Detroit Auto Scene®

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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OCTOBER 16, 2017

GM Aims to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness

Think pink. That's the message the fight against breast cancer, as tribute \$5 (up to \$400,000) for Chevrolet is getting out this Oc-

For the seventh consecutive year, Chevrolet and General Motors employees, dealers and customers are joining in the fight against breast cancer by supporting the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

Chevrolet and participating dealers across the United States also support the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer program through event sponsorships, team participation, customer engagement and other activities, Farah said.

The money raised helps fund the American Cancer Society's efforts in breast cancer research, education for health care professionals, screening guidelines and promotion for early detection. Since 2011. Chevrolet has helped the American Cancer Society raise more than \$7.7 million.

Also in recognition of breast cancer awareness, the towers of GM's Renaissance Center global headquarters in Detroit will glow with bands of pink during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, said Paul Edwards, U.S. vice president, Chevrolet Marketing.

"The Chevrolet team knows how important it is to be part of

many of our own family and friends have been affected by the disease," said Edwards. "We are proud to partner with the American Cancer Society and our dealers once again to raise awareness and funds for research toward a cure."

Chevrolet will participate in national, regional and local events and activities all month.

• Chevrolet will support the partnership through a social media engagement program in October that encourages people to share that they drive for Chevrolet in the Twitter account, "#IDriveFor." Chevrolet will conevery social post on Twitter or Instagram using #IDriveFor.

• Chevrolet will donate \$350 (up to \$50,000) for each caution lap taken by this year's Team Chevy-commissioned Chevrolet SS Pace Car. The donations will be offered at two NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Races at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 15 and Martinsville Speedway on Oct. 29.

The American Cancer Society and Chevrolet will also host breast cancer survivor events where survivors and caregivers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



This pink Camaro is on display at GM HQ for breast cancer awareness.



Chrysler's Keera Riddick was honored for her work at a STEM event.

'Women of Color STEM' Conference Honors FCA

STEM Conference honored 17 Fiat Chrysler employees at the recent meeting held in Detroit Oct. 5-7.

The Women of Color Conference honored the significant achievements of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professions, said Kelly Tolbert, head of Diversity for FCA US.

The conference ensures that the accomplishments of outstanding women in technical fields are highly visible to indus-

The recent Women of Color try professionals, government officials and students.

"The Women of Color Awards celebrate some of the country's most promising and influential female business and community leaders," said Tolbert. "FCA US is proud that our women leaders are consistently recognized among such accomplished honorees.

FCA 2017 Women of Color Award Recipients - Chairman's Award: Recognizes an elected or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Del Zio, left, and Gesek use tape to modify the grille of the 2018 Mustang.

New Manufacturing Innovation Center Opens in Detroit to Improve Research

Efforts to boost manufacturing in Michigan moved forward with the opening of a new manufacturing innovation facility in Detroit.

Two Manufacturing USA institutes - The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) (Knoxville, Tenn.), and LIFT-Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (Detroit) - celebrated Manufacturing Day Oct. 6 by cutting the ribbon on and hosting an open house at the new IAC-MI/LIFT manufacturing innovation facility in Detroit's Corktown, said event spokesman Tom Wegehaupt.

160 Detroit-area K-12 students participating in hands-on STEM activities, and comments from Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence, Michigan State University President Lou Anna K. Simon, and many other leadership stakeholders for both institutes.

The center houses the LIFT headquarters and the IACMI Vehicles Scale-Up Facility, the research and development hub for the IACMI Vehicles Technology

The event included more than Area. This event capped a near-\$50 million investment in worldclass manufacturing equipment and improvements to the Corktown facility, recognizing the future of innovative research in both composites and metals.

The institute's co-location was announced in 2015 and, one year later, Wegehaupt said, the two institutes celebrated their combined investment in the innovation center, which began the acquisition and installation of equipment in the joint facility.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Two Ford Engineers Used **Duct Tape for Research**

As fans of the TV show, "Myth- around corners to his satisfacbusters" know, duct tape can do just about anything.

In fact, most do-it-yourselfers can attest to it, too.

Ford put that idea to the test when engineers used duct tape to help test the aerodynamics of the Mustang.

In the data-driven, computermonitored world of vehicle testing, sometimes there is no replacing the human touch, said Ford spokesman Dan Jones.

Ford engineers Jonathan Gesek and Mike Del Zio are proof that both the objective and subjective remain integral parts of car development.

After driving a high-speed lap at the test track in a prototype Mustang, Del Zio, a vehicle dynamics engineer (the objective one, Jones said) reported that despite wind tunnel numbers that would indicate otherwise, car wasn't responding

Gesek, an aerodynamics engineer (the subjective one, said Jones) had a quick solution.

Gesek applied a simple strip of duct tape over the lower gap of the grille.

The goal was to reduce what is known as front-end lift. Del Zio retested the car, paying attention to the vehicle's response when cornering at high speed.

The result: a better-handling car and a modified grille.

"That little strip of tape made all the difference," Del Zio said. "The key to the subjective is con-

"At the end of a straightaway, what confidence do you have in being able to brake and make a turn? Things start to come up fast at 155 miles an hour.'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Metro Detroit high school students were shown the new manufacturing innovation center in Detroit.

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Ford Engineers Use Duct Tape For Research

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In recent years, Jones said Gesek and Del Zio devoted hundreds of hours to improving the aerodynamic performance of the new 2018 Mustang.

The aerodynamic changes helped maintain or improve upon EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings over current models by up to 5.6 percent.

Front-end styling changes include a lowered nose, a larger front splitter that adds downforce and helps keep the front end planted to the ground, and a rocker shield that allows air to flow better underneath the car.

Active grille shutters are across the lineup standard non-Performance on Packequipped vehicles, reducing drag at higher speeds by completely closing off the grille, sending air over and around the car instead of the engine compartment. The changes improve dynamics by reducing aerodrag (by up to 3 percent on the EcoBoost model) and improve performance by helping Mustang keep a better grip on the road.

The changes also improved fuel economy, especially on the highway, by two mpg on the EcoBoost model. And it all began with a strip of duct tape.

Pacifica Ad Campaign Bears Down in California Market

California is the most populous state in the union, making it an important market for automakers.

