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Cadillac Unveils XT4 to the World

for the fences. The brand introduced its latest vehicle – the XT4 last week in the heart of New York City.

The vehicle was first seen at Cadillac House in Manhattan. The XT4 is a new compact SUV tailored for the next generation of luxury customers, said GM spokesman Donny Nordlicht. It was developed on an exclusive compact SUV architecture, and is designed to be Cadillac's entry in the industry's fastest-growing luxury segment. It is meant to deliver expressive design, confident performance, spacious accommodations and new technologies, Nordlicht said.

"The first-ever 2019 Cadillac XT4 expands our successful SUV lineup to a segment where Cadillac has never been before," said Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen. "And it sets off a dramatic expansion and elevation of the product range, that will see a new Cadillac virtually once every six months through 2021.'

The design's "simple and sculpted lines draw the customer in and accentuate the XT4's powerful proportions and aggressive presence," de Nysschen said. "The interior is the Cadillac design aesthetic distilled: the thoughtful and artistic integration of technology and appealing

Cadillac is unafraid to swing style. The cabin is exceptionally refined, with expected segmentleading rear-seat spaciousness."

All models are driven by an allnew Cadillac 2.0L Turbo engine that features new efficiency-enhancing technologies including Active Fuel Management (cylinder deactivation), coupled with a nine-speed automatic transmission with next-generation Electronic Precision Shift, Nordlicht

Cadillac also debuted its new global "Y" trim strategy on the XT4. It is a Distinctive Premium Luxury and Sport models build from the well-equipped Luxury

(base) trim, Nordlicht said. Specific content and styling cues tailor the Premium Luxury and Sport trims to different customer tastes and preferences. Cadillac will roll out this new trim strategy beginning with the XT4 and the 2019 CT6 top-of-range sedan.

The XT4 will be priced starting at \$35,790 including destination charge, but excluding tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment, when it goes on sale in fall 2018. Starting at the end of March 2018, customers will be able to preorder their XT4s from

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Cadillac's de Nysschen revealing XT4, a compact SUV, in New York City.



Maddox speaking at the opening of the state's new ACM test facility.

Michigan's Autonomous **Test Track Now Open**

The battle for which state spokesman Tracey L. Shavers Jr.. leads the way in testing autonomous vehicles swung Michigan's way with the opening of the American Center for Mobility (ACM) last week.

Gov. Rick Snyder, along with business, government and academia leaders throughout Michigan, celebrated the grand opening of the ACM on April 4 and welcomed Microsoft as the exclusive data and cloud provider for the mobility center at the historic Willow Run site in Ypsilanti Township, said ACM

John Maddox, ACM president and CEO, declared that Microsoft will provide the Center with cloud resources and data infrastructure to advance the testing and development of connected and automated vehicles (CAV) as well as mobility technologies.

"We are excited to collaborate with Microsoft in our efforts to lead the world in the safe development of CAV technologies and to enable the safe deployment of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



2018 Chevrolet Colorado

GM's Sales in March Go Out Like a Lion

The monthly GM sales report 2004, Chevrolet's best March by a 0.7 percentage point gain by was good news. General Motors reported 296,341 car, crossover and truck deliveries in the United States in March.

GM revealed on April 3 that the company will begin reporting its U.S. vehicle sales on a quarterly basis, effective immediately. For 2018, second quarter sales will be released on July 3, third quarter sales on Oct. 2 and fourth quarter sales on Jan. 3, 2019.

The last monthly sales report showed that March sales were up 16 percent year over year, driven by Buick's best March since since 2007 and Cadillac's best March since 2014. It was GMC's best March in the brand's history, said GM spokesman Jim Cain.

GM's retail sales in March were up 14 percent year over year, and the company's estimated retail market share was 17.7 percent the highest since 2009 - driven

Chevrolet. Chevrolet was the industry's fastest-growing full-line brand.

In the first quarter, GM sales were up 4 percent, ahead of an estimated industry increase of about 2 percent, Cain said. Retail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2017 Ford Edge

FCA Sales Increased Sharply Last Month

when compared to the same time best March sales ever.

