

Tech Center's VEC Hosts Student FIRST Robotics Event



Team Kinematic Wolves showed off their robot Steamboat Willie at the VEC building.

by Jim Stickford

The VEC building in the GM Tech Center was host to a FIRST Robotics event on Sept. 21.

The mission of FIRST is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership for students.

Kimberly Fortenberry, a Vehicle Performance engineer at GM, organized the Sept. 21 event.

"Metro Detroit has the largest number of FIRST Robotics teams in the country," Fortenberry said. "That's the influence of the auto industry. I got involved last year. A friend asked me to volunteer to be a mentor, and that eventually led to me organizing this event."

While at the VEC building FIRST Robotics students were able to put their robots through their paces, performing a series of pre-determined tasks.

There were 12 teams in attendance. They were:

- R.E. C'n Crew from the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation based in Detroit;
- Mercy Midnight Storm from

the Mercy Education Project in Detroit;

- Mechanical Pumas from Western International High School in Detroit;
- The Cougars Pack from Voyageur Consortium High School in Detroit;
- JRLA Robojags from Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in Detroit;
- As-Tech Eagles from the Cesar Chavez Academy High School in Detroit;
- Kinematic Wolves from Detroit Cristo Rey High School in Detroit;
- AdamBots from Rochester Adams High School in Rochester Hills;
- CyberCats from Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills;
- The Village Bulldogs from east English Village Prep Academy in Detroit;
- The Riveters from Mercy High School in Farmington Hills;
- Bionic Black Hawks from Bloomfield Hills High School in Bloomfield Hills.

Each team, Fortenberry said, has its own mentor and part of the reason they held the event in the VEC building was that Fortenberry and the other GM

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Delphi Aims to Reinvent How Automobiles are Designed

by Jim Stickford

There's an old expression – don't reinvent the wheel. But in a real sense that what auto supplier Delphi is planning on doing.

At a special media event on Sept. 20 Glen De Vos, Delphi's chief technology officer, talked about how in the next decade auto suppliers and OEMs will radically change how they create cars.

De Vos' talk was part of an event where Delphi and BlackBerry Limited of Canada unveiled a commercial alliance agreement to provide an operating system for Delphi's autonomous driving development.

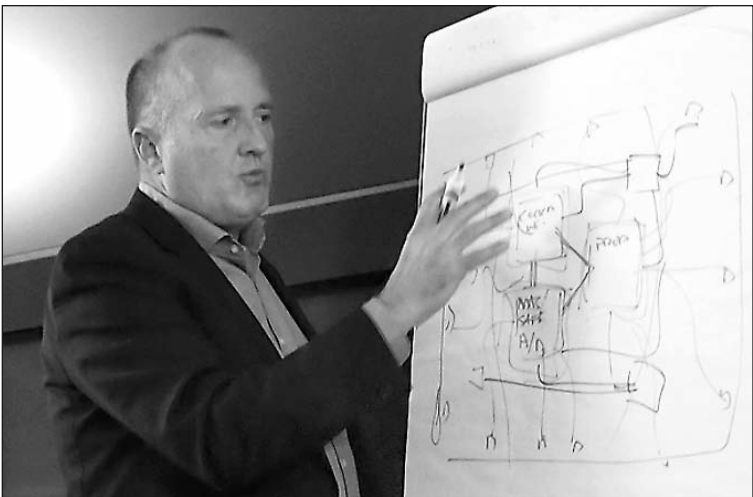
De Vos said Delphi and BlackBerry QNX will collaborate to bolster software performance and safety in their operating system to advance autonomous driving tech.

QNX is a commercial Unix-like real-time operating system, aimed primarily at the embedded systems market, De Vos said. The

product was originally developed in the early 1980s by Canadian company Quantum Software Systems, later renamed QNX Software Systems and ultimately acquired by BlackBerry in 2010. QNX was one of the first commercially successful microkernel operating systems and is used in a variety of devices including cars and mobile phones.

"BlackBerry QNX will provide a robust software infrastructure for CSLP and help advance Delphi's autonomous driving system," said Glen De Vos, Delphi senior vice president and chief technology officer. "Safety in high performance computing systems is paramount to a production ready autonomous driving solution."

"There is no safety without security," said John Wall, senior vice president and general manager of BlackBerry QNX. "With cyberattacks and threats to connected vehicles on the rise, it is imperative that auto manufacturers are provided with software



De Vos explains thinking behind Delphi's new development process.

that is safety certified, reliable and secure. This is an area in which BlackBerry QNX excels, and we look forward to the new opportunities this expansion with Delphi will bring."

When talking to the media at Delphi offices in Troy, De Vos said that the alliance with Black-

Berry is part of a larger effort by Delphi to get ahead of the curve in developing autonomous driving technology.

While it might seem strange to the average person that an auto supplier is teaming up with a

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Job Security is Reason For Unifor Strike

DETROIT (AP) – About 2,500 workers at a Canadian General Motors plant that makes the Chevrolet Equinox SUV are on strike in a dispute over job security.

Members of Unifor Local 88 in Ingersoll, Ontario, west of Toronto, stopped working when their contract expired at 10:59 p.m. Sept. 17.

The strike couldn't come at worse time for GM. A new version of the Equinox compact SUV just started to hit dealerships during the summer, attracting buyers in the hottest part of the U.S. auto market.

The union says GM won't designate the factory as lead producer of the Equinox. GM moved production of the GMC Terrain, which is similar to the Equinox, to Mexico in July, and 600 workers were laid off. The

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Ford is doubling down on its presence in India.

