

New Traverse's Success Drives GM Profits

GM's recent profit statement 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-in-class maximum cargo room (98.2 cubic feet), more technologies than the previous model and an enhanced roster of available active safety features, the Traverse RS is part of an expanded six-trim lineup focused on capability, 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 seg-

ment," 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 horsepower and 295 lb.-ft. of torque.

And 90 percent of the peak torque is available at only 2,100 rpm, for a confident feeling of power on demand at all speeds, Majoros said.

A nine-speed automatic transmission is matched with the engine, contributing to EPA-estimated fuel economy of 20 mpg in city driving and 26 mpg on the highway. Additional standard content on the Traverse RS includes HID headlamps and LED daytime running lamps.



2018 Traverse RS



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 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

Mobility and Maven. Each shared 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 Steyn. "Maven offers cars Torontonians want to drive to help them be there for the moments that matter."

"Bringing Maven car sharing to

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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 the 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 operations.

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-year-old vehicles is equally apparent in the J.D. Power 2018 U.S. Vehicle Dependability Study (VDS), 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 Smith.

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 dependability

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 in-vehicle technology continues to be most problematic: 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 long-term dependability.

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

"Strong dependability scores not only improve demand for used vehicles, but also are a contributor 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 vehicle dependability among Mass Market brands with a score of 116 PP100, Smith said. Fiat is

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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 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-

gram can have their pick of the lineup, excluding some high-performance models. Restrictions on mainstream vehicles are rare, if not unprecedented, the source said.

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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Warren Library Holding Oscar Preview Event

Just in time for the 2018 Academy Awards, which takes place on March 4, the Warren Public Library is holding a special preview of the event on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Busch branch of the library beginning at 6 p.m.

Hollywood actor Greg Black comes to the Busch Branch Library to preview the top Oscar nominees and predict the winners, said Warren librarian Jennifer Lund.

“A prize will be awarded to the person who picks the most winners on Oscar night,” she said. Space is limited, so those interested should call 586-353-0580 to reserve a spot.

This year’s Best Picture nominees include such diverse movies as “Dunkirk,” about the major WWII battle, and the Tom Hanks/Meryl Streep film, “The Post,” by Steven Spielberg, in which the Oscar-winning director explores how *The Washington Post* handled the publishing of the Pentagon Papers back in 1971.

Demand for Ford’s Big SUVs Drives Up Plant Production

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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 said.

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

“The response from customers regarding our new full-size SUVs has been exceptional.”

– Joe Hinrichs, President, Ford Global Operations

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 big-screen 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,

Detroit OEMs Do Well in J.D. Power Study

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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.

The 2018 U.S. Vehicle Depend-

ability 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 in the vehicle category.

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, who took the other two top spots.

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Art Van Elslander

Art Van's Founder Dies

(The following is a reprint of a portion of the obituary found on the artvan.com web page.)

Archie A. Van Elslander, who was known as "Mr. Van" and founded Art Van Furniture, a company that became one of the largest independent furniture retailers in the United States, died of complications from cancer on Feb. 12, 2018, at the age of 87, surrounded by his family.

"My family is heartbroken by the loss of our father," said Gary Van Elslander, president of Van Elslander Capital, and Mr. Van Elslander's eldest son.

Born in 1930 in Detroit, Mr. Van Elslander was the son of a Belgian immigrant. He grew up in Detroit, peddling papers and working in his father's bar as a young boy. At age 14, he discovered his love of fashion when he took a job working at a local haberdashery, Square Menswear. After graduating from Denby High School in 1948 and serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Van Elslander married, started a family and took a job at Gruenwald Furniture.

He opened his first store in 1959, the sole proprietor of a 4,000-square-foot shop on Gratiot Avenue in East Detroit, and ultimately grew Art Van Furniture to nearly 4,000 associates and over 100 Art Van Furniture locations throughout the Midwest before selling the business in early 2017.

A pioneer retailer and master promoter, he was widely respected in the furniture industry for his creative approach to marketing.

Mr. Van Elslander's awards and recognitions are many, with his generosity and business acumen regularly acknowledged.

With a seemingly limitless capacity for giving, Mr. Van Elslander was one of Michigan's most generous and beloved philan-

thropists. When Detroit's annual Thanksgiving Day parade was in financial peril in 1990, Mr. Van Elslander made a historic donation that saved this cherished tradition.