The Chrysler brand is launching a multimedia marketing campaign in the state of California for the Chrysler Pacifica Plug-in Hybrid – the only hybrid minivan available on the market, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Diane Morgan.

In the campaign, which uniquely speaks to the California market's lifestyle and culture, Morgan said the state symbols of the grizzly bear, valley quail, desert tortoise and (serpentine) rock act as lobbyists to recommend the Chrysler Pacifica Plug-in Hybrid minivan as the "Official Family Vehicle for California."

The 360-degree marketing campaign now launching across California includes broadcast, print, radio, digital, social and out-of-home, including bill-boards (Los Angeles and San Francisco).

"Forty percent of all hybrids are sold in the state of California – it's also the biggest minivan market in the country – so it makes perfect sense that we say the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is the 'Official Family Vehicle for California,'" said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA – North America.

"With 84 miles MPGe in electric-only mode, 33 miles of allelectric range and seating for seven, the Chrysler Pacifica Plugin Hybrid minivan is hands-down the most fuel-efficient family vehicle.

"Aligning the minivan with other easily identifiable California state symbols in a fun, engaging way is rooted in the vehicle's fuel efficiency, functionality, technology and its recognition as the most awarded minivan of 2016 and 2017."

The Chrysler Pacifica Plug-in Hybrid minivan is the only electric hybrid minivan and number one in J.D. Power 2017 U.S. Initial Quality Study, said Kuniskis.

The Chrysler Pacifica Plug-in Hybrid minivan qualifies for up to a \$7,500 federal tax credit, in addition to state



Chrysler brand launched a California-specific marketing campaign to promote the Pacifica Hybrid minivan.

(and local) and employer incentives

The Chrysler brand also recently announced a first-of-its-kind family rideshare partnership with California-based Kango, Morgan said.

Chrysler Pacifica Plug-in Press
Hybrid minivans will outfit recent
Kango drivers with branded vehicles featuring state-of-the-art
plug-in safety and technology features. Revolu

The Northwest Automotive

Press Association (NWAPA) recently named the 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid the Northwest Family Green Vehicle of the Year at its annual Drive Revolution green car competition

Macomb Offering Mental Health for Kids

Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH) has received acceptance from the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to participate in their Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Learning Collaborative, said county spokesman Kevin Sadai.

CPP is an intervention model for children ages 0-5 who have experienced at least one traumatic event (e.g., maltreatment, the sudden or traumatic death of someone close, a serious accident, sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence) and/or are experiencing mental health, attachment and/or behavioral problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Following the completion of some internal pre-training, MC-CMH mental health clinicians will receive training, coaching and consultation support that will allow them to provide trauma-specific assessment and treatment.

The type of trauma experienced and the child's age or development stage determines the structure of CPP sessions. For example, with infants, the child is present but treatment focuses on helping the parent to understand how the child's and parent's experience may affect the child's functioning and development.

Toddlers and preschoolers are more active participants in treatment, which usually includes play as a vehicle for facilitating communication between the child and parent.

The caregiver and child are guided over the course of treatment to create a joint narrative of the traumatic event and to identify and address traumatic triggers that cause mood swings or other similar behaviors, Sadaj

"With the addition of CPP to our other services, such as our parent-child interaction therapy, we will be able to provide evidence-based practices or services to children through the age of six," said John Kinch, executive director of MCCMH.

Macomb County Community M ental Health is the public manager and provider of mental health, substance use and developmental disability treatment services in Macomb County.

MCCMH programs and services are supported and funded, in part, by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and are administered by the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board.

Visit www.mccmh.net or Face-book for more information.

Google Growth Benefiting City of Detroit

DETROIT (AP) – Google says it's expanding in Michigan with a move from the Detroit suburbs into the city's reviving downtown.

The company said Oct. 10 that it will soon move to Detroit's tech-aspiring downtown area and double its space from the 17,000 square feet that Google currently occupies in Birmingham.

Google spokesman Patrick Lenihan says the company plans to expand the office's 100-employee workforce, but he wouldn't say by how much. An exact site and move date hasn't been set.

The office focuses on automotive advertising. It opened about a decade ago. Google also recently unveiled a larger campus in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan.

The company says the Michigan moves represent a push beyond Silicon Valley. Offices have recently opened or are opening in Chicago; Miami; Austin, Texas; and Boulder, Colo.



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GM Goes Pink in Fight Against Breast Cancer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will have once-in-a-lifetime experiences on the tracks.

· Employees across the country are participating in local Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks by gathering coworkers, family and friends to show their support.

A large number of employees will participate in the Detroit walk at Hart Plaza on Saturday,

Hundreds of dealerships are sponsoring teams in community throughout October. Those wanting to participate in a walk in their community can visit www.makingstrideswalk.org.

We are delighted that Chevrolet is once again supporting the American Cancer Society during Awareness Cancer Month," said Sharon Byers, chief development and marketing officer for the American Cancer So-

"By encouraging their customers and communities to become involved, they are helping raise awareness and funds to end breast cancer through our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks and social media.

We are very grateful for corporate sponsors such as Chevrolet who continue to increase breast cancer awareness and help us attack cancer from every

New Equinox Interior Material a Fashionable Stain Fighter

stains happen on one's car seat, people turn to social media to share experiences and track the latest trends in fashion and de-

So does Chevrolet, said GM spokeswoman Katie Amann.

When working on the 2018 Equinox's interior, the design team crafted a comfortable, fashion-forward interior with features and materials developed for easier everyday use, Amann said.

During the process, they followed real people on Instagram and other social media channels, along with designers and lifestyle influencers, monitoring color and fabric trends as well as common consumer problems such as dark-wash denim staining other fabrics it touches - including new-vehicle seats.

"Many fashion trends disappear after a year of two, while the Equinox is designed for the long haul, making the durability of its materials very important," said Mara Kapsis, color and trim designer for the 2018 Equinox.

"By following real people and absorbing the little things in life that help or hinder them - such as photos posted of muddy paws, spilled drinks or stains on the seats - we learned more about how we could make the new Equinox easier to live with and enjoy every day.'

The 2018 Equinox interior offers a durable denim-like seat fabric that is easy to clean, or available leather seating surfaces

Stains happen, and when with a new treatment that resists staining and scuffing, Kapsis

> The denim-like material's appearance and color were inspired by contemporary trends in black denim clothing, while the material offers exceptional wear resistance and easy clean-

> up.
> "The fabric is very durable, while the color and even the pattern help hide dirt and stains," said Kapsis. "It's also very easy to vacuum and clean, which saves owners time and helps keep the interior looking great year after year."