Ford Creates Alliance with Indian Company

Mahindra Group and Ford Motor Company on Sept. 18 agreed to explore a strategic alliance, designed to obtain the benefits of Ford's global reach and expertise and Mahindra's scale in India and successful operating model.

The agreement between the two companies will allow each to leverage their mutual strengths during a period of unprecedented transformation in the global automotive industry, said Ford spokesman Mike Moran. The areas of potential cooperation include:

- Mobility programs;
- Connected vehicle projects;

- Electrification;
- Product development;
- Sourcing and commercial efficiencies;
- Distribution within India; improving Ford's reach within India;
- Global emerging markets; improving Mahindra's reach outside of India.

Teams from both companies will collaborate and work together for a period of up to three years, Moran said. Any further strategic cooperation between the two companies will be decided at the end of that period.

"Ford is committed to India and this alliance can help us deliver the best vehicles and services to customers while profitably growing in the world's fifth largest vehicle market," said Jim Farley, Ford executive vice president and president of Global Markets.

"Our two companies have a long history of cooperation and mutual respect. The memorandum of understanding we have signed today with Mahindra will allow us to work together to take

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The 2018 Buick Cascada Convertible Sport Touring models come in new colors.

Job Security is Reason For Unifor Strike

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Equinox also is made in Mexico and workers fear more jobs could go south.

GM says in a statement that it encourages the union to resume negotiations. The company says both sides made positive progress during the past several weeks.

Equinox sales in the U.S. are up 17 percent through August to more than 185,000.

GM says the Ingersoll plant is operating at maximum capacity on three shifts, and with the compact SUV market continuing to grow, it will need another factory to handle future demand. The company said that in 2015 it invested 800 million Canadian dollars (\$656 million U.S.) in the plant to build the new Equinox.

The contract at the Ingersoll plant is negotiated separately from Unifor's main contract with the auto industry. Ingersoll started as a joint venture. GM now owns the entire factory.

Color Buick Friendly to Fans of 2018 Cascada Convertible

Color Buick buyers happy with their new choices.

This fall, Buick will expand the Cascada's color palette by adding more options based on customer feedback and advanced color trending analysis, said GM spokeswoman Arianna Kughn.

Building on a proven color strategy, Kughn said Buick will add three new exterior colors and two new convertible tops and expand the Sport Touring Dark Effects Package with two additional exterior colors, enhancing customers' ability to express their personal style on the road.

Buick's three new jewel-toned exterior colors – Rioja Red Metallic, Dark Moon Blue Metallic and Carrageen Metallic – align with customer preferences and color trends showing up globally in other industries, including interior design and fashion.

"Color is back," says Catherine Black, lead designer of Buick's Color and Trim Studio. "While 80 percent of the exterior colors purchased globally are neutrals – black, silver or grey – many cus-

tomers are starting to move away from these neutral tones and have an appetite for entirely different colors like dark navy and maroon."

In a segment with limited options, Black said Cascada combines luxury features and additional on-trend color options at an attainable price to give style-conscious buyers more reasons to reconsider Buick.

The coordination of Cascada's newest color palette with larger global color trends is the result of an ongoing advanced color and trim trend analysis from Buick's Design Color and Trim Studio. Looking at multiple industries, Black said Buick Color and Trim creative designers research, analyze, design and develop interior and exterior colors and materials three to four years in advance of a vehicle debut.

"Our Color and Trim designers possess a specialized skill set and acumen for knowing which trends have lasting power and interpreting them for automotive so the choices remain fresh, modern and relevant," says

Sharon Gauci, global director, Buick Design Color and Trim.

A number of the colors in the updated Buick Cascada color palette appear in the Fall 2017 PANTONE Fashion Color Report, validating the Buick design team's work.

New color options have also expanded to the Cascada's convertible top, Black said. Sweet Mocha and Malbec are the two new available convertible top options on the Premium trim, joining Ebony.

Carrageen Metallic will be offered exclusively on the Cascada's Sport Touring model.

Summit White and Ebony Twilight Metallic join Sport Red as

available exterior colors on Sport Touring with Dark Effects package.

In addition to more color options, standard 20-inch twin-spoke black-painted wheels are now standard on the 2018 Sport Touring model and navigation is included on all 2018 Cascada models.

Since launch, the Buick Cascada has outsold the BMW 2 Series convertible as well as Audi's A3 and A5 convertibles combined, Kughn said.

It attracts almost 7 out of 10 buyers from outside Buick and other GM brands. Since launch, fleet sales account for less than one percent of total Cascada sales.

Ford Betting on Indian Auto Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

advantage of the changes coming in the auto industry. The enormous growth potential in the utility market and the growing importance of mobility and affordable battery electric vehicles are all aligned with our strategic priorities."

Dr. Pawan Goenka, managing director, Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd said, "the changes facing the automotive industry globally are triggered by the accelerated rise of new technologies, sustainability policies and new models of urban shared mobility.

"Given these changes we see the need to anticipate new market trends, explore alternatives and look for ways to collaborate even as we compete and build powerful synergies that will allow rapid exploitation of the exciting new opportunities. Today's announcement builds on the foundation laid through our past partnership with Ford and will open opportunities for both of us."

Mahindra has been leading the utility vehicles segment in India for the past seven decades, Farley said. Mahindra is among the few global companies pioneering the development of clean and affordable technology, and is the only player with a portfolio of electric vehicles commercially available in India.