For the next 25 years, he personally rode in the parade, waving to crowds along the route. He was a major benefactor of countless charities, including St. John Providence Health System, Focus:HOPE, Forgotten Harvest and the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. He leaves behind an indelible print on the hearts of many, and will be sorely missed.

Course Set for Storm Spotters

Macomb County Emergency Management & Communications has partnered with the National Weather Service to bring a SKYWARN Spotter Training opportunity to Macomb County in 2018.

SKYWARN storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather, said program coordinator Peter Locke.

The National Weather Service encourages anyone with an interest in public service and/or access to communications such as a HAM radio to join the SKYWARN program. To train those volunteers, the National Weather Service offers SKYWARN Spotter Training to the public every year, but it is advised that you need only attend this course once every other year.

The only course of 2018 to be offered in Macomb County will be conducted on Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Locke said.

This course will be held in the

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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 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 that helps users use the system.

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

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

GM's Maven Service Comes to Toronto

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 the Cadillac ATS and the Cadillac XT5, Steyn said.

Maven carefully selected parking locations convenient to where members want to be, including Bloor West Village, Liberty Village, King West, The Enter-

tainment District, City Place, Yonge/Eglinton, Leslieville, Ryerson University, The Danforth, Financial District, Little Italy and Eaton Centre.

Maven cars are packed with a lot of technology, including On-Star, 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.



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Warren P.A.L. Registration

Registration for the 2018 Summer Police Athletic League in Warren has begun.

A variety of sports will be played this summer. One baseball game will be played per week, beginning in June and going through August.

Basketball will be played on Mondays 10-11 a.m. beginning on June 25 and ending Aug. 20. Golf will be played Tuesdays and Thursdays, and bowling starts at the end of June and goes through mid-August.

Warren police officers started P.A.L. in 1989 and have continued to volunteer their time.

For more information about P.A.L. sports and how to sign up, those interested should visit warrenpal.org.

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Yanfeng Auto’s Michigan Facilities Gain Praise

Yanfeng Automotive Interiors (YFAI) has been awarded the Top Employers United States of America 2018 Certification.

The annual international research undertaken by the Top Employers Institute recognizes leading employers around the world that provide excellent employee conditions, nurture and develop talent throughout all levels of the organization, and strive to continuously optimize employment practices, said YFAI spokeswoman Debra Ortisi.

Yanfeng Automotive Interiors received this certification for its locations in the United States, which includes 17 plants, two tech centers in Michigan – one in Holland and one in Harrison Township – and an innovation center in California, Ortisi said.

“We are honored to be certified as a Top Employer,” said Laurie Bylsma, executive director, Human Resources, North America for Yanfeng Automotive Interiors. “This award underscores our commitment to our employees and to providing a desirable workplace in the U.S. that is focused on employee engagement and development.”

“From our research, we have seen how the organizations certified as one of the Top Employers

United States of America 2018 put the development of their people first and are continuously working to optimize their HR and people development practices,” said David Plink, CEO of Top Employers Institute.

“Yanfeng Automotive Interiors forms part of this select group of employers. Now that they have received the Top Employers United States of America 2018 certification, they can rightfully consider themselves at the top of an exclusive group of the world’s best employers. An achievement they can truly be proud of.”

Crucial to the Top Employers Certification, Plink said, is the completion of a stringent research process, and meeting the required standard in order to achieve Certification.

To further reinforce the validity of the process, all answers were independently audited, Plink said. The Top Employers Institute assessed YFAI’s employee offerings on the following criteria: talent strategy, workforce planning, onboarding, learning and development, performance management, leadership development, career and succession management, compensation and benefits, as well as culture.



This competition: Ford performance models with Ford GT race drivers putting the pedal to the metal.

Ford Fast Cars Run Up Against Each Other

When one drives a fast car, it’s always nice to know how that vehicle stacks up to others, which is something Ford has done with its sportscars.

“It’s the ultimate track showdown,” said Ford spokeswoman Emma Bergg. “Eight models from the Ford Performance global line-up on a circuit together for the very first time, pushed to their limits by the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing Team drivers.”

In a new video from Ford Performance, recently filmed at the Motorland race circuit near Barcelona, Spain, people are now able to see the Ford F-150 Raptor; Fiesta ST, all-new Fiesta ST, Focus RS, new Mustang GT, Mustang GT350R, Ford GT road car and Ford GT race car go head-to-head in a staggered time trial around one lap of the 5.345 km circuit.

