Engineered Products; plant manager at Baily Corporation/Venture Industries and materials manager at Barry Controls.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Finance from the University of Massachusetts.

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Enclave Offers **Spacious Interiors**

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Enclave highlights:

- New proportions, bodylines and accents combine for an athletic stance that accentuates the redesigned front end and
- · A comprehensive offering of standard and available safety technology includes customizable safety alerts.
- The new body structure was built for safety, strength and mass efficiency, and there are 17 radar, camera and ultrasonic sensors when fully equipped.
- There's seating for seven and more cargo volume behind the first row than the Acura MDX, Audi Q7 and Infiniti QX60.
- Buick-first Evonik Acrylite lighting technology provides a distinctive light signature.
- \bullet Tow capacity of up to 5,000 pounds is more than enough to tow a typical 21-foot sport boat.
- A standard 3.6L V6 engine with stop/start technology, Buick-estimated 302 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque is paired with a nine-speed automatic transmission.
- Standard MacPherson strut front and five-link rear suspension are tuned for a refined, isolated ride
- Available intelligent AWD with active twin-clutch rear differential and Buick-first switchable AWD help improve control and efficiency.

Enclave's interior has flexible cargo solutions for large and small items, Aldred said. The vehicle has 10 percent more cubic feet of overall interior space when including the hidden underfloor storage, and 23.6 cubic feet of cargo space behind the third row. Other space enhancements include a 10-inch-deep dry underfloor storage with 3.1 cubic feet of space.

"Every detail of the all-new Enclave is designed to feel premium, well-crafted and integrated," said Helen Emsley, executive director of Global Buick and GMC Design. Customers in feedback clinics have described it as having a 'sleek' appearance, which isn't typically a word associated with three-row SUVs."

"The Enclave's sophisticated suite of available radar, camera and ultrasonic crash avoidance technologies is engineered to help drivers continuously monitor their surroundings in an intuitive, assisting manner so they can feel more confident behind the wheel," said Dean Perelli, chief engineer for the Buick En-



Chevrolet Building Limited Edition Corvettes

Turns out there is a limit to the Corvette.

Chevrolet is commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Corvette with a new Corvette Carbon 65 Edition offered on 2018 Grand Sport 3LT and Z06 3LZ models. Limited to only 650 numbered vehicles globally, the distinctive Carbon 65 blends visible carbon-fiber exterior elements - notably, a new carbonfiber rear spoiler and quarter ducts - with a new Ceramic Matrix Gray exterior color and special interior appointments, including a new carbon-fiberrimmed steering wheel, said GM spokesman Ron Kiino.

"Corvette is one of the most storied names in Chevrolet and sports car history, with a heritage few can match," said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet Marketing.

"The new Carbon 65 Edition honors that legacy, while offering customers another unique, special-edition model that personalizes the ownership experi-

The Carbon 65 Edition package on the Grand Sport 3LT and Z06 3LZ trims:

- · Ceramic Matrix Gray exterior (blue top on Convertibles);
- Unique fender stripes and door graphics;
- Black wheels with machined grooves paired with summeronly tires (Cup-style wheels for Grand Sport and Blade-style wheels for Z06);
 - Blue brake calipers;
- Visible carbon-fiber ground effects, hood section and roof (Coupe models) or tonneau inserts (Convertible models);
- New visible carbon-fiber spoiler (all models) and quarter intake ducts (Coupe);
- Center caps with Carbon
- · Carbon Flash badges and
- outside mirrors; • Jet Black suede-wrapped in-
- terior with blue stitching; Carbon-fiber steering wheel rim and gloss carbon-fiber inte-
- rior trim; • Competition Sport seats;
- Carbon 65 Edition sill

The Corvette Carbon 65 Edition package will cost \$15,000 and will be available this summer, along with the rest of the 2018 Corvette lineup.

2018 Corvette Stingray features include:

- New standard 19-inch front and 20-inch rear wheels paired with summer-only tires*. Derived from the Z51 package, they replace the previous 18-inch/19inch standard wheels.
- · Five new wheel options, including Torque and Motorsport designs, are paired with summer-only tires.
- Magnetic Ride Control is offered as a stand-alone option.

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To celebrate 65 years of Corvettes, 650 limited edition Carbon 65 Corvettes will be produced by GM.

 Revised interior color breakup on 2LT trim.

The Carbon 65 Edition package2018 Corvette Grand Sport features include:

- Ceramic brakes are offered without the Z07 Performance Package.
- Satin black center stripe is available with the Heritage Pack-
- Revised interior breakup on 2LT trim.

2018 Corvette Z06 features in-

- Two new wheel choices are Black Z06 wheel with vellow stripe and Pearl Nickel Blade design (paired with summer-only tires).
- Gray interior available.

All 2018 models have these fea-

- HD digital radio is standard.
- Available Performance Data Recorder - Cosworth Toolbox offers four additional data channels: individual wheel speeds, individual suspension displacements, yaw rate and intake and ambient air temperatures.
- Improved rear-view camera image features higher resolution and wider angle.
- Enhanced Head-Up Display rotation setting.
- Ceramic Matrix Gray replaces

palette.

- Spice Red convertible top. Spice Red interior offered on 3LT and 3LZ trims.
- Jet black suede-wrapped inte-

Sterling Blue in the exterior color rior includes carbon-fiber-rimmed steering wheel and gloss carbonfiber interior trim.

 New interior color stitching packages (red/yellow/blue) offered on 3LT and 3LZ trims.

Diabetes Workshop Offered

In partnership with Area starting May 5 through June 9 at Agency on Aging 1-B, MSU Extension is offering Diabetes PATH to Better Health Workshop, said Macomb County spokeswoman Krisin Wilson.

Diabetes PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) is a six-week workshop designed to provide the skills and tools needed for people living with diabetes to improve their health and manage their symptoms.

As a result, people are better equipped to face the daily challenges of living with diabetes, Wilson said.

Attendees will find practical wavs to deal with diabetes, discover better nutrition, exercise choices and learn ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.