> As for the available leathertrimmed seats, the newly developed surface treatment makes it easier to clean any "bleeding" of other materials such as new jeans and annoying scuffs from black leather belts or boots.

> "The Equinox is designed for the way our customers live," said Kapsis. "Complementing its style with durable, easy-to-clean materials helps ensure it and its owners make a fashion statement every day."

> Fashion forecasting was also part of the process, as the design team needed to anticipate color trends about three years ahead of the Equinox's launch, which is typical for vehicle design.

> 'More than anticipating where design will be when the vehicle is introduced, you've got to balance it with a timeless quality that will keep it looking modern for years to come," said Kapsis.



The 2018 Equinox's interior has materials developed for everyday use.

"There's risk involved with that, but it paid off with the new Equinox.'

The new 2018 Equinox is a fresh and modern compact SUV that features an expressive design, increased cargo space, the latest connectivity, an expanded roster of available safety features and an all-new range of turbocharged engines - including the segment's first turbo-diesel.

Purposeful technologies are designed to help keep passengers safe, comfortable and connected, Amann said, Teen Driver is offered, along with several safety features.

Part of I-696 to Close for Repairs

say a \$90 million construction project will shut down a busy stretch of Interstate 696 in the Detroit area for part of 2018.

The Michigan Department of Transportation says the work will close the westbound lanes between Interstate 94 and Interstate 75. The state agency says concrete must be replaced on

WARREN, Mich. (AP) - Officials the stretch of freeway in Macomb County and some bridges will be fixed.

Work is expected to start in the spring and be completed by late 2018. The eastbound lanes of the freeway are expected to remain open during construction.

MDOT says I-696 carries about 150,000 vehicles a day through Macomb County.





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Chrysler Women of Color Honored at STEM Event

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appointed leader who makes innovative financial or diversity decisions and recommendations to corporate or community leadership:

• Keera Riddick – Electrical Engineering Components.

Technology All-Stars Award: Recognizes accomplished professionals who have demon-strated excellence in the workplace and in their communities:

- Sohaila Feizy-Marandy Interior Electromechanical Design;
- Mary Camilla Raju Penta-SAP Procurement.

Technology Rising Stars Award: Recognizes young professionals who are helping to shape technology for the future:

- Paulina Almada Powertrain Automatic Transmissions;
- Pallavi Annabattula Computational Fluid Dynamics;
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- Lora Faraon Electrical Engineering;
- Hong Geng Powertrain Virtual Engineering Programs;
- Aisha Johnson –
 Human Machine Interface &
- Erika Keeling Pressroom, Sterling Stamping Plant;

Ergonomics;

- Divya Myneni Active Noise Cancellation:
- Dr. Neeharika Anantharaju Vehicle Safety/Crash Engineering;
- Nikkita Soni Digital Marketing;
- Sangeeta Theru Power train HIL & Validation Tools.

Over the years, Tolbert said FCA US employees consistently have earned important technical professional recognition from various diversity organizations, including Black Engineer of the Year, Women of Color, HENAAC Great Minds in STEM and others, reflecting the company's strong commitment to developing its diverse workforce.

Additionally, the company actively supports initiatives that aim to increase the number of college-bound minority students in the STEM pipeline.

For instance, Tolbert said FCA US partnered with Florida International University (FIU) to sponsor a STEM education initiative called, "Engineers on Wheels."

The program features mobile classrooms, bringing hands-on engineering and science experiments and experiences to South Florida K-12 schools.

FIU annually graduates the largest number of Hispanic engineers in the U.S., and is one of the country's top institutions for graduating African-American engineers.



Alley, Banks, Rivera Burrows and Ward with their award check from NBMBAA.

FCA Helps MBA Students Gain Experience

Talent can always use a little help. MBA candidates from 41 of the nation's leading business schools competed for \$50,000 in scholarships in the 2017 National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA) Graduate Student Case Competition, sponsored by Fiat Chrysler, said Kelly Tolbert, Head of Diversity, FCA.

The competition is held each year as part of the NBMBAA's Annual Conference and Exposition, which was held this year in Philadelphia Sept. 26-30.

This year, the students from the University of Alabama took home the first place trophy as national champions and \$25,000 in scholarships, said Tolbert.

The winning team members were Liz Alley, Jessika Banks, Bryonna Rivera Burrows and Myles Ward, all current MBA students at the university. The second- and third-place teams represented Georgetown University and Boston University, earning \$15,000 and \$10,000 in scholarships, respectively. Winning teams were announced at the NBMBAA's Impact Awards Gala Sept. 29.

The teams were very diverse, Tolbert said. The NBMBAA/FCA US National Graduate Student Case Competition is an annual event that gives high-powered student teams an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and problem-solving skills in a formal competition. Teams are given a business case from which they develop business solutions. Each student team then prepares and presents its case to a panel of business executives. Teams are judged on their analysis of the case, the feasibility of their recommendations and the quality of their presentations.

FCA has been an active supporter of NBMBAA for more than

30 years and the exclusive sponsor of the Graduate Student Case Competition since 1995, Tolbert said. During that time, more than 2,300 MBA students have participated in the competition.

"FCA US is proud to continue its support of the National Black MBA Association Graduate Student Case Competition," said Tolbert. "The competition is a showcase event for student achievement that enables our company to demonstrate its commitment to identifying, recruiting and developing diverse talent and future business leaders."

The 2017 business case required teams to reintroduce a global automotive brand to the U.S. market, Tolbert said. Teams were judged on their work creating a strategic vision and operating plan for their dealership, incorporating concepts from marketing, supply chain, finance, operations and customer experience. Next year's NBMBAA conference dinner will be held in Detroit, Tolbert said.

Wayne, Oakland Sue Over Opioids

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson entered into a joint lawsuit on Oct. 12 against multiple drug manufacturers and distributors alleging the deceptive marketing and sale of opioids – a dangerous, highly addictive and often lethal class of painkillers, including OxyContin and Fentanyl.

The lawsuit, the first such suit filed in Michigan, comes as opioid-related deaths continue to climb and opioid-related addiction devastates communities across the country, said Oakland County spokesman Bill Mullan.

