# **Detroit Auto Scene**

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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JULY 24, 2017

# **Registration for FCA 'Roadkill' Now Open**

Participant registration is officially open for drag racing on Woodward Avenue. Racing takes place August 12, 2017, at "Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge," TEN: The Enthusiast Network's popular drag racing event and car festival at M1 Concourse in Pontiac.

Once again, Roadkill Nights' legal street drag racing is bigger and better than ever, with a total cash purse of \$29,000, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich.

As part of the overall money up for grabs, \$10,000 will be awarded to the quickest Dodge car (must be powered by a Dodge engine), Wunderlich said. Race fans will have until Wednesday, July 26, to submit their Roadkill Nights drag racing application. The application asks the drag racing candidates sever-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The 2016 Dodge Roadkill Nights proved so popular last year that the brand is bringing it back for 2017.

2018 Buick Regal

## Buick's Aldred: 2018 Regal **Offers More Technology**

attainable luxury and sleek, sporty design meets modern usefulness, drivers will find the 2018 Buick Regal GS - a car for commutes that are anything but common.

At least that's the goal, said GM spokesman Michael Ofiara when the 2018 Regal was unveiled last week.

The Regal has been designed to be the brand's most dramatic expression of design and dynamics with the new model balancing these key characteristics to pro-

Where spirited driving meets vide customers excellent driving performance every day and in every season. Ofiara said.

> The 2018 Regal GS advances the nameplate with 51 more horsepower than the model it replaces, more refined transmission and AWD technology, new, heated/cooled and massaging performance seats and the added functionality and style of a five-door sportback design, said Duncan Aldred, vice president, Global Buick and GMC.

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

# Four-Alarm Fire Can't Shut Down Buff Whelan Chevrolet

by Jim Stickford

Open for business. That was the message that staff at Buff Whelan Chevrolet on Van Dyke in Sterling Heights wanted to get out on July 19, the day after a fire completely destroyed the dealership's service center.

Tom Bechtell, general sales manager at Buff Whelan, said the fire started shortly after closing time on July 18.

"I was driving home to Chesterfield when I received notice of the fire," Bechtell said. "I immediately turned around and headed back to the dealership."

According to the Sterling Heights fire department, the first call came in at about 7:20 p.m. on July 18.

"When we received the call, we sent the regular three trucks," said Edwin Miller, battalion chief total of 12 townships and cities in for the Sterling Heights fire de- Macomb County were used to partment, speaking to the media fight the fire. As far as anyone the day after the fire.



Buff Whelan Chevrolet dealership's showroom was not harmed...

as soon as they got to the scene seen in Sterling Heights in living and saw the size of the fire. memory." Trucks and other units from a

Bechtell said that the fire could



...but the service center, where the fire started, collapsed.

service center, suffered some ple, will try to keep its repair minor damage because of the business going. They will use fire, but we don't expect it to be other facilities and if they can't out of operation. Our message to fix a car right away, they will give the public is that Buff Whelan is the customer a loaner at no cost. "We can't change what hap-

"(Firefighters) called for help

can remember, this four-alarm

fire was the biggest fire we've

have been much worse.

"Our showroom and our usedcar operations weren't affected by the fire," Bechtell said. "The body shop, which is right by the open for business."

Bechtell said the dealership, which employs a total of 182 peo-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 



Baker, left, and Annes discuss conference as Q&A session neared end.

## MCC Hosts National Automotive Gathering

by Jim Stickford

Macomb Community College's (MCC) Warren Campus last week was home to the 2017 North American Council of Automotive Teachers (NACAT) Conference.

The annual event brings together educators who specialize in the auto industry from across the country to discuss and explore issues that affect them.

This was the 44th NACAT Conference and was co-hosted by The Center for Advanced Automotive Technology and MCC at the school's Warren campus July 16-21 was chosen as the location of this year's gathering. This year's keynote speakers

were Tim Anness, director of Jeep Forward Exteriors at Fiat Chrysler; and Brian C. Baker, a retired GM designer and current industry consultant. They spoke on Monday July 17.

Baker, who also teaches at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, spoke about the importance of teaching a passion for cars and for the automotive industry.

Anness spoke about design expectations for modern consumers, adding that it's important to have that next generation of designers who have been trained in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) concepts.

That's why Fiat Chrysler supports STEAM programs at local high schools in and around Detroit, as well as programs that encourage STEAM education across the country, he said.

"We really like what they're doing at MCC with the school's digital sculpting program," Anness

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### **Meritor Names** Lantz as Chief **Strategy Officer**

Meritor, Inc. of Troy has named Cheri Lantz as vice president and chief strategy officer, effective immediately.

'Cheri's extensive background as a results-focused executive in the commercial vehicle and industrial sectors will greatly benefit Meritor as the company continues its transformation focused on profitable growth," said Jay Craig, CEO and president of Meritor.

"We welcome her to Meritor and look forward to her leadership in this critical area.'

Lantz will have a key role in driving Meritor's long-term revenue growth, said Meritor spokeswoman Krista Sohm.

Lantz will work closely with the company's business leaders to identify and assess long-term growth strategies for business units and the overall corporation. Meritor, Inc. is a global supplier of drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket solutions for commercial vehicle and industrial markets.

said. "But you still have to see and touch a full-scaled design, which is why we also need tradi-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tional clay sculptors." Having trained designers who understand a brand's look is important, Anness said, because, given the requirements of fuel efficiency and aerodynamics, it's more difficult than ever to maintain a brand's look.

And the education today's auto designers need can often be obtained at community colleges, he said. FCA hired three or four contract employees and co-op interns a year for their skills in digital sculpting.