Expanding its global presence, Mahindra owns majority stake in

Ssangyong Motor Company in Korea, has forayed into the shared mobility space with investments in ride sharing platforms in the United States, and is developing products like the GenZe - the world's first electric connected scooter.

Ford was among the first global automakers to enter India in 1995, Moran said. Now one of the largest exporters of cars from the country, Ford manufactures and exports vehicles and engines from its manufacturing facilities in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Sanand, Gujarat.

India is also the second-largest Ford employee base globally, with more than 14,000 people working across the Ford India or Global Business Services. operations in New Delhi, Chennai, and Coimbatore.

Chrysler Issues Truck Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Fiat Chrysler is recalling almost half a million Ram heavy-duty pickups and medium-duty trucks because their water pumps could be defective.

The recall involves Ram 2500 and 3500 pickups and Ram 3500, 4500 and 5500 chassis cabs from the 2013 to 2017 model years. All 494,417 of the vehicles involved have 6.7-liter engines.

Most of the trucks were sold in the U.S., but 46,220 are in Canada and 4,485 are in other markets.

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volunteers wanted to raise awareness of what FIRST Robotics is doing.

"I think we've been successful doing that," Fortenberry said.

Shanley Carlton, a Studio Design engineer at the Tech Center, is the mentor to the DHDC's R.E. C'n Crew team. She is 24 and decided to become involved with FIRST Robotics because when presented with volunteer options wanted to pick one that concerned Detroit.

"I talked with some people and they said I should check out the DHDC, and what they're doing," Carlton said. "I went do to their headquarters in Detroit and I liked what I saw."

The team's members come from different high schools in Detroit and Carlton said they're hoping to recruit more members.

"I love the camaraderie of the students," Carlton said. "They are proud of where they come from and want to represent Detroit awesomely. These kids will support other teams and what they're doing because those other teams are also from Detroit. It's great to see."

Jeffrey Dinakar is an engineer in Controller Integration at the Tech Center. He is the mentor for the Robojags of Jalen Rose Leadership Academy. They currently have 13 students on their team. There were more, but they graduated.

"The thing for me that I really enjoy is seeing the kids go from really not knowing anything about robotics to being able to program robots themselves, to be able to work on robots themselves," Dinakar said. "It's amazing to see them realize that they don't have to depend on people to complete the project, that they have the ability to do the work themselves."

Ann McGowan, a teacher at Cristo Rey High School in Detroit, said that the Kinematic Wolves got their start four years ago. The current team has nine members returning from the previous school year.

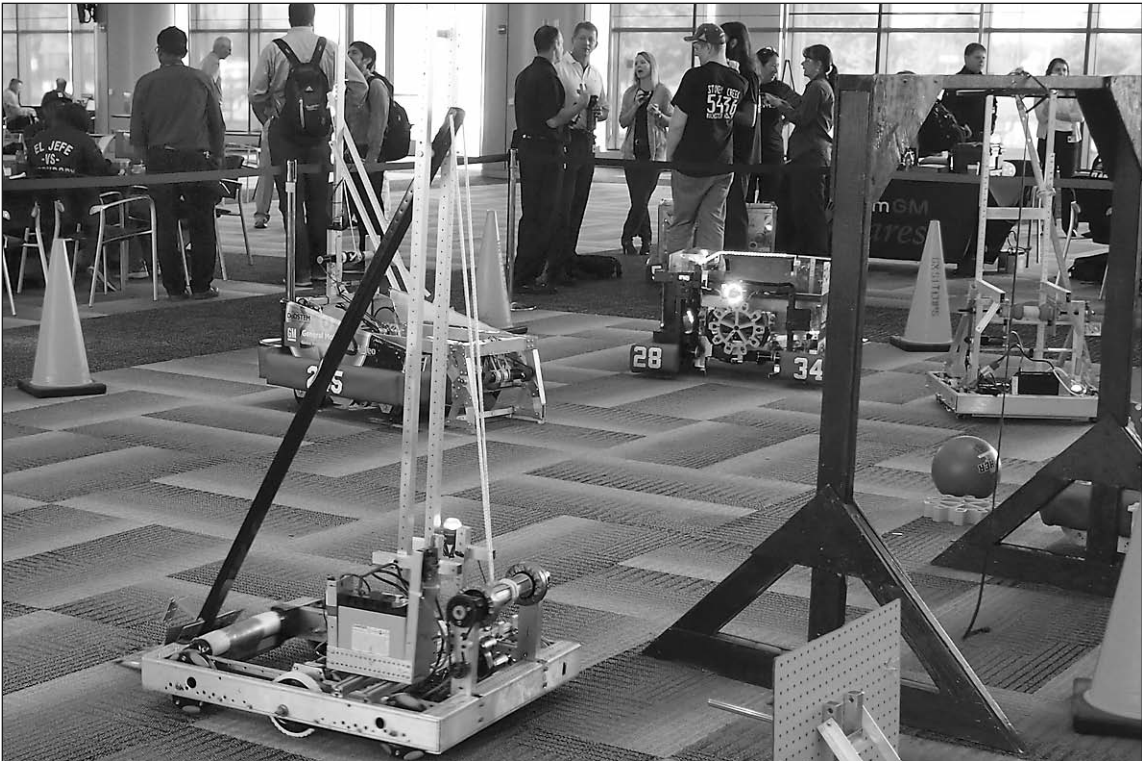
"We are a small school – about 330 students," McGowan said. "At our last recruiting meeting there were 30 students in the room. That's 10 percent of school."

"We recruit from all grades. Our students get their tuition from a variety of sources, including GM corporate work sponsorships."

