Detroit Auto Scene

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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Corvette Museum Celebrates Engineer Known for Ability to Restore 'Vettes

by Jim Stickford

GM engineer Jim Minneker is enjoying a hall of fame career.

The 69-year-old GM veteran has worked for the company in various capacities during his tenure and was recently inducted into the Corvette Museum's Hall of Fame in Bowling Green, Ky.

Minneker said the journey from young GM engineer to Corvette Hall of Fame has been an interesting one.

"I've worked for GM for 47 years," Minneker said. "I got my start in the company back when Chevy's main competition wasn't Ford or Chrysler, it was Pontiac.'

Each brand had its own infrastructure and development process. That created competition among the brands, but in the end proved to be very wasteful in terms of resources and money.

Minneker said he started his first Corvette assignment back in 1986 just as the various divisions' infrastructure "began to collapse into each other.'

"People keep asking me when I am going to retire," Minneker said. "I keep saying when GM stops giving me such interesting assignments.

"One of the first really interest-

back in 1986, when I was working Powertrain. It's now called Globin the CPC department. That meant Chevy, Pontiac, Canada. There was also the BOC, or Buick, Oldsmobile, Cadillac division. They eventually became Pontiac (as in Pontiac, Mich.)

al Powertain.'

Minneker said he was known for his ability to restore Corvettes. The brand was devel-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ing assignments I received was Minneker at his display in the National Corvette Museum.



The model year 2018 Chrysler 300C is "new" and updated.

Chrysler 300 Offers 5 Models

time when automakers unveil their new vehicles for the upcoming year.

While that isn't always the case these days, the Chrysler 300 is new for model year 2018, said FCA spokesman Dan Reid.

The 2018 Chrysler 300 lineup delivers on the brand's "promise of iconic and elegant design executed with world-class performance, efficiency and quality – all at an attainable value," Reid said.

Offering class-exclusive innovations and advanced technology at the driver's fingertips, said Reid, the 300 lineup includes the Uconnect 4 system with Apple

Fall has traditionally been the CarPlay and Android Auto, improved features and an awardwinning interface.

The TorqueFlite eight-speed transmission delivers up to 30 miles per gallon (mpg) highway fuel economy when paired with the award-winning 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 and comes standard on every model.

Available on the Touring, Touring L, 300S and Limited is the segment's most advanced allwheel-drive (AWD) system, which seamlessly engages at any speed to enable optimal traction and control based on conditions,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

September is Ford's Global Caring Month

During Ford's Global Caring Month in September, thousands ing, beach cleanup and environof Ford employees in 38 countries will apply their skills and energy toward making people's lives better through community improvement projects in cities, towns and villages around the world.

As the signature annual event of the Ford Volunteer Corps, Ford spokesman Todd Nissen said Ford employees will roll up their sleeves to tackle more than 325 projects on six continents.

Projects include:

• Australia – Installation of water tanks at a camp for underprivileged young people;

• Brazil – Help build a facility to care for impoverished families and their children with cancer:

mental education;

• Germany – Assistance with preparations for a new refugee camp;

• India - Reading to children, science mentorship and other education projects;

• Mexico – Home construction, school and shelter renovation:

• Philippines – Building community water facilities in villages; • Russia - Renovation and construction work at a senior cit-

izens center and school; • South Africa – Install equip-

ment to capture and store water at schools; make building repairs:

• United Kingdom – Restoring

bishing a homeless shelter.

"Ford volunteers are providing life-changing assistance to disadvantaged children and families by improving access to clean water, food and shelter," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund.

"Each project and every volunteer is important to comfort and care for people now, and to inspire work toward sustainable solutions that lift up communities for the long-term." Ford Fund is contributing

\$700,000 in grants for nonprofits to purchase tools and supplies needed for many of these projects, Nissen said. In the United States, Ford employees will participate in more than 115 volun-



Ford employees in South Africa volunteering their time in 2016.

teer activities across 24 states throughout the month, including a Ford Accelerated Action Day on Sept. 15.

"Few things are as gratifying as sharing some of your good for-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Hurricane Harvey is Gone **But Flooded Cars Remain**

• China - Community garden- a children's activity center, refur-



Hurricane Harvey has left behind up to a million flooded vehicles in southeast Texas.

DURBIN AP Auto Writers

DETROIT (AP) - As Harvey moved away from Southeast Texas, aerial photos revealed thousands of cars covered by floodwaters on streets, parking lots and in driveways.

By the time the water recedes. auto industry experts estimate that 500,000 to 1 million vehicles will have been damaged by water, with most being total losses.

State Farm, one of the largest U.S. auto insurers, says it has already received almost 20,000 claims from the Houston area.

Cars sat in water for days, in many cases up to the windows or

by TOM KRISHER and DEE-ANN roof lines. It's very likely those cars will never be driven again.

Here are answers to questions about what will happen to those vehicles in the aftermath of the epic storm.

Q: SHOULD I START MY CAR IF IT'S BEEN FLOODED?

A: No, in almost all cases. If the car was only in a few inches of water that didn't rise past the bottom of the body, maybe. Water higher than that can get into wires, transmission parts, the exhaust or other places. Deeper water could enter the cylinders that surround the pistons.

Trying to start the car could bend parts that connect the pistons to the rest of the drive train,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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OCC Set to Stage **Registration Drive**

Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills campus will host the Secretary of State Mobile Office on Monday, Sept. 11, 2017, offering voter registration to students, faculty, staff and visitors. The office will be open 1-5 p.m. at Parking Lot 2, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills.

Offering our services through the Mobile Office makes it easier for you to register to vote ahead of the November election, among many other available transactions," Secretary of State Ruth Johnson said. "You can also renew your driver's license or your license plate tabs, transfer a title and more. I encourage you to stop by and take care of your Secretary of State business quickly and easily."

RED WING

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The Cadillac brand is working that offers visitors a reinterpretato bring a little art to the car business.

So Cadillac, in partnership with the art/fashion publication and curatorial house Visionaire, will host artist Daniel Arsham's famed "Lunar Garden" installation taking residence within The Gallery at Cadillac House, the brand's multiplatform venue.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, began on Sept. 5 and runs to Nov. 5 inside The Gallery at Cadillac House located at 330 Hudson St. in New York Citv

The exhibit is the latest in a series of engaging artist works that Visionaire has curated in partnership with Cadillac. Since opening Cadillac House more than a year ago, both Visionaire and Cadillac have combined to develop a diverse run of cultural activities that push boundaries and bring to life new experiences for New York residents, said Cadillac spokesman Michael Patrick.

With Cadillac's effort to harness its passion points and reach new audiences in unexpected ways, along with Visionaire's mission to showcase the most "enthralling creative minds" within contemporary culture, Patrick said Cadillac House has since become a hub for those who wish to find the most compelling work from the leading edge of the art and design worlds.

For the latest exhibit, Arsham has combined sculpture, sound and an immersive environment

tion of a traditional Japanese rock garden with a unique colored gradient, Patrick said. At one end of the space is a 9-foot diameter light orb which resembles the moon. The design in the sand garden is further enhanced by the single light source.

In Arsham's version of the traditional garden, rocks have been replaced by a petrified tree and lantern. Arsham's use of gradient pink is a significant departure from his earlier work, which relies on a palette of black, white and gray tones.

Arsham is color blind but has recently been able to see a broader, more vibrant spectrum of color by using special glasses. This vibrancy has translated into his work and marks an important new visual language in this exhibition.

Cadillac House is Cadillac's firstever brand experience center - a public space that brings Cadillac's design sensibility and passion points to life through a range of dynamic, curated programming and events across the arts, fashion, entertainment, and hospitality.

Located in downtown New York City, Cadillac House represents the brand's commitment to its new home and as a result, offers diverse experiences including a gallery, retail space, café and exhibition area for the brand's vehicles - resulting in a venue with an ever-evolving point of view on subjects beyond the automotive industry.

The Gallery is a blank space where Cadillac and Visionaire partner to curate non-traditional. interactive exhibitions with no boundaries, free and open to the public, Patrick said

Daniel Arsham was born in 1980 in Cleveland, and grew up in Miami. After receiving a scholarship in 1999 from the National YoungArts Foundation, he attended Cooper Union in New York City.

In 2004, Arsham began producing scenography for ballets, symphony orchestras and operas, working with composers and choreographers including Merce Cunningham, Pharrell Williams, and Jonah Bokaer. In 2007, Arsham founded the design and architectural firm Snarkitecture with Alex Mustonen.

His work, Patrick said, has duces public art installations, been presented at MoMA PS1, lms, experiences, branded conthe Museum of Contemporary tent, art multiples, and products Art in Miami, the Athens Bien-- all curated through the lens of nale, the New Museum, the Conart, fashion and contemporary temporary Arts Center Cincinculture. nati, the High Museum, and other

With its roster of contributing artists, photographers, filmmakers, fashion creatives, and cultural icons, Visionaire remains at the forefront of groundbreaking

Dean and James Kaliardos in creativity in all different media, 1991, conceptualizes and pro-Patrick said.

Region 1 Holds Car Show There's still time to visit one last owners who enter a vehicle will re-

car show before autumn begins. The 18th annual UAW Region 1

renowned institutions around

the world. Arsham lives and

Visionaire, founded by Cecilia

works in New York City.

Car and Motorcycle Show is set for Sunday, Sept. 17, said Greg Ezyk, recording secretary for Local 412.

The show's location is 27800 George Merrelli, Warren. Registration is from 8 to 11 a.m., Ezyk said. That includes pre-registration. Judging of the vehicles takes place during the registration process. The cost of same-day registration of a vehicle to be displayed is \$20.

The show opens up to the public at 11 a.m., Ezyk said. It will go until 4 p.m. Car and motorcycle



ceive dash plaques and gift bags. Ezyk said the show is a perfect

way for car buffs and members of UAW Region 1 to enjoy some nostalgia. It is free to the public and there will be music, food, raffles and prizes.

While all vehicles are welcome at the show, there will be several categories for autos and motorcycles, Ezyk said.

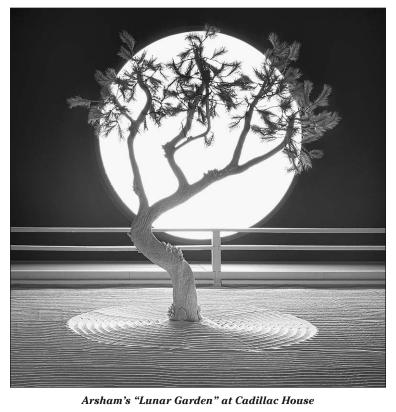
- The auto class descriptions are:
 - Original 1900 to 1989 (25 years or older);
 - Original modified (three major enhancements);
 - Street rod 1900 to 1948;
 - Custom/special interest;
 - Pro street tubbed, reduced axle;
 - Street machine 1949 to the present;
- Trucks all years. The motorcycle categories are:
- Cruiser (soft tail, road king, etc.):
- Bagger (hard bags, cruise control);
- Metric (foreign production bikes);
- Custom build (choppers/ non-production bikes).
- All proceeds from the show will



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be used to help area veterans and their families, Ezyk said. To learn more about the event, call UAW Region 1 at 586-427-9200.

State's Utilities Help with Irma

DETROIT (AP) - Michigan utilities sent hundreds of workers to Florida so they're ready to assist with power restorations after Hurricane Irma.

DTE Energy is sending roughly 300 line workers plus 100 tree trimmers. They were expected to reach northern Florida by Friday, Sept. 8, where they'll be on standby until needed.

More than 200 Consumers Energy employees and contract personnel are headed from Michigan to Florida to assist local electric companies preparing for the hurricane.

They arrived Sept. 8 and could remain in Florida for up to two weeks.

Detroit Auto Scene

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

Engineer Honored by Corvette Hall of Fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

oping a new version of the vehicle and management wanted someone who had managed people before to act as the sole Corvette representative to the powertrain people. They picked him.

"When I was chosen, it was hallelujah time," Minneker said. "I loved what I was doing and being on the Corvette team inspired me.

"My job was to try and get beyond the 200-plus horsepower that the Corvette in 1985 was producing."

It was an interesting time for the Corvette, Minneker said. Back then, they were still doing showroom stock racing.

Minneker said being part of the Corvette team meant going out and meeting with the public.

"No matter what your job was – engineering, design, whatever – we would go out and meet with fans of the Corvette. Then and now, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of Corvette clubs. We'd get invited to events and rallies to talk about Corvettes, and we'd go and mingle with the public."

One of the groups Minneker met with was the National Corvette Restorers Society (NCRS).

"That's how I met Dan Gale," Minneker said. "He was a driving force in the club and was a driving force getting the National Corvette Museum up and running."

And, Minneker said, in addition to being huge fans of the Corvette, the NCRS were great record-keepers.

"The Corvette was first made in Flint, but production was quickly moved to St. Louis and stayed there for decades. Production moved to Bowling Green in the early 1980s. A lot of history was lost when they moved from St. Louis to Bowling Green. NCRS has been great at tracking down documentation so that they could certify restored cars, saying that's how those cars were built."

It was this interest in the Corvette's past that inspired the drive by the NCRS to build the National Corvette Museum, Minneker said. The museum opened in 1994, while Minneker was still on the Corvette team. Gale oversaw construction and Minneker served on the board. His last term on the board ended in 2000.

"It was a rough start, getting the museum started," Minneker said. "It's like any new business – you have to figure out your product, in this case a platform for antique Corvettes, and how to figure out how to keep the customer coming back."

Minneker said he served as the museum chairman of the board for four years beginning in 1996. Being named to the 2017 class

of the Corvette Hall of Fame was an unexpected honor, but is



Minneker's banner, center, joins those of other Corvette hall of famers.

something Minneker will always cherish.

In addition to having a display with his achievements at the museum, his likeness has been place on a banner added to a wall of fame, along with all the other Corvette hall of famers.

During his tenure as a "Corvette" man for GM, Minneker said he helped develop LP1, the LP4, the LP5 and the LS1 models.

Minneker said that these great engines were the product of a lot of hard work by a lot of talented GM employees. He credits Roy Midgley for pushing the V8 team to improve the Corvette engine. When Roy left, Ed Koerner continued to the good work done on the V8.

He said the work done by Tony

Rudd and the Lotus Engineering team during his time on the Corvette also deserves special mention for their work on the Corvette over the years.

"The last Corvette I worked on was the C5," Minneker said. "Then, I was given another interesting job assignment by GM. John Heinricy, an engineer and race driver in the Performance division asked me to come aboard and help develop the Trailblazer SS engine.

"I have also worked on the IN Redline variant engine used in the Cadillac CTS-V. These are all performance engines in the Ion platform."

Minneker now is working as chief assistant engineer for the Duramax 6.6-liter diesel engine.

Ford Identifies September as Volunteer Month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tune with those less fortunate," said Janet Lawson, director, Ford Volunteer Corps. "Ford employees are helping people overcome obstacles to a better life, and in the process, building stronger communities that benefit us all."

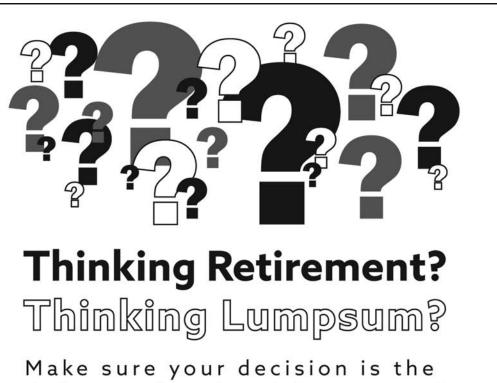
Ford Volunteer Corps is the heart of a global network that enlists more than 30,000 employees annually to participate in community service activities.

Ford Global Caring Month marks the largest concentration of Ford volunteers working in the community each year, but Ford volunteers are on the job at food banks, care facilities and schools all year long, Nissen said.

Since the Corps launched in 2005, its members have contributed more than 1.5 million hours of community service.







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FCA Again Earns Top Latina Rank

After the evaluation of more than 800 corporations, the editors of *Latina Style* magazine have named Fiat Chrysler to the list of the top 50 U.S. companies for Hispanic women to work.

PAGE 4

The ranking is part of the magazine's annual Latina Style 50 Report (LS50 Report). FCA US ranked #12 of 50 top employers named to the list, said FCA spokesman Mike Palese.

The LS50 Report highlights companies that have a dedicated effort to diverse recruitment and promotion initiatives, including companies that have programs to recruit veterans and military personnel.

It is, Palese said, considered "the most respected evaluation of corporate America's employment opportunities and policies as they pertain to Latinas."

In addition to naming FCA as one of the top 50 companines for Latina women in the September issue, the magazine also profiled Mercedes Figueroa Mondragon.

Palese said she studied Industrial and Systems Engineering and holds an MBA. She is currently responsible for Transportation Procurement, Inbound and Outbound Logistics for FCA Mexico's operations.

This broad role requires over seeing critical, tactical operations as part of managing the transportation of parts and materials from Mexican Suppliers to FCA's Mexican plants, Palese said. In addition, she also manages the transportation of finished vehicles produced in Mexico, U.S., Canada, Europe, Brazil and Asia to Mexican dealers as well as the transportation of Mexican-produced vehicles to NAFTA, Europe and Latinoamerican markets.

One of her key activities is her Customs responsibility which enables the efficient and timely flow of these goods across international borders, Palese said.

This is the 14th year the company has been included in the Top 50 Report since the bench-

mark was established in 1998 Palese said. The full report will be published in the September issue of the magazine and on www.latinastyle.com.

"Diversity and inclusion are core elements of the FCA US' business strategy, and vital to our efforts to develop a workforce that enables the company to innovate and compete in a dynamic, competitive industry," said Kelly Tolbert, head of Diversity, FCA US LLC. "Our consistent high performance on this important benchmark is a testament to the company's commitment to maintaining a work environment that respects and engages all people and cultures.'

"We congratulate FCA US on the outstanding career advancement opportunities it continues to provide its employees," said Robert Bard, president & CEO, Latina Style magazine. "Such an outstanding record of performance can only be achieved when there is full commitment throughout the company to diversity and inclusion.'

Among the Latina women who were profiled in the September issue of the magazine, Palese said, is Mondrago.

Latina Style magazine began the LS50 Report, Bard said, as "a quest to explore deeper into the business world and bring forth

and tablet communications tech-

nology, people stay connected in

And, as the most technologi-

cally equipped vehicles of their

kind, the 2018 Chrysler Pacifica

and Pacifica Hybrid continue to



FCA's Mondragon was profiled in Latina Style magazine.

powerful and useful information on the increasing importance of recruiting professional Latinas."

In 1997, with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and national Hispanic organizations, the magazine developed a comprehensive survey that is sent annually to Fortune 1000 companies. The LS50 Report, the result of that annual survey process, highlights each selected company's leadership programs, employee benefits and Latina representation in senior positions.

The report is distributed to Hispanic professional and civic organizations, national women's organizations, colleges and universities, all members of Congress, the White House, members of the Cabinet, military and veteran's organizations, as well as at major Hispanic and recruitment conferences, Palese said.

Latina Style is the most influential publication reaching the contemporary Hispanic woman, Bard said.

With a national circulation of 150,000 and a readership of nearly 600,000, the magazine is unique in its ability to reach both the seasoned professional and the young Latina entering the workforce for the first time, showcasing Latina achievements in all areas, including business, science, civic affairs, education, entertainment, sports, and the arts.



2018 Chrysler 300 Interior

2018 Chrysler 300 Comes **Equipped for Performance**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

driving style and road surface, said Reid.

Standard on the 300C and available on the 300S, the 5.7liter Hemi V8 engine with 363 horsepower is the most powerful V8 engine in its class, he said. With numerous style packages, striking design and sophisticated interiors, said Reid, the Chrysler 300 is America's big and bold sedan here to make a statement.

New for 2018, said Reid:

• Chrysler repositions the 300 model lineup to Touring, Touring L, 300S, Limited and 300C to better align with the new Chrysler Pacifica;

• The new entry-level Touring model offers cloth interior and 17-inch aluminum wheels. The Limited model now offers 20-inch

or option is available on Limited and 300C models;

• The 2018 300C model comes standard with the 5.7-liter HEMI V8, offering best-in-class V8 horsepower and torque:

• New available options include Sport Appearance Package and Chrome Appearance Package on Touring, BeatsAudio and Alloy Package on the 300S, Harman Kardon premium audio system, navigation, power sunshade, dual-pane sunroof on the Limited, Harman Kardon premium audio system, navigation, power sunshade, dual-pane sunroof and Sun/Sound/Nav bundle on the 300C.

For 2018, the Chrysler 300 lineup consists of five models:

- 300 Touring (RWD/AWD);
- 300 Touring L (RWD/AWD);
- 300S (RWD/AWD);

live up to this claim with the debut of available 4G LTE network connectivity in the upgraded Uconnect 4C NAV system with

8.4-inch display, said Bianchi. "For 35 years, our Chrysler minivans have led the segment we created, and that continues in 2018 with the Pacifica and Pacifica Hybrid now adding 4G LTE Wi-Fi with unlimited data plans for \$20 per month," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat, FCA - North America.

"The Pacifica's new, faster 4G LTE network speed creates an invehicle Wi-Fi Hotspot that keeps everyone in the family connected with up to eight mobile devices, making it easy to browse websites, check email and stream video.

"Passengers can also make the most of the class-exclusive Uconnect Theater system by utilizing the 4G hotspot to stream content via HDMI connected devices such as Amazon Fire TV, Roku, Chromecast or Apple TV. For 2018, Bianchi said Chrysler Pacifica Touring Plus, Touring L, Touring L Plus and Limited models, and Pacifica Hybrid Touring Plus, Touring L and Limited models, offer several different data plans from AT&T, including: • Standalone unlimited plan offers unlimited data at \$20 per month:

Pacifica Can Keep Passengers Connected Thanks to the latest cell phone report, vehicle health alert, a smartphone app that enables owners to remotely lock. unlock or start their vehicle, locate their vehicle and more, and SOS Call and Assist Buttons on the rearview mirror, which will connect vehicle owners to help at the push of a button.

> "As our Uconnect systems continue to advance, the boost of 4G LTE Wi-Fi technology showcases our commitment of keeping our customers conveniently connected while on the road," said Tricia Hecker, head of Connected Services, FCA Global.

> "Our goal is to provide consumers with a variety of ways to stay connected and explore the efficiency and convenience that our services and features have to offer."

> On-demand 4G Wi-Fi hotspot capability is also available in select model-year 2018 FCA US vehicles equipped with the Uconnect 4C or 4C NAV system with an 8.4-inch display, Hecker said.

> The Chrysler Pacifica was designed to reinvent the minivan segment with an "unprecedented level of functionality, versatility, technology and bold styling, Hecker said.

Re-engineered from the ground up on a new platform, the Pacifica is able to deliver class-leading performance gasoline and hybrid powertrains, a first in the minivan segment. With the Pacifica's class-exclusive Uconnect Theater rear-seat entertainment system, passengers can watch movies, play built-in games and connect personal devices to surf the Internet

via two high-definition 10-inch touchscreens. Useful on long trip with children, Hecker said.

Passengers can select from a variety of devices to connect to Uconnect Theater, including smartphones, tablets and gaming devices, via USB and HDMI ports. For supported Android devices, content can now be streamed wirelessly to the Uconnect Theater screens.

Launched in 2003, Uconnect systems are FCA's in-vehicle connectivity centers, designed to keep consumers connected, entertained and, most importantly, focused on the road.

Each FCA vehicle comes equipped with a Uconnect system that provides drivers with a range of available communication, navigation, entertainment features and connected services, including:

• Handsfree calling or texting solutions that keep drivers productive, talking and connected;

· Entertainment and audio options that include AM, FM, HD radio or SiriusXM, Bluetooth streaming audio, CD Player, USB and AUX Port;

• Navigation options that help provide a stress-free commute with easy access to points of interest, well-designed maps and turn-by-turn directions that are broadcast over the vehicle's

new ways. Which is why the 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid's new internal wi-fi system matters, said FCA spokeswoman Angela

Bianchi.

aluminum wheels;

• A new Mocha leather interi-

- 300 Limited (RWD/AWD):
- 300C (RWD).

Honda Settles for \$605M in Takata Suit

DETROIT (AP) - Honda and lost wages. Owners will have to some of the people suing the company over faulty Takata air bag inflators have agreed to a \$605 million settlement.

The settlement, which still must be approved by a federal judge, covers owners of 16.5 million Honda and Acura vehicles with the inflators dating back to 2001. They could get up to \$500.

Under the deal, Honda gets credit for spending \$121 million on rental cars for customers who had to wait for parts. That leaves \$484 million. Of that, Honda will spend as much as \$199 million over four years finding owners with unrepaired cars and encouraging them to get the inflators replaced.

The rest goes to attorney fees and to reimburse owners for expenses such as rental cars and apply to a court-appointed administrator to get money. They also can make claims that their cars dropped in value. If money is left after other expenses, owners could get the \$500.

Takata inflators can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing shrapnel. At least 19 people have been killed worldwide due to the problem, which touched off the largest auto recall in U.S. history involving up to 69 million inflators.

U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno in Miami will make the final decision on where the money will go. Plaintiffs' lawyers already have settled with Toyota, BMW, Mazda, Subaru and Nissan and are pursuing claims against other automakers.

 Add your vehicle to your existing Mobile Share Value or Advantage plan, receive 1 GB of data, for \$10/month;

• Day pass offers 250MB at \$5;

An included trial of AT&T Wi-Fi is available on properly equipped vehicles.

An included trial of SiriusXM Guardian connected services also is available on properly equipped vehicles.

These real-time services include a monthly vehicle health audio system.

Vehicle owners can access and control their Uconnect system's features and services by using voice recognition technology, steering wheel controls, touchscreens or traditional knobs and buttons.



The Pacifica comes with a wi-fi system that keeps passengers connected.

Mopar Almost **Takes Home** NHRA Nationals

Ron Capps came as close as he ever had to winning the NHRA U.S. Nationals on Sept. 4. Capps put his Mopar Hemi-powered Dodge Charger R/T Funny Car in the final round for the first time in the ultra-prestigious event at Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis, but in the end he finished just shy of checking off the biggest item remaining on the todo-list in his storied career.

Mopar still had a very successful U.S. Nationals, however, with Larry Gilley winning the Stock Eliminator category in his 1969 Dodge Dart, while Kevin Helms took home the Wally trophy in Super Stock with a victorv in his 2010 Dodge Challenger Drag Pak.

Although Capps was bested by J.R. Todd in the final round of the 63rd annual event known as "The Big Go," his appearance represented the 16th final for Mopar Dodge Funny Car drivers from Don Schumacher Racing (DSR) on the NHRA Mello Yello Drag Racing Series schedule in 2017.

They have won 12 times. Additionally, Capps will enter the Countdown to the Championship playoffs as the No. 1 seed on the strength of six victories and a staggering 39-12 won-loss record. The point standings reset for the top ten after the Indianapolis event, putting Capps in prime position to defend his series title from 2016.

In the Sept. 4 final, Capps turned in a very solid 3.949-second pass at 325.53 mph, but still was defeated by Todd's 3.923 at 325.61. Capps left the starting line with a .057-second reaction time, while Todd left after .054.

Capps first drove his Dodge Charger R/T from DSR past Alexis DeJoria, then powered past fellow Dodge competitor Jim Campbell in the second round as Campbell smoked his tires. Capps next took down Mopar DSR teammate Jack Beckman and the Infinite Hero Dodge Charger R/T team in a clean, side-by-side race to reach the final round.

Beckman had narrowly bested teammate Tommy Johnson Jr.'s Mopar-powered Riley Hospital for Children team in the first round, ending Johnson's bid to go to his third straight final. He then defeated a smoking Del Worsham to match up with teammate Capps, where his day came to an end.

Beckman and team didn't walk away from the U.S. Nationals empty-handed though, as they took the \$100,000 victory in the Traxxas Funny Car Nitro Shootout all-star event on Sept. 3.

Corvette Museum



Expands its Range of Vehicles

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) - A Kentucky museum dedicated to Corvettes has opened a new exhibit featuring much older forms of transportation spanning the state's history.

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green says the exhibit will cover the history of transportation in Kentucky from the late 1700s to now.

It says artifacts include a horse-drawn sleigh, 19th century mile markers and a 1943 Ford GPW (Jeep) used during World War II. A 1935 Allis-Chalmers WC tractor owned by Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles is on display.

The display items are on loan from numerous individuals, museums and organizations.

The Corvette museum just off Interstate 65 in south-central Kentucky is open daily.

Hurricane Harvey Leaves Flooded Vehicles in Its Texas Wake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said John Nielsen, managing director of automotive engineering for AAA. Oil, gasoline, antifreeze, brake fluid and other liquids could have water in them that could cause damage if not replaced.

Nielsen recommends having the car towed to a mechanic for inspection.

Depending on the severity of flood damage, he says the cost of refurbishing a car likely will be more than replacing it.

Q: IF IT'S REPAIRED, WILL MY CAR BE SAFE?

A: Probably not. Water could have damaged sensors, electrical connectors, computer chips and wiring that are under the carpet, behind the dashboard or in the engine compartment.

That could disable lights, air bags, ignition, gas and brake pedal sensors or other essential systems. Corrosion can form beneath wiring insulation.

Salty water from the Gulf of Mexico would make that worse. Damage may not surface for years.

"Maybe it's OK. Maybe it's not. I would be really worried about it," says Nielsen.

Q: WILL INSURANCE COVER A FLOODED CAR?

A: Depends on your coverage. If you're financing or leasing, your lender likely requires comprehensive insurance, which typically covers flood damage along with fire, vandalism or falling objects

But if you own a car outright, or it's old and would be more expensive to repair than it's worth, you may choose not to get comprehensive coverage.

As of 2013, 78 percent of U.S. insured drivers had compre- hensive coverage, according to the Insurance Information Institute.



Water on the camera lens fogs this photo of stranded vehicles.

Q: HOW DO INSURERS HAN-**DLE FLOODED CARS?**

A: Once an owner files a claim, the insurer will evaluate the damage. Many states have guidelines for a vehicle to be considered a total loss, including the extent and type of damage and the cost of repair, says Missy Dundov, a spokeswoman for State Farm.

If the insurer determines the vehicle is a total loss, it will pay the owner - minus a deductible that's typically \$500 to \$1,000 and take the vehicle and the title. **O: WHERE DO FLOODED** CARS GO?

A: Insurers will turn the cars over to auctions or salvage yards. Undamaged parts will be salvaged and many vehicles will be scrapped.

Some will go to salvage auctions, says Tim West, vice president and North American auction director for Black Book, a service that calculates used car prices.

Everything that's ruled a total loss by an insurance company should get a salvage title.

But consumers should be careful. A vehicle considered a total loss in one state might not require a salvage title in another state, says Ron Montoya, a senior consumer advice editor for Edmunds.com.

Q: HOW CAN I AVOID BUY-ING A FLOOD-DAMAGED VEHI-CLE?

A: Flooded cars could be shipped to other parts of the country or even other nations.

To find out where the car came from and if it has a salvage title, experts suggest keying the vehicle identification number into services (there's a charge) that search car histories such as Autocheck or Carfax.

Carfax and the National Insurance Crime Bureau offer free services to check for flood damage.

Buyers can ask to take the car to a mechanic for inspection.

Buyers can also look for signs of flooding, including musty or moldy odors or overpowering use of air freshener, discolored carpet or new carpet in an old car, water lines in the engine compartment or trunk, fogging inside headlights or taillights, rust or flaking metal under the car, and dirt buildup in unusual areas such as around seat tracks. If you see any signs, with that car forever," he said.

These flood-ravaged cars seem destined for a short life.

2000年初後日前の内部市長

don't buy the car, AAA's Nielsen says

"You're liable to face gremlins

State Parks Achieve Record

show that tourism to Michigan's national parks has increased.

Figures from the National Park Service show that tourism is up more than 5 percent at the state's national parks through July, The Detroit News reported .

The parks have seen a record number of visitors over the last two years. Reports show that Michigan parks had a total of 2.7 million visitors last year. The five parks have drawn more than 1.5 million visitors from January through July this year.

"(Michigan has) even more visitors at this point in 2017 than we had in 2016, and 2016 was a record-breaking year," said Lauren Blacik, special assistant for the National Park Service Midwest Region.

Merrith Baughman, the chief of interpretation and visitor servic-

DETROIT (AP) - Federal data es at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park, said July was the first time the park reached more than 500,000 visitors in a month.

Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior saw almost 16,000 visitors as of July, a nearly 20 percent increase when compared to the same time last year. The more than 410 national parks in the U.S. had more than 330 million visitors last year, Blacik said.

"Nationally, we saw a huge increase in enthusiasm and support for our national parks around the National Park Service centennial last year in 2016, and that seems to have just continued this year in 2017 with more people wanting to explore their national parks, discovering those parks they might not even have known are in their backyards and planning vacations to national parks," Blacik said.





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U.S. House Approves Bill For Autonomous Driving

House voted Sept. 6 to speed the introduction of self-driving cars by giving the federal government authority to exempt automakers from safety standards not applicable to the technology, and to permit deployment of up to 100,000 of the vehicles annually over the next several years.

The bill was passed by a voice vote. State and local officials have said it usurps their authority by giving to the federal government sole authority to regulate the vehicles' design and performance. States would still decide whether to permit self-driving cars on their roads.

Automakers have complained that a patchwork of laws states have passed in recent years would hamper deployment of the vehicles, which they see as the future of the industry. Self-driving cars are forecast to dramatically lower traffic fatalities once they are on roads in significant numbers, among other benefits. Early estimates indicate there were more than 40,000 traffic fatalities last year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says 94 percent of crashes involve human error.

Members of the Senate Commerce committee are also working on self-driving car legislation, but a bill hasn't been introduced. If a measure passes the full Senate, the two versions would have to be reconciled before President Trump could sign it into law.

The House bill is the product of extensive negotiations between Democrats and Republicans, a rare example of bipartisan agreement in a Congress riven by political and ideological differences.

The measure "gives the auto

WASHINGTON (AP) - The industry the tools to revolutionize how we're going to get around," said Rep. Fred Upton, a Michigan Republican.

Rep. Debbie Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, said the bill "is fundamentally an issue of American competitiveness" since foreign automakers are developing self-driving cars as well.

The bill addresses "a variety of barriers that otherwise block the ability to safely test and deploy these vehicle technologies," the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said in a statement.

The bill permits the deployment of up to 25,000 self-driving vehicles in its first year, rising to 100,000 vehicles annually in the third year. But consumer and safety groups say they remain concerned the bill will weaken safety standards and undermine public acceptance of the vehicles should a defect lead to crashes and fatalities.

"Unfortunately, this legislation takes an unnecessary and unacceptable hands-off approach to hands-free driving," leaders of seven groups wrote lawmakers.

Automakers say safety standards requiring things like steering wheels and brake pedals don't make sense. But consumer and safety groups say the bill could permit the government to exempt self-driving vehicles from occupant protection and crashworthiness standards as well.

"Exposing motorists to the dangers of crashes without proven and needed protections is a wanton disregard for public health and safety," the groups said.

The bill doesn't apply to commercial vehicles, which were carved out after labor unions expressed concerns on jobs.



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by DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Any proposal to automatically cut premiums for Michigan drivers would be "dead" on arrival in the Republican-led Senate, Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof said Sept. 6, bringing into question lawmakers' long-sought goal to enact some major auto insurance changes.

Meekhof, on the Legislature's first day of session after a summer recess, said he met last week with Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who wants a mandated rate reduction of up to 30 percent in a state with the most expensive premiums in the country. Premiums are especially high in his city.

"That's price fixing," said Meekhof, who declared the idea "dead" three times. "When do Republicans get in between a private transaction and set what prices are? The market should dictate what they are based on risk and other factors that (insurers) account for."

Meekhof's pronouncement may lead to a confrontation with GOP House Speaker Tom Leonard, who is pushing unspecified changes to an auto insurance system that is expensive for drivers but also provides them with unlimited lifetime care if they are catastrophically injured in an automoble accident in which the passengers of the vehicle in question were covered by state-mandated auto insurance.

"Everything is on the table for him to get reform done," said Leonard spokesman Gideon D'Assandro.

"Rate relief for Michigan families is his top priority in no-fault reform."

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder in

2013 proposed a mandatory \$125 per-vehicle reduction in premiums in concert with capping personal injury protection at \$1 million, but that legislation never gained traction.

Neither did Duggan's 2015 proposal to let Detroit drivers buy cheaper health coverage and have their medical insurers pick up costs exceeding \$275,000.

State law allows health care providers to charge much more for treatment of auto injuries than other ones. The insurance industry supports a fee schedule set in law similar to what exists for workers' compensation injuries.

But Meekhof, who opposes set fees for hospitals, said he would prefer to focus on a deal between hospitals and insurers that emerged in last year's "lameduck" session but ultimately was not enacted – creating a statewide fraud authority, limiting reimbursement for family attendant care and capping medical benefits for people injured in crashes who have no auto insurance.

The assigned claims plan largely covered pedestrians and bicyclists initially, but the benefits have increasingly aided passengers hurt while riding in uninsured vehicles.

Duggan, in a statement, said he is "working very hard to build a coalition for a bipartisan package on car insurance with major guaranteed rate rollbacks."

"I expect us to try for passage in the House of Representatives first, and then to the Senate," the mayor's statement read.

"Senator Meekhof has been a longtime champion of cutting auto insurance rates and it's my hope that by the time we get to the Senate, we can reach agreement on a plan that has his support."



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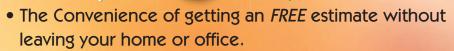
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