The program will be held every Friday for six consecutive weeks from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

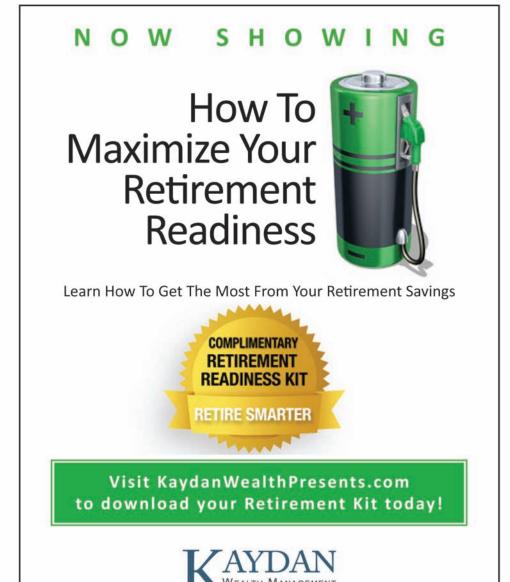
the Thompson Family Resource Center, 11370 Hupp Avenue, Warren.

The cost for the entire workshop is \$25, and participants will receive the book, "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions.

Advance registration is required; space is limited to 16. To register, or for more information, call (800) 852-7795 or wellessprograms@aaa1b.com.

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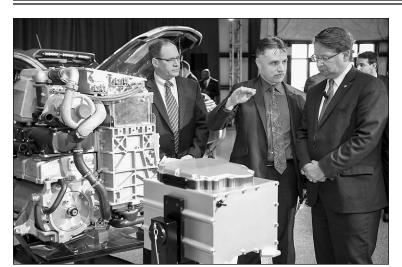
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From left, Rogers, Freese and Peters examine hydrogen cell powertrain.

GM Hands Work to TARDEC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ships with industry are so important to the Army," said Paul Rogers, director of TARDEC.

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

Malleaux said the Army will evaluate the ZH2 fuel cell for:

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

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

Most of the Colorado ZH2 was assembled in GM's Advanced Vehicle Integration facility in War-

ren. Calibration testing was done at the Milford Proving Ground. Malleaux said.

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

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

The Colorado ZH2 contract is GM's second vehicle development with a U.S military branch announced this year, Adler said.

In June of 2016, the U.S. Navy unveiled a GM fuel cell-powered Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (UUV) that is currently in pool testing before eventual deployment.

The UUV leverages GM fuel cell technology common with the Colorado ZH2, demonstrating the flexibility to power a range of mobile and stationary devices, something that matters out in the field, Malleaux said.

Spring Bringing New Road Construction

Spring is here and one of the signs is road construction.

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According to Warren City Engineer Jim Van Havermaat, there is a major road construction project on 13 Road from Hoover to the Edison Corridor.

"The Edison Corridor is the name we give the area where the big power lines are located," Van Havermaat said. "This project started recently and will go for the next couple of months. What we're doing is actually replacing some very old water mains and because the mains are located under 13 Mile, we're repairing the street as well."

This reason for this kill-twobirds-with-one-stone move is actually very interesting, Van Havermaat said.

When the Mile roads were originally constructed, they were two lanes wide. One lane went east and one went west. The water mains were built to be parallel to the roads.

But as cities like Warren grew and traffic on the Mile roads became heavier, the streets were widened and, as a result, the water mains were now under the

"Given the situation, it just makes sense to repair and upgrade at the same time the water mains along 13 Mile and 13 Mile itself," Van Havermaat said. "That project will be going on for the next few months. We are also upgrading the intersection at 13 Mile and Hoover. The work should be done by late June or early July.'

Other construction projects taking place in and around the Tech Center include the repaving of 12 Mile between Van Dyke and Mound Roads, Van Havermaat said. This is actually a county project.

The condition of the street in



Drivers around the Tech Center will see a lot more of this in 2017.

that section is terrible, Van Havermaat said. Construction should begin sometime after the Fourth of July and the project should be completed by October.

Another road project taking place near the Tech Center is the repaving of Hoover Road between 11 and 10 Mile.

"That project has already been work has to be done, he said.

bid out," Van Havermaat said. "Construction should start by July and it will take several months to complete."

Van Havermaat said that road repair, especially when it's done on busy roads, is a great inconvenience to drivers. But given the condition of the roads, the

VW Chief Confident in U.S. Market

NEW YORK (AP) - Volkswagen cent. And that's without new of America's CEO says he's confident the brand's sales will recover from a diesel emissions cheating scandal as it rolls out new SUVs for the U.S.

Hinrich Woebcken estimates VW sales rose 10 percent in the first quarter when the rest of the U.S. market is down nearly 2 perSUVs on sale yet.

At the New York auto show. Woebcken announced that VW will build a smaller five-passenger SUV off the underpinnings of its Atlas seven-passenger vehicle. He wouldn't say when it will come out or whether it will increase jobs at VW's U.S. factory.

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MCC Faculty and Students Earn National Honors

Students, staff and administrators of Macomb Community College received a number of awards from Phi Theta Kappa, the world's largest honor society for two-year college students, at its annual convention last

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes students for their academic achievements and leadership and teamwork skills. Macomb's chapter of the organization is Beta Lambda Kappa, said MCC spokeswoman Tish Wirth.

Those receiving awards:

- Dr. James Jacobs, MCC presi-Bennett Lifetime Achievement nominees nationally.

who received the Distinguished College Administrator Award.

- Beta Lambda Kappa Chapter Officer Team members Nicole Clarke and Amanda Estacio, both of Warren; Timothy Cooper and Ashley Lowell, both of Roseville; Barbara Latshaw and Olivia Szathmari, both of Macomb Township and Elizabeth Grunow of Eastpointe, who received the 2017 Distinguished Chapter Officer Teams Award.
- Timothy Cooper, MCC student, who received the 2017 Dis-Officer tinguished Chapter Award. He was selected by a pandent, who received the Michael el of judges from more than 390
 - Jenn McCabe, MCC's manag-• Jill Thomas-Little, MCC vice er of student activities and com-

lente. Macomb's manager of student life, who received the 2017 Distinguished Chapter Advisor Teams Award.

