Tech Center News

WARREN, MICHIGAN

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Great performance just doesn't happen. It takes the hard work, skill and dedication of engineers

Showing great performance, on the other hand, isn't that difficult. Just take a sports car to the famous Nürburgring track in Germany and show how fast the vehicle in question completes a lap of the 12.9-mile-long track.

And that's just what Chevrolet did with the 2018 Camaro ZL1 1LE. The brand sent a team to the Nürburgring track last spring and put the 2018 Camaro ZL1 1LE

The result was a track lap time

This beat the lap time of the

According to the nurburgring-

2017 Camaro ZLI, which did the

track last year in 7:29.6 minutes.

paltimes.com (which lists the

100 fastest times around the

track), that makes the 2018 Ca-

maro ZL1 ILE faster than the 2010

Porsche 911 Turbo S (7:32 min-

utes), the 2005 Pagani Zonda F

(7:33 minutes) and the 2016

BMW M4 GTS (7:27.88 minutes).

It even makes the Camaro Zl1

The reason Chevy brought the

1LE faster than Chevrolet's 2012

Corvette ZR1 (7:19.63 minutes).

Camaro to Nürburgring was sim-

by Jim Stickford

and designers.

through its paces.

of 7:17.4 minutes.

AUGUST 7, 2017



Designers hold an annual parade before the Woodward Dream Cruise. **GM Design Hits the Road For Woodward Cruise**

GM Design is once again help- the Design Center. The vehicles ing make the Woodward Dream that are displayed at the "Design Cruise a celebration of the company's design work over the decades.

Kathy Englehart, a Global Design Process & Training Lead at the Tech Center's Design Center, is a We Team member that organizes the annual "Design on Woodward" event for the GM Design group.

Englehart said GM Design is a group of employees who work at

on Woodward" show belong to the GM Design members.

"This is not an official GM function," Englehart said. "But it is a celebration of GM products and the designs of GM employees through the years. We get to show our fellow design employees our passion for cars. We don't always get to do that be-

ple, said Miles Egbert, a Vehicle **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** Performance engineer in Chevro-



2018 Ford F-150

said.



2017 Jeep Compass

Detroit Automakers Slow Down Fleet, Rental Car Sales

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - U.S. sales of new cars and trucks showed declines in July as automakers cut back on low-profit rental car sales and consumers waited for to rental and corporate fleets. Labor Day deals.

2017 GMC Acadia

mand levels out after an unprecedented seven straight years of growth.

General Motors said its sales fell 15 percent in July, while Ford's sales were down 7.5 percent. Both companies cut sales Fiat Chrysler's sales were down July was likely the seventh 10 percent. Volkswagen's sales

U.S. new vehicle sales hit a record 17.55 million last year. July's pace would put annual sales at 16.5 or 16.6 million, said Alec Gutierrez, a senior market analyst with the car shopping site Kelley Blue Book. That was lower than he expected, but not enough to change his full-year forecast of 17.1 million sales, he

Mark LaNeve, Ford Motor Co.'s U.S. sales chief, said automakers have been preparing for a dip in U.S. sales, but July was likely a blip and not an acceleration of that trend.

He said GM's decision to cut sales to rental car fleets by 81 percent - or 11,200 vehicles was a big factor.

Ford also cut fleet sales by 26 percent, and it had to stop sales



Egbert took the Camaro ZL1 1LE to the Nurburgring track in Germany.

let's Performance Car depart- mile-long track in less than eight ment. "It gave the car a chance to show how well it performs on a track that is recognized as a global stage for performance vehicles," Egbert said.

Camaro Runs Rings Around German Track

"We were very excited to go to Germany," he said. "This last trip we made in April was the second time we brought the ZL1 1LE Camaro variant.

"I call what we did a fun and unique development trip. Not a lot of engineers have the chance to go on one."

Egbert said that the biggest challenge was navigating a 12.9minutes.