"The public needs to know," said Anness, "that these fantastic options at community colleges exist for students who have the desire to create and design the cars of the future. They just need the willingness to learn and the patience to fail. And thanks to programs that schools like MCC have, they can often get the training they need without going into financial distress.'

Anness said that as long as OEMs promote the importance of the work, they will be able to find students with the desire and skills to be designers. That's important, he said, because the next generation of cars will be greatly influenced by today's young consumers.

That's why it's important for groups like NACAT to fight for art classes. Anness said.

"I didn't do well in math, that's why I'm not an engineer," Anness said. "But my passion was there, and there are students today with that passion and they need art classes to help them realize that passion. That's what happened to me.

Baker agreed with that, but said there is also a need for designers

to understand the engineering side of things.

"The great difference between now and when I started in design is reflected in the fact that when I started, it was called styling now it's called design.'

Computer Assisted Design programs (CAD) allow designers to develop designs that can be tested in terms of strength. safety and aerodynamics in a computer. This actually opens up avenues for designers because they can now create and test so many more designs than in the past, Baker said.

But he said that Anness was right when he said there is still a need for full-size clay mockups of designs. Something that looks great on a computer screen doesn't always look great full scale in the real world.

Baker also said that while passion is important for tomorrow's designers, they need to have a basic understanding of the engineering that goes into a modern car. For example, LED lights give designers so many more options and choices, but lights have strict safety requirements and these requirements define the parameters in which designers must work.

And tomorrow's car will be "transportation" systems as much as they are cars, Baker said. He preaches to his students a five "P" philosophy they must take into account when designing a vehicle.

The first is purpose. What's the vehicle designed to do? Go fast? Transport a large family?

The second is people. How many people will the vehicle fit? Too often, designers forget that people actually will sit in a car they design.

The third P is package. What goes in the vehicle. The fourth is proportion. A vehicle has to have proportion. And the final P is passion.

"You can't teach passion," Baker said. "But you can teach people how to harness their passion.

"It's funny – whenever I visit an OEM's facility, I can always find the parking lot where designers have parked their cars. A good designer designs with his whole heart.'

Another point Baker made was that there are relatively few designers. A few thousand determine what vehicles look like around the globe.

"We don't need a lot of designers, what we need are a lot of people who buy the products they design," Baker said.

One thing Baker said he has found during his long career which included 25 years at GM was that design is a talent. He said that designers could often pick up enough engineering to be good at their jobs, but the engineers he knew who tried to pick up designing couldn't "get out of the engineering box."

Ultimately, design is a balance of art and science, said Baker. A car has to be functional and wellengineered, and it has to look great.

"Another thing I've noticed is that each car company has its own culture and that culture affects how vehicles look," Baker said. "You could give GM designers the engineering specs and first-draft drawings of a Ford Mustang, and I can guarantee that the vehicle they would come up with would look more like a GM product than a Ford. It's because GM's culture is different from Ford's."

Anness said that design is important for the reasons Baker stated, but he warned against design for the sake of design. He likes to follow what he calls the paperclip principle. A paperclip is simple, easy to use and fulfills its function beautifully. There's no reason to come up with a fancier design.

That same principle can apply to cars. Anness said that he's heard of designers who are working on ways to develop expensive and complicated systems to change a car's color to suit the owner's whims on any given day.

In the end, Anness said, it's people like the teachers attending the NACAT event at MCC that will inspire the designers of the future.

That's a great responsibility and an honor, he said.

## **MCC Appoints New Provost**

The Macomb Community College Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of William Tammone, Ph.D., as the college's next provost and vice president of the Learning Unit.

He will be officially joining Macomb on Aug. 7, and is replacing James O. Sawyer IV, Ed.D., who became Macomb's president on July 1. said Jeanne Nicol, director of Public Relations for MCC.

Tammone has 20 years' experience as a community college administrator and was most recently provost and vice president for Academic Affairs of the Colorado Community College System, which encompasses 13 colleges and served approximately 138,000 students in the 2016 academic vear.

Prior to that, he served as provost and interim president of Illinois Central College, spent 12 vears in several academic administrator roles at Montcalm Community College in Sidney, Mich., and began his administrative career at Ivy Tech State College in Columbus, Ind., in 1997 as director of instructional affairs.

Tammone is a peer reviewer



William Tammone

with the Higher Learning Commission, one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States that provides institutional accreditation to degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions

He holds a bachelor of arts in biology, and a master of science in human biology and medicine from the University of Chicago, and a master of arts and a doctor of philosophy in history and philosophy of science from Indiana University.

### **BorgWarner** Acquiring New Auto Supplier

BorgWarner entered into a definitive agreement on July 17 to acquire Sevcon, Inc., a global player in electrification technologies.

Sevcon complements Borg-Warner's power electronics capabilities utilized to provide electrified propulsion solutions, said BorgWarner spokesman Patrick Nolan. "This acquisition supports our existing strategy to supply leading technology for all types of propulsion systems: combustion, hybrid and electric," said James Verrier, president and CEO of BorgWarner. "We look forward to welcoming Sevcon's talented employees to Borg-Warner.' The completion of the transaction is subject to certain terms and conditions, Nolan said, including the approval of Sevcon's stockholders and receipt of required competition law approval. The expected enterprise value of the transaction at closing is approximately \$200 million. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2017 subject to the satisfaction of closing conditions. Sevcon is a global supplier of control and power solutions for zero-emission, electric and hybrid vehicles, Nolan said.



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# **Detroit Auto Scene**

JULY 24, 2017

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"



GM engineered them both - the Apollo 17 Lunar Rover, shown here on the moon, and the earthly 2017 Bolt EV.