• Dawn Still, of Shelby Township, who received the Alumni Appreciation Award.

"It is an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization," said Jacobs.

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GM Future Projections Show Strong Profits

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Used car prices are falling, U.S. sales are off to a slow start, car inventories are growing and interest rates are on the rise. Still, General Motors is sticking to its profit forecast.

Chuck Stevens, GM's chief financial officer, told industry analysts April 6 that the company is optimistic for a number of reasons: The sale of its European unit will save GM money, it predicts U.S. sales will rebound later in the year, and expects new SUVs to fetch higher prices.

In January, the Detroit automaker predicted pretax profits for the year from \$6 to \$6.50 per share, compared with \$6.12 that it made in 2016.

Last month, GM unloaded its European Opel and Vauxhall brands to French carmaker PSA Group for roughly \$2.33 billion (2.2 billion euros), retreating from the world's third-largest auto market after almost two decades of futile efforts to make

Stevens said the sale, which should close by the end of this year, cuts a \$400 million loss, and also frees up \$1 billion in capital spending that went toward European-centered products.

GM also avoids future costs of complying with stringent European environmental regulations, said Stevens.

Federal Judge Selects Takata Fund Overseer

DETROIT (AP) - A federal judge in Detroit says he wants to appoint former FBI Director Robert Mueller III to oversee nearly \$1 billion in restitution payments to victims in the Takata air-bag scandal.

Judge George Caram Steeh said April 6 that Mueller has "outstanding credentials" and already has a similar role in Volk-

He says Takata and the U.S. Justice Department have indicated support for Mueller as special master. But he wants a formal response in the next few weeks.

Although the U.S. auto market slowed in the first quarter, GM expects sales to recover and end 2017 at around 17.5 million, close to last year's record of 17.55 million, the CFO said. Stevens conceded that incentives such as low-interest loans and rebates are on the rise, but also said average sale prices for GM vehicles are rising too.

Inventories grew to a 90-day supply of cars and trucks at the end of March.

That should fall to a 70-day

supply by the end of the year, Stevens said. With thousands of newer cars coming off leases, GM will manage the supply by selling them as certified pre-owned vehicles and may even try to work deals with ride-sharing companies Lyft and Uber, he said.

GM has the oldest crossover SUV portfolio in the industry, forcing it to discount the vehicles, Stevens said.

But that will change this year with the rollout of the new Chevrolet Equinox and larger SUVs such as the GMC Acadia, Chevrolet Traverse and Cadillac

"As we exit this transition to the new portfolio, we'll see a recovery in transaction prices with lower incentive spending as we launch the new products," Stevens said on a conference

The company also will shut down truck plants in the third quarter to prepare for the launch of a new full-size pickup truck in 2018, Stevens said.

Retired Local Teacher Wins Dodge Durango

Chalk it up to luck.

Detroit-area native and retired- turned part-time science teacher Sandra Moussiaux has been named the grand prize winner of the Fiat Chrysler 2016 National Sweepstakes. A resident of Clinton Township, Moussiaux was one of 825,833 nationwide contest entrants.

Moussiaux won a \$45,000 voucher toward her choice of any Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or Fiat brand vehicle on April 7, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich.

Moussiaux selected as her prize a 2017 Dodge Durango GT in White Knuckle with leathertrimmed bucket seats, heated first- and second-row seats and 20-inch Hyper Black aluminum wheels as her winning prize. Moussiaux's brand new vehicle of choice is being delivered to her courtesy of Bill Snethkamp Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Redford.

Each year, Fiat Chrysler hosts the National Sweepstakes as a part of its many consumer experiences throughout the country. Consumers enter by participating in a Fiat Chrysler event where they can experience and interact with a knowledgeable product specialist at a branded booth or tent space - or get inside a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram or Fiat brand vehicle to take a test ride or test drive, Wunderlich said.

Entries were collected through a number of hands-on Fiat Chrysler brand initiatives that took place nationwide in 2016, including the Woodward Cruise. Events were



Sandra Moussiaux and son Brian Wrubel with 2017 Dodge Durango GT.

Camp Jeep off-road driving courses, Ram Truck brand test tracks at auto shows and numerous test drive and school fundraising events involving the Fiat, Chrysler and Dodge brands.

"I was in complete disbelief when I was told I had been selected as the grand prize winner of the 2016 FCA US LLC Sweepstakes," said Sandra Moussiaux of Clinton Township.

"A simple birthday trip to a Broadway play turned into a wonderful surprise one year later. After test driving the 2017 Durango GT, I fell in love with the way it drove. My family and I take vacations together so we cannot wait to travel in this new beautiful and comfortable vehi-

"I never dreamed that I would win a new car! I feel very fortunate and I am appreciative of Snethkamp's Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram in Redford, where staff took exceptional care of me throughout this process. A big shout out to them.'

Moussiaux secured her entry in May of last year while she was attending a showing of "The

Sound of Music," in honor of her birthday, at the Fisher Theatre Broadway in Detroit, Wunderlich said.

Moussiaux was fortunate enough to try her luck after noticing a representation of a new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica. There was also a knowledgeable product specialist with whom Mousiaux spoke about the vehicle. That was when she learned about the national sweepstakes, Wunderlich said. She took that opportunity to enter the con-

"The FCA US LLC National Sweepstakes is always an exciting time for us and truly one of the best parts of the job," ex-Experiential Marketing,

tor who equips our children with the knowledge they need to succeed in the classroom each and every day. With our U.S. headquarters in Auburn Hills, FCA is very proud to reward a local resident like Sandra with a new Dodge Durango that she deserves."

Fiat

plained Jason Russ, head of Chrysler US. "Sandra is a dedicated educa-

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Uber Exec Quits Company Suddenly

NEW YORK (AP) – Uber's head of communications is leaving, the latest in a string of executive company tries to dig out from a pile of troubles.