"Remember, we brought a production car, a factory content vehicle," Egbert said. "When you're traveling that fast, going around a 12.9-mile track in less than eight minutes, the driver doesn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Army Holding Live Exercises On Mound

The U.S. Army's Detroit Arsenal is conducting an emergency response training exercise in cooperation with city, county and state partners beginning at 9 a.m. Aug. 8 at the Army installation in Warren near Mound Road and 11 Mile Road.

The training exercise will test the Army's and community emergency responder's ability to react to a simulated explosion near the 11 Mile Road entrance to the installation.

Smoke will be used and many emergency vehicles will be responding to the 11 Mile Road entrance of the installation.

It will be just a simulated event, said Steve Ball, U.S. Army public affairs office.

"Should anyone hear the noise generated from the exercise, people should remember that it is not real," Ball said.

Traffic around the Arsenal will be affected by the exercise, Ball said. During the facility evacuation portion of the exercise from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m., both eastbound and westbound entrance ramps from I-696 to northbound Mound Road will be closed, as well as periodic closures on westbound 11 Mile near the arsenal. The northbound entrance ramp to Mound Road from 11 Mile Road will also be closed. Northbound traffic on Mound Road will be restricted between 11 Mile Road and 12 Mile Road. Also, periodic closures to westbound Mound Road near the arsenal between Van Dyke Road and Mound Road will take place beginning at 9 a.m. In preparation for the exercise, the 11 Mile Road entrance to the installation will be closed, which may also cause traffic backups on northbound Mound Road from 6 to 9 a.m., Ball said.

Analysts have been predicting san's sales fell 3 percent. Honda's lower U.S. sales this year as de- sales were down 1.2 percent.

straight month of lower sales. dropped 5.8 percent, while Nis-

Dream Cruise Schedule

Cruise is coming to town.

This year, the show begins on Friday, Aug. 18, with events taking place along Woodward Avenue in Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Ferndale, Pontiac and Royal Oak. Here are some highlights of upcoming planned events.

City of Berkley - Friday, Aug. 18:

• 6 p.m.-9 p.m.: Kid's Inflatable Zone at 12 Mile Road and Tyler.

 6 p.m.-9 p.m.: DTE Energy featuring games, prizes at 12 Mile Road & Griffith South.

• 6 p.m.-9 p.m.: Food Court at 12 Mile Road & Robina South

The 2017 Woodward Dream and the Downtown Business District.

• 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: Berkley's Classic Car Parade at 12 Mile Rd between Coolidge and Greenfield.

• Classic Car Parade Parking for viewing parade of cars, behind the Berkley Theater at Robina.

• 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.: Tri-Community Coalition Street Dance at 12 Mile Road & Griffith North.

City of Birmingham - Saturday, Aug. 19:

• 9 a.m.-7 p.m. – Birmingham Cruise Classic Car Show. South

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

of its Transit commercial van for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The Woodward Dream Cruise is celebrated by thousands.

For more information, contact Ball, U.S. Army public affairs office, at 586-282-7573.

View This Week's Edition at http://TechCenterNews.com

Tech Center News®

by Jim Stickford

meant one thing for GM employ-

ees who work at the Tech Center

In addition to Macomb County

beginning construction on 12

Mile between Van Dyke and

Mound, Tech Center employees

this summer have to navigate

their way around the construc-

tion of a new parking deck and

additions to the Alternative Ener-

gy Center (AEC). The end result

going up is called VEC Tower

Parking," said Candace Messing,

program manager, General Mo-

tors Technical Center Transfor-

mation. "When it is finished in

the first quarter of 2018, there

will be 2,400 new parking spots.