"This is a full-blown health crisis from which the drug companies made billions," Executive Evans said. "People are dying and lives are being ruined by addiction as this horrible tragedy unfolds. We see the devastation every day in our hospitals, in our

jails and at the morgue, and it's getting worse. There has to be a price when corporations show such disregard for human life."

The lawsuit alleges that one of the main drivers of the nation-wide opioid epidemic is drug manufacturers' deceptive marketing and sale of opioids to treat chronic pain, including their concerted, coordinated strategy to shift the way in which doctors and patients think about pain and to encourage the wide-spread prescribing of opioids.

The defendants in the case are Purdue Pharma, L.P., Cephalon, Inc., Endo International, PLC, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd., Teva Pharmaceuticals, USA, Inc., Insys Therapeutics, Inc., AmerisourceBergen Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., McKesson Corporation, Mallinckrodt and Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals.





Pacifica Adding New Attitude To Minivan

The Chrysler Pacifica is now available with a new attitude, courtesy of the S Appearance Package, said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Car Brands – Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and Fiat, FCA - North America.

With the S Appearance Package, the 2018 Pacifica gets a sporty look featuring black accents inside and out.

Already the most awarded minivan of both 2016 and 2017, the Chrysler Pacifica's available new look, Kuniskis said, is designed to attract even more attention.

"The Chrysler Pacifica definitely stands out in the school drop-off line, and its class-leading style has won over many new customers," said Kuniskis.

'The Pacifica's S Appearance Package takes that style to the next level and offers our customers yet another unique personality that further differentiates Pacifica from the rest of the segment."

The Pacifica's S Appearance Package features Gloss Black accents throughout the exterior, including grille surrounds, eyebrow accents on headlamps, daylight opening molding and rear valance molding. Eighteeninch wheels with a Black Noise finish are standard, while 20-inch Black Noise wheels are available. The Chrysler wing badges on the front and rear are Black Noise with a Gloss Black insert, while the "Pacifica" and "S" badges in the rear are also in Black Noise. A black roof rack is optional on the Touring Plus and standard on other trim levels equipped with the S Appearance Package.

Inside, the S Appearance Package includes black seats with Light Diesel Gray accents and the "S" logo.

All other interior elements are fully black, including the front overhead console, headliner, visors, second- and third-row cargo lighting bezel, A-pillar trim and center console.

The Chrysler Pacifica S Appearance Package is available for \$595 U.S. Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) and can be added to any Touring Plus, Touring L, Touring L Plus or Limited models.

The 20-inch Black Noise wheels can be added to any model equipped with the S Appearance Package for an additional \$995 MSRP.

The S Appearance Package will be available to order this week and in dealer showrooms this fall.

Ford and UAW **Promoting** Mammograms

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP) _ An annual free mammogram screening program for uninsured and underinsured Detroit-area women has been extended to two weeks.

The UAW-Ford says screenings will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 16-28 at Northland Radiology in Southfield in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Screenings are confidential and will be offered by appointment only. Northland Radiology will provide complimentary transportation shuttle women who have arranged appointments.

UAW-Ford is a collaboration between United Auto Workers members and Dearborn-based Ford Motor Co.

UAW-Ford Vice President Jimmy Settles says, "UAW-Ford is proud to do its part in offering this vital resource to women whom otherwise would be unable to afford the service.

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Metro Detroit students got a look at a new manufacturing innovation center in Detroit's Corktown area.

Poor Steel Hurts Japanese Manufacturers

TOKYO (AP) - The Japanese mine its possible impact on prodgovernment urged steelmaker Kobe Steel on Oct. 11 to clarify the extent of manipulation of inspection data on steel, aluminum as "inappropriate.' and other metals used in a wide range of products, reportedly including rockets, aircraft and cars, in the latest quality scandal to rock Japanese manufactur-

Kobe Steel, Japan's thirdlargest steel maker, has announced that between Sept. 1, 2016, and Aug. 31 of this year it sold aluminum and copper matethings as the products' strength.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kotaro Nogami told reporters the government was seeking more information about the problem and trying to deteruct safety.

He criticized the apparently widespread falsification of data

About 200 of Kobe Steel's customers, including some makers of defense equipment, were affected, Nogami said. He would not identify the companies by name but several automakers lasr week said they have been made aware of the problem and are investigating.

'We have confirmed that aluminum from Kobe Steel is used in rials using falsified data on such the hoods and doors of some of our vehicles," Nissan said in an email.

> "As hoods are related to pedestrian safety, we are working to quickly assess any potential impact on vehicle functionality."

Toyota also confirmed that the material has been used in hoods and rear doors of some of its vehicles

"Putting the utmost priority on the safety of our customers, we are rapidly working to identify which vehicle models might be subject to this situation and what components were used, as well as what effect there might be on individual vehicles," Toyota said in a statement. "At the same time, we are considering what measures need to be put in place going forward."

Product quality scandals have surfaced in Japan with increasing frequency in recent years. Takata Corp. has paid \$1 billion in penalties for concealing an air bag defect blamed for at least 19 deaths worldwide.

Corktown Neighborhood Gets Innovation Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IACMI's and LIFT's investments have allowed institute members, partners, and others in the industry to conduct research and development projects in both lightweight metals and advanced composites.

It also continues to provide education spaces for students and adult learners focused on developing careers in composites and lightweight materials.

"I appreciate the incredible investment that these two worldclass research and development institutions are making in our state and the city of Detroit," Gov. Rick Snyder said.

"With Michigan's talented workforce and reinvented business climate. I am confident that this partnership between IACMI, LIFT and our state will be an extremely prosperous one."

Manufacturing Day is a national celebration of modern manufacturing, encouraging the next generation of STEM workers to recognize the innovative possibilities of the future of manufacturing in the U.S.

Last year's Manufacturing Day reached more than 267,607 students, and had more than 595,000 participants.

This year's national event continues to grow, and the IACMI/LIFT ribbon-cutting engaged a large audience of K-12 students, Michigan government and state university stakeholders, Michigan State University engineering students, and industry professionals from across multiple states.

The Detroit-area students participating in the event engaged in hands-on STEM events such as building hovercrafts out of com-

pact discs, and creating an automobile out of different materials and testing the characteristics

through virtual reality. They also had toured the facility and spoke with engineers and MSU engineering students about

career options.