In a memo to employees, CEO Travis Kalanick called Rachel Whetstone a "force of nature" who was "way ahead of the game when it came to many of the changes we needed to make as a company."

Uber is facing accusations of routinely tolerated sexism and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as troubles for Kalanick after a video surfaced

showing him berating a driver. The company is hiring a chief operating officer to help him mandepartures as the ride-hailing age the company. Uber has also hired former Attorney General Eric Holder to lead an investigation into the sexism allegations.

> Whetstone, who joined Uber in 2015 after a decade at Google. did not give a reason for her departure. Her deputy, Jill Hazelbaker, is replacing her.

> "I am incredibly proud of the team that we've built - and that iust as when I left Google, a strong and brilliant woman will be taking my place," Whetstone said in a statement.



Bundling Discounts

New York Auto Show Sees More Exotics

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York International Auto Show timeday for automakers that sell to the wealthiest of car buyers to show their high-powered stuff. Prices for these cars range from hundreds of thousands of dollars to the millions. A potential competitor for Tesla also made its auto show debut with an electric sedan

There are unique exotic cars, and there's boutique unique. Two super-high-end boutique automakers showed off new vehicles April 13 designed for 1 percenters.

Koenigsegg Automotive of Sweden unveiled the Agera RS1, a hand-built car made partly of carbon fiber with a twin-turbo 5-Liter V8 that puts out up to 1,360 horsepower. It can go from zero to 62 miles per hour in 2.8 seconds and costs \$2 million.

The company expects to build 20 cars this year. Dutch automaker Spyker Ltd. showed its \$429,000 C8 Preliator Spyder, a convertible with a carbon-fiber body powered by a 600 horsepower V8 – made by Koenigsegg with a six-speed manual transmission. The company will build only 100. CEO Victor Muller says there's been a resurgence in manual transmissions in exotic

Mustang Has a Musical Ring

Finally, an upside to annoying phone calls from solicitors.

The signature growl of a Ford Mustang has been captured and made available as a free downloadable ringtone, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones.

In recording the sound for the new ringtone, Jones said Ford engineers mounted microphones on a 2018 Mustang equipped with all-new active valve performance exhaust. The audio plays the sound of the exhaust in track mode as the car equipped with the new available 10-speed automatic transmission races to speeds up to 155 mph.

Matt Flis, Ford exhaust development engineer, said that the new exhaust system can be made more exhilarating when a driver wants it to be, more subdued at other times.

"In track mode, this car really growls the way a Mustang should, and the new ringtone is a great way for fans to have fun with that," said Flis.

Active valve performance exhaust, available on V8-equipped Mustang GT models, gives drivers broader control over the exhaust system's auditory output. Rather than basic on/off capabilities common on many sports cars, the new Mustang exhaust system uses active valves to create a wide range of sound output based on exhaust mode setting, engine rpm and vehicle speed.

Drivers can select any of four exhaust modes, and the active valve exhaust system responds by creating exhaust notes that are smooth and linear, even during rapid acceleration, Flis said.

'We created this system to provide customers with a sound experience that best complements the exhilaration of driving the Mustang," said Carl Widmann, Mustang chief engineer. "The total excitement is something you don't just feel, you hear.'

When Mustang's powerful V8 fires up, the active valve performance exhaust system defaults to normal mode. Changing modes lets valves in the system modulate the engine sound based on careful tuning. The signature start-up sound can go up and down as a driver sees fit, Jones said.

Consumers have shown their approval – for the fourth year in a row – of the GMC brand's lineup of SUVs and pickup trucks, winning Kelley Blue Book's Brand Image Award.

GMC's Truck and SUV Lineups Win Top Marks from Buyers

At a time when SUVs and pick-ruary. In 2016, that split was 59.5 up trucks are more popular than ever, GMC has scored big with ex-

GMC won Kelley Blue Book's 2017 Brand Image Award for Most Refined Brand April It's the fourth year in a row GMC has earned the award, as it continues to earn praise for its premium truck and SUV lineups from new vehicle buyers, said GM spokesman Trevor Thompkins.

On March 1, Reuters reported light trucks accounted for 62 percent of light vehicle sales in Febpercent in favor of trucks and SUVs, according to Autodata Corp. Over a full year, that shift would mean roughly two assembly plants' worth of cars had been replaced by SUVs or trucks.

Brand Image Award winners are based on consumer automotive perception data from Kelley Blue Book Strategic Insights' Brand Watch study. Brand Watch is an online brand and model perception tracking study tapping into more than 12,000 in-market new-vehicle shoppers annually on Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com.

The comprehensive study provides insight on how shoppers identify important factors influencing their purchase decision and captures brand/model familiarity and loyalty among new-vehicle shoppers.

"GMC's 'Professional Grade' ideology has struck a resonant chord with consumers, and that's reflected in car buyers visiting Kelley Blue Book's website, KBB.com, naming GMC 2017's Most Refined Brand," says Jack Nerad, executive editorial director for Kelley Blue Book.

"The extra attention to design

and detail found across GMC's lineup has clearly resonated with American consumers.'

In previous wins, Kelley Blue Book has acknowledged Denali, GMC's highest expression of premium vehicles, for continuing to elevate the brand's overall perception among consumers. Thompkins said. Kelley Blue Book's findings show that consumers recognize that GMC trucks and SUVs pair professional grade capability with exceptional features and technology, he said.

"Receiving the Most Refined Brand award for a fourth consecutive year reflects GMC's commitment to our core brand pillars," said Duncan Aldred, vice president, Global Buick and GMC. "Consumers appreciate GMC's ability to deliver bold, capable and precisely crafted vehicles that fit their lifestyle.'

GMC began 2017 by selling its 1 millionth Denali vehicle since introducing the sub-brand on Yukon in 1999. Denali accounted for 25 percent of GMC retail sales in 2016, outselling the entire product lines of several premium automakers, such as Land Rover, Jaguar and Porsche.

Hydrogen Fuel Cells Have the Potential to Overtake Electric Powertrains

DETROIT (AP) – Hydrogen fuel cell cars could one day challenge electric cars in the race for pollution-free roads – but only if more stations are built to fuel them.

