Detroit Auto Scene®

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FEBRUARY 19, 2018

FCA Engineer Burnett Receives Ed Welburn Legacy Award for Technical Achievements

tion Technology magazine awarded its 2018 Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) Edward Welburn Legacy Award to Eric Burnett, Automatic Transmission chief engineer at FCA US.

Burnett joins a long list of FCA US technical business leaders recognized over the years for their technical achievements, management skill, leadership and community service, said FCA spokesman Mike Palese.

Burnett received his award at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Engineering Deans Power Breakfast on Feb. 10 in Washington, D.C., attended by distinguished HBCU engineers, deans and other prominent leaders from industry, academia and the military. The awards breakfast was part of the BEYA Global Competitiveness Conference that took place Feb.

"Eric has made significant contributions to the research and development of automatic transmissions during his 23-plus-year career at our company," said Michael Solt, director, Automatic Transmission Engineering at FCA

"He is a highly respected technical leader who consistently

U.S. Black Engineer & Informa- makes tough decisions. Eric in- was chief engineer, Purchased spires and motivates others to achieve a higher performance of themselves and for our products. He demonstrates the highest character and integrity in everything he does and is a true asset to the company."

Burnett was named to his current post in 2017, Palese said. In this position, he is the single point of contact in the development of 8-speed rear-wheel-drive transmissions used in FCA US vehicles sold in North America. Prior to his current role, Burnett

Light Duty Transmissions at FCA

Burnett graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1994 and entered the Chrysler Institute of Engineering (CIE) program, a two-year technical leadership development program at FCA US.

While in the CIE program, Burnett earned his Master of Science in mechanical engineering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



FCA engineer Eric Burnett



Folks don't need a car in Toronto now that Maven is there.

GM's Maven Service Goes International in Toronto

Maven is making car sharing Mobility and Maven. Each shared easier for Torontonians by giving them a smart, simple way to reserve a car when they need one.

They can, as of Feb. 13, quickly and easily sign up to use Maven City roundtrip car sharing for getting to work, hanging out with friends in Dundas West, brunching in Leslieville or escaping the city in Prince Edward County or cottage country.

Car sharing reduces congestion and helps everyone get there faster, said Julia Steyn, vice president, General Motors Urban

car takes about 10 private cars off the road, and thanks to Maven, car ownership in Toronto is no longer necessary.

"Toronto has a unique spirit. Residents are constantly on the go and want more sharing and mobility options," said Stevn. "Maven offers cars Torontonians want to drive to help them be there for the moments that mat-

"Bringing Maven car sharing to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GM Closing its Gunsan Plant Later This Year

GM Korea Company will cease production and close its Gunsan plant by the end of May 2018. The Gunsan facility has been increasingly underutilized, running at about 20 percent of capacity over the past three years, making continued operations unsustainable.

The Feb. 12 announcement occurred after a careful review of company's operations, which have sustained significant losses for the past several years, said GM spokesman David Albritton.

"This is a necessary but difficult first step in our efforts to restructure our operations in South Korea," said Kaher Kazem, president and CEO of GM Korea. "We recognize the contribution and support of our employees, the wider Gunsan and Jeonbuk communities and government leaders, particularly through the most recent difficult period. We are committed to supporting all of our affected employees through this transition."

GM has been aggressively addressing underperforming businesses globally, Kazem said, and is now focused on finding a solution for its South Korean opera-

The company has proposed to its key stakeholders – including its labor union, the South Korean government and key GM Korea shareholders – a concrete plan to stay in the country and turn the business around that requires the full support of all parties, Kazem said.

The proposal includes signifi-

Detroit Automakers Do Well in J.D. Power Vehicle Study

On a day when people traditionally demonstrate their love for another person, consumers' affection for their three-vear-old vehicles is equally apparent in the J.D. Power 2018 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study which was released Feb. 14.

Overall vehicle dependability improves 9 percent from 2017, the first time the industry score has improved since 2013, said J.D. Power spokesman Shane

The study, now in its 29th year, measures the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100) during the past 12 months by original owners of 2015 model-year vehicles, Smith said. A lower score reflects higher quality, and the study covers 177 specific problems grouped into eight major vehicle categories. The overall industry average improves by 14 PP100 to 142 PP100 from 156 PP100 in 2017.

"For the most part, automotive manufacturers continue to meet consumers' vehicle dependabili-

ty expectations," said Dave Sargent, vice president, Global Automotive at J.D. Power.

"A 9 percent improvement is extremely impressive, and vehicle dependability is, without question, at its best level ever. For people looking for a new or used model, now is a good time to find that special vehicle."

Some of the study's key findings, Smith said, showed that invehicle technology continues to problematic: most Audio/Communications/ Entertainment/Navigation (ACEN) remains a troublesome category for vehicle owners, receiving the highest frequency of complaints. The two most common problems relate to built-in voice recognition (9.3 PP100) and built-in Bluetooth connectivity (7.7 PP100).

Additionally, Smith said Mass Market brands continue to close the gap with Luxury brands. The Mass Market average (143 PP100) is now just 7 PP100 behind the Luxury average (136 PP100). This is a result of many



The 2015 LaCrosse received the highest score in its vehicle category.

high-volume vehicles rewarding their owners with excellent longterm dependability.