The sequence was filmed in partnership with Castrol Edge during a tight four-hour window, during which all eight Ford Chip Ganassi Racing Team drivers took time-out from a pre-season Ford GT race car tyre test to shoot, Bergg said.

Andy Priaulx, Harry Tincknell, Olivier Pla and Stefan Mücke from the World Endurance Championship, and Dirk Müller, Joey Hand, Richard Westbrook and Ryan Briscoe from the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, each took the wheel of a Ford Performance model – setting off at intervals and culminating in an eight-way battle through the final bends and finish straight, Bergg said. The time trial was the first and probably only chance to find out if a Fiesta ST could beat a Le Mans-winning Ford GT race car.

The showdown was filmed using three camera crews, a drone and 16 GoPro cameras. Wheel-to-wheel action was captured using a custom-built Ford Fiesta ST camera-tracking vehicle in ultra-high-definition 4K resolution.

From extra special pickup trucks to Le Mans-winning thoroughbred race cars, Ford Per-

formance vehicles offer unique characters, but share sophisticated driving technologies to deliver exceptional fun-to-drive experiences, said Bergg.

All but two of the cars feature Ford’s EcoBoost engines, from the smallest 3-cylinder 1.5-litre EcoBoost in the all-new Fiesta ST right up to the 3.5-litre twin turbo EcoBoost in the F-150 Raptor, road-going Ford GT and Ford GT race car, said Bergg.

The Mustang GT350R features a flat-plane crank V8 that delivers 526 horsepower from 5.2 litres, while the new Mustang GT features the iconic 5.0-litre V8.

“It was a hilarious shoot. Eight racing drivers all given a car to go flat-out in for a race,” said Tincknell. “Anything could have happened and it almost did! It was amazing to be one of the first people to drive the all-new Ford Fiesta ST, one of the most popular cars in the world – and it handled like a dream.”

Westbrook, who drove the Focus RS, said it was great to take on his Ford Chip Ganassi Racing teammates at a totally different challenge.

“It was just a blast. Ford Per-

formance offers vehicles that are so capable at very different things and their strengths showed on the track,” Westbrook said.

“Driving the all-new Mustang GT road car on the race track was great fun,” Stefan Mücke said.

“It was very special to see all the Ford Performance cars on the track at the same time, and quite brave, too, to do this with a group of competitive racing drivers. It got very close in the final corners as everybody wanted to be first. Great fun and an awesome lap.”

“Some of the coolest cats out there drive Mustangs and I love horsepower, so I was crossing my fingers I’d get the GT350R,” Hand said. “Things got a little wild on the track, but it was a great time. I’d take them on again.”

“Obviously, driving the Ford GT was great around Motorland,” Pla said.

“You can clearly feel and it is obvious to see how fast this car is. Driving the Ford GT at the limit is very special. The car is a work of art.”

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cal clubs with resources to reach more kids in need, Duran said. There are three stores in Macomb County: Roseville, Shelby Township and Chesterfield.

Proceeds from the Paper Clover campaign will directly support Michigan 4-H programs. Each Paper Clover will include instructions for customers to create to share with someone special.

With the \$4 Paper Clover, customers will also receive a coupon for \$4 off their next purchase.

Studies show that many students lose their natural love of learning somewhere between kindergarten and their senior year of high school, Duran said. When more Macomb County youth have access to local 4-H programming, they will participate in hands-on projects where they can design, create and make for themselves.

These experiences are proven to rekindle a love of learning and produce a variety of benefits – from strengthening their creativity and imaginative thinking to improving their motor skills, coordination and self-esteem.

To learn more about the national partnership, visit 4-h.org/JOANN or contact Macomb County MSU Extension at 586-469-6431.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) brings educational programs to residents empowering them to improve their lives and community.

FCA Engineer Burnett Receives Ed Welburn Legacy Award for Technical Achievements

U.S. Black Engineer & Information 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. 8-10.

"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 US.

"He is a highly respected technical leader who consistently makes tough decisions. Eric inspires 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 ve-

hicles sold in North America. Prior to his current role, Burnett was chief engineer, Purchased Light Duty Transmissions at FCA US.

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 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."

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

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

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 Informum's AutomotiveNEXT.

The award honors Edward Welburn of General Motors who, in 2003, became the first African-



FCA engineer Eric Burnett

American in the automotive industry to achieve the position of chief designer, Palese said. 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.