One of those students is Alexis Plascencia, a junior. He pays GM back by working one day a week for the company. The name of the Kinematic Wolves robot is Steamboat Willie.

Plascencia said it was named by someone who has since graduated from Cristo Rey.

Dinakar said his team's robot is named El Jefe. When Carlton was asked what her team robot was named, she said, "we



Students from around metro Detroit got to show off their robot projects at a recent event in the Tech Center.

haven't given it a name. Is that bad?"

Fortenberry said she and Carlton have worked with others to help the students in FIRST Robotics stay involved in robotics during the summer.

"We were able to send 44 kids to 'robot' camp this summer," Fortenberry said. "Some went to Kettering in Flint and some went to Michigan Tech up in the U.P."

Carlton said the kids who went to Kettering were able to make robot arms for their teams' robots.

The students who went to Michigan Tech attended a number of classes that taught them more engineering skills.

"They were also able to enjoy the beauty of the Upper Peninsula," Carlton said. "That can be quite a change from Detroit."

Fortenberry said that she and

her colleagues who are working with FIRST Robotics are looking for more mentors who are willing to volunteer their and more corporate sponsorship to help make it possible for students to continue in FIRST Robotics.

"These kids are great and being able to help them learn and love engineering is something we cal all be proud of," Fortenberry said.

County Honors Constitution

On Sept. 15, the 16, the Macomb Judicial Circuit Court hosted a Constitution Day event presented by the Macomb County Bar Foundation. Constitution Day is a federal observance created in 2004, which commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, while also recognizing all those who, by birth or naturalization, have become U.S. citizens. The Constitution Day event at the Circuit Court highlighted the importance of the First Amendment. Approximately 100 students from Utica High School, Stevenson High School, and Henry Ford II High School participated in this event. Following introductory remarks on the history of the Constitution by Judge Carl Marlinga, the students broke into groups and prepared oral arguments with the assistance of volunteer attorneys.

The students then presented their arguments to an actual Circuit Court Judge. Chief Judge James Biernat, Jr., Judge Matthew Switalski, and Judge

Kathryn Viviano all held arguments in their courtrooms. At the conclusion of the arguments, the judges explained the likely outcome of the cases presented. Professor Robert Sedler of Wayne State University Law School spoke to the students on the importance of Free Speech, and Chief Judge Biernat delivered closing remarks.

Chief Judge Biernat stated "Constitution Day was a great experience for everyone. The students took the event very seriously and did an excellent job of arguing their cases."

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Feds Order a Recall of Pacifica Vans

DETROIT (AP) – If you drive your Chrysler minivan too fast and too furious, one of the second-row seat belts might unbuckle.

So Fiat Chrysler is recalling almost 50,000 Pacifica vans in the U.S. and Canada from the 2017 and 2018 model years, all with an eight-passenger seating option.

The automaker says that during sporting driving, the center buckle could hit the release button on the left buckle and cause it to unlatch, presenting a danger to the person who is supposed to be strapped in the vehicle.

The company says it doesn't know of any crashes or injuries from the problem.

It says in documents posted Sept. 20 by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on its Web site that dealers will install a shorter second-row seat belt buckle in a recall that is expected to begin on Oct. 20.

Until repairs are made, Fiat Chrysler is advising owners of the Pacifica minivans in question not to use the second-row center seat if other passengers are in that row.

The problem was discovered by Fiat Chrysler engineers who specialize in interior safety restraints, according to the documents.



The public had a chance to see many classic cars at the UAW Region 1 September car show.



The event was not limited to cars, owners of motorcycles had a chance to show off their prized vehicles.

UAW Region 1 Ended Summer With a Bang

The 18th annual UAW Region 1 Car and Motorcycle Show on Sept. 17, was bigger and better than ever, said Greg Ezyk, recording secretary for UAW Local 412.

An annual event, the show allows people to display their vehicles one last time during the summer, Ezyk said. In recent years, there's also been categories for motorcycles.

The money raised at the show goes to a good cause, to help veterans of the American armed services.

"I talked to the Region 1 Veteran Committee Chairperson, Carleton Pace," Ezyk said. "Carleton told me the money raised is used primarily at the VA. Also with the Vets returning home programs and Great Lakes Cemetery."

The show's location was 27800 George Merrelli in Warren.

Overall, Ezyk said, 20 motorcycles were registered for the show and 160 cars were also preregistered.

The weather was nice, and with same-day registration more than 200 cars were placed on display, Ezyk said.

Bad weather is always something to worry about when planning a car show several months in advance, Ezyk said. It's the one thing you can't control.

"This is a great cause and I can't wait until next year," Ezyk said.

Bedrock Leading Detroit's Development

by COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) – Four developments totaling more \$2 billion in new investment are planned for downtown Detroit.

The projects could bring 15,000 construction jobs and up to 9,000 permanent jobs, plus make the city of Detroit more attractive to expanding companies such as online retail giant Amazon.

High-rise buildings are part of the developments, which would be the latest updates to a downtown that just over a decade ago struggled to attract businesses and people.

"Detroit is going vertical," Bedrock founder and chair Dan Gilbert said. "In fact, that is the only way to create any type of significant expansion in the city because we are virtually at full occupancy for residential and commercial space in both downtown and Midtown."

The largest investment would be the \$900 million redevelopment of the former J.L. Hudson Co. department store site.

The project includes a building with a sky deck above residential floors. It also would feature dining, retail, office and public space.

A 35-story office tower would be part of the \$830 million Mon-

roe Blocks project between the Greektown entertainment district and Campus Martius Park in the heart of downtown.