Smith said J.D. Power finds that vehicle residual values can be significantly affected by better long-term quality.

not only improve demand for Mass Market brands with a score used vehicles, but also are a con- of 116 PP100, Smith said. Fiat is tributor to higher residual values," said Jonathan Banks, vice

president of Vehicle Analysis and Analytics at J.D. Power. "Improving dependability ultimately supports new vehicle sales and provides a better perception of the brand."

Buick ranks highest in overall "Strong dependability scores vehicle dependability among

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 More robots will help production at Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant.

Demand for Ford's Big SUVs **Drives Up Plant Production**

Sometimes success has its gram can have their pick of the drawbacks. Like if you're a Ford employee who wants to drive the company's extremely popular new editions of the Lincoln Navigator or Expedition SUVs.

Because of public demand, CEO Jim Hackett has banned Ford employees from ordering Navigators or Expeditions for personal use, according to Automotive News. Typically, employees who get vehicles through the company's manager lease pro-

lineup, excluding some high-performance models. Restrictions on mainstream vehicles are rare, if not unprecedented, the source

In a Feb. 12 announcement, Ford said it's increasing production of two popular full-size SUVs to meet surging demand for both all-new models.

The company is using advanced

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Supreme Court Rules on Dealer Sales Decision

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – The Montana Supreme Court let stand a decision to deny a Billings dealership the right to sell Chryslers and Jeeps based on the protest of a competitor.

Rimrock Auto Group lost its Chrysler dealership along with about 700 others when Chrysler Corporation filed for bankruptcy in 2009. The new Chrysler company soon awarded a Chrysler-Jeep franchise to Lithia Motors Inc., in Billings. Lithia already sold Dodge vehicles.

Rimrock challenged the loss of its franchise and was awarded a letter of intent to establish a Chrysler-Jeep franchise in Billings. However, state law allowed Lithia to oppose it.

In 2012, a state hearings examiner didn't find good cause to reestablish Rimrock as a Chrysler-Jeep franchise in Billings. The Supreme Court ruled Feb.13 that a state judge was correct in deciding there weren't grounds to second-guess the hearings examiner.

Demand for Ford's Big SUVs Drives Up Plant Production

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

manufacturing technologies and an upskilled workforce to increase line speed at its Kentucky Truck Plant to build even more Lincoln Navigator and Ford Expedition SUVs, boosting production targets approximately 25 percent since last fall when the SUVs hit the market

"The response from customers regarding our new full-size SUVs has been exceptional," said Joe Hinrichs, president, Global Operations. "Using a combination of Ford's advanced manufacturing and American hard work and ingenuity, we'll deliver more high-quality Lincoln Navigators and Ford Expeditions to customers than originally planned."

A new \$25 million investment for additional manufacturing enhancements brings Ford's total investment at Kentucky Truck Plant to \$925 million and allows the company to increase manufacturing line speed, Hinrichs

This investment and advanced manufacturing upgrades, he said, are examples of the company's quest to improve its operational fitness

Upgrades include 400 new robots, a new 3D printer that enables workers to make parts and tools more quickly and cheaper as well as enhanced data analytics to keep the assembly line moving as efficiently as possible.

Surging customer demand has meant that Lincoln dealers simply can't keep the entirely new Navigator on dealer lots, Hinrichs said. The luxury SUVs are spending an average of just seven days at the dealership before they're sold.

That's not all, Hinrichs said. Customers are trading in Land Rover and Mercedes vehicles in exchange for a Navigator, and nearly 85 percent of all Navigator buyers are choosing high-end Black Label and Reserve models.

Customer demand for the highly-equipped Black Label and Reserve series contributed to an average transaction price increase of more than \$21,000 in January versus a year ago. Navigator retail sales were up triple digits in every region of the country last month.

Navigator sales more than doubled last month, thanks to growth in key markets, including Florida, Texas and California, a competitive conquest rate of 40 percent and new interest from younger consumers, Felker said.

Expedition also is off to a strong start, with the top-of-the-line Platinum trim models representing 29 percent of sales – pushing transaction price increases up \$7,800 in January. Expedition retail sales were up nearly 57 percent last month and vehicles are spending just seven days on dealer lots.

To ensure customers can get vehicles as quickly as possible, Hinrichs said that Kentucky Truck Plant assembly line employees are working overtime and voluntary weekend shifts. Kentucky Truck Plant's advanced manufacturing technologies and tools are helping Ford upskill its workforce and deliver better quality vehicles to customers more quickly.

More than 400 new robots – including collaborative robots – were added to the facility during last year's transformation, mainly in the body shop, Hinrichs said. The robots enable the plant to increase the line speed while keeping employees safe from repetitive-motion injuries.

The plant also added a robot lab, where employees can test out software tweaks or trouble shoot issues away from the factory floor – in both instances, saving valuable time.

Data analytics have helped the plant identify and address thousands of concerns in near-real time, Hinrichs said. A data analytics hub includes seven bigscreen TVs that provide minute-by-minute updates, letting plant officials know whether production is meeting hourly targets or whether there is a concern on the line that should be immediately addressed.

Data updates also allow workers to be proactive, alerting them to instances of pending parts shortages so they can arrange for a new batch to be delivered to a work station before parts completely run out. An enormous spare parts "vending machine" allows workers to more quickly locate a necessary part while automatically keeping inventory at optimal levels.

The plant recently installed a 3D printer onsite to print individual parts for tools necessary to keep the plant running.

Manufacturing a prototype part using traditional methods can take eight to 16 weeks at a cost of more than \$250,000 in tooling alone. Producing the same part using 3D printing can take days – and sometimes just hours – and can be done for a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.