Uber Cuts Net Loss From 3rd to 4th Quarter

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

Ride-hailing giant Uber's full-year net loss widened to \$4.5 billion in 2017 as the company endured a tumultuous year that included multiple scandals, a lawsuit alleging the theft of trade secrets and the replacement of its CEO.

The results also showed that Uber cut its fourth-quarter net loss by 25 percent from the third quarter as new CEO Dara Khosrowshahi moves to make the company profitable ahead of a planned initial public stock offering sometime next year.

The full-year loss grew from \$2.8 billion in 2016, a year with results skewed by a gain from the sale of Uber's unprofitable business in China. Uber also said its

U.S. ride-hailing market share fell from 82 percent at the start of last year to 70 percent in the fourth quarter. Uber said the share has now stabilized.

Gross revenue for the year rose 85 percent over 2016, to \$37 billion.

For the fourth quarter, Uber's net loss was \$1.1 billion, down from the \$1.46 billion it lost in the third quarter. Bookings from fares rose 14 percent to just over \$11 billion for the quarter.

While the losses are significant, the results still are positive for Uber with revenue rising and losses falling in three of four quarters in 2017, said Rohit Kulkarni, managing director of SharesPost, a research group focused on privately held companies. The numbers show that Uber under Khosrowshahi is on a

path toward profitability and a sustainable economic model, Kulkarni said. "If you draw that out further, a year from now, this could be a significant IPO waiting to happen," he said.

Uber considers adjusted earnings before taxes as a better indicator of its financial performance rather than net earnings based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which include losses for accounting purposes. On an adjusted basis, excluding stock-based compensation, legal costs, taxes and depreciation, the company lost \$2.2 billion for the full year. The fourth-quarter adjusted loss was \$475 million, down from \$606 million in the third quarter. San Francisco-based Uber Technologies Inc.'s results are difficult to report because only pieces are released.

Cooper Standard Female Exec Receives Honor

Recognized for her manufacturing expertise, Cooper Standard's Susan Kampe, CIO and vice president of information technology (IT), was named among *Crain's Detroit Business'* Notable Women in Manufacturing for her transformation of the Company's IT function, said Cooper Standard spokeswoman Sharon S. Wenzl.

As part of her recognition, Kampe was profiled in the February 12 issue of *Crain's Detroit Business* among other females in the manufacturing industry who are considered leaders in their workplaces and in the community.

Cooper Standard, headquartered in Novi, is a global supplier of systems and components for the automotive industry. Products include rubber and plastic sealing, fuel and brake lines, fluid transfer hoses and anti-vibration systems. Cooper Standard employs approximately 32,000 people globally and operates in 20 countries around the world.

"We are proud of Sue for this well-earned recognition," said Jeffrey Edwards, chairman and CEO, Cooper Standard.

"As a member of our Global Leadership Team, Sue has a seat at the table and is actively involved in all aspects of our business. She brings enthusiasm to her critical role in our company and sets an excellent example for all employees on how to fully engage in a manufacturing business."


Since joining Cooper Standard in November 2015, Kampe has led a global team that has concentrated on installing IT systems dedicated to providing in-depth manufacturing data analytics.


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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)*

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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 advisers who meet the minimum criteria outlined above. These advisers are then invited to apply for the ranking. Only advisers 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 advisers, the FT placed a cap on the number of advisers 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 Advisors pay a fee in exchange for this award/rating. The FT is not affiliated with Raymond James. space Neither Raymond James Financial Services nor any Raymond James Financial Advisor renders advice on tax issues, these matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

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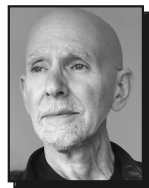
Autorama Set for March 2

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 first-true 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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A silver Cadillac CTS sedan is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The car is parked on a dark, paved surface. The background features a vast, flat desert landscape with sparse vegetation and distant mountains under a clear sky. The car's design is sleek, with a prominent grille and sharp headlights.

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 (AP) – There’s a competition at the 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 Bus.”

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 internet-connected 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 self-driving cars at the 2020 Tokyo

Olympics with its five autonomous 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 junc-

tions 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 ministry.



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.



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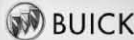
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Local Auto Supplier Changes Name for International Flair

AxleTech International of Troy 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 Lindsey.

Though established in name in 2002, 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 its 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 emphasize 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 Mary 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-

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 said.

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, Lindsey said. 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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