## Bolt EV Builds on GM's 'Space' Tradition

to the development of 21st century EV technology.

In July 1971, Apollo 15 astronauts explored the moon in the first electric-powered Lunar Rover, thanks to help from General Motors engineers.

Fast-forward to the 2017 Chevrolet Bolt EV, and it's clear once again that GM remains at the forefront of EV engineering, said GM spokesman Fred Ligouri.

With an EPA-estimated range of 238 miles on a single charge and costing a fraction of the Lunar Rover's \$38 million price tag, the Bolt EV has made driving electric attainable for the Earthbound, Ligouri said.

The Rover was a textbook example of pushing the envelope of creativity. Working at light speed, GM, in cooperation with partner companies, developed, designed and tested the Lunar Rover, Ligouri said. Engineers from GM helped create a revolutionary electric motor drive system, suspension, mesh wire wheels and a for lunar gloves.

Project chief engineer Ferenc Pavlics said he and his team thought outside the box to solve challenges for both astronauts and future EV customers. Almost 50 years after the project, Pavlics still remembers the innovation and commitment required to build an electric vehicle with unprecedented performance.

"When our team began engineering for the Lunar Rover, there were so many unknowns, including varied terrain, extreme temperatures and the effect of reduced gravity," said Pavlics, now retired. "We pushed the boundaries of automotive technology and worked hand-in-hand with the astronauts on the vehicle's design."

Pavlics sees a connective thread between his work then and Chevrolet's contemporary electric vehicles.

"The Bolt EV required a new architecture to upend the status quo on electric driving," said Michael Lelli, vehicle chief engineer. "We

The conquest of space has led unique drive controller adapted drew on our deep electrification expertise to provide Chevrolet customers the first long-range, affordable electric car."

The same innovative spirit that drove the company to engineer an electric vehicle for the moon lives on in the Bolt EV, Ligouri said. Except, today's EV drivers don't have to wear space suits.

Starting at an MSRP of \$37,495 before federal tax incentives of up to \$7,500, the 2017 Bolt EV offers an EPA-estimated 238 miles of range on a single charge.

Standard features include electronic precision shift, one-pedal driving, Regen on Demand steering wheel paddle, 10.2-inchdiagonal color touchscreen and an 8-year/100,000-mile battery and propulsion system limited warrantv (whichever comes first).

The top-trim Premier model adds leather-appointed seats, front and rear heated seats, Surround Vision Camera, Rear Camera Mirror and more, Ligouri said.

## **Registration Now Open for Dodge Roadkill Street Race**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

al questions about their vehicle and racing experience and instructs them to submit photos of the car they wish to use.

After the Roadkill team has diligently reviewed all submissions, the selected applicants will be given a link and a password to enter the drag race.

The "Roadkill Nights Powered by Dodge" event includes rides in the 707-horsepower Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat and Charger SRT Hellcat and 645horsepower Dodge Viper; a show 'n' shine area; dyno runs.

Other features include a manufacturer midway; Dodge Demon drag racing simulators; Roadkill stunts and exhibitions; Pro BMX shows; an extensive family zone with activities for all ages; as well as live music, food trucks and much more.

Fans will also get to see the new 840-horsepower 2018 Dodge Challenger SRT Demon on the dragstrip and exhibition runs by NHRA Top Fuel dragster driver Leah Pritchett and Funny Car driver Matt Hagan.

Roadkill Nights Schedule:

- 10 a.m. gates open.
- 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. drag racing and thrill rides.

 11 p.m. – event concludes. General admission for spectator tickets is \$10 per person; \$5

per person for Pontiac residents (at event only).

Children 12 and under are free. This year's event will also include a first-ever celebrity showdown with "Roadkill" cohosts David Freiburger and Mike Finnegan, drag racing stars Leah Pritchett and Matt Hagan, "The House of Muscle" car guru Mike Musto, and "Hot Rod Garage" hosts Tony Angelo and Lucky Costa.

Freiburger and Finnegan, cohosts of the most-viewed YouTube automotive original series in the United States, will lead the races.

The celebrity showdown champion will be awarded \$10,000, which will be donated to their charity of choice.

Chris Jacobs of Velocity's "Overhaulin'," NHRA national event announcer and host of "Put Up or Shut Up" Brian Lohnes, and self-confessed car nut Clarence Barnes will cohost the activities both on and off the dragstrip.

Wunderlich said prize money breaks down at follows:

- \$10,000 1st place overall;
- \$10,000 fastest Dodge; • \$5,000 - 2nd place overall;
- \$2,500 3rd place overall;
- \$1,500 4th place overall.
- Online applications for the

Roadkill Nights drag racing are available at theenthusiastnetwork.regfox.com/rkn-dragraceapplication.



# **Daimler Caught Up in Own Diesel Scandal**

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) -German automaker Daimler will voluntarily recall 3 million Mercedes-Benz brand cars with diesel engines in Europe to improve their emissions performance, the company said July 18, in the wake of widespread public debate over the future of diesel.

The Stuttgart-based company said it was taking the step to reassure drivers and strengthen confidence in the technology.

The recall expands a smaller, ongoing recall offered to owners of compact-class and Mercedes-Benz V-Class vehicles. It said the fix would involve a software update and would draw on knowledge gained through the development of the company's new family of diesel engines.

The company has said it is cooperating with the German fraud investigation launched in May.