Kentucky Truck Plant opened in 1969, Felker said. It currently employs more than 8,400 people, including approximately 8,100 hourly employees. The plant builds the Ford Expedition, Lincoln Navigator and Ford Super Duty.

GM's Maven Service Goes International

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Toronto not only reduces congestion, but also represents the latest step in the development of General Motors' mobility footprint in Canada," said Steve Carlisle, president and managing director, General Motors of Canada.

"The launch of Maven follows the recent opening of our Canadian Technical Centre-Markham Campus, the largest automotive technology development centre of its kind in Canada, and furthers our ability to bring new solutions to existing problems and redefine the future of mobility in Toronto and beyond."

On average, people who use roundtrip car sharing are more

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CHOICE

likely to leverage transportation options, including bus, rail, walking, biking and carpooling, said Steyn.

Maven removes the barriers to sharing with a simple, intuitive app.

A broad vehicle portfolio is available on-demand and located around the corner from where members live, work and play.

There are no signup or membership fees, so members only pay when they're in a car, Steyn said.

Rates start as low as \$9 per hour (CAD), including gas and insurance (minus a deductible).

And Maven will offer 40 vehicles initially, including Chevrolet Cruze, Malibu, Tahoe, Trax and Volt; GMC Acadia and Yukon; and Cadillac

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likely to leverage transportation ATS and XT5, Steyn said. options, including bus, rail, walk-

ing locations convenient to where members want to be, including Bloor West Village, Liberty Village, King West, The Entertainment District, City Place, Yonge/Eglinton, Leslieville, Ryerson University, The Danforth, Financial District, Little Italy and Eaton Centre.

Maven cars are packed with technology, including OnStar, Wi-Fi, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, as well as SiriusXM Radio.

"Toronto has a unique spirit. Residents are constantly on the go and want more sharing and mobility options," said Steyn.

Detroit OEMs Do Well in J.D. Power Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the most improved brand, with owners indicating 106 fewer PP100 than in 2017.

General Motors models receive five segment awards for the Buick LaCrosse, Chevrolet Equinox, Chevrolet Malibu, Chevrolet Traverse and Chevrolet Silverado

let Silverado.

The 2018 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study is based on responses from 36,896 original owners of 2015 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership. The study was fielded in October-December 2017.

The 2018 VDS report has the Chevrolet Equinox as the highest rated Small Premium SUV, Smith said. The GMC Terrain and the Ford Escape rounded out the top three spots.

The Chevrolet Traverse was highest rated in the Midsize SUV category, Smith said. The Ford Expedition finished first in the Large SUV category, with the Chevrolet Tahoe finishing second.

The highest ranked Large Light Duty Pickup was the Chevrolet Silverado, followed by the Ford F-150, Smith said. On the other hand, the Ford Super Duty was highest ranked in the Large Heavy Duty Pickup category, followed by the Chevrolet Silverado HD.

The Dodge Challenger was highest ranked in the Midsize Sporty Car category, Smith said. Chevy Camaro finished second.

The Buick LaCrosse ranked first in the Large Car category, followed by the Chevrolet Impala and the Ford Taurus.



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2018 Traverse RS

GM's Traverse SUV Helps Drive Company's Profits

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rpm, for a confident feeling of

power on demand at all speeds,

mission is matched with the en-

gine, contributing to EPA-esti-

mated fuel economy of 20 mpg in

city driving and 26 mpg on the

on the Traverse RS includes

HID headlamps and LED daytime

running lamps, upper and lower

active aero shutters, Chevrolet

MyLink radio with 8-inch diago-

nal color touchscreen and navi-

gation, OnStar 4G LTE and avail-

able built-in Wi-Fi hotspot (3-

The Traverse RS is on sale now

with an MSRP of \$43,095. The

price includes the destination

charge but excludes tax, title and

month/3GB data trial).

other dealer fees.

Additional standard content

À nine-speed automatic trans-

Majoros said.

highway.

GM's recent profit statement power and 295 lb.-ft. of torque. for 2017 shows just how important SUVs are to the company's bottom line, which is why the launch of the 2018 Chevrolet Traverse matters.

With turbocharged performance and aggressive, blacked-out styling cues, the 2018 Traverse RS injects a distinctive dose of fun-to-drive sportiness into the midsize SUV segment, said GM spokeswoman Katie Amann.

'The all-new Traverse offers the ultimate in style and convenience for the segment, with the versatility customers need and a thoughtful, spacious design they'll love," said Alan Batey, president of GM North America and brand chief, Global Chevrolet. "It's the midsize SUV designed to help keep you safe, comfortable and connected.'

Based on the redesigned 2018 Traverse, which offers best-inclass maximum cargo room (98.2 cubic feet1), more technologies than the previous model and an enhanced roster of available active safety features, the Traverse RS is part of an expanded sixtrim lineup focused on capabilitv. convenience and choice, said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet marketing director for Cars and Crossovers.

"The 2018 Traverse offers a full product lineup positioned to effectively compete across the segment," said Majoros. "By offering customers more choice with higher-end entries like the RS, which has a more street-inspired look, and top-of-the-line High Country, Chevrolet now offers a comfortable and connected Traverse for every lifestyle."

The RS's unique styling elements include a black grille black window trim, black roof rails and black bowtie emblems, along with 20-inch aluminum wheels featuring a Dark Android finish, Majoros said.