Honda, Toyota and Hyundai have leased a few hundred fuel cell vehicles over the past three years, and expect to lease well over 1,000 this year. But for now, those leases are limited to California, which is home to most of the 34 public hydrogen fueling stations in the U.S.

Undaunted, automakers are investing heavily in the technology. General Motors recently supplied the U.S. Army with a fuel cell pickup, and GM and Honda are collaborating on a fuel cell system due out by 2020. Hyundai will introduce a longer-range fuel cell SUV next year.

> "We've clearly left the science project stage...."

- Charles Freese

"We've clearly left the science project stage and the technology is viable," said Charles Freese, who heads GM's fuel cell busi-

Like pure electric cars, fuel cell cars run quietly and emissionfree. But they have some big advantages. Fuel cell cars can be refueled as quickly as gasoline-powered cars. By contrast, it takes nine hours to fully recharge an allelectric Chevrolet Bolt using a 240-volt home charger. Fuel cells cars can also travel further between fill-ups.

But getting those fill-ups presents the biggest obstacle. Fueling stations cost up to \$2 million to build, so companies have been reluctant to build them unless more fuel cell cars are on the road. But automakers don't want to build cars that consumers can't fuel.

The U.S. Department of Energy lists just 34 public hydrogen fueling stations in the country; all but three are in California. By comparison, the U.S. has 15,703 public electric charging stations, which can be installed for a fraction of the cost of hydrogen stations. There are also millions of garages where owners can plug their cars in overnight.

As a result, U.S. consumers bought nearly 80,000 electric cars last year, but just 1,082 fuel cell vehicles, according to Ward-

That's why automakers will keep hedging their bets and offer electric vehicles alongside hydrogen ones.

Honda began leasing the 2017 Clarity fuel cell sedan earlier this year; about 100 are already on the road. At this week's New York Auto Show, the company also introduced electric and plug-in hybrid versions of the Clarity.

The plug-in hybrid can go 42 miles in electric mode before a small gas engine kicks in, Honda says. The all-electric Clarity can go 111 miles on a charge. Both will go on sale later this year.

"We think going forward the powertrain market is going to be very diverse," said Steve Center, vice president of the environmental business development office at American Honda.

Fuel cell cars create electricity to power the battery and motor by mixing hydrogen and oxygen in the specially treated plates that combine to form the fuel cell

The technology isn't new. GM introduced the first fuel cell vehicle, the Electrovan, in 1966. It only seated two; the back of the van housed large steel tanks of hydrogen and oxygen. It went about 150 miles between refuelings, and its hydrogen tank exploded on at least one occasion.

Advances in hydrogen storage, fuel cell stacks and batteries have allowed engineers to significantly shrink those components to fit neatly inside a sedan. Oxygen is now collected from the air through the grille, and hydrogen is stored in aluminum-lined, fuel tanks that automatically seal in an accident to prevent leaks. Reducing the amount of platinum used in the stack has made fuel cell cars less expensive.

Honda's new Clarity can go 366 miles between fuelings, the longest range in the industry.

The Clarity leases for \$369 per month for 36 months. That's more than the \$354 monthly lease payment for the Chevrolet Bolt electric. But Honda, Toyota and Hyundai are all throwing in free hydrogen refueling. It costs between \$13 and \$16 per kilogram for hydrogen, or up to \$80 to fill the Clarity's 5-kilogram capacity,

according to the U.S. Energy Department.

Even with that perk, analysts think sales of fuel cell vehicles will be limited until more fueling stations are built. But carmakers will still invest in fuel cells. GM's Freese says there are many applications beyond cars, including unmanned, deep-sea vehicles or backup home power systems.

"One of the reasons global car companies do something like this is they want to have a finger in a council to accelerate the adopthe pie. Should we suddenly have to shift over, they want to be able to do it," said Jack Nerad, an executive market analyst with Kelley Blue Book.

The number of fueling stations could also grow quickly if automakers partner with governments and energy companies, as they have done in California. Earlier this year, 13 companies - including Shell and BMW - formed tion of hydrogen as a transportation fuel.

Heather McLaughlin of San Ramon, Calif., was one of the first customers to lease a 2017 Clarity. She says she prefers a fuel cell car over an electric because she can refuel it in minutes. And one fillup a week more than covers her 50-mile daily commute to Benicia, where she serves as the city at-

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Buick's Avenir Concepts Hitting the Market

Debuting with the 2018 Buick Enclave, the new Avenir subbrand represents the highest expression of Buick luxury, said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Global Buick and GMC. Buick first displayed the Avenir concept car at the 2015 Detroit Auto

Avenir, said Aldred, offers unique styling cues and an extensive set of standard features and premium materials throughout the vehicle. New and versatile functionality, interior spaciousness, and intuitive technologies build on the Enclave's established popularity, Aldred said.

Smart innovation and style come standard on the 2018 Buick Enclave Avenir, said Aldred, adding that Buick-first Evonik Acrylite exterior lighting illuminates the road ahead with the power of more than 100 LEDs across the vehicle.

A Rear Camera Mirror provides a clearer, broader view of what's behind, he said, and in-vehicle ionization leaves the air cleaner and fresher.

It's all packaged within an elegant design that combines concept car inspiration with improved interior luxury amenities and roominess for up to seven passengers, Aldred said.

"The Enclave has been a successful formula for the Buick brand, with sales results that have defied traditional product cycles, and 90 percent of customers purchasing in the top two trim levels," said Aldred. "It's a beacon for the modern, attainable luxury that Buick stands for and is a natural place to launch Avenir."

Aldred said highlights of the **Enclave Avenir include:**

Avenir model comes stan-

It's a concept whose time has dard with extensive active safety, connectivity and luxury features for a simple and convenient buying experience.

• A new body structure for safety, strength and mass efficiency, plus 17 radar, camera and ultrasonic sensors when fully equipped.