The students gathered with more than 200 industry, government, and university attendees to learn more about the impact manufacturing has on the Detroit community, the State of Michigan and the country from the leaders on hand for the event.

"Being headquartered in Detroit, it is critical for our institute to open our doors to Detroit-area students to learn about LIFT and to understand the opportunities for engineering careers and innovative research that will affect the future of the auto industry and is being done right here in our community," said LIFT Executive Director Lawrence E. Brown.

"We appreciate the support from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, our founders at the University of Michigan, The Ohio State University and EWI, as well as our LIFT members who have engaged in this facility and continue to support the future innovations that will be made here."

Materials research and workforce development play key roles in the future of the automobile industry, he said.

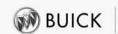
"This event gives us the opportunity to showcase the opportunities in manufacturing innovation for the auto industry through composites research and development," said IACMI CEO John A. Hopkins.

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TARDEC Teams Up With University to Test Vehicle Tech

the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, or TARDEC, to conduct a live demonstration of autonomous vehicle technology traveling across the border between the U.S. and Canada.

The capabilities of truck platoons were showcased traveling down I-69, going east across the Blue Water Bridge connecting Port Huron with Ontario before returning to the U.S., said Bernie Theisen, project manager for TARDEC's leader-follower pro-

The demonstration was conducted in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Truck platooning links two or more trucks using vehicle-tovehicle wireless communications technology and sensors that allow them to maintain a set, close distance between each other automatically.

Truck platooning generates tremendous returns in terms of increased fuel efficiencies, decreased traffic congestion and improved safety for both commercial and military applica-

"Auburn University TARDEC researchers are advancing this technology to the point where it is ready for commercial and military uses," said David Bevly, director of Auburn University's GPS and Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory and professor of mechanical engineering.

Today's live demonstration under real-world traffic conditions highlights just how far this paradigm changing technology has come."

Auburn's two Peterbilt 579 trucks led the mixed convoy of commercial and military trucks using autonomous platooning

Auburn University has joined software that Bevly's research group developed.

The autonomy software utilizes GPS and other on-board vehicle data shared over Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) radios in conjunction with radar measurements to allow the convoy to maintain a set distance between each truck.

"We are proud to contribute key technology and expertise to this groundbreaking demonstration as part of our longstanding partnership with TARDEC," said Chris Roberts, dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering at Auburn University. "The important work Dr. Bevly and his autonomous vehicle research development team are engaged in with TARDEC will go a long way toward bringing this exciting, lifesaving technology to commercial and military application."

The Army's vehicles in the convoy, two M915 "line haul" tractors carrying flatbed trailers loaded with cargo containers, are each equipped with TARDEC's Autonomous Mobility Appliqué System technology.

This new technology enables a full range of capabilities, from driver-warning features like in today's commercial automobiles to fully-autonomous operation, which can move the vehicle along a path using pre-programmed waypoints.

"Driverless capabilities can do so much for our soldiers and their missions," said Bernie Theisen, project manager for TARDEC's leader-follower program.

"We can move soldiers out of the convoy trucks and into missions where they're uniquely suited, and this technology significan cantly increase the safety for those soldiers who do con-



TARDEC vehicles will undergo special testing by Auburn University staff in Port Huron.

tinue to operate the convoys."

On display at this demonstration are the vehicle's automated acceleration and deceleration features, which allow the vehicle to adjust its speed and braking with reback to it from the lead ve-

Additionally, the Army's trucks are enabling the automated steering feature.

With this capability, the truck's

spect to instructions passed computer receives information from the lead vehicles and steers the truck accordingly.

This is the first time the Army has tested this capability on a public roadway, said

Ford Uses Kits to Aid Student Engineers

Engineers aren't born, they're made - or more precisely, educated and trained.

With the school year back in full swing, Ford Motor Company is bringing science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM) education to youth across the country with fun, and educational challenges delivered right to their doorsteps.

Ford launched fordsteamexperience.com as a way to showcase many of the education-focused programs it offers, said Ford spokeswoman Kiersten Popke. The company's newest one is a collaboration with Academics in a Box, designers of Groovy Lab in a Box, an award-winning educational kit line designed for children ages eight and up interested in learning STEAM fields.

The unique experience is delivered right to their homes at no cost when they sign up, Popke

The Ford STEAM Box was designed to challenge youth to think like a Ford engineer, Popke said. The box includes a number of activities – designing a vehicle frame out of origami and kirigami modeling, working with copper tape that conducts electricity to create a working motor, and creating headlights and taillights using LED lighting – all adding up to a complete prototype of a Ford Mustang GT model.

Lisa Sheth, a Ford engineer, said programs like Ford STEAM Box include activities designed to help the company engage and build relationships with parents, who are the best resources for encouraging and inspiring young

"Parents play a critical role in motivating their kids to stay curious and sustain their excitement STEAM education," says Sheth.

"Ford sees an increasing desire from them for more STEAM-related activities, and this is a great way for us to help bring that about."

Elaine Hansen, co-founder of Academics in a Box, says Ford is the perfect partner to help them reach their goal - to expand their reach and enable more students the opportunity to have education delivered to their home.

"Doing good has been part of our business plan from the beginning, and Ford is doing just that," she says. "Ford wants to engage



Ford, Academics in a Box deliver a kit right to a student's doorstep.

in educating our youth, and we are happy to work with a company that has the same goals as we

In addition to working with Academics in a Box, Popke said Ford is expanding its collaboration with Girl Scouts of the USA by bringing the Girls' Fast Track Races experience to eight Girl Scout councils from four last

The races will now reach hundreds of Brownies and Juniors from Girl Scout councils in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, and Texas. Girls' Fast Track Races provide participants with hands-on experience with the concepts of engineering, design, aerodynamics, and weight distribution as girls build and compete with their very own wooden race cars.

Elizabeth Perez, vice president

of institutional giving for Girl Scouts of the USA, said that "Girl Scouts has long been committed to challenging stereotypes and providing girls of all ages with interactive and engaging programs that increase their interest in STEAM. We are grateful for our Ford collaboration because it goes beyond simply offering STEAM content; Ford engineers work directly with girls during the races. Providing this leadership development opportunity is a key element of our Girl Scout programming."