Like the Hudson's project, Monroe Blocks would have residential units as well as dining and retail.

Bedrock also plans to spend \$313 million to rehab the historic Book Building and tower into apartments, retail, offices and a hotel.

A \$95 million expansion of One Campus Martius will include office space to help attract new firms and jobs to the building, according to people speaking on behalf of Bedrock.

"The economic impact this project will have on our city is larger than anything we've seen in generations," said Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan. "Not only will it produce thousands of new jobs and opportunities for Detroiters, it will reshape the city's skyline and attract even more reinvestment in Detroit."

Construction on the four developments would take place over five years.

Bedrock says it will finance most of the projected costs of these projects.

"These critical projects will attract new visitors and residents as well as countless new visitors and businesses like Amazon to the city, which will create a ripple effect of economic impact and job creation," Gilbert said Sept. 20 while announcing new development plans for the continuing development of downtown areas of Detroit.

The city of Detroit is not alone in its attempt to attract Amazon's proposed second corporate headquarters.

Communities across the United States have been putting together sales pitches to woo Seattle-based Amazon, which is looking for a site for its second headquarters.

The prospective \$5 billion investment in downtown and the surrounding areas could bring with it as many as 50,000 temporary and permanent new jobs to the city of Detroit in the next few years as construction proceeds according to plan.

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Colorado ZR2 Earns ‘Best Ride’ for Affordability

Chevy, with its 2017 Colorado ZR2, has managed to do something that all of the other vehicles named in *Esquire* Magazine’s “Best Rides of 2017” list couldn’t – provide excellence at a price that Americans could pay.

The magazine released its list on Sept. 21. Vehicles across nine categories were named, with the 2017 Chevy Colorado ZR2 taking top honors in the Truck of the year category.

Editors wrote that the ZR2 can jump. At the debut of the Colorado ZR2, Chevy had journalists do laps on a dirt track with a few modest ramps. Wearing helmets, of course, we were encouraged to hit the BMX-style humps fast enough to catch a little air. It didn’t take much coaxing. The ZR2 package turns the regular Colorado into an off-road wonder. Credit the dampers (what your dad calls ‘shock absorbers’). They use spool-valve technology, found in the world’s fastest race cars, to adapt perfectly to any terrain.

“Cruising the freeway? The ZR2 rides like a sport sedan, with none of the queasy body roll you find in most jacked-up 4x4’s. But venture off-road and the Chevy

absolutely eats up rocks, ruts, and bumps. And if you happen to find yourself momentarily airborne? This thing lands smoother than any wheeled vehicle I’ve had the pleasure of flying in.”

Esquire listed the price of the 2017 Colorado ZR2 at \$40,995. Other winners included:

- Most Fun Car of the Year – the 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio, costing \$73,595.
- Convertible of the Year – the 2018 Audi R8 Spyder, costing \$178,350.
- Family Hauler of the Year – the 2018 Porsche Panamera Turbo Sport Turismo, costing \$155,000.

The prices of the various vehicles on the *Esquire* list was not lost on people at GM.

“To me, one of the things that makes Chevrolet special is that its makes great performance vehicles that are really attainable to drivers,” said Monte Doran, spokesman for the Chevrolet brand. “Look at the Camaro SS 1LE. It gives you super car track performance, but it’s affordable. The Bolt EV is a great car and

beat Tesla to the market. We like to call the ZR2 a segment of one. No other vehicle is like it.

“It’s equally good on the highway, rock crawling and desert running. When you look at *Esquire*’s list, you’ll notice that all the other vehicles named are high-end, very expensive vehicles. They are out of consideration to buy for most Americans.”

And that’s something Chevy can be proud of, Doran said.

“That is the beauty of the Colorado ZR2,” Doran said. It’s a great vehicle in its own right that is affordable and gives owners a sophisticated suspension as well as power and performance. Which is what people want from a truck. And it is readily available. Not bad.”



The 2017 Colorado ZR2’s performance impressed Esquire Magazine.

Officials Fight For New Great Lakes Locks

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) – Officials from Great Lakes states are making a renewed push to win approval of a long stalled proposal for adding a new lock to the Soo Locks complex, a critical chokepoint that connects Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes.

Only one of the two working locks there handles large iron ore boats. A Homeland Security study says an unplanned six-month closure of the Poe Lock due to an accident or terrorist attack would shut down much of the U.S. steel industry and that the economic shockwaves could cost 11 million jobs. That’s more than the Great Recession. A Treasury Department report projects a net economic benefit of up to \$1.7 billion from a new Soo Lock.

A look at some of the issues:

- The Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, carry all the shipping traffic between Lake Superior and the rest of the Great Lakes, including ships bound for the Atlantic Ocean – more than 10,000 one-way trips and about 80 million tons (73 million metric tons) of cargo annually.

The cargo is mostly iron ore and coal. The big vulnerability is that nearly all iron ore mined in the U.S. goes through the locks on the way to steel mills elsewhere, mostly on boats that must use the Poe Lock instead.

- The Threat. A 2015 Department of Homeland Security study called the Poe Lock “the Achilles heel of the North American industrial economy.”

It concluded that an unexpected six-month closure of the lock would be “catastrophic” because of the disruption to the supply chain that extends from the iron mines of Minnesota and Michigan, to the steel mills of the Great Lakes region, onward to manufacturers that depend on steel – especially the automakers. It projected a \$1.1 trillion loss in gross domestic product.