- It accommodates seven passengers comfortably and offers more cargo volume behind the first row than the Acura MDX, Audi Q7 and Infiniti QX60.
- Standard hands-free powerprogrammable liftgate with a Buick tri-shield logo illuminates the ground below the hidden sensor and power-folding third
- Avenir-exclusive sional mesh grille, badging, pearl nickel 20-inch aluminum wheels and luxurious interior materials are standard.
- Buick-first Rear Camera Mirror is standard.
- Buick-first Evonik Acrylite lighting technology provides a distinctive light signature.
- Tow capacity of up to 5,000 pounds is more than enough to tow a typical 21-foot sport boat.
- A standard 3.6L V6 engine with stop/start technology, Buick-estimated 302 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque is paired with a nine-speed automatic transmission.
- Standard five-link rear suspension and available continuously variable real-time damping (CDC) offer a refined, isolated
- Available intelligent AWD with active twin-clutch rear differential and Buick-first switchable AWD help improve control and efficiency.

All Avenir models, said Buick spokeswoman Jennifer Korail, will feature an exclusive 3-dimensional mesh grille paired with



2018 Buick Enclave Avenir



The 2018 Buick Enclave Avenir interior

chrome wings inspired by Buick concept cars.

Additional Enclave Avenir notable styling cues include 20inch, six-spoke wheels with a pearl nickel finish; five premium exterior colors; an Avenir Chestnut and Ebony interior with piping on the seats and contrasting stitching; embroidered first-row headrests; Avenir floor-mats; a wood-accented steering wheel; and bold Avenir-scripted sill plates on all four doors.

A wide array of advanced

technologies and interior features emphasizing premium comfort and inclusive luxury comes standard in the Enclave Avenir, including heated and ventilated front seats; heated second-row seats; navigation; wireless charging; a dual moonroof; an 8-inch diagonal reconfigurable cluster display; a 360-degree surround vision camera system for easier parking; and a rear camera mirror that can function as a traditional mirror or as a camera.

U.S. Orders Kia, Hyundai to Recall 1.4 Million Cars

DETROIT (AP) - Hyundai and Kia are recalling 1.4 million cars and SUVs in the U.S., Canada and South Korea because the engines can fail and stall, increasing the risk of a crash.

The recall covers some of the Korean automakers' most popular models in the U.S. and Canada including 2013 and 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport SUVs and Sonata midsize cars. Also covered are Kia Optima midsize cars from 2011 through 2014, Kia Sportage SUVs from 2011 through 2013 and Kia Sorento SUVs from 2012 through 2014.

The South Korean recall includes Hyundai's Grandeur and Sonata sedans and Kia's K5, K7 and Sportage with engines produced from 2009 to 2013. All have either 2-Liter or 2.4-Liter gasoline engines. The U.S. engines were made in Hyundai's engine plant in Alabama.

The companies say in documents posted April 7 by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that debris left from manufacturing can restrict oil flow to connecting rod bearings. Since they are cooled by oil, the restriction can increase temperatures and cause the bearings to wear and fail, and the engines could stall.

Owners will hear a knocking sound from the engine that increases in frequency as the engine speed rises. They also could get engine warning lights on Hyundai dashboard, spokesman Jim Trainor said. Those with problems should contact their dealers.

Hyundai and Kia will notify owners and dealers will inspect the engines. They'll replace the block if needed at no cost to owners. The recall starts May 19.

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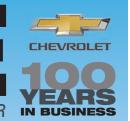
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New Car Transaction Prices See Increase During March

The analysts at Kelley Blue climbed 18 percent as it attempts Book, www.kbb.com, reported on April 4 that the estimated average transaction price (ATP) for light vehicles in the United States was \$34,342 in March 2017.

New-car prices have increased by \$587 (up 1.7 percent) from March 2016, while falling \$133 (down 0.4 percent) from last month, said Kelley spokesman Andrew Nicolai.

"New-car prices are up yet again by just under 2 percent, which is a slightly lower increase than in the first two months of the year," said Tim Fleming, analyst for Kelley Blue Book.

"While numbers for automakers are mostly flat to slightly positive, there are signs of weakness in some popular vehicle segments. Perhaps most notably, the full-size truck segment is down 2 percent year-over-year, a rare occurrence for this category, which has seen large price improvements over the last few years.

"Also, transaction prices for subcompact SUVs, one of last year's hottest segments, are down 3 percent as demand for the small utility vehicles appears to be leveling off."

Rising incentives and discounts on cars have become common, but now they are growing more in truck and SUV segments, due to slowing consumer demand for new vehicles and high levels of inventory available, Fleming said.

Nissan North America is up 5 percent again in March 2017, continuing a strong run of improving transaction prices.

The Nissan brand rose 5 percent on a much higher mix of SUVs versus last year, led by the Rogue. The redesigned Armada

to make headway in the full-size SUV segment, which has traditionally been dominated by General Motors.

Infiniti was up just 1 percent, helped most by the Q50 sedan, which was up 6 percent, and the recently redesigned Q60 coupe, also up 6 percent.

On the other hand, Volkswagen Group average transaction prices fell more than 2 percent, although the Audi brand did rise 5 percent. Audi's redesigned A4 sedan was up 7 percent, while the new

A4 allroad was up 11 percent.

Meanwhile, Volkswagen was flat, while Porsche was down 7 percent on a higher mix of its entrylevel model, the Macan, Fleming said. Average transaction price

changes among segments between March 2016 and March 2017 are:

- Compact car plus 2.1 percent increase to \$20,563;
- Compact SVU/Crossover plus 1.6 percent to \$28,395;
- Electric vehicle minus 12.2 percent to \$34,086;
- Entry-level luxury car plus
- 2.5 percent to \$41,678; • Full-size car – plus 1.5 per-
- cent to \$34,606; • Full-size pickup truck –
- minus 2.4 percent to \$45,252; • Full-size SUV/crossover
- plus 1.2 percent to \$60,670; • Minivan – plus 2.8 percent to
- Mid-size car 0.0 percent,
- Mid-size pickup truck plus 1.6 percent to \$31,986;
- Mid-size SUV/crossover minus 0.3 percent to \$37,398;
- Subcompact car plus 1.2 percent to \$16,421.