Sheth said that Ford is deeply committed to rallying youth to get inspired about pursuing careers in high-tech fields.

"We're excited to bring Girls" Fast Track Races to even more girls—giving them an engaging experience focused on teaching core STEAM principles," Sheth

Defense Fraudsters Get Prison Time

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Two brothers who formerly owned a Pennsylvania defense contractor have been sentenced to prison and fined after pleading guilty in a \$6 million scheme to overcharge the U.S. Defense Department for Humvee window kits.

Thomas Buckner, 68, was sentenced to 2-1/2 years in prison and fined \$500,000 while John Buckner, 66, was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$300,000. U.S. District Judge Arthur Schwab said Thomas Buckner received the stiffer sentence because he was more involved in the day-to-day business of Ibis Tek LLC, the Butlerbased contractor the brothers founded, especially after John retired from the company's management in 2007. The brothers each owned half the company when the crimes occurred; the company was sold in February to new investors who had nothing to do with the scheme.

The Buckners and their former chief financial officer. Harry Kramer, 52, of Pittsburgh, pleaded guilty in May to charges of major fraud against the government and income tax evasion for filing returns that didn't include the illegal income, and other irregularities. Kramer will be sentenced Oct. 18.

Australia's 'Carmageddon'

SYDNEY (AP) - After looming for four years, "Carmageddon' has hit the Australian auto industrv. Toyota closed its factory in Melbourne on Oct. 3, ending 54 years of production by the Japanese firm in Australia, the first country outside of Japan where the company made cars.

Iconic local brand Holden plans to shutter its factory in Adelaide on Oct. 20, ending car manufacturing in Australia.

Ford Motor Co., which pioneered Australian-based auto making in 1925, heralded its end in 2013 by announcing it would close its last two Australian manufacturing plants in 2016.

General Motors-owned Holden followed suit several months later by announcing it, too, would close down. With the loss of those two firms making the supply of locally-produced auto tralia per capita to their car incomponents unsustainable, Toyota reluctantly soon followed.

Toyota Motor Corp. has been Australia's biggest auto manufacturer for the past decade, with 70 percent of its cars exported, mostly to the Middle East. Output at the Melbourne plant peaked in 2007, when it made 149,000 cars.

When the final Camry sedan rolled off the Melbourne production line, 2,700 Toyota workers became unemployed.

"It's sunk in now. I couldn't sleep last night," Michael Spiteri, who worked at the plant for 23 years, told Fairfax media.

The closure of the Holden plant will eliminate another 3,000 jobs. Industry analysts forecast the loss of thousands more jobs in auto-related industries. Research by the University of Adelaide has predicted a worst-case scenario of 200,000 lost jobs nationwide due to the auto industry's collapse, which would take \$AUD29 billion (\$22.6 billion) out of Australia's GDP annually.

Professor John Spoehr, who co-authored the University's report, said the plant closings and resulting loss of supply chains will have a wide impact.

"We haven't seen in recent history the collapse of an entire industry, but that's what is happening," Spoehr told The Associated Press.

The factory closings have raised pressure on Australia's conservative government over job losses.

"This is a sad day for these thousands of workers and their families, and it's a sad day for Australia," Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said Oct. 3. "Other countries, including the U.S., Germany and Sweden, contribute much more than Aus-

But Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said changing tastes were the main factor leading car manufacturers to close their Australian operations.

"People stopped buying the sedans being made in Australia," he said. "The manufacturers who've progressively closed their operations in Australia have made it clear it's not because of a failure of government subsidies."

When Toyota announced it would close the Melbourne plant, it blamed the "unfavorable Australian dollar," high manufacturing costs and meager economies of scale in Australia, a country of only 23 million.

While Australia's resource sector remains strong, manufacturing has suffered. The management consulting firm Boston Consulting Group ranks Australia the worst performer among 25 nations assessed in its worldwide manufacturing cost-competitiveness index.





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Cadillac Racing Wins 2017 **Team Championships**

team Konica Minolta Cadillac retired from Oct. 7's IMSA WeatherTech Championship Motul Petit Le Mans just over two hours in, but accumulated enough run time to win the DPi drivers and team championships for the year 2017.

The Mustang Sampling Cadillac closed the year as the Tequila Patrón North American Endurance Cup (TPNAEC) champions and Cadillac was crowned manufacturer champ.

Cadillac's season-ending honors included:

- DPi manufacturer championship.
- TPNAEC manufacturer title.
- · Ricky and Jordan Taylor 2017 IMSA WeatherTech DPi driver champions.
- Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi team champions.
- Mustang Sampling Cadillac drivers Joao Barbosa, Christian Fittipaldi and Filipe Albuquerque win the TPNAEC DPi driver championship.
- Mustang Sampling Cadillac wins the TPNAEC DPi team championship.
- Whelen Engineering drivers Dane Cameron and Eric Curran finish second in the driver's championship.
- Mustang Sampling Cadillac drivers Joao Barbosa and Christian Fittipaldi finish third in the driver's championship
- Cadillac teams combined to win seven races in 2017: Rolex 24 Hours At Daytona, Twelve Hours of Sebring, Long Beach, Circuit of the Americas, Detroit, Watkins Glen, and Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.

The No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac team with drivers Ricky and Jordan Taylor, with help in the long races from Max Angelelli, Jeff Gordon, Alex Lynn and Ryan Hunter-Reay, were able to capitalize on their five-win season for the team and driver crowns.

"We are happy to win the

Cadillac V-Performance racing championship," Ricky Taylor said. "The team and car have run flawlessly all year. It's too bad to have an issue at Petit when we were fighting for the TP-NAEC title. It was a crazy start to the race with the wet and then going dry. It was a lot of work at the start.

> "The team did a great job all year, everyone at Cadillac, Dallara and our sponsors at Konica Minolta all have a hand in this championship. The five wins to start the season was great and especially winning the Rolex 24 and Sebring – the stuff all drivers dream about. To win it with my dad, Jordan and Max, who is also family, is really a dream season."

> "Being with Ricky the past four years, we have been close to winning the championship," Jordan Taylor said. "It means a lot to win it with family and Max is like family, as well. We started the year strong with five straight wins. Add the victories at Daytona and Sebring, Ricky had all of those poles, and we won Long Beach, too. Winning at Detroit is great, as well. We are a family team. The crew is very close. We were the first ones to work with the Cadillac this year."