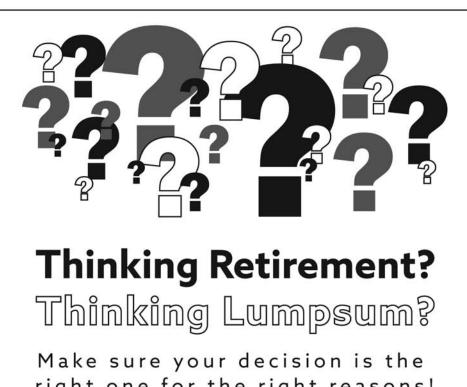
Diesels have been under a cloud since Daimler's competitor Volkswagen admitted equipping vehicles with illegal software that meant they passed emissions tests, but then exceeded limits in everyday driving. There has been a push for diesel bans in some German cities because of concerns about levels of nitrogen oxide emitted by diesels.

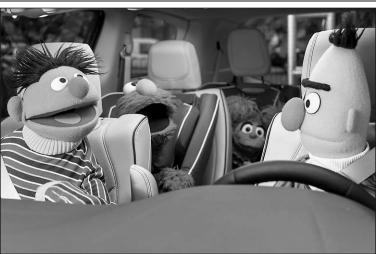
"The public debate about diesel engines is creating uncertainty – especially for our cus-tomers," Daimler CEO Dieter Zetsche said.

He said in a statement it was decided on additional measures to reassure drivers of diesel cars and to strengthen confidence in diesel technology.

The recall will cover nearly all vehicles made under the EU5 and EU6 emissions standards and will start in the next few weeks. The company said it would cost 220 million euros (\$254.21 million), but that customers wouldn't pay anything.







Bert drives a Pacifica with Ernie in the passenger seat.

## Fiat Chrysler Now Drives You to Sesame Street

If you want to get to Sesame Street, Fiat Chrysler can help you.

As of July 17, Fiat Chrysler became a proud sponsor and supporter of "Sesame Street," a commitment that includes supporting the show on PBS and new original content on Chrysler's digital platforms, said Tim Ku-niskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America.

"Sesame Street' has a powerful connection with families and this partnership allows the Chrysler brand to support their work around the world," said Kuniskis.

"As a trusted family brand, we were looking for a like-minded partner who possessed a thoughtful and engaging approach.

"With our all-new Chrysler Pacifica minivan, we wanted to help educate parents about its unprecedented 115 safety, security and technology innovations – and who better than 'Sesame Street,' which has been reaching and educating families for almost 50 years."

"Partnering with Chrysler will help us extend our reach in new and creative ways, and support Sesame Workshop's nonprofit mission to help kids grow smarter, stronger and kinder," said Steve Youngwood, COO of Sesame Workshop.

"We're thrilled to work with a brand that stands for a deep commitment to families and children."

In addition to sponsoring the show on PBS, Kuniskis said Chrysler is creating a multimedia campaign that will pair Sesame characters and the Chrysler Pacifica and Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid in 10 co-branded videos for parents that were launched on July 17 across the brand's digital and social channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The first four videos, which can be viewed now on Chrysler's YouTube channel, take viewers on an unexpected ride as the Muppets play "Listen, Drive, Surprise!," a new game show hosted by Guy Smiley.

The campaign was created and produced in partnership with Mediabrands Society, the social Agency of Record for FCA US.

Sesame Workshop is the nonprofit media and educational organization behind Sesame Street, the pioneering television show that has been reaching and teaching children since 1969, said Sesame Workshop spokeswoman Alicia Durand.

"Today, Sesame Workshop is an innovative force for change, with a mission to help kids everywhere grow smarter, stronger, and kinder," Durand said.

# **Self-Driving Car Tests OK?**

WASHINGTON (AP) - A House state or municipality from impospanel on July 19 backed legislation designed to allow automakers to increase the testing of selfdriving cars on U.S. roads.

The bill would let automakers deploy up to 100,000 self-driving vehicles without meeting existing auto safety standards, a move designed to boost testing of new technology.

The current cap for such exemptions is 2,500. The bill would also require manufacturers to report information about all crashes involving the exempted cars and give the Transportation secretary authority to halt the exemptions for any manufacturer if a defect is discovered. "We want aggressive oversight of the industry, but with the flexibility needed to test and generate the safest and most affordable technologies possible," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which could take up the bill as early as this week. A subcommittee approved the bill by voice vote. The full House would not act on the bill until September at the earliest, giving lawmakers more time to work out changes designed to increase support for the measure. A top priority for lawmakers and the automotive industry is to limit states on regulations. Generally, the federal government regulates the vehicle while states regulate the driver. The bill would prohibit any

ing its own laws related to the design and construction of selfdriving cars.

Federal officials say 94 percent of auto accidents are caused by human error, so self-driving technology has the potential to save thousands of lives and improve the mobility of many elderly and disabled Americans.

"We can forget about the Jetsons, the future of the automobile is here," said Rep. Fred Up-ton, R-Mich. "The automotive in-

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dustry is revolutionizing how we are going to get around for decades to come."

#### Ford Dealership Finds 'Mexican Pot' in Car

WARREN, Ohio (AP) - Authorities say more than 400 pounds (181 kilograms) of marijuana has been found in 15 new cars made in Mexico and shipped to Ohio and Pennsylvania to sell.

A drug task force in Ohio's Portage County was called to a Ford dealership July 15 after a service department employee found a package of pressed marijuana in a spare tire compartment during a vehicle inspection.

Investigators then went to a rail yard near Warren and found more packages in the trunks of Ford Fusions pressed into the shape of a spare tire. Additional packages were found at other northeast Ohio dealerships and one in Pennsylvania.

PAGE 5

### Insurance for Dodge Challenger SRT Demon

The 2018 Dodge Challenger SRT Demon is arriving in dealerships this fall.