And it will have a covered path-

way that directly connects the

parking structure to the VEC

building - something that will

protect people from the elements

when walking to their jobs at

And part of the work being

done at the Tech Center in up-

coming months will include addi-

tions to AEC, Messing said. The

building will be enlarged, and its

footprint will expand into land

currently being used for VEC

parking, hence the need for the

maculate construction," Messing

said. "All construction projects

create inconveniences for the

people who have to be around

them. GM is investing a billion

dollars in upgrading the Tech

Center. What helps is being able

to communicate with people on

what's being done. When people

have an understanding of what

the end goal is and how it will

benefit them, they tend to feel

better about the construction. By

"There is no such thing an im-

"The parking structure that is

is a lot of detours.

VEC.

VEC Tower.

in Warren - detour ahead.

Summer

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Warren Library **Starts Busch Book Group**

The Warren Public Library is hosting a new book discussion group that will meet regularly at the Hilary Kutella Community Room in the Dorothy Busch branch of the library, said Warren librarian Jennifer Lund.

"Come join the Busch Library as it hosts its own book discussion group," Lund said. "Copies of the books for the group's meeting will be available at each group discussion."

The first meeting is on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 6:30 p.m., Lund said. Space is limited and those interested in attending are asked to call 586-353-0580 to reserve a spot.

The Aug. 16 meeting is an introduction to the club, Lund said. People are encouraged to bring a favorite book for dicussion.

The next meeting is on Sept. 6, and the book that will be discussed is "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel. The Oct. 6 book is "Bird Box" by Michael Zadoorian.

keeping our eyes on the prize, it helps people cope with the inconstruction has conveniences.'

And part of making sure that problems are kept to a minimum means working with others.

"We worked very hard to make sure that the construction work we did at gates Nine and 11 was completed before the county began construction work on 12 Mile," Messing said. "Because we and the county were in communication, we knew their timetable and were able to adjust our timetable so that the work on gates Nine and 11 would be completed before work started on 12 Mile.

"It's funny when we were talking with people about what they wanted done in the Tech Center to improve things, many people specifically mentioned that they'd like to see 12 Mile fixed up. We don't control 12 Mile, but when we heard it was going to be repaired, we worked with the government to minimize the impact.'



Once completed, this parking garage will have room for 2,400 vehicles.

And by letting people know ahead of time what the construction schedule is, people can plan ahead. GM also worked closely with the city of Warren to make sure that future problems of flooding, such as the one experienced a couple of years ago, doesn't happen again.

By informing people of what's happening and why, GM has on well into 2018.

been able to minimize problems, Messing said. Changes in the Tech Center reflect a change in philosophy at GM.

The buildings, once construction is complete, will be more open physically and bosses won't be so separate from the people they manage.

Construction is expected to go

GM Design Hits Road for Woodward Cruise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cause when we're working, we keep our heads down and our noses to the grindstone. This event allows us to get together and have some fun and show off our personal cars."

The "Design on Woodward" event is funded through the sale of specialized shirts, Englehart said. Each year, different designers create designs for shirts. The shirts are made and sold to GM Design members.

This year, four different shirts were created, including one with a design celebrating 65 years of the Corvette. Another shirt's design was created around "M1" which stands for Woodward. That shirt is a tradition.

Another design was created around a stylized speedometer. The fourth shirt is a "garage" shirt, which has become more popular in the last couple of years. "That shirt looks like the kind of shirt someone who works in a commercial garage might wear. It has the shirt owner's name stenciled on it," Englehart said.

The profits from the shirt sales go toward paying for all the expenses of their event.

"The 2017 'Design on Woodward' gathering will begin with a parade that starts at the Tech Center at noon," Englehart said. "We get an escort from the Warren police. They're great. And thanks to their connections, as we enter other jurisdictions, police from those jurisdictions continue the escort."

The plan is to plan to leave campus on the North end and take 13 mile West to Coolidge and enter the park there.

The parade, this year, will end at Memorial Park at the corner of 13 Mile and Woodward, Englehart said. In previous years, the group met at a different corner of13 Mile and Woodward, but construction of new buildings has closed that area off to outsiders.



"Once people get to the final destination, there will be a DJ and a food truck," Englehart said. 'We always have hot dogs and this year the hot dogs are being provided by the Detroit Dog Company.