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Supplier Preh Earns High **Quality Marks from GM**

supplier Preh was named a GM Supplier of the Year by General Motors during its 25th annual Supplier of the Year awards ceremony held March 31 in Orlando,

"We are focused on building positive supplier relationships, bringing new, customer-centric innovations to GM and being the OEM of choice among suppliers," said Steve Kiefer, GM vice president, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain.

The companies we recognize tonight not only have brought innovation, they delivered it with the quality our customers deserve.

GM recognized 118 of its best suppliers from 15 countries that have consistently exceeded GM's expectations, created outstanding value or brought new innovations to the company, said Preh spokesman Barrett Kalellis. The announcement represented the

The Novi-based automotive most suppliers GM has recognized since debuting the Supplier of the Year event in 1992. This is the fifth time Preh has received the award.

> More than half of the suppliers were repeat winners from 2015. Winning suppliers were chosen by a global team of GM purchasing, engineering, quality, manufacturing and logistics executives and selected based on performance criteria in Product Purchasing, Indirect Purchasing, Customer Care and Aftersales, and Logistics, Kalellis said.

> "It is a great honor for us to be among the top suppliers of GM once again," said Christoph Hummel, CEO of Preh. "We are proud of this award, because it confirms that our commitment to innovation and quality in the development, manufacturing and supply of human machine interface systems is appreciated by one of our most important cus-

Honda Orders Air Bag Recall

TOKYO (AP) - Japanese auto- tive history, involving 42 million maker Honda said April 7 it was recalling 37,000 vehicles in the U.S. to check if replacement air bags contain the recalled Takata inflators that may have been installed prior to the massive Takata recalls last year.

Honda Motor Co. said the recall of the front air bag inflator of the 2003 2-door Accord doesn't affect its vehicles in other regions. No ruptures have been reported. The inflators made by Japanese supplier Takata Corp. are blamed in at least 16 deaths and more than 180 injuries worldwide. The problem set off the biggest recall in U.S. automo-

vehicles. Globally, the tally is more than 100 million. The inflators can explode with too much force, sending shrapnel spewing.

The latest recall is unusual in that Honda is trying to find 2,500 inflators that were replaced during repairs, but it doesn't know where the 2,500 inflators went, so it's recalling all of the possibly affected vehicles so they can be checked.

In February, Takata pleaded guilty to concealing a deadly defect in millions of its air bag inflators. The company agreed to pay \$125 million to individual victims and \$850 million to automakers.

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Chevy Doubles Down on Brand's Sporty SUVs

ever and Chevrolet has just unveiled a sporty version of the Tahoe and Suburban on April 6.

'Chevrolet has continually invested in Tahoe and Suburban. developing models with varying combinations of capability, technology and performance to meet the needs of different customers," said Sandor Piszar, Chevrolet Truck Marketing direc-

"The RST is designed for customers who want a street performance look without sacrificing capability or refinement, along with the option of increased performance as

The new special edition for the Tahoe and Suburban is known as street-performance Rally Sport Truck, or RST, said spokesman Phil Lienert.

The Tahoe RST will also be available with a new Performance Package that includes a 420hp, 6.2L V8 engine; Magnetic Ride Control with performance calibration; and a new Hydra-Matic 10L80 10-speed automatic transmission.

RST will be available on Tahoe and Suburban models in the fall of 2017, said Lienert. Inspired by aftermarket trends, virtually all chrome trim has been eliminated for a street performance appearance. Changes include body-color grille surround and door handles; gloss-black grille and mirror caps; black roof rails, window trim, badging and Chevy bowties. RST also includes exclusive 22-inch wheels wrapped in Bridgestone P285/45R22 tires.

Available upgrades for Tahoe and Suburban RST include a Borla performance exhaust system that offers a 28 percent improvement in exhaust flow, for a the truck will be cable of 0-60

SUVs are more popular than 7-10-horsepower gain at the rear wheels, Lienert said.

> An available brake package features massive front red Brembo six-piston, fixed aluminum calipers with brake pads clamping on larger-than-stock 410 x 32mm (16.1 inch x 1.3 inch) Duralife rotors coupled with a 84 percent increase in brake pad area and a 42 percent increase in rotor area to increase system thermal capacity.

> Duralife rotors feature a hardened surface to reduce corrosion and provide quieter braking with less vibration.

> The Tahoe RST will also be offered with an exclusive Performance Package that includes Magnetic Ride Control with performance calibration, 6.2L V8 and the new 10L80 10-speed automatic transmission.

> This is the first time Tahoe will offer the 6.2L V8, which delivers an estimated 420 horsepower and 460 lb.-ft. of torque, Lienert said. The engine features three state-of-the-art technologies - direct injection, Active Fuel Management and continuously variable valve timing - to make the most of power, torque and efficiency across a broad range of operating conditions.

> The 6.2L V8 will be paired with a new 10-speed automatic transmission. With smaller steps between each ratio, the transmission maximizes engine power under acceleration, Lienert said. With a wide 7.39 overall gear ratio spread and lower numerical top gear ratio, the transmission also improves efficiency by reducing engine revolutions at highway speeds.

> Based on preliminary estimates, the Tahoe RST Performance Package will offer a towing capacity of 8,400 pounds and



The 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe RST

mph acceleration in less than 6 ing damping changes in the elec-

Full performance metrics will be announced closer to launch, Lienert said.

Magnetic Ride Control is an active suspension that "reads" the road every millisecond, trigger- cruising, Lienert said. The new

tronically controlled shock absorbers in as few as 5 milliseconds. As a result, the suspension delivers both improved body-motion control during cornering and a more comfortable ride while performance calibration included in the Tahoe RST Performance Package increases body control for even higher levels of responsiveness and comfort.

"When you want to hustle, it is incredibly fast, with significantly higher levels of acceleration, braking and road-holding grip," said Eric Stanczak, chief engineer for Chevrolet full-size trucks. "When you want to relax, it is very refined, with exceptional ride comfort and interior quietness.