And Dodge believes that a powerful car needs powerful insurance, which is why the brand named Hagerty as the official insurance provider of the SRT Challenger Demon. Its policies have been specifically tailored to give Demon owners specialized insurance coverage and the ability to enjoy their new performance machine, said FCA spokeswoman Eileen Wunderlich.

"We are living in the golden age of automotive performance, and the Demon is the latest example that speaks directly to the hearts of enthusiasts," said McKeel Hagerty, CEO – Hagerty.

"The insurance industry had a hand in ending the first great muscle car era, and we're here to make sure history doesn't repeat itself."

The Dodge Challenger SRT Demon is the first-ever production car to do a front-wheel lift, as certified by Guinness World Records, and it's the world's fastest quarter-mile production car with an elapsed time (ET) of 9.65 seconds at 140 miles per hour (mph), as certified by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Wunderlich said. It also registers the highest g-force (1.8 g) ever recorded at launch in a production car, he said.

"The 2018 Dodge Challenger SRT Demon isn't just the industry's first and only purpose-built street-legal production drag car, it is also the world's first drag car that you actually want to drive on the street," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America.

"We didn't build the Demon to be a halo car that never sees the light of day – we want to make sure that Demon owners have access to the insurance they need to get these cars out on the street, for all the Dodge//SRT enthusiasts to see and appreciate their performance."

Hagerty's coverage for the Demon will be the same Guaranteed Value policy that is provided to all vehicles that qualify for their program.

Unlike traditional auto policies for daily driven vehicles, the vehicle's value is established at the time the policy is issued. This eliminates the need for any negotiation on value should the vehicle experience a total covered loss.

## State Questions Dealerless Tesla Sales Proposal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - An automobile dealers' group in Rhode Island is pushing back against Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo's expressed interest in bringing Tesla cars to the state. The Rhode Island Automobile Dealers Association says interest in bringing Tesla Motors to the state would be detrimental to small businesses. WPRI-TV reports Raimondo said July 15 she'd like to bring the electric cars to be sold instate after a speech by Tesla's Elon Musk at the National Governors Association conference. Tesla sells cars directly from the company. State law in Rhode Island currently prohibits automotive manufacturers from selling directly to customers without using a dealership. Jack Perkins, executive vice president of the dealers' group, says the laws are good for small businesses in Rhode Island, and says competing dealers offer better prices.



# Four-Alarm Fire Can't Shut Down Buff Whelan Chevrolet

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

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pened," Bechtell said. "We can only work on dealing with the aftermath of the fire. We cherish our employees at Buff Whelan and we will work to help them out during this situation.

Bechtell said he doesn't know how long it will take to get everything back to normal.

"But I can tell you one thing," Bechtell said. "We won't be lollygagging. We want to continue to provide the great service we always have to our customers."

When asked what he was most worried about, Bechtell said he was most worried about selling 800 cars.

Determining the total amount of damage was going to take time, Bechtell said. The insurance companies will have their say and, while a couple of vehicles inside the service center were totalled, determining the amount of damage to vehicles near the fire because of heat damage will take some time. Initial estimates indicated that between 10 and 20 vehicles might vented the fire from spreading to be considered totalled.

Bechtell also credited Buff Whelan employees for showing up ready to work the day after the fire. They helped move vehicles as required.

"They want to be here to help," Bechtell said. "I feel like I lost my best friend. As much as you might want to be angry, I know there will be some major work to be done. This wasn't just a building, it was a part of the family."

Bechtell said the service center was built in 1972 when Buff Whelan moved to its current location in Sterling Heights.

"I will tell you the thing that surprised me most was the scope of the damage caused by the fire at the service center.' Bechtell said. "It was a steel building with a concrete floor. But the heat was so intense that steel and cars were melted. That's an amazing thing to see. A steel building that was melted."

Miller praised Macomb County's mutual aid program for the help sent to the city. This aid preother parts of the dealership and vehicles parked around the service center.

"I want to thank all the people from Utica, Macomb Township, Fraser, Roseville, the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Washington Township, Shelby Township, Township, Clinton St. Clair Shores, Warren, Mount Clemens and Chesterfield Township for helping out," Miller said.

"St. Clair Shores and Chesterfield Township also provided backup to handle any other calls that night. And backup was needed. We had a couple of other calls, including an apartment fire.

Miller declined to comment on rumors that the fire may have been started by the cleaning crew accidentally knocking over chemicals

"The cause of the fire is under investigation and we won't make any comments until the official report is in," Miller said. "I can say that we have received no reports of injuries from the fire.'



Fire completely gutted Buff Whelan's service center.

Miller described the Buff Whelan service center as a "total loss," but said the fire could have been worse.

Once the fire was extinguished, Miller said, the Sterling Heights fire department had to secure the scene, investigate the cause and prevent hazardous materials from leaking into the ground.

"The service center contained many different chemicals, including motor oil, and things like transmission fluid, brake fluid, things like that," Miller said.

"Because it was a service center, these items were stored in large amounts. So far, we haven't seen any indication of the ground being contaminated.'



This ad celebrates Fiat's early history.



This vintage Fiat Abarth is a vital part of Fiat history.



This shot honors Fiat vehicles from the 1950s.



This 2013 Abarth reflects Fiat's modern success.

# Ford Held Real 'Cool' Mustang Promotion

means a couple of things - ice cream and car cruising.

Ford knows that and now two cool classics came together this summer as Ford introduced a limited-edition Mustang-inspired Orange Fury ice cream sandwich, created using Coolhaus Premium Ice Cream - the nationally sweettreat brand known for unique flavors you can't find anywhere else, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones.