Englehart said they expect to have roughly the same number of vehicles - about 140 on display this year as they did last year. Also, Chevrolet plans a display that features pecial edition trucks at the Birmingham Triangle on 15 Mile Road.

Schedule for the 2017 Woodward Dream Cruise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Old Woodward from Merrill to Lincoln.

• 7 p.m.-9 p.m. – WXYZ-TV Live Broadcast. South Old Woodward from Merrill to Lincoln.

• Noon-2 p.m. - 104.3 WOMC Live Broadcast at Old Woodward and Lincoln.

• Noon-7 p.m. – 104.3 WOMC Live Entertainment stage at Old Woodward and Lincoln.

• 4 p.m.-7 p.m. – Live Entertainment with The Phoenix Theory (Classic Hits).

City of Bloomfield Township – Saturday, Aug. 19:

• 9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Bloomfield Township Classic Car Show and Bill Wells Car Classic at 36600 Woodward.

City of Ferndale - (Ferndale will be hosting some events on Thursday, Aug. 17):

• Thursday 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Ford Motor Company will sponsor a filming of a live production Channel 56 PBS production of "Dream Cruise Road Show" at Nine Mile Road, west of Woodward. Classic cars and the people who own them will be showcased. Friday, Aug. 18: • 1 p.m.-8 p.m. – 17th Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show. • 5:30 p.m. – Lights & Sirens Cruise. • 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. 104.3 WOMC "Cruisin' with the Dr. Pepper. Live Entertainment with RickySee.



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Saturday, Aug. 19:

• 10 a.m.-7 p.m.: 19th Mustang Alley Show.

City of Pontiac

 Downtown Pontiac Car Show. Takes place in downtown Pontiac Friday, Aug. 18, and Saturday, Aug. 19.

City of Royal Oak Friday, Aug. 18:

• Noon-7 p.m. – Performance Park Classic Car Show.

Tech Center News.

AUGUST 7, 2017

COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA

PAGE 3



The Camaro ZL1 1LE set a record at the Nurburgring track in Germany.

OU Teams with Macomb

Oakland University and the Macomb County Department of Human Resources & Labor Relations have formalized a threeyear agreement to place OU students into intership experiences in any of the county's 30-plus departments serving the public, said county spokeswoman Maria Zardis on Aug. 2.

"Many of our students live and work in Macomb County and want to secure jobs there," said Kimberly Byrd, OU director of field & student support. "We've been working with Macomb County government for five years, but this formalized agreement expands our opportunities to place more OU students for practical learning experiences related to their academic program of study. Our students will also

Oakland University and the lacomb County Department of uman Resources & Labor Relacomb County Department of uman Resources & Labor Relacomb County Department of communities they call home."

Through the agreement, OU faculty and representatives will collaborate with county officials on student eligibility, placement and performance evaluation expectations, and internship program assessment and coordination.

"Macomb County is proud to partner with OU to provide internship opportunities for its students," said Karen L. Bathanti, interim director for Macomb County Human Resources. "Macomb County's diverse services are a natural fit for OU students in disciplines such as nursing, information technology, criminal justice and public administration." Continued FROM PAGE 1 pression that the Camaro was vehicle we took to Germany. It's

have the ability to see everything. It requires great concentration and our airbag sensor was seeking to deploy because our speed was so great the computer thought the car had rolled over."

The vehicle was undergoing stresses that it wouldn't see in a more normal driving environment, Egbert said. That meant GM engineers had to calibrate ABS, the airbag, and other equipment to be able to handle upshifts while the car was going 170 mph.

The driver was by himself and using a manual transmission, Egbert said, adding that they were acquiring a lot of data about the car – "and that's been very useful."

"I even went around the track once myself as a passenger," Egbert said. "We weren't going for the record, but we were going fast. If I didn't know the driver, Bill Wise, and how good he was, I would have been terrified."