FCA's March 2018 sales of 216,063 vehicles, a 14 percent increase compared with sales in March 2017 of 190,254 vehicles, said FCA spokesman Jeff Bennett.

The company's retail sales of 162,304 vehicles were up 11 percent from March 2017. It was the best month of March retail sales since the company sold 170,545 vehicles in March 2001.

Total sales were the highest since March 2006 when the company sold 216,865 vehicles. Fleet accounted for 25 percent of overall sales. Bennett said.

Jeep brand total sales rose 45 percent in March to 98,382 vehicles for its best month ever. The Jeep Wrangler led the group as sales rose 70 percent to 27,829 vehicles. Bennett said. It was the best month of sales ever for the nameplate, eclipsing the May

FCA in terms of sales, with Jeep Jeep Cherokee sales increased 63 driving a 14 percent increase percent to 23,764 vehicles for its

> The Jeep Compass also saw strong March sales, Bennett said. year. The model was just getting started in March of 2017 and had sales of 2,651. In 2018, that num-

March was a strong month for 2015 record of 22,615 vehicles. ber was 17,302 - an increase year-to-year of 553 percent.

Ram Truck brand sales declined 13 percent to 44,878 vehicles compared with the previous

However, retail sales of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



2018 Jeep Compass

Ford Sees Sales 'Edge' Up

Ford released its sales figures for March and the news was

The company saw an increase of 3.4 percent for the month, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle. Overall, 244,306 vehicles were

Fleet sales totaled 85,310 vehicles – up 8.7 percent from the same time last year, Merkle said. This helps to offset declines in January and February and brings first-quarter results in line with 2017.

Overall, Ford's retail sales

were up 0.8 percent in March to 158,996 vehicles, while average transaction prices expanded \$1,400 over year-ago levels. This is about twice the rate of the industry increase of \$700, Merkle

It should also be rememberd that Ford maintains the highest transaction prices of any full-line automaker - \$36,300 per vehicle, which is boosted by its newest products, Merkle said.

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MCC Singers Putting On A Big Show

The Macombers, Macomb College's Community show choir, take the stage with the Macombers' Spring Extravaganza Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, which is on the college's Center Campus in Clinton Township.

The Macombers, an auditiononly scholarship choir established in 1970, will sing and dance their way through a variety of numbers from both stage and screen, including "The Greatest Showman," a musical film inspired by the life of P.T. Barnum, and "Finding Neverland," a film about playwright J. M. Barrie and his relationship with a family who inspired him to create Peter Pan.

Joining the show are the Garfield Singers, a choir of middle and high school students from the Macomb Center's outreach and continuing education programs, who will entertain the audience with music from "Footloose," the movie.

Michigan's Autonomous Test Track Now Open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

these vehicles onto the nation's roads." Maddox said.

"By adding Big-Data to our diverse and growing group of stakeholders and world-class partners, ACM is staking its claim as the preeminent global hub for mobility companies to develop and test their connected technologies and vehicles in a safe and controlled environment."

Snyder said the Center's grand opening, combined with the announcement that Microsoft is the exclusive data and cloud provider, represents a pinnacle moment for the state.

"Intelligent vehicle technology is evolving rapidly and Michigan is the world leader in making sure the mobility technologies driving the future are safely developed, tested and eventually deployed," Snyder said.

This important partnership with Microsoft will provide the American Center for Mobility with the proper digital capabilities to help translate testing data into technology innovations that will make transportation safer for all and fuel further economic growth across the state."

ACM will collaborate with Microsoft to design a cloud-based Data Management & Analytics Platform (DMAP) solution to collect, store and analyze data from tests conducted at the center, Shavers said.

The solution, he said, will be based on the trusted Microsoft Azure cloud platform, which offers extensive capabilities for quickly developing and deploying new use cases.

Using Azure and the DMAP solution will enable ACM and its partners to accelerate the development of CAV technologies, apps and industry standards, to

create a safe environment for testing, validating, and enabling collaboration across all mem-

"Vehicles are quickly becoming datacenters on wheels, and the opportunity to use the vast amounts of information generated to fuel innovation is unprecedented," said Kevin Dallas, corporate vice president of Microsoft's artificial intelligence & intelligent cloud business development, Microsoft.