Chevrolet has been the bestselling full-size SUV brand for 42 years, said Leinert. Today, Tahoe and Suburban are the top two vehicles in the segment, he said. They also account for 49.3 percent of retail sales, or nearly one out of every two full-size SUVs Americans bought in 2016. Tahoe and Suburban customers are also the most loyal owners in the segment, he said, with 79 percent of owners replacing their vehicle with another Tahoe or Suburban.

Rooney Promoted to CEO at Continental

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wisniewski had served as CSP's corporate controller since 2013, Zitny said. He brings nearly 25 years of experience in Finance to the job. Prior to joining CSP, he worked as director of Finance at GKN. Previous positions include financial analyst and performance manager at Teksid Aluminum; senior financial analyst at Delphi and analyst at EY.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Psychology, from the University of Michigan.

"As we move to the next chapter with CSP as part of Teijin, I am excited to be taking the reins," said Rooney. "We have a tremendous opportunity ahead of us as we combine the significant expertise of our two companies to develop the next generation of lightweight materials for our customers. We will certainly miss Frank and Jon, but they built a strong team and we're ready to take CSP into the future.

Macher, who joined CSP in 2010, played a key role in turning CSP into the successful and innovative Tier I supplier the company is today, Zitny said. It was through his vision that CSP built up its R&D capabilities to develop the award-winning, lightweighting technologies which CSP is known. He led the company to global growth and significant profitability, culminating in the 2017 sale of CSP to Teijin. CSP milestones achieved under Macher's leadership in-

• The 2013 move into a new world headquarters facility that includes a 29,000-square-foot ical engineers, polymer engi- ized processes, including stan- their terms expire.

neers, materials scientists and technicians.

- The 2013 acquisition of a 130,000-square-foot manufacturing and R&D facility in Pouancé, France, where CSP currently conducts most of its research in carbon fiber and other advanced technologies.
- The acquisition of five plants from Magna's composites operations in 2014, further expanding CSP's footprint to 14 fa-
- The introduction of the revolutionary Tough Class A (TCA) Ultra Lite material in 2014.
- The 2014 formation of a 50-50 joint venture with Qingdao Victall Railway Group in Tangshan, China, to form CSP Victall.

"Serving as the CEO of CSP has been one of the most rewarding of all of the positions I've held, because we've been able to make such a significant impact in a relatively short period of time," said Macher.

"We took something that was very broken, and turned it into a world-class innovator for the automotive industry, and this is something I will always be very proud of. I will certainly miss the day-to-day interactions with my team, but I know I'm leaving CSP in very capable hands as I retire for the sixth time."

Macher will continue on in a strategic advisory role for three months before stepping down for good in June 2017.

When Smith joined CSP in 2012, the company was pulling itself out of near insolvency and was saddled with high interest debt. It was lacking in financial discipline, including any standardized processes or proce-R&D and Prototype Center dures. Smith immediately went with the company's Chinese staffed by Ph.D. chemists, chem- to work to implement standard- joint venture, CSP Victall, until

dardized reporting and KPI reporting company-wide, and a well-defined new business quoting model.

Smith worked side-by-side with Macher and Rooney in the transformation of CSP, and was the financial lead for all expansions, acquisitions and joint ventures over the past 5 years. In addition, he:

- Guided the company to top line growth of 18% CAGR, and EBITDA growth of 38%.
- · Initiated two major refinancings of the company's debt structure, yielding significant savings and providing greater flexibility for future growth.
- Implemented a number of procedural improvements, including a signature authority matrix with a focus on establishing accountability and improved visibility at all levels; a long-term strategic planning process; enhancements to data security, disaster recovery and systems redundancy to insure no interruption of product supply to cus-
- Upgraded in-house IT talent yielding tremendous growth in systems capability and data se-

"Joining the CSP executive team gave me the opportunity to apply my years of financial expertise to a system that presented a number of opportunities for improvement," said Smith.

"It's been a great experience to watch the company embrace the proper disciplines and subsequently grow and prosper. As a bonus, we had quite a bit of fun along the way."

Both Macher and Smith will continue in their board positions

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New Members Selected for NACTOY Jury

Mark Phelan, Detroit Free Press auto reporter acting as a spokesman for the North American Car, Truck and Utility Vehicle of the Year panel, said on April 11 that four new judges were appointed to the jury that chooses NACTOY winners. They are:

- Paul Brian, "Drive Chicago" on WLS Radio and "His Turn, Her Turn" on ABC/Disney-owned and operated TV stations;
- Jodi Lai, managing editor, Autoguide;
- Gary Vasilash, Automotive Design & Production magazine and "Autoline" TV:
- Al Vazquez, FAMA magazine and video.

"Brian, Lai, Vasilash and Vazquez bring years of experience, a history of insightful work

and bring a range of new outlets serving a variety of audiences to the jury," Phelan said. "With their addition, the jury is at its maximum of 60 members."

The North American Car and Truck and Utility Vehicle of the Year awards honor excellence in innovation, design, safety, performance, technology, driver satisfaction and value.

Initiated in 1994, the awards, Phelan said, are the longest-running awards not associated with a single publication. Each year, new-model vehicles are judged by a diverse base of professional automotive journalists from the United States and Canada who report for magazines, television, radio, newspapers and web out-

The diversity of the jurors' outlets and areas of specialization provide broad and deep viewpoints, Phelan said.

- The 2017 award winners were: • North American Car of the Year: Chevrolet Bolt;
- North American Truck of the Year: Honda Ridgeline;
- North American Utility Vehicle of the Year: Chrysler Pacifica. Jurors are already evaluating new vehicles eligible for the 2018

honors

Finalists for the 2018 North American Car, Truck and Utility Vehicle of the Year will be announced at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November. Winners will be announced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Jan. 14, 2018.



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et Price...

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- 6 Speed Transmission!
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- Bluetooth for Phone!
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- Aluminum Wheels!
- Chevrolet Complete Care INCLUDED!

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