As it was, Egbert said, taking turns in the Camaro ZL1 1LE at high speeds resulted in his banging around the interior a little bit.

"We were going so fast," Egbert said. "As a passenger, everything seemed to be a blur. It was hard to imagine driving that fast. Bill's decisions of when to speed up and slow down were amazing. Afterward, I had to laugh because of the amazing things that car can do."

Egbert said that he got the im-

pression that the Camaro was well-received among car fanciers in Germany.

"There wasn't a lot of discussion between us and other manufacturers," Egbert said. "But I did get the impression that they were starting to respect what we could do with the Camaro."

People can always tell when they bring the Camaro to Germany, Egbert said, because it's a loud car in an American way.

"I'm talking about the sound the Camaro makes when you rev its engine," Egbert said. "The sound an engine makes matters to connoisseurs. A loud engine can be a positive characteristic. But it can't be a bad loud. That sound needs a certain refinement and flair to get approval from experts."

Egbert said they did take the Camaro out on the Autobahn, and it attracted a lot of attention from German drivers.

"This car has a high profile," Egbert said. "It looks great visually and we got a lot of thumbs up from drivers. And we had a lot of people take out their phones and take videos of the car as we passed them."

Egbert said that while he didn't drive the Camaro around Nürburgring himself, he has driven at locations such as the Milford Proving Ground. He says he's gotten up to 195 in a Camaro.

"I had to put my left foot on my right foot to achieve that speed," Egbert said. "That wasn't the vehicle we took to Germany. It's hard to say if we'll be going back there, but I know I'd like to go back."

The most amazing thing, Egbert said, is that Chevy has built a factory-content Camaro that, from a performance point-ofview, can compete and even surpass vehicles like the Porsche 911 GT3 or the BMW M4. These are vehicles that are much more expensive than the ZL1 1LE, he said, which comes with an MSRP of \$69,995, which includes a \$995 destination charge.

"That's just amazing," Egbert said. "But then the Camaro ZL1 1LE was designed and engineered to be an amazing car."

Michigan Gas Prices Rise

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have risen by about 8 cents per gallon in the past week.

The Dearborn-based auto club said as of July 31, the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.48 per gallon. That's about 33 cents more than at the same point last year. It's the second consecutive week of increases in Michigan.

AAA says the lowest average price was about \$2.39 per gallon in the Marquette area. The highest was about \$2.52 in the Grand Rapids area. The Detroit-area's average rose about 6 cents.



Comb mpn. The driver w using a manual bert said, addin acquiring a lot

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ported, Forward Collision Alerts,

Forward Collision Avoidance

Braking events and Tailgating

teens develop better driving

skills, parents also can give feed-

back and spark discussion with

When it comes to helping

OnStar Systems Keep Families Connected

With nearly 362,000 kids in the U.S. turning 16 in August – more than in any other month this year – Chevrolet knows parents with driving-age children need a little added peace of mind.

And to make achieving that peace of mind easier, said GM spokeswoman Maureen Benter, throughout August, Chevrolet is offering customers three months of free OnStar Family Link.

OnStar Family Link allows parents to stay connected to their teens no matter where their young drivers roam by providing access to teens' vehicle locations, Bender said. Parents can also set up email or text alerts to know when a vehicle has arrived and departed a destination or traveled outside a specific area.

"The day your children start driving is a dream come true for them, but it can be a nightmare for a concerned parent," said Luciana Chamberlain, Family Link product marketing manager for Chevrolet. "OnStar Family Link can help minimize parents' anxiety by letting them know when their child has arrived at school, left a friend's house or traveled outside of their comfort zone."

Any Chevrolet owner in the U.S. with a 2012 model year or newer vehicle and an active On-Star subscription can sign up for three months of free OnStar Family Link by visiting OnStar.com, Chamberlain said. After the three-month trial is over, parents will have the option to keep On-Star Family Link for \$3.99 a month plus tax.