"We're proud ACM has selected Microsoft Azure as its exclusive cloud provider for its intelligent capabilities and the enterprise-grade security and compliance required to develop comprehensive solutions that help drive the future of mobility.'

Microsoft joins a long list of companies supporting ACM, including its founders AT&T, Visteon Corporation, Toyota, Ford and Hyundai America Technical Center Inc., and sponsors Subaru of America, Inc., and Adient, Shavers said.

In addition to serving as the Center's exclusive data and cloud provider, Microsoft will also hold a position on ACM's Industry Advisory Board (IAB).

Located on a 500-acre site that once housed a World War II bomber plant, the American Center for Mobility opened its doors for testing in December, Shavers

It is one of 10 federally designated proving grounds for developing and testing self-driving vehicles, the Center provides a myriad of real-world environments with the ability to test under a range of driving environments and infrastructure that includes a 2.5-mile highway loop, a 700-foot curved tunnel, two double overpasses, intersections and roundabouts.



A Visteon autonomous vehicle takes a test ride on the new ACM track.

The announcement and grand opening celebration coincide with the start of ACM's next phase of construction that will add an urban intersection by this summer, followed by a series of building facades and additional urbanized infrastructure expected by the end of the year, Shavers said. The expansion project also includes a headquar-

ters and lab with demonstration space. The center is a joint initiative with the State of Michigan founded in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan **Economic Development Corpora**tion (MEDC), the University of Michigan, Business Leaders for Michigan, Ann Arbor SPARK and Ypsilanti Township.

County Needs Volunteers

Macomb Community Action's Office of Senior Services is seeking 130 volunteers to help with a special delivery for the Meals on Wheels program on Saturday, April 14.

On this day, the agency will pack and deliver boxes of shelfstable meals for times when weather or other circumstances prevent the normal delivery of hot meals to County seniors, program spokeswoman Roneeka Pleasant-Brown.

Volunteers are needed to help pack or deliver boxes between 9 and 11 a.m. at the Macomb County warehouse, located on 44900 Vic Wertz Drive, located south of Hall Road and east of Groesbeck.

All volunteers must be at least 18 years of age or be accompanied by a parent or authorized adult, and volunteers will be required to pass a background check.

Volunteers will use their vehicles and to be on the road for an estimated two hours. Delivery drivers must have a valid driver's license and proof of current insurance.

Call 586-469-5228 to sign up as a volunteer.





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Camaro Idea Used to Solve Truck Problem

Riddle me this. When is a pickup truck like a Camaro?

When it's the new Chevy Silverado 4500HD/5500HD/6500HD.

These new Chevrolet Silverado trucks took a design cue from an unlikely source – the Chevrolet Camaro, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Shamoun.

The "flowtie," first introduced on the front grille of the 2014 Camaro Z/28 and now standard on the 2018 Camaro ZL1, is the chrome outline of the traditional Chevrolet bowtie but with the center removed, allowing increased engine airflow to help improve performance.

"There is innovation in the design details and a great example is our Camaro Z/28-inspired Chevrolet flowtie," said Design Manager Kevin O'Donnell.

"Our engineers designed it to help win races by using airflow to lower coolant and oil temperatures on the race track."

So what is the reason for having the Chevrolet logo placed on the grille of the truck in the form of a flowtie?

During Z/28 aerodynamics testing, engineers noticed that the bowtie on the grille was displacing air away from the radiator, which can impact engine cooling, Kass-Shamoun said.

So, propulsions engineer Richard Quinn took a cut-off wheel to the bowtie's gold fill, leaving the silver outline

He then proceeded to install the prototype flowtie on the



2019 Silverado Chassis Cab Truck

grille of the vehicle being tested and a retest revealed that it allowed more air into the engine, lowering engine fluid temperatures during extended track sessions.

The conventional cab Silverados are heavy-duty cycle trucks, and the designers needed a solution that allowed for maximum airflow with the truck's pumpedup grille.

They found their solution in a most unlikely place for a problem associated with a pickup truck – the performance car toolbox, O'Donnell said.