> "We are really happy to win the drivers and team championship, as well as helping to secure the manufacturer championship for Cadillac," Wayne Taylor said. "We had finished every single race this year. I am not really sure what happened today. We lost drive to the car and we had to withdraw from the race.

> "That doesn't take away from what we accomplished this year with five straight wins and taking the big ones at Daytona and Se-

"Winning in Detroit for Cadillac is always special, as is winning on the streets of Long Beach for Konica Minolta. A great accomplishment by the team, everyone at Cadillac, Dallara, ECR Engines and, of course, our sponsor Konica Minolta."



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Pickups Get Fancy-Schmancy

DETROIT (AP) - Heated and now," said Paul Churchill as he cooled seats. Backup cameras. Panoramic glass roofs.

Not exactly what springs to mind when you think of a pickup. But that's what American truck buyers increasingly want, spending an average of \$46,844 on a pickup, according to Kelley Blue

That's more than the starting price of luxury SUVs like the Mercedes GLC or the Lexus RX. In 2016, pickup trucks made up a little more than a third of all vehicles that sold for over \$50,000.

At the State Fair of Texas this month, Ford Motor Co. is displaying its most expensive pickup yet: The F-Series Super Duty Limited, a luxury heavy-duty truck with a starting price of \$80,835. It has custom two-tone leather seats, a heated steering wheel wrapped in hand-stitched leather and high-tech features like a 360-degree camera system that guides drivers when they're hitching up a trailer.

A fully-loaded F-450 - the biggest version of the Super Duty - will top out at \$94,455. It's capable of towing an Air Force F-35 fighter plane, but it also has massaging seats.

Fiat Chrysler's Ram brand is also showing luxury pickups at the fair. The 2018 Laramie Longhorn Southfork edition has a walnut-trimmed steering wheel and 4G Wi-Fi capability. The Heavy Duty Lone Star Silver, sold only in Texas, has a luxurious bright chrome grille. Both start around \$50,000 and will be available later this fall.

On a recent visit to the fair, some visitors balked at the prices. One said he'd rather buy a Mercedes S-Class if he had \$80,000 to spare. But others took the high prices in stride.

"It's awesome. I'd love to be going down the road in it right sat in the cab of the Super Duty Limited. "If you're looking for all the technology they have in these trucks now, it's probably worth it."

Demand for luxury trucks is strong. Ford says around half of the individual buyers who purchase Super Duty trucks opt for one of its three luxury versions -King Ranch, Lariat or Platinum. The Limited version will sit at the top of that heap.

The luxury trend has helped pickups outpace the industry in terms of the prices they command. So far this year, the average vehicle is selling for \$34,671, up 38 percent from 2005. The average price of a full-size truck has jumped 54 percent in that same period, to \$46,844.

Rebecca Lindland, an executive analyst with Kelley Blue Book, says luxury truck buyers cut across age spans but share a mindset. They could buy a German luxury car, she says, but they want the blue-collar brawn of an American truck - or, in Toyota's case, a full-size truck built in Texas.

'These are people with money. These are people who have been very successful," she said. "All they want is the most tarted-up pickup they can buy."

Ford kicked off the luxury truck trend in 1999 when it introduced the Harley-Davidson F-Series. The King Ranch edition followed in 2001. General Motors Co. brought out its high-end GMC Sierra Denali pickup in 2002; the Chevrolet Silverado High Country followed in 2014. The Ram Laramie Longhorn arrived in 2010.

Todd Eckert, Ford's truck group marketing manager, stressed that Ford is still meeting the needs of buyers who want an everyday work truck.

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Vail Resorts and GMC's brand partnership features Yukon XL Denalis.

GMC Gets Ski Resort Partner

GMC has entered into a partnership that goes downhill from the beginning.

Vail Resorts, Inc., the famous global mountain resort company has partnered exclusively with manufacturer GMC.

This multi-year agreement marries GMC's professional grade identity to Vail Resorts' mission to "provide guests with an experience of a lifetime," said GM spokeswoman Jennie Ecclestone.

This partnership will provide guests of Vail Resorts' 13 North American ski resorts with a GMC brand experience designed to be exceptional through onsite activations and signature resort events year-round, along with a complimentary vehicle service available at premier Vail Resorts' lodging properties, Ecclestone said.

Key components of the partnership are complimentary vehicle service using Yukon XL Denalis at select Vail Resorts Hospitality and RockResorts lodging properties in Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Park City and Heavenly, including:

- The Arrabelle at Vail Square;
 The Pines Lodge (Beaver Creek);
- Vail Marriott Mountain Re-

- The Osprey at Beaver Creek,
- a RockResort;
- The Lodge at Vail;
- One Ski Hill Place, a Rock-Resort (Breckenridge);
- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Breckenridge;
- Grand Summit Lodge, a RockResort (Park City);
- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Park City.

Complimentary vehicle service, Ecclestone said, will be offered through the White Carpet Club in Beaver Creek, a daily private club for destination skiers that features spacious lockers; boot dryers; light food and beverage; an intimate lounge; and a dedicated on-site concierge.

Vehicle displays and branding throughout Vail Resorts' 13 ski resorts in North America, including Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado; Park City in Utah; Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood in the Lake Tahoe area of California and Nevada; Whistler Blackcomb in British Columbia, Canada; Stowe in Vermont; Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin; Afton Alps in Minnesota and Mt. Brighton locally in Michigan.

GMC will be the presenting sponsor at many of Vail Resorts' events

Ford Developing Hybrid Police Vehicles

Ford's efforts to improve its market share in the police car market via the latest technology is continuing.

Following the reveal earlier this year of two all-new police vehicles – the 2019 Ford Police Responder Hybrid Sedan and the 2018 Ford F-150 Police Responder – testing by the Michigan State Police confirms Ford is first to offer law enforcement agencies a pursuit-rated hybrid police car and full-size pickup truck, said Ford spokesman Chris Terry.

From local patroling to onroad pursuit to off-road capability, law enforcement agencies nationwide have said they need a wider variety of pursuit-rated vehicles, said Stephen Tyler, Ford police brand marketing manager.