“Almost 11 million people in the United States and potentially millions more in Canada and Mexico would become unemployed due to the production stoppage, and the economy would enter a severe recession,” the report said. “There are no plans or solutions that could mitigate the damage to the manufacturing industries dependent on this supply chain.”

Ford Shows Support for Black Universities

Ford Motor Company’s commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) continues this year with the launch of the first HBCU Drive2Greatness program.

Ford will donate a total of \$300,000 to support STEAM initiatives at HBCU’s across the country, said HBCU spokesman Randy Jones.

From now through Oct. 27, students and alumni are encouraged to “Rep Your HBCU” by voting to help their favorite school win one of four prizes.

The HBCU Drive2Greatness program kicked off Labor Day weekend as Ford joined forces with radio personality Tom Joyner at the 15th annual Tom Joyner Family Reunion in Orlando, Fla., Jones said

In addition to events such as College Day and a STEAM panel discussion, attendees were encouraged to test drive the latest lineup of Ford vehicles for a

chance to have \$10,000 donated to their favorite HBCU in support of its STEAM initiatives. Local favorite Florida A&M University was named the winning school.

“For more than three decades, Ford has been committed to implementing and supporting initiatives that encourage and inspire young people to pursue and succeed in STEAM careers,” said Raj Register, manager, Ford multicultural communications.

“With the launch of our inaugural Drive2Greatness program, we’re excited to extend that commitment to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their STEAM programs.”

Drive2Greatness encourages HBCU’s nationwide to compete against each other by earning points through online voting, including via social media platforms using a Ford-dedicated hashtag for each school, Register said.

In addition to gaining bragging

rights for scoring the top spot, Jones said that the school with the most points will be named the grand prize winner.

The school will earn Ford’s Ultimate Homecoming Takeover award for 2018, while three additional HBCU’s will receive financial donations to support STEAM initiatives.

“As a preview of what these schools have a chance to win, next month we are surprising an HBCU campus with the Ultimate Homecoming Takeover to showcase the excitement and enthusiasm of what the experience will be like for the grand prize winner,” said Register.

To find a school’s hashtag and cast a vote, Jones said people should visit the Tom Joyner Morning Show Facebook page. Be sure to “Rep Your HBCU” and join the program’s online conversation by following #FordHBCU on Twitter as well as on Instagram.

Flying Might Be Best Way to Buy Used Vehicles

DETROIT (AP) – If you’re willing to fly, you can save when you buy.

Perhaps thousands of dollars on a used SUV, car or truck.

Used vehicle prices vary wildly between U.S. metro areas, sometimes over \$3,000. So with some careful research and a plane ticket, it might be worth the time it takes to travel.

“For the adventurous deal-seeker looking to save some money, it’s a viable option,” says Lisa Rosenberg, a data analyst with Cargurus.com, an online sales site. “The savings can be pretty extreme.”

Flying to buy is not for everyone. There’s a big risk in buying a car sight-unseen. Not everyone wants to trust a used car salesman who’s 1,000 miles away.

Rosenberg, who has analyzed used car variances between metro areas, says Miami generally has the lowest prices in the country, followed by Cleveland; Stamford, Connecticut; Tampa, Florida; New York City; Orlando, Florida; Sarasota, Florida; Pittsburgh and Toledo, Ohio. Miami’s prices run roughly 10 percent below the national average.

For instance, the average 2014 BMW 3-Series car would cost about \$22,000 in Fresno, California, which ranks second among the most expensive metro areas. The same car is \$18,995 in Miami, just over \$3,000 cheaper. A 2014 Dodge Charger goes for \$19,605 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the nation’s most expensive metro area, but it’s about \$3,000 less in Miami.

Miami is a huge market for leased vehicles, and they come back to dealers after two or three years. Often dealers will buy and resell them as used.

Beny Ledesma, general sales manager at Williamson Buick-Cadillac-GMC in Miami, says leasing accounts for three-quarters of his dealership’s sales, providing a steady stream of low-mileage used cars. He says the dealership is seeing more people searching the Internet, finding lower prices, and traveling south to buy.

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Delphi Developing New Way to Design Cars of the Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

smart phone maker, it makes sense when one considers what cars are becoming, De Vos said.

He pointed out that over the past three decades automotive technology has advanced incrementally. Technology at different times was put into place to help powertrains, cockpit, telematic safety infotainment, and so on, De Vos said.

As a result, today's vehicles have individual central processing systems for each of these improved functions. The systems take up space, create more weight and each have their own wiring systems. And additional systems have to be put into place to let each of these different processing units communicate with each other so that the vehicle can operate.

"I liken it to cell phones before the iPhone," De Vos said. "Each function of the phone had its own special button, hardware and software. Then the iPhone came out."

The iPhone has one operating system for hardware. People then can add apps to create functionality for checking email or taking pictures or making video recordings, or even making telephone calls.

So what if a car were designed to be like a smart phone, De Vos said. It would have one central operating system to control all the computerized functions that modern vehicles require. One set of wires, which saves money, space and weight.

And replacing and repairing the system is easier because right now it can be very difficult for technicians got gain access to computer processing units. Sometimes they have to take a car apart to replace a unit.

And software could easily be

upgraded or added for new functions. That's why Delphi has joined with BlackBerry and why Delphi has invested in companies like Renovo, a Silicon Valley company that was created by computer industry veterans.

Chris Heiser, CEO and co-founder of Renovo, was on hand at the Sept. 20 announcement and spoke with the media.

"Silicon Valley and Detroit getting together needs to happen more often," Heiser said. "What Delphi is attempting to do is exceedingly difficult. We all need to partner with other companies for their expertise to accomplish this goal of creating a new kind of automobile architecture."