"The flowtie is an elegant solution. And it's going to work on the Silverado exactly the way it does on Camaro," said O'Donnell.

Other exterior design high-

- Muscular look with a broad wide bumper, strong center bar and fenders that grow out of the hood.
- A powerful hood form that maintains downward range of sight to provide driver perspective.
- Fiberglass tilt-hood with integrated hand grips to aid serviceability.
- Cab with inlaid doors and triple door seals for in-cab quietness.

"Chevy's designers and engineers were obsessed with making this Silverado the most customer-focused, medium-duty truck among its major competitors – and this is evident in every design decision," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, General Motors Fleet

Public Event to Talk About Closing of I-696 in Summer

Those wishing to learn about the upcoming road construction project affecting I-696 in Macomb and Oakland counties can go to the Warren City Hall on Wednesday, April 11, at 4:30 p.m.

A meeting is scheduled to inform the public about the reconstruction of Interstate 696, said MovingMacomb.org spokeswoman Diane Cross. This project will replace all pavement on both sides from I-75 to I-94 – closing the westbound direction completely while keeping eastbound open throughout construction – and repair both sides of I-275 to I-75 during nights and weekends.

The I-696 (Walter P. Reuther Freeway) carries approximately 150,000 vehicles a day through Macomb County, Cross said. Its poor condition requires major reconstruction to replace the concrete from Dequindre Rd. to I-94, both eastbound and westbound, spring through late 2018. The bridges over I-696 are in good to fair condition due to investments in rehabilitation and maintenance-type work over the years and will receive additional maintenance work.

In Oakland County on I-696 from I-275 to Dequindre Rd in both directions, repairs and maintenance work will take place during nights and weekends, including up to 10 weekend closures at various locations, Cross said. This expedited \$110 million

project must be completed while funding is available and before the nearby I-75 modernization project begins near I-696, which is planned for 2019.

If delayed, it may be 2024 before the work could be performed, and only if funding would be available.

DTE Announces Plans For Renewable Energy

DETROIT (AP) – DTE Energy Co. is proposing new wind and solar projects in Michigan that would double the utility's renewable energy capacity.

The utility announced March 30 that it has submitted its 2018 Renewable Energy Plan to the Michigan Public Service Commission. This includes \$1.7 billion in investments and would increase DTE's renewable energy capacity by 2022.



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SAE's 2018 WCX Event Coming to Detroit

by Jim Stickford

The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has been holding its annual Congress in Detroit since 1924, and this year's gathering will take place on April 10, 11 and 12, at the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Jim Forlenza, group director of Events for SAE, said that the called the World Congress. It got its start back in New York City in 1906 and moved to Detroit permanently in 1924.

But starting in 2017, they changed the name of the event from the World Congress to WCX, which stands for World Congress Experience.

'It was our way of rebranding the event," Forlenza said. "We want people to know that this isn't your father's SAE Congress. This year's WCX will build on what we started last year. We want to continue to change the experience of attending the event, to make it more personal, more intimate."

Among the changes are holding meetings in the middle of the main floor at Cobo, Forlenza said. Last year, they had three separate areas within the main floor. Each area was dedicated to a different aspect of the experi-

hub," Forlenza said. "Tech leaders use the hub to talk about the tech issues going on in the automotive industry today. We had a place where our leadership summit was held. People at the OEMs and Tier I companies talked about the decision-making process. We will do something similar this year."

Another hub deals with issues event has traditionally been of education, Forlenza said. The idea is to get people out and about and out of the conference rooms away from the "action" going on at the main floor.

This year, we will have a few neat things going on that should be of interest to our members who attend," Forlenza said. "We will have a lot of new participants contributing to the content of the overall program. We will have 21 new companies attending the event for the first time at the leadership summit, including companies like Split and Silver Car and Didi, which is the largest ride sharing company in India."

After all, having representatives from countries like Japan, Germany, China and India attend the event and speak is very important.

This really gives people who go to WCX the opportunity to learn from different people and be exposed to different points of view and perspectives," Forlenza "We had, and will have a tech said. "And we will have topical

discussions, including one on recent proposals made by the EPA possibly about changing mileage regulations. And we will continue to carry on the tech conversation about how the