The RS is also the first Traverse model to offer turbocharged performance, delivering a spirited driving experience that is unique within the lineup.

A power-dense, direct-injected Ecotec 2.0L turbo engine generates up to 257 horse-



Kuniskis Now Head of Alfa Romeo, Maserati

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles made some changes in the company's leadership in early Febru-

Tim Kuniskis was named head of Alfa Romeo and Maserati brands globally. Kuniskis, a 26year veteran of FCA, most recently served as head of Passenger Car Brands in North America, which includes Chrysler, Dodge, Fiat and SRT. Prior to that role, he held a series of positions in the U.S. sales business centers, as well as in the Dodge and Fiat brands.

In a related move, Steve Beahm was named head of Passenger Car Brands in North America, replacing Kuniskis. Most recently, Beahm served as head of Maserati North America, and previously led the Supply Chain Management group in North America. He also held a series of positions in the U.S. sales organization.

Reid Bigland, who was formerly Head of Alfa Romeo and Maserati brands globally, will continue serving as head of U.S. Sales, as well as president and CEO of FCA Canada.

The changes were effective as of Feb. 5.

"With the launch of the Alfa Romeo Giulia and Stelvio and the Maserati Levante complete, we must now intensify our focus on the commercial elements that will drive global growth for these brands," said Sergio Marchionne, CEO, FCA.

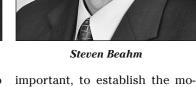
"As Reid has established the commercial foundation for Alfa and Maserati, today's announcement allows Tim to dedicate his efforts solely on the next chapter of these storied brands. In North America, with the execution of our industrial plan now well un-



Tim Kuniskis

derway, shifting from cars to SUVs and trucks, Reid's complete attention will be placed on accelerating sales growth in the U.S. and Canada.

"This is an important year for FCA as we work to achieve the commitments made in our fiveyear business plan, and equally



mentum for continued growth going forward." Bigland and Kuniskis will continue to serve on the Group Executive Council (GEC), which is the highest management

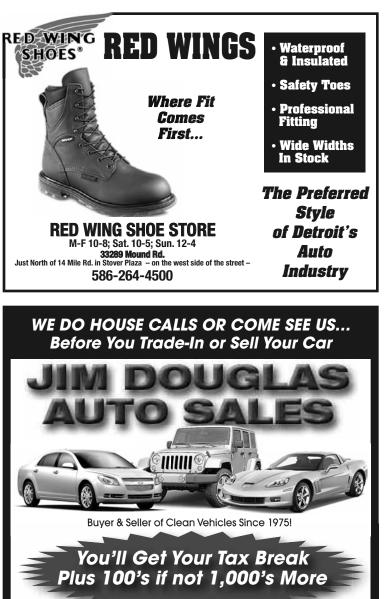
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FCA Starts Annual Student Car Design Competition

High school students, it's time to rev up your creative engines.

The FCA Product Design Office is looking for aspiring young artists with a passion for automotive design to participate in the 2018 Drive for Design contest, said FCA spokeswoman Alyse Tadajewski.

Returning for the sixth consecutive year, the Drive for Design contest challenges all U.S. high school students in grades 10-12 to design a Jeep Wrangler for the year 2030, Tadajewski said. The FCA design team also is continuing its partnership with EyesOn Design and Lawrence Tech for this year's contest.

"The Drive for Design contest is a unique competition designed to help expose young artists to the various career opportunities in automotive design," said Mark Trostle, head of Performance, Passenger Car and Utility Vehicle Design, FCA – North America. "This year, we are offering aspiring designers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and work side-by-side with designers of some of the hottest vehicles on the road today."

EyesOn Design focuses on the automotive community and students coming together to commemorate, reflect and appreciate the craftsmanship and beauty of vehicle design, Tadajewski said.

Winners will receive their awards on Friday, June 15, at the organization's "Vision Honored" Black Tie and Silent Auction, an event that kicks off the annual EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition that takes place each Father's Day weekend at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Lawrence Tech is a university that offers more than 100 pro-

grams through the doctoral level in its Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Management. It will offer the contest winners a two-week summer automotive design course, Tadajewski said.

And, just like the real world of auto design, Drive for Design entrants face a deadline. Entries must be submitted by April 27, 2018, via FCAdrivefordesign.com.

Three students will earn first place in different categories. Drive for Design contest winners will have an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the FCA US Product Design studios and the opportunity to work one-one-one with professional automotive designers.

Winners will also receive a two-week summer automotive design course at Lawrence Technological University (includes housing, meals and field trips), and attend EyesOn Design "Vision Honored" Black Tie and Silent Auction with the FCA design team, Tadajewski said.

They will also receive entry to the EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition in Grosse Pointe Shores. That comes with a three-day/two-night stay in Michigan (includes flight, hotel and rental car).

First place also comes with a Wacom MobileStudio Pro 16, a full-featured, Intel-powered computer that offers a larger space for drawing, detailed concept art, 3D sculpting and painting, motion graphics and advanced image editing for retouching.

Second- and third-place winners will also get prizes.

And, they will be entered in the EyesOn Design Automotive Design Exhibition in Grosse Pointe Shores, which comes with a three-day/two-night stay in Michigan (includes flight, hotel and rental car) and an Apple iPad and Apple Pencil.

Contest rules and information can be found at www.FCAdrive-fordesign.com. Updates will be posted on the Drive for Design Facebook page (Facebook.com/DriveForDesign), the FCA US Facebook page.