De Vos defined automobile architecture as the way computer systems are set up to run the car. The company that has come closest to the new paradigm is

Tesla. He said that they had the advantage of starting with a "blank sheet of paper" when it came to developing the company's design process.

But even Telsa is having its problems, and still hasn't been able to make a car in a profitable manner, De Vos said.

Changing from one way to develop cars to another won't be easy, De Vos said. Traditional OEMs have decades of investment in the old way of doing things. It will take time to switch from one method to another. In the meantime, these OEMs will still have to make automobiles.

This shift in the way cars are engineered and designed will also have to involve auto suppliers. The entire supply chain system will be affected, De Vos said. That's a lot of people and a lot of companies.

Meiser said that auto manufacturers are facing the same problem mobile telephone handset makers faced a decade ago. When the first smart phones came out, companies that weren't able to adapt fast enough stopped being players in the cell phone market. The same could happen with car companies.

Lee Bauer, vice president of Vehicle Architecture for Delphi, said that technology being added to cars has been an incremental process. What De Vos spoke to the media about is something different.

"There will be a level of strain developing this new system," Bauer said. "This is not something that will be easy. That's why it is giving OEMs pause. It's hard to add technology incrementally. This is a big leap and this is not an incremental move."

Troy Company Tries New Way At Frankfurt

Troy-based HBPO of North America, a supplier of modular front-end systems, showcased front-end modules focused on innovation and cost savings at the Frankfurt Motor Show, which was held earlier in September.

The company took a different approach for the 2017 Frankfurt show, said HBPO spokesman Calvin Jennings. Gone are full front-end modules completely dressed with headlamps, bumper covers and other finished design elements. This year's display features stripped-down "technical" modules.

"Our exhibit is designed to demonstrate through product features how innovation and research can benefit our customers in areas such as lightweighting, component integration, aerodynamics and CO2 reduction," said Martin Brüne, director of Business Development for HBPO GmbH. "Our approach to front-end module development strives to help our customers reduce vehicle weight, while significantly reducing part count, complexity and costs."

Brüne said that despite the automotive industry's more than 100-year history, technology innovation from companies such as HBPO still can produce significant improvements. In the area of aerodynamics and CO2 reduction, for example, HBPO is showing three different active grille shutters to demonstrate how tailor-made solutions can improve a vehicle's drag coefficient with a significant reduction in CO2 emissions.

Parts consolidation through function integration also can reduce module complexity, which improves overall quality, Jennings said.

Adient Gets Good Score in Quality in Survey

Adient of Plymouth, a global provider of automotive seating, was recognized earlier this month for providing the highest quality seats in two vehicle segments, Mass Market Midsize / Large Car and Luxury SUV, in the J.D. Power 2017 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study.

This is the fifth year in a row that Adient, formerly Johnson Controls' automotive division, has been recognized in the study's various segments, said Adient spokeswoman Mary Kay Doderio, and the 14th year the company and its joint ventures, which include Avanzar Interior Technology, Ltd. and Detroit-based Bridgewater Interiors, have been recognized.

"Being recognized by J.D. Power validates the efforts by our team to manufacture high-quality seat systems that offer safety,

functionality and comfort," said Jim Pastor, vice president of quality at Adient. "It reinforces our commitment to providing our customers world-class products that exceed industry requirements."

Adient ranked highest in the Mass Market Midsize / Large Car segment, with its seats supplied to the Kia Cadenza, Doderio said. The seats are manufactured at the company's Asan, South Korea plant.

Adient also ranked highest in the Luxury SUV segment for the seats it provides for the Porsche Cayenne, which are manufactured at the company's Lozorno, Slovakia plant.

In addition, Doderio said Adient's joint venture, Avanzar Interior Technologies, ranked highest in the Mass Market Truck / Van segment for seats supplied

to the Toyota Tundra, which are manufactured in San Antonio, Texas.

The J.D. Power 2017 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study provides automotive manufacturers and suppliers with quality and satisfaction information related to light passenger-vehicle seating systems.

The study asks new-vehicle owners to rate the quality of their vehicle's seats and seat belts on whether they have experienced defects / malfunctions or design problems during the first 90 days of ownership.

The 2017 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study is based on responses from more than 77,000 purchasers and lessees of new 2017 model-year cars and light trucks registered in November-December 2016 and January-February 2017.

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CHEVROLET

Ford Fund Honors Black Women in D.C.

Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm for Ford Motor Company, continued its support of the accomplishments of women at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 47th Annual Legislative Conference through its sponsorship of the Sojourner Truth Women's Leadership Reception, Ford spokeswoman Xina Eiland.

The reception was held on Sept. 21, and featured an exclusive performance by Grammy-nominated singer Ledisi. The gathering takes place at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, in Washington, D.C.

The reception supported the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project, an initiative of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to support and develop leadership skills for African American women, Eiland said. It honors the legacy of strength, service and perseverance of abolitionist Sojourner Truth, who continues to inspire generations of women.

"Ford Fund and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference are thrilled to share in the celebration of three leaders who have paved the way for young women to reach their dreams," said Pamela Alexander, director, community development, Ford Motor Company Fund. "We are pleased to continue our partnership with the women of the Congressional Black Caucus to celebrate the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project at the Women's Leadership Reception."

Featuring numerous influential advocates of change, the reception also celebrated trailblazers who continue to be outspoken champions for women, people of color and underserved commu-

nities. Ford Fund and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference presented Dr. Mae Jemison and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman with the Woman of Truth award.