"Our new Fusion-based Police Responder Hybrid Sedan is quicker than our legendary V8-powered Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, while offering fuel efficiency that's estimated to be double that," said Tyler. "Plus, our new F-150 Police Responder offers police customers both onroad pursuit and off-road capability."

Pursuit ratings are determined by vehicle manufacturers. Ford then uses a third party to validate its claims, Tyler said. So, last month, in Michigan State Police testing – which includes a grueling 32-lap pursuit simulation at Grattan Raceway – Ford's pursuit rating for both vehicles was confirmed.

The simulation tests overall vehicle durability, including pow-

ertrain, suspension, brake and tire systems.

In acceleration testing, preliminary results show the new Ford Police Responder Hybrid Sedan bested the once-ubiquitous Crown Victoria by more than one second in 0-100 mph performance – 23.1 seconds versus 24.4 seconds.

The Crown Vic had an EPA-estimated rating of 16 mpg city, 24 mpg highway and 19 mpg combined. Ford's new Police Responder Hybrid Sedan has a projected EPA-estimated rating of 40 mpg city, 36 mpg highway and 38 mpg combined – making it twice as efficient as the Crown Vic. Final EPA-estimated ratings come at a later date.

Not only does the Ford Police Interceptor Sedan retain its title for the sixth straight year as overall quickest police vehicle in 0-60 mph testing, Tyler said preliminary results validate the Ford Police Interceptor SUV as quickest in 0-60 as well – a tie with the new F-150 Police Responder pickup.

All three of these pursuit-rated vehicles are powered by Ford's now-legendary 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 engine.

Police Interceptor Sedan did the 0-60 run in 5.6 seconds, while Police Interceptor Utility and the F-150 Police Responder needed only 6.3 seconds to hit 60 mph. Fastest overall lap and fastest average lap honors once again go to the Ford Police Interceptor Sedan.

Ford's efforts to meet the needs of its police customers continue with the addition of the Police Responder Hybrid Sedan – a remarkably efficient pursuitrated choice for law enforcement agencies nationwide, Tyler said.

For those who require both onroad pursuit plus off-road capability, the new F-150 adds a new dimension to police fleets across the country.



The 2019 Ford Police Responder Hybrid sedan

Falling Sales Force Hyundai Dealer Change

by TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – Stung by falling U.S. sales, Hyundai is pushing its dealers to modernize the new-car shopping experience, conceding that customers are well-armed with information from the internet before they step on the showroom floor.

The Korean automaker on Oct. 10 announced that dealers will post "fair market pricing" on their websites that includes company discounts offered to consumers. Dealers, which are independent businesses, will be encouraged to add incentives they're offering to buyers. They'll also deliver vehicles to customers for test drives and allow people to do paperwork online, including calculation of monthly payments, loan applications and estimating the value of their trade-ins.

"They would rather spend less time negotiating, filling out forms and refilling out forms for the second time," Dean Evans, the company's chief marketing officer in the U.S., said of car shoppers. "But they do want to spend more time getting to know the car and the features of the car."

Hyundai Motor Co. hopes the move will boost U.S. sales, which are down almost 13 percent so far this year, a far bigger drop than the overall market's decline of just under 2 percent. The company's U.S. sales have outpaced the market in only one of the previous five years, according to Autodata Corp.

The decline is weighing on the Korean automaker's earnings. In the second quarter, profits were halved from a year ago to the lowest level since 2010 on falling sales in the U.S. and China.

To a large degree, Hyundai relied too much on car sales and didn't have enough SUV models as American buyers shifted dramatically away from cars. About 16 percent of Hyundai's global sales come from the U.S.

Before going to a dealership, buyers already know about in-

centives and what others are paying for vehicles from websites like Edmunds.com, True-Car.com and Kbb.com, Evans said. Dealers will be encouraged to match average sale prices shown on those websites, Evans said.

The program, named "Shopper Assurance," will start in Miami, Orlando, Dallas and Houston and is expected to go nationwide early next year.

Most of the company's dealers are expected to participate, Hyundai said. Even with the market pricing, buyers can still negotiate.

"We've listened to our customers and they want convenience and simplicity," said Andrew DiFeo, chairman of the company's U.S. dealership council who runs a dealership near Jacksonville, Fla.

Auto buyer surveys by Cox Automotive, which owns Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader.com, show that satisfaction with the new-car buying process is falling,

with only 76 percent of customers satisfied with their experience. Only 51 percent were happy with how long the process took.

"There's still so much uncertainty. There's still so much that feeling of just not a great experience," said Kelley Blue Book analyst Rebecca Lindland.

Moves by Hyundai to eliminate price uncertainty and haggling and to cut the time inside dealerships should help the company, she said.

No-haggle pricing has been tried before and failed to attract huge numbers of buyers, most notably by the now-defunct General Motors Saturn brand several decades ago.

But the popularity of third-party pricing services and millennials who don't want to bargain are changing the process, Lindland said.

"I think there's opportunity to fundamentally change the carbuying experience, both in person and online," she said.

Austin Police Retract Ford Concern

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) – The Austin police chief said Oct. 6 that an Explorer SUV that Ford repaired for a return to service with his department actually doesn't appear to have had exhaust containing carbon monoxide seeping into it, despite his saying earlier that it did.

Interim Police Chief Brian Manley said previously that during a test of three SUVs repaired by Ford Motor Company, one tested positive for carbon monoxide. But Manley told *The Austin American-Statesman* hours later that more testing revealed alarms may have activated for some other reason, meaning his first as-

sertions were likely a false alarm. "We do not believe this issue is a Ford issue or related to the repairs they have done," Manley told *The Statesman*. That is consistent with Ford, which responded to Manley's earlier comments by defending its repairs and saying it has yet to receive

all the details about the reported new problem.

Ford spokeswoman Elizabeth Weigandt said Oct. 6 in an earlier emailed statement that, "Ford was not provided with information on the levels of CO detected, but we are ready to inspect any vehicle."

She also said the automaker has "been happy to collaborate with" Austin police on repairs and added: "The methods and parts we've utilized to repair Austin's vehicles have worked well to address the concern."

Austin police pulled nearly 400 Explorers off patrol in July because of carbon monoxide concerns. Police departments across the country use Explorers and several also took them out of service.

Ford has previously blamed the issue on non-factory outfitters that drill holes into police SUVs to install extra equipment like lights and radios.





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