OnStar Family Link is one of several Chevrolet technologies that reduce the concerns moms and dads have when their children get behind the wheel. While OnStar Family Link helps monitor teens' locations, Chevrolet's Teen Driver and OnStar Smart



Parents can use their phones to check on their kids, thanks to Chevy.

Alerts.

Driver services can also help parents manage and mentor driving behaviors.

"Driving on their own was a big event in my children's lives, but that also meant I spent more time thinking about where they were and how they were doing," said Steve Majoros, director, Chevrolet Marketing.

"Chevrolet wants to put parents at ease by offering in-vehicle technology that shares real-time info on where their kids are and how they're driving, so moms and dads can give feedback that helps their teens become better drivers."

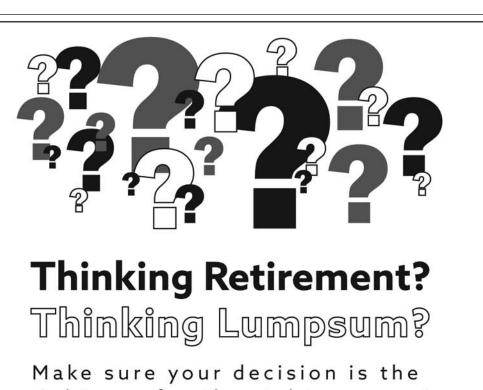
Available on 10 model-year 2017 Chevrolet vehicles, Teen Driver allows parents to set radio volume limits and speed warnings and limit top speed to 85 mph. It also mutes the radio when the front-seat occupants are not wearing safety belts and automatically enables many available active safety features and prevents anyone from manually turning them off.

In addition, parents can use the Teen Driver in-vehicle report card to know about the distance

It provides monthly and tripby-trip scores based on driving behaviors such as hard braking, speeds over 80 mph and rapid acceleration, Bender said. The monthly reports also rank where a driver stands compared with others in the state or with individuals who drive the same Chevrolet vehicle. And after 90 days, parents can choose to share their OnStar Smart Driver driving report with participating insurance companies to potentially qualify for savings. OnStar Smart Driver is available on most 2015 and new-

er Chevrolet vehicles.

OnStar Smart Driver.



Macomb County Health Issues West Nile Alert

The Macomb County Health Department is reminding all residents to take precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites during the remaining summer months.

The deadly West Nile Virus (WNV) was detected for the first time this summer in two separate samplings of mosquitoes gathered in Macomb County.

So far, no confirmed cases of human WNV cases have been reported in Michigan, said Macomb County Health Officer William Ridella.

West Nile Virus is a disease that can be transmitted to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito. It is important to remember that not all mosquitoes carry the disease and not everyone who is bit by an infected mosquito gets sick. Those at highest risk to develop serious illness are the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

Macomb County residents are reminded to take the following measures to prevent mosquito bites:

• Use an insect repellent that contains DEET or picardin on clothing and exposed skin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also recommends the use of oil of lemon eucalyptus as a more natural repellant. Manufacturer's directions should be closely followed when using these products.

• Mosquitoes are most active from dusk to dawn. Residents should limit outdoor activities and wear pants and long sleeves, along with using repellent during these hours.

• Areas of standing water, such as buckets, flower pots, barrels, and children's pools should be kept empty when not being used to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.

Change the water regularly in pet dishes and bird baths and keep gutters free of standing water.

• Window and door screens should be in good repair to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes and buildings.

WNV is a disease transmitted to humans through infected mos-

quitoes. Mosquitoes become infected if they bite a bird infected with the virus.

Many people infected with the virus will not have any symptoms or will experience a mild illness such as body aches, fever, and headache.

A few people will develop more severe symptoms that could include encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Those at greatest risk to develop a severe illness include people 50 years and older, those with certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, cancer, kidney disease, hypertension, and people who have received an organ transplant.

For more information about the disease, visit the Macomb County web site at health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-EnvironmentalHealth-Safety-WestNileVirus.