It's summer and for many that haus create an ice cream flavor sics chose Coolhaus, a new that really embodies the new Orange Fury color."

The treats were made of two fresh-baked Vanilla Whoopie cookies covered in orange icing, sandwiched around a scoop of the one-of-a-kind Orange Fury ice cream, then wrapped in a unique Mustang-printed edible wrapper made from potato wafer paper with edible ink.

"I've always been a fan of the Mustang, and was super excited Just in time for National Ice when they came to us with such a special project," Coolhaus CEO & founder Natasha Case said. "We thrive on helping our customers realize their vision and love to help create that special, one-of-a-kind experience - one that really makes an impact.

American classic, as a way to add excitement to their latest innovation.

Customization is an emphasis in the new 2018 Ford Mustang, from its 12 different wheel designs to its customizable 12-inch Digital Instrument Cluster, Jones said. Performance and appearance packages extend the ability for customers to personalize their Mustang, as do three eyecatching fresh exterior colors -Kona Blue, Royal Crimson and, of

## Fiat Fanatics Celebrate **Brand with FreakOut**

is celebrated every year at an event called the Fiat FreakOut. This year's gathering took place in Milwaukee.

The buildup to this year's Fiat FreakOut in Milwaukee had a bit of a retro-feel with online posts by the host club, Cream City 500, said Edward Cardenas, multimedia editor for Fiat Chrysler.

In the weeks and months leading up to the July 19-23 event, organizers created a series of promotional posts on social media with photos of classic Fiats and comics featuring Fiats from years past combined with catchy graphics and text, Cardenas said.

These creations were the work of Cream City 500 Club founder and president Amado Rodriguez.

"I have a rich background in art and a passion for advertising/marketing," Rodriguez said. "I created all the e-posters promoting the event and what I refer to as daily FIAT life.'

This year's FreakOut featured a variety of events, including visits to an automotive museum, a drive on a legendary racetrack and the annual awards banquet, Cardenas said.

Other events included an "anchor event" with dedicated time on the Road America race track.

Fiat has a storied history that The primer for that event is a member-guided tour around the historic Elkhart Lake road course, which happened the same weekend as a vintage car race

> This year's Fiat FreakOut was also very personal for Rodriguez.

"Every FreakOut is, or should be, considered special because it's an opportunity to discover, and for people to 'Get Their Freak On' in a new part of the country," Cream City 500 Club founder and president Rodriguez wrote in an email to Cardenas.

"For me, it's all about showing off Cream City, aka Brew City (Milwaukee), to people who never thought about traveling here. We have a different brand of passion. We're very much working class people driving working class cars in style.

"I love my town. I love my car. Both impact my life in different, but connected ways," wrote Rodriguez. "The inspiration behind what I do is a genuine love of driving my 2013 Fiat 500 Abarth, 'Sombrita.' She is my second modern 500. My first being a 2012 Fiat 500 Pop, 'La Fee Verte.' My 'Cento is just as crucial to my daily living as I believe the original city cars were in 1955 (Fiat 600) and 1957 (Nuova Fiat 500)."

## Harper Moves Up at Ziebart

Ziebart International Corporation of Troy, a company special- worked at Auto One, Henderson izing in automotive detailing, Glass, and AutoPlus Permatech, films and protection services. has promoted Rob Harper to director, U.S. Retail Operations on July 12, said Ziebart spokeswoman Larisa Walega. Harper, a 15-year employee of the company, will manage all U.S. Ziebart corporate-owned locations, including Fine Lines Graphics & Films in Clinton Township, Walega said.

Prior to joining Ziebart, Harper

Cream Day on July 16, limitededition ice cream sandwiches were given out for free for four days beginning on July 14, Jones said, at various locations in New York City in a Coolhaus ice cream truck outfitted with 2018 Mustang decals.

Ice cream lovers were also able to enjoy the sweets at the Coolhaus shop in Culver City, Calif., as well. Jones said.

Inspired by the new Orange Fury exterior color available on the 2018 Ford Mustang, the treats were the result of Ford color and materials design manager Barb Whalen engaging the creative Coolhaus product developers to capture the essence of the iconic pony car and its eye-popping new color, Jones said.

"I typically focus on things like color research, leather seats and hand stitching, so this was definitely a bit different for me," said Whalen. "It was fun applying some of those same design philosophies into helping Cool-

"We couldn't be happier that one of the original American clascourse, the new Orange Fury.

To explore customization opportunities for 2018, Mustang fans will be able to build and price their very own pony car by visiting www.ford.com/mustang/2018 starting July 25, Jones said. The 2018 Mustang is due to reach showrooms this fall.



A vendor shows off the ice cream that was inspired by Mustangs.

Harper is responsible for the day-to-day operations, including sales, marketing and advertising, as well as budget development, Walega said.

"We congratulate Rob on his promotion and his 15 years of service to the company," said Thomas E. Wolfe, president/CEO of Ziebart International Corporation.

While at Ziebart, Harper has has held various positions in the Sales and Technical Departments.

He was also corporate store manager at the Dearborn and Lapeer locations.

Walega said.

Ziebart International Corporation is headquartered in Troy, Mich., representing a global franchise network of vehicle protection and appearance services for over 58 years.

The company was founded on Rust Protection in 1959 and operates approximately 400 licensed locations with 950 service centers in 33 countries.

Walega said Ziebart is the world's top providers in automotive services that renew, protect, preserve, and enhance the appearance of cars and trucks.