Mercedes Says Sorry to China

WASHINGTON (AP) – Two Republican lawmakers lashed out Feb. 14 at Mercedes-Benz for apologizing in China for quoting Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in a social media post.

Sen. Marco Rubio complained that many major companies "are increasingly prepared to toe Beijing's line." Rep. Chris Smith called it "corporate capitulation."

The week before, Mercedes-Benz issued an apology in China after a Dalai Lama quote – "Look at situations from all angles, and you will become more open" – appeared on its Instagram account. The auto company apologized for "wrong information" that "hurt the feelings of Chinese people."

Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in northern India, of seeking to split the territory of Tibet from China. He says he only wants autonomy and to protect the region's distinctive Buddhist culture.

The apology followed a series of incidents in which major corporations have bowed to criticism from China.

Delta Air Lines, hotel operator Marriott, fashion brand Zara and other companies have also offered up apologies for referring to self-ruled Taiwan, semi-autonomous Hong Kong, and Tibet as countries on websites or promotional material.

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Meeting 1: 7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included)
Meeting 2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (lunch included)

LOCATION: Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center 400 Renaissance Drive Detroit, MI 48243

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

Meeting 1: 7:00 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. (breakfast included)
Meeting 2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (lunch included)

LOCATION: Courtyard Marriott 30190 Van Dyke Ave., Warren, MI 48093 (across from GM Tech Center)

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The FT 400 was developed in collaboration with Ignites Research, a subsidiary of the FT that provides specialized content on asset management. To qualify for the list, advisers had to have 10 years of experience and at least \$300 million in assets under management (AUM) and no more than 60% of the AUM with institutional clients. The FT reaches out to some of the largest brokerages in the U.S. and asks them to provide a list of advisors who meet the minimum criteria outlined above. These advisors are then invited to apply for the ranking. Only advisors who submit an online application can be considered for the ranking. In 2016, roughly 980 applications were received and 400 were selected to the final list. The 400 qualified advisers were then scored on six attributes: AUM, AUM growth rate, compliance record, years of experience, industry certifications, and online accessibility. AUM is the top factor, accounting for roughly 60-70 percent of the applicant's score. Additionally, to provide a diversity of advisors, the FT placed a cap on the number of advisors from any one state that's roughly correlated to the distribution of millionaires across the U.S. The ranking may not be representative of any one client's experience, is not an endorsement, and is not indicative of advisor's future performance. Neither Raymond James nor any of its Financial Advisor renders advice on tax issues, these matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

Raymond James Financial Advisor renders advice on tax issues, these matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

FCA Engineer Receives Top Honor

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from Oakland University in 1996. Burnett is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and a frequent presenter at the organization's conferences, Palese said.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive recognition for my accomplishments," Burnett said. "I truly owe it all to my family and peers that have facilitated my continued growth and shared in my successes. It is my privilege and responsibility to share my life lessons with the community and the next generation of African-American leaders."

U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine also honored Modern Day Technology Leaders at the conference, "bright, high-performance women and men shaping the future of engineering, science, and technology who demonstrate superior technical skills and leadership capability."

The following FCA US employees earned recognition from BEYA as Modern Day Technology Leaders for 2018:

- Ikpemi Sabageh, release engineer for Shift Systems in Chassis;
- Kahiree Gans, assistant chief engineer for the Jeep and Truck Platforms.

FCA US has a longstanding commitment to recruiting diverse talent and supporting STEM education initiatives for minorities, including supporting organizations such as BEYA, the Society of Hispanic Professionals Engineers and others, Palese said. The company also supports various organizations that advance women's involvement in STEM professions, including Michigan Council of Women in Technology, the Society of Women Engineers and Inforum's AutomotiveNEXT.

The award honors Edward Welburn of General Motors who, in 2003, became the first African-American in the automotive industry to achieve the position of chief designer. Welburn was the 2015 recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year award.

U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology magazine provides news and information about black engineers, technologists and entrepreneurs, as well as information on programs such as the Black Engineer of the Year Awards and the Top Supporters of Engineering Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities program.

Federal Agency Ends Study of German OEMs

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. safety regulators have closed an investigation into leaky gas tank flanges, determining that recalls by three German auto brands took care of the problem.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened the probe in July of last year after Volkswagen, Porsche and Audi issued recalls due to fuel leaks from flanges made by German auto supplier Continental Automotive Systems Inc.

The polymer flanges can crack and leak fuel, potentially causing fires, the OEMs said.

Continental told the agency at the time that it sold the flanges to 11 automakers and five other parts supply companies, possibly affecting millions of vehicles.

But last year Continental said its evaluation found a lack of problems with other automakers due to differences in vehicle design and use of the flanges.



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Autorama Set for March 2

Autorama is returning to Detroit.

This year's show will be held from Friday, March 2 through Sunday, March 4, at the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

This is the 66th annual Autorama show in Detroit. Author Bob Larivee wrote in his book, "Hot Rod Detroit," that the first-ever Detroit Autorama was held at the University of Detroit Memorial Building on Six Mile Rd and Livernois, on Jan. 31 and Feb.1, 1953.

Larivee wrote that the first show featured only 40 cars, and was hosted by members of the Michigan Hot Rod Association (MHRA), which was created only a year before to "organize small local clubs into one unified body that could raise the money needed to pull drag racing off the streets and into a safe environment." Eventually, the MHRA grew to also include clubs from the custom-car and hot-rodding scene, such as the Bearing Burners and Spark Plugs, who combined efforts to pull off the first event, along with other Detroit Car Clubs such as The Road Kings, Shifters, and Milwinders.

The Michigan State Fairgrounds Coliseum was home to Autorama from 1954 until the event was moved to Cobo Center in 1961.

For the second show, activities were moved from Six Mile to the Michigan State Fairgrounds Coliseum, where it was held from 1954 to 1960. For the fourth event in 1956, the MHRA hired local band and sporting-event promoter Don Ridler to help the show reach a broader audience. Ridler served as the show's firsttrue promoter until his death in 1963. The following year, the MHRA created a "best-in-show" award for Autorama - named after the man who made the

biggest impact in the show's first eleven years, and thus the Ridler Award was born, Larivee wrote.

This year's show is sponsored by O'Reilly Auto Parts and Meguiar's: Car Care Products. Special guests include professional wrestler Roman Reigns and NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt, Jr. Movie fans will have the chance to see cars from the film "Fate of the Furious."

Tickets are \$20 for general admission; children ages six through 12 are \$7; those five and under get in free.

To learn more about the show and how to order tickets, go to autorama.com/attend/detroit.

Takata Inflators Force Ford to Recall Rangers

DETROIT (AP) - Ford is telling the owners of 33,428 additional Ranger pickups in North America not to drive them because their Takata air bag inflators may present an extreme danger.

The company says it has found test results showing that inflators in the 2006 trucks have a higher risk of exploding and hurling shrapnel than other recalled Takata inflators.

Takata uses ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion to inflate air bags. But the chemical can deteriorate and burn too fast, blowing apart metal canisters.

Dealers will pick up the Rangers from owners and take them in for repairs. The additional Rangers were built between Aug. 5 and Dec. 15, 2005.

Last month, Ford told 2,900 Ranger owners not to drive them after finding out that a West Virginia man was killed by an exploding inflator.





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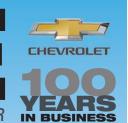
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Cadillac Starts Off New Year With Strong Vehicle Sales

2018 got off to a good start for GM's Cadillac brand.

Cadillac sold 31,330 units globally in January 2018 – an increase of 5.2 percent from the same period last year – marking the 20th consecutive month of global sales growth for the brand, said Cadillac spokesman CJ Smith. Sales were spurred largely by consumer demand for the XT5 luxury crossover, which remains Cadillac's top-selling product with a total of 12,113 units delivered worldwide thus far in 2018.

"With a strong start to 2018, our results show that consumers across the globe are continuing to respond positively to Cadillac products," said Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen.

"Enthusiasm continues to grow both in the sedan market as well as in the SUV segment, despite new entrants into the category. These results give us confidence as we head into a momentous year, marked by an aggressive product offensive beginning with the introduction of the allnew XT4 later this year.'

The Cadillac Sedan Portfolio was a strong performer in January, de Nysschen said, with sales of CT6 up 24.3 percent, XTS up 12.5 percent and ATS up 4.9 per-

China continues to be an important market for the brand, with sales up 12.3 percent year over year. Sales in South Korea and Japan also made significant gains for the month.

In the U.S., the Cadillac SUV Portfolio was up 1.4 percent year over year in total sales, with a 2.7 percent and 2.0 percent increase in sales of XT5 and Escalade, respectively.

Average transaction prices continue to be the second-highest among major luxury automotive brands in the U.S. Through January, the brand's average U.S. transaction price remained around \$54,000.

Overall, Smith said, Cadillac sold a total of 9,895 vehicles in the United States and 20,222 in China. Total worldwide sales were 31,330, compared to 29,776 for the same time in 2017.



2018 ATS-V

SEG Names New President

president of SEG Automotive North America, headquartered in

He was previously vice president and general manager of Customer Business Units for Harman International in Novi, said SEG spokesman Ulrich Muehleisen.

SEG Automotive has emerged from the former well-established "starter motors and generators" division of the Bosch Group, Muehleisen said. The new name is "testimony to over a century of history in the development and production of starter motors and generators as well as a future-oriented focus" on e-mobili-

The company will continue its success story under a new owner, under the leadership of Zhengzhou Coal Mining Machinery Group Co and an investment group, Muehleisen said. SEG Automotive NA is an essential part of the global growth and manufacturing strategy and operates two locations - in Novi and the brand new state of the art facility in Lerma, Mexico.

Accordingly, the workforce, as well as the business in North America, have been expanded significantly over recent years, Muehleisen said.

Husby, with his strong customer focus, extensive industry insight and impressive results in previous executive roles at Harman, TomTom and Denso, is set to further accelerate the growth of the North American business, Muehleisen said.

"I am very excited to work with the highly talented SEG Automotive team, as we move into our second century of innovative solutions for the automobile and commercial vehicle markets. Husby said. "Our name is new, but SEG Automotive is commit-

Jon Husby has been appointed ted to continuity, especially in terms of location strategy and our employees. Their many years of experience in the company, competence and commitment to the success of our customers contribute significantly to our fast-paced growth in the region and globally.'

The new company is committed to further expanding its contribution to the reduction of CO2 emissions which supports OEMs in achieving the ever-more-stringent CO2 goals, Husby said.

With its Boost Recuperation Machine (BRM), SEG Automotive already offers technology for hybridizing gasoline and diesel engines in a highly cost-effective manner, Husby said. Through the use of the BRM, fuel consumption and CO2 emissions can be reduced by about 15 percent.

Advanced start/stop technologies and high-efficiency generators from the SEG Automotive portfolio also provide significant CO2 savings to our OEM customers, Muehleisen said, and SEG Automotive is closely linked to the history of the automobile.

Emerging from the BOSCH Starter Motors & Generators division in 2018, the company stands for more than a century of innovations in this product sector - from starter motor and generator to Start/Stop and mildhybridization.

SEG Automotive is actively shaping the automobile industry's journey from the combustion engine to electrification by delivering efficient solutions for CO2 reduction – regardless of the drive technology, Muehleisen said, adding, "With 16 locations in the most important automobile markets in the world and over 8,000 employees, we offer a network of engineering and production expertise worldwide.'

Autonomous Vehicles Shown at Olympics

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea Olympics with its five autono-(AP) – There's a competition at Pyeongchang Winter Olympics that has nothing to do with sports, and plenty to do with jousting between automakers and tech companies over autonomously driving vehicles.

South Korea's largest automaker and a local telecom firm haggled for months over who would get to claim the exclusive right to label its vehicle as "autonomous." In the end, Hyundai Motors rolled out an "autonomous" sedan while KT Corp.'s self-driving bus was christened the "5G

The self-driving vehicles on display at the Winter Olympics are showcasing South Korea's prowess in both automotive and telecoms technology.

They took to the roads only after a sponsorship battle over whether such vehicles should be considered a form of transportation or a new kind of internetconnected device, like smartphones.

Each Olympic corporate sponsor gets exclusive marketing rights in its own industry, so a blurring of boundaries between industries can lead to friction, said Kang Joon-ho, a sports marketing professor at Seoul National University. "It's not clear whether we should see self-driving cars as vehicles or software, so it's unclear which sponsorship category they belong to."

In the end, a compromise was worked out.

Hyundai Motor., the local sponsor for the transport category and the world's fifth-largest auto group, is seeking to dispel its image as a latecomer in autonomous driving.

In Pyeongchang, it also is getting a jump on Japanese rivals that are preparing to deploy selfdriving cars at the 2020 Tokyo

mous Nexo fuel-cell cars. They are navigating without direct human control within a range of about 4 miles from the Olympic stadium in the town.

In a one-time test before the opening ceremony for the games, Hyundai had the Nexos drive 118 miles of highways from Seoul to Pyeongchang, passing through toll gates and navigating junctions and tunnels without human controls or interruptions.

It was the culmination of years of preparation, and development of 3D maps by the government.

"South Korea started late but we are at a level where we can pull off autonomous driving even in complicated, difficult situations," said Kim Jin-hoo, a deputy director at the transport min-



GM's worldwide production plans no longer include its Gunsan facility.

GM Closing Its Gunsan Plant in 2018

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cant product-related investments in South Korea and would preserve thousands of jobs.

'The performance of our operations in South Korea needs to be urgently addressed by GM Korea and its key stakeholders," said Barry Engle, GM executive vice president and president of GM International.

"As we are at a critical juncture of needing to make product allocation decisions, the ongoing discussions must demonstrate significant progress by the end of February, when GM will make important decisions on next steps."

As a result of this action, Albritton said that GM expects to take charges of up to \$850 million, including approximately \$475 million of non-cash asset

impairments and up to \$375 million of primarily employee-related cash expenses.

Substantially all of these charges will be recorded by the end of the second quarter of 2018, and will be treated as special and excluded from the company's EBIT-adjusted and EPS-diluted-adjusted results.

Based in Incheon, Korea, GM Korea has made significant contributions to the Korean economy and automotive industry over the last 16 years, said Albritton, producing 10 million vehicles since its establishment in 2002. GM Korea supports approximately 200,000 direct and indirect Korean jobs.

In 2017, GM Korea sold 132,377 units in Korea and exported 392,170 vehicles to 120 markets around the world.



PAGE 9

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Local Auto Supplier Changes Name for International Flair

has changed its name to AxleTech as part of a move to reflect a shift in technology and market focus that the company began three years ago, said company spokeswoman Allison Lind-

Though established in name in AxleTech International could trace its industrial roots back 100 years as the original Rockwell International.

Throughout this time, change came in the form of name, ownership and acquisitions, but the company has remained true to manufacturing heritage, Lindsey said.

On Feb. 14, the company redefined its identity and position in the industry with a new name and brand mark, Lindsey said. Now known as "AxleTech," the company's new brand is meant to emphasizes the "tech" in its name, recognizing its focus on and investments in being a technology company that provides advanced powertrain systems, axles, brakes, components and aftermarket parts for heavy-duty commercial and defense applications.

"AxleTech is a technology company. Now our brand identity is catching up," said Bill Gryzenia, AxleTech CEO. "We have a long, rich history, but to have a successful future, we need agility and speed.

"We're accomplishing this through new partnerships, expertise, solutions, thinking and technology."

"Our previous brand," said ary Petrovich, AxleTech's chairman of the board, served us well for almost two decades as we built upon our reputation for custom engineering and manu-

AxleTech International of Troy facturing. Given our broader transformation and capabilities, we have purposely emerged as a technology leader for commercial and defense vehicles. We want our brand to reflect that.

> "This new identity represents the relentless work of our entire global team that has thrust AxleTech into a leadership position for the next mobility era."

> Since 2015, when the company was acquired by The Carlyle Group, AxleTech has expanded its engineering expertise and invested significant capital in new product development, Lindsey

> Armed with this, she added, AxleTech is using new technology and assets to develop e-axles, new independent suspension systems, variable-track axles and more for the most powerful vehicles in the world.

> Interestingly enough, Lindsey said the rebranding process led to many discoveries about its culture and heritage. There is a company-wide, relentless will to win. They also learned that limited bureaucracy fosters speed and nimbleness - and a foundation of humility and caring.

> These key traits inspire employees to quickly develop and bring innovative powertrain systems solutions to market, Lindsaid. For example, AxleTech's electronic drivetrain propels the Proterra Catalyst EZ Max, which recently shattered a world record by traveling over 1,100 miles on a single charge.

> The new identity was designed to represent AxleTech's influence on systems and technologies. A dramatic change in colors reinforces the company's focus on technology (slate gray) and new powertrain solutions.



From left, the 2018 Wrangler Rubicon, 1944 Jeep and 2018 Wrangler Sahara

Wrangler Enjoys a Deep Jeep Heritage

The Jeep Wrangler has a storied history going back 75 years.

"From the battlefields of World War II to the rocky terrain of Moab and even suburban soccer fields, the 'soul' of the iconic Jeep has carried through generations of the iconic vehicle for more than seven decades," said FCA spokesman Edward Cardenas. "The very first Jeep vehicle dates back to World War II when Willys Overland developed a vehicle per government specifications for a 'light reconnaissance vehicle."

More than 600,000 of the vehicles were built and "became famous throughout the world as the vehicle that could go anywhere and do anything," said FCA US Manager of Historical Archives Brandt Rosenbusch.

It was during this time that the vehicle also got its current name. Initially, the go-anywhere vehicle was given the MB designation before the Jeep name was adopted, Rosenbusch said. The origins of the Jeep name are diverse. Some have claimed that the name came from the slurring of the letters "GP," the military abbreviation for "General Purpose." Others say the vehicle was named for a popular character named "Eugene the Jeep" in the Popeye cartoon strip.

Despite the different takes on the origin of the Jeep name, it became part of American lexicon and Willys trademarked "Jeep" as the name for the MB, Rosenbusch said.

Due to its popularity, the government allowed for the civilian

production of the military vehicle. In the first year of production of the civilian CJ-2A, more than 70,000 vehicles were sold. The image of the Jeep began to change with the introduction of the CJ5 in 1955, as it went from a utility to lifestyle vehicle.

"People started having fun in it." said Rosenbusch, who added that clubs started to form and owners would take their Jeep vehicles into the mountains and desert to "have fun and play."

A big change occurred in 1987 with the introduction of the Wrangler, Cardenas said. It had more car-like features with comfortable seats, wider doors and traditional off-road abilities.

This made the Jeep a primary vehicle instead of a secondary vehicle, said Rosenbusch.



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2018 CRUZE "LT"



- Automatic Transmission!
- Color Touch Screen Radio!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- Remote Keyless Entry! Rear Vision Camera!
- Bluetooth for Phone! Stock#J41093

NO Employee Discount REQUIRED!

Was \$22,325 Sale Price: \$16,389*

24 MONTH LEASE

The Best Price...

\$999 Down NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra

2018 SILVERADO "LT" 4WD DOUBLE CAB



- GM Bed Liner INCLUDED!
- Color Touch Screen Radio! Steering Wheel Radio Controls!
- Remote Keyless Entry!
- Aluminum Wheels! Stock# J41869

NO Employee Discount REQUIRED!

Sale Price: \$31,199* Was \$41,910

24 MONTH LEASE

The Best Price...

\$999 Down NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra

Use Your GM CARD EARNINGS and BONUS CARD EARNINGS to Save Even More!*

2018 MALIBU "LT"



- Color Touch Screen Radio!
- Bluetooth for Phone! Rear Vision Camera!
- Aluminum Wheels!
- Power Driver's Seat! Remote Start and Entry!
- Stock# 2J3303

Was \$26,895 Sale Price: \$20,499*

24 MONTH LEASE



\$999 Down NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra

2018 "All New" TRAVERSE "LS"



- 3.6L V6 SIDI VVT Engine!
- 8 Passenger Seating!
- Color Touch Screen Radio! Rear Vision Camera!
- 18" Aluminum Wheels! Remote Keyless Entry!
- Stock# J40442

Was \$32,995 Sale Price: \$27,629*

24 MONTH LEASE



\$999 Down NO Security Deposit required. Tax, title and plate fees extra

We NEED Your Trade!... We'll Give You \$1500 Over Kelley Blue Book!*





SHOWROOM HOURS:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday **Friday**

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

35500 S. Gratiot Avenue... North of 15 Mile Clinton Township FIND NEW ROADS

ures may not represent actual sale vehicle. All applicable incentives including bonus cash, bonus tags, competitive lease, lease conquest and/or lease loyalty offers have been deducted from Sale Prices/Payments and are subject to change by the facturer without notice and are plus title, tax, plate and CVR fees and were valid at time of printing. 6M Employee discount require except where noted. Leases are 10,000 miles per year. Disposition fee may be required at lease turn in \$1500 over Kelley Blue Book is on 2006-2016 vehicles less reconditioning with a trade-in value less than \$35,000 in drivable condition. No branded or salvage titles. Restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details on all incentives/offers. Sale ends 2/23/2018 @ 6:00PM.

CHEVROLET