Fiat Chrysler CEO Decries Union Scandal

MILAN (AP) – Fiat Chrysler's CEO is expressing "disgust" at the conduct of former FCA employees now indicted in the United States for misappropriating funds and funneling gifts and cash to union officials.

Sergio Marchionne addressed the alleged conspiracy in a letter to company employees on July 27, the day after two former employees were charged with looting a training center for blue-collar workers and giving \$1.2 million in various forms to the UAW leader, his wife and other senior union officials.

Marchionne said former employees facing charges "used those funds to enrich themselves and their families at the expense of their fellow employees."

He also said the conduct had no bearing on union contracts "but rather involved two bad actors, who apparently saw an opportunity to misappropriate funds entrusted to their control."



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*Pictures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including bonus cash, bonus tags, competitive lease, lease conquest and/or lease loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate and doc fees and were valid at time of printing. GM Employee discount is required except where noted. Leases are 10,000 miles per year. Disposition fee may be required at lease turn in. \$1000 trade-in guarantee is on 2004 thru 2014 model year vehicles in drivable condition less reconditioning costs. No branded titles. Certain restrictions apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 8/11/2017 @ 6:00PM.



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Trucks Dominate July Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a few weeks while it performed a recall.

"We're still operating at a very high level," said LaNeve.

Automakers continue to see healthy profits thanks to consumers' preference for SUVs. Car shopping site Edmunds.com said the average price paid for a new vehicle in July was \$34,558, 2 percent higher than the same month a year ago.

GM said sales of its recently updated GMC Acadia SUV jumped 30 percent, while Toyota said sales of its RAV4 SUV rose 36 percent to 41,804, a monthly record.

But car sales are plummeting, the victim of low gas prices and changing tastes. Sales of the Ford Fusion midsize sedan dropped 42 percent, while sales of the Chevrolet Spark subcompact fell a whopping 82 percent.

Automakers ramped up deals in July, a trend that's expected to continue for the rest of the summer as carmakers make way for 2018 models on their lots.

Average interest rates on newvehicle loans fell to a six-month low of 4.77 percent in July as more brands offered zero-percent financing deals, Edmunds said. Toyota, for example, was offering zero percent financing for 72 months on a 2017 Toyota Camry sedan as the 2018 Camry arrived in dealerships.

Gutierrez said buyers can expect incentives to creep up by \$200 or so per car in August and September, when automakers typically offer model-year close-out offers and Labor Day sales.

General Motors Co. said its sales fell 15.4 percent to 226,107. The automaker saw double-digit percent declines at GMC, Chevrolet, Cadillac and Buick. Sales of GM's best seller, the Chevrolet Silverado pickup, dropped 15 percent.

Ford Motor Co. said its sales fell 7.5 percent to 200,212. Ford's SUV sales were up 2 percent but car sales dropped 19 percent. Sales of Ford's best seller, the F-Series pickup, rose 5.8 percent.

Fiat Chrysler's sales fell 10 percent to 161,477. Its Jeep, Chrysler, Dodge and Fiat brands all saw declines, but Alfa Romeo sales were up thanks to the new Giulia sedan. Ram truck sales were flat.

Not Guilty Plea Entered in Union Case

DETROIT (AP) – A federal judge has entered a not guilty plea for a former Fiat Chrysler executive facing conspiracy and tax charges alleging a multiyear scheme to reward a late union official and his wife with firstclass travel, designer clothing and jewelry.

Al lacobelli of Rochester Hills also is charged by the federal government with making illegal payments to a union official.

The Detroit News reports that following his initial hearing Aug. 1, lacobelli surrendered his passport as a condition of his \$10,000 unsecured bond.

He declined to comment to reporters.

The government alleges Iacobelli took \$1.2 million from a training center for workers in an alleged conspiracy involving United Auto Workers vice president General Holiefield and Holiefield's wife, Monica Morgan. Holiefield died in 2015.

His wife was released on \$10,000 unsecured bond following her arraignment in court on July 31.

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