Ziebart offers a full line of appearance and protection services for both the interior and exterior of vehicles, including Professional Detailing, Window Tint, Z-Shield Paint Protection Film, Vehicle Wraps, genuine Ziebart Rust Protection and Undercoating, Rhino-Linings Sprayed-on Bed Liners, Truck Accessories, and much more, Walega said.

DETROIT AUTO SCENE

PAGE 7



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# LUXURY HAS A NEW HOME PRESTIGE CADILLAC

Van Dyke Across From GM Tech Center









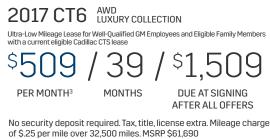




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#### 2017 ESCALADE LUXURY COLLECTION Ultra-Low Mileage Lease for Well-Qualified GM Employees and Eligible Family Members th a current eligible Cadillac Escalade lease

## Cadillac V-Performance Earns Victory at CTMP

Cadillac V-Performance racing team Whelen Engineering Cadillac won the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP) July 9.

The Mustang Sampling Cadillac was sixth and the Konica Minolta Cadillac came home seventh. The win is the seventh in as many races for the Cadillac DPi-V.R prototype in IMSA competition.

Ricky Taylor had the controls of the No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R at the start of the race. Ricky was able to hold off the speedier No. 85 Oreca for the first hour until he got held up in traffic and the yellow 85 went by. Just a half hour later, they pitted together and the Konica Minolta team was able to get him back out in front for valuable track position around the 2.4mile, 10-turn CTMP circuit.

Fifty minutes into the race, a full course caution flew and rain began to fall on the back half of the circuit. The yellow timing was within the pit window. The No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R team stayed on slicks, the 85 Oreca went to rains, the No. 31 Whelen Cadillac DPi-V.R went on rains, but just for five minutes, which helped them make up position.

The 85 and the 31 car then had to come back to pit lane a few laps after the race went green to put slicks back on. This gave Cadillac a 1-2-3 on the race track with the Konica Minolta Cadillac leading, the Whelen Engineering Cadillac in second and the Mustang Sampling Cadillac in third.

With 21 minutes remaining, Jordan Taylor had a 14-second lead and went to the outside of two GTLM cars going into Turn 2. The younger Taylor had contact sending him into the wall causing rear wing damage to the black Cadillac. This turned the race lead over to the red Whelen Engineering Cadillac that went on to win.

"Tires without treads in the wet is kind of hard," Cameron said. "It feels great to get a win on the board. We will take the luck today. It is tricky. The way the track is oriented you can get some rain on just part of the circuit as we did today. You have to rely on the guys on the box for some help to know what is coming. We got some heavy rain on half of the track. Most people put on wets, then it went dry really fast.

"The guys made the right call to keep us on slicks to get us to the front. I couldn't get full throttle on the back stretch. Everyone was fighting for the same race track. It came back to us when some of the cars got together. We will take this luck after our tough start to the season."

"This was a day where we didn't expect to win," Curran said. "We didn't have the best handling Whelen Cadillac today, but people were pitting for rains and back to dry and then the 10 car had their incident and it came back to us. We fought it all day and all weekend.

"First win of the year! This is a good start to the second half of the season for us. I am excited for Sonny Whelen at Whelen Engineering and everyone at Cadillac."

With 10 minutes remaining, Joao Barbosa had an incident in traffic which caused a lazy spin. He was able to recover, but lost track position.





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# Buick's Aldred: 2018 Regal Offers More

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Starting at \$39,990 with destination charges, the Regal GS offers luxury features at a price more attainable than competitors from Audi and BMW.

"This is a sport sedan designed for everyday driving, but one that makes every drive special," said Aldred. "The new Regal GS is in the sweet spot of the market: more refined and luxurious than the mainstream, more value for the price with style and premium features on par with higher-end competitors, and with standard features like AWD with active twin clutch and a rear sportback design that will surprise customers with its usefulness."

Regal GS Highlights:

• New 3.6L V6 with 310 horsepower and 282 lb-ft of torque featuring direct injection, cylinder deactivation and stop/start technology.

• Standard nine-speed automatic transmission and intelligent all-wheel drive (AWD) with active twin clutch for improved vehicle control, and five-link rear suspension.

• GS-specific, AGR-certified, performance seats that are heated, cooled and massaging with adjustable seat and seat-back bolsters as well as thigh support.

• Second-generation Continuous Damping Control (CDC) capable of 500 adjustments per second and Interactive Drive Control with GS and Sport modes.

• Unique sport front and rear fascias, side skirts and rear spoiler.

• Standard 19-inch wheels.

• Performance brakes with Brembo front calipers.

Sport-tuned exhaust system.
Sport flat-bottom steering wheel and metal pedals.

• Available head-up display.



New Regal's interior includes heated, cooled and massaging seats.

Buick's most advanced new propulsion components come standard on the new Regal GS. With 310 horsepower, its refined 3.6-liter V6 provides more power than an Acura TLX A-Spec or a Lexus IS350 F-Sport but offers seamless auto stop/start technology and can cruise on four cylinders, Aldred said.

The V6 engine is complemented by a sport-tuned dual exhaust system.

Regal GS' intelligent AWD system with an active twin clutch can precisely transfer torque between the rear wheels for more refined and efficient performance, and the GS receives one of the first applications of the nine-speed automatic transmission in the Buick lineup that's mated to AWD. This advanced new transmission will soon be offered across five different Buick models.

Every Regal GS also features Buick's Interactive Drive Control, allowing the driver to tailor the car's dynamics based on different drive experiences through a standard setting or Sport and GS modes selected via the center console, Aldred said. Interactive Drive Control utilizes Buick's second-generation Continuous Damping Control (CDC), which is able to adjust suspension damping up to 500 times per second.

Versus a standard 2018 Regal Sportback, the GS also has standard Brembo brakes for more confident stopping power.

"With the all-new 2018 Regal GS, we set out to make a driverfocused, engaging and entertaining sport sedan without sacrificing the smooth ride and refined character expected of any modern Buick," said Martin Hayes, chief engineer for the Buick Regal GS.

"Our new V6 and ninespeed transmission, intelligent AWD and CDC all work to deliver excellent driving performance."

Outside, Buick's signature sculptural design presents the car's sporting nature in an understated way with aggressive front and rear fascias, standard 19inch wheels, a rear decklid spoiler and GS badging front and rear. Full LED headlamps are an option, Aldred said.







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.



## Chevy Launches New App Just in Time for Summer

Chevrolet is giving its owners another option to use their my-Chevrolet app by making it available on Apple Watch.

Chevrolet owners can now remote start and stop their vehicle1, lock and unlock the doors, activate and cancel the horn and lights, locate their vehicle2 and receive walking directions to where it's parked through their myChevrolet app on Apple Watch, said GM spokesman Dan Pierce.

"The use of the myChevrolet app by our owners continues to grow across the entire vehicle lineup, so expanding its availability to Apple Watch was a natural next step and allows us to offer another easy way to manage key vehicle functions remotely," said Paul Edwards, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of Marketing.

"Whether you want to cool down your Malibu on a hot summer day or locate it after attending a crowded baseball game, Chevrolet owners can now make that choice from their iPhone or Apple Watch."

Currently, nearly 1.4 million Chevrolet owners have downloaded and use the myChevrolet app regularly. Silverado, Malibu and Equinox owners are some of the most active myChevrolet users, Edwards said.

Malibu owners alone have used the myChevrolet app nearly 8.5 million times through the first half of 2017, a 44 percent increase over the same time last year.

"The myChevrolet app allows customers to seamlessly interact with their vehicle in a variety of ways, like checking vehicle diagnostics, sending navigation requests or locking the doors," said John McFarland, director of GM Global Digital Experience. "As a result, customers who use the myChevrolet mobile app are some of our most loyal and satisfied Chevrolet owners."

Remote vehicle commands were first introduced by General Motors to Chevrolet owners in 2010 via the OnStar RemoteLink app.

In 2016, the myChevrolet app combined with the OnStar RemoteLink app to offer customers easier mobile access to roadside assistance, parking reminders, owner's manual content, vehicle diagnostics, Wi-Fi hotspot3 management and key fob commands such as remote start and door unlock.

The myChevrolet app for Apple Watch is now available in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. It is available in English, Spanish and French.

All new Chevrolet retail models now come with the OnStar Basic Plan4, which also features remote vehicle access and the AtYourService marketplace via the myChevrolet mobile app, among other features, Edwards said.



The myChevrolet app on Apple Watch can remote start and stop cars.

## **Driver Pulls Tesla Claim**

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – A Tesla driver says his car's partially self-driving Autopilot system wasn't responsible for a crash in Minnesota, despite what he initially told investigators.

In its police report obtained by *The Associated Press* on July 17, the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office said David Clark, 58, Palo Alto, Calif.-based Tesla said it's investigating the incident and will cooperate with local authorities.

Autopilot automatically maintains a set speed, slows down and brakes in traffic and keeps the car within a lane.

When drivers turn on the system, a message reminds them to remain engaged and be prepared to take the wheel.

Drivers can take their hands



2017 GMC

2017 GMC

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2017 BUICK

"Lease figured with \$1500 Dealer NC. Cartificates Program subject to change while NC Supplies Last."Lease example is Stock Specific. "GM Employee Pricing Plus Tax, Title, Lic, and Doc. No Security Deposit Required. "All lease/purchase examples are figured with 55 days of new lease/purchase data by the state to castomers who have a non GM lease in household with GM employee pricing. Lease conjunct relate qualifies to castomers who have a non GM lease in household with GS days of new lease/purchase data by the state lease load are good while dealer supplixes Tax sets existences who have a coment buick/MM lease in household NC cardificates may apply to lease/ purchase examples and are good while dealer supplixes Tax instease Itakear Compare Heade Rolation (MC and Heade Rolate) and the NC and the blamed Autopilot for a crash on the evening of July 15 in Hawick, Minn.

Clark initially told deputies that when he engaged the Autopilot feature, the car suddenly accelerated, left the roadway and overturned in a marsh. Clark and his passengers sustained minor injuries.

But in an email sent July 17 afternoon to the sheriff's office, Clark said he was confused in the moments after the crash. After discussing the crash with his fellow passengers, he now believes that he disengaged Autopilot by stepping on the accelerator before the crash.

"I then remember looking up and seeing the sharp left turn which I was accelerating into. I believe we started to make the turn but then felt the car give way and lose its footing like we hit loose gravel," Clark wrote in the email.

Clark confirmed to the *AP* that he sent the email.

off the wheel, but only for short periods.

If they ignore three separate warnings to put their hands on the wheel, the system will turn off.

Federal safety regulators investigated Tesla's Autopilot last year after a fatal crash in Florida. In that case, a Tesla Model S hit a tractor-trailer.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in January it found no safety defects in the system and declined to issue a recall.

The agency examined the Florida crash and others where Autopilot was engaged and found that, in many cases, driver error was to blame. It also said Tesla's manuals and instructions make clear that human drivers are responsible for driving the car.

It is unclear if the agency will investigate the Minnesota crash. A message seeking comment was left with a NHTSA spokeswoman.



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