The award is given to women excelling in leadership and commitment to the spirit of Sojourner Truth, Eiland said. Jemison is being honored for her contributions to science, technology, engineering and math initiatives, as well as the 25th anniversary of her historic flight into space. Herman is being recognized as a "hidden figure," women around the globe who have made contributions to government as a civil servant.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Democrat of California and ranking member of the financial services committee, was presented with the Woman of the Year award by her Congressional Black Caucus Foundation colleagues, Eiland said.

Each year, the foundation's Annual Legislative Conference features events to provide African American members of Congress an opportunity to discuss their work on legislative issues and to engage attendees on policies critical to their communities.

Ford Motor Company's support of the African American community dates back to the early 20th century when Ford was the largest employer of African Americans in the auto industry. Ford is building on its longtime support with signature initiatives that include supporting the African American community with a \$1 million gift to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.



This GM facility in Kokomo, Ind., will be among the company's wind-powered sites in Ohio and Indiana.

GM Betting Big on Wind Power in Midwest

Sometimes the answer is blowing in the wind.

All of GM's Ohio and Indiana manufacturing facilities – including those that build the Chevrolet Cruze and Silverado and GMC Sierra light-duty pickup trucks – will meet their electricity needs through 100 percent renewable energy, said GM spokeswoman Colleen Oberc.

GM is buying a total of 200 megawatts of wind energy from Ohio and Illinois wind farms. Once the turbines come online by the end of 2018, renewable energy will power 20 percent of GM's global electricity use, Oberc said.

"Congratulations to GM on this huge progress leap – a fantastic show of commitment at Climate Week NYC, and all achieved in

just a year since the company joined RE100," said Helen Clarkson, CEO, The Climate Group. "GM vocally champions the compelling business case for renewables and shares learnings with other companies. It shows other companies what's possible."

The new wind deals are enough to meet the electricity needs of Fort Wayne Assembly, Marion Metal Center and Bedford Casting plants in Indiana and Lordstown Assembly, Defiance Casting Operations, Parma Metal Center and Toledo Transmission plants in Ohio.

"Technology is driving solutions for mobility and safety in our vehicles, as well as the new energy solutions that build them," said Gerald Johnson, GM-NA vice president of Manufacturing and Labor. "This is the way we do business: offering vehicles that serve our customers' lifestyle needs while providing sustainable solutions that improve our communities."

GM is leveraging energy efficiency and a mix of onsite and offsite renewable energy solutions to reach its 100 percent renewable energy goal, Johnson said. The company's four-part strategy acknowledges how its energy and product strategies intersect.

As GM works toward advancing zero emissions vehicles, Johnson said it makes business sense to create a cleaner grid on which to drive them.

The company uses EV batteries in tandem with a solar array

to power an office building at its Milford Proving Ground in Michigan and is researching the use of fuel cells as energy storage in the future.

"We're helping provide solutions to green the grid through these new renewable energy deals and sharing best practices with other companies so they too can reduce risk and energy costs," said Rob Threlkeld, GM global manager of renewable energy. "With a pragmatic strategy, companies can turn ambitious renewable energy goals into action and scale quickly."

Altenex, an Edison Energy Company and independent renewable energy advisor, supported GM in the negotiation of the power purchase contracts, Oberc said. GM will be the sole user of the Northwest Ohio Wind farm, a 100 MW project owned by Starwood Energy Group. Swift Current Energy will provide 100 MW from its HillTopper Wind Project in Logan County, Illinois.

GM has used renewable energy for decades, saving about \$5 million annually as a result, Oberc said. Renewable energy use supports a resilient grid while offering more stable energy pricing.

GM made its first wind purchase in 2014 for several of its Mexico operations, followed by deals supporting Texas wind farms for 30 and 50 megawatts of energy, Oberc said. The company uses solar power at 26 facilities and generates electricity from landfill gas at two assembly plants.

Ford Exec Helping March of Dimes

Ron Ketelhut of Ford Motor Co. has joined the March of Dimes, Southeast Michigan Market Board of Directors.

Ketelhut is chief engineer, charged with leading Advanced Manufacturing Engineering at Ford Motor Company with focus on pulling together all current company strengths into comprehensive future strategy to deliver "Best in World" manufacturing results, said March of Dimes spokeswoman Tracie Grant, in a statement to the media.

Previously he was serving as Body Construction Chief Engineer working on the transformation and launch of the all new aluminum F-Series.

Grant said Ketelhut has been significantly involved with the March of Dimes through the UAW/Ford partnership for many years.

Through this partnership he has been leading the engagement of the UAW/Ford on a national level, encouraging others to get involved and support the organization.

"Ron is a business executive who we are thrilled to have bring

his previous experience and his passion for the March of Dimes to our board," said Darin Gesse, Customer Segment Leader for Chevrolet Cars and EVs at General Motors and chair of the March of Dimes Southeast Michigan board.

"His deep understanding of business combined with his passion for the March of Dimes is sure to lead to new opportunities for the organization to improve the health of mothers and babies."

When asked why he chose to partner with the March of Dimes Ketelhut said he believed in what the organization has been doing during its history.

"I have been personally impacted by the mission of the March of Dimes through family members whom did not survive through pre-mature birth and several other friends/family that were born prematurely and living happy healthy lives thanks to the work of the March of Dimes," Ketelhut said. "I believe it is important to give back and where better to start than with healthy mothers and babies."

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Was \$23,475 Sale Price: **\$16,299***
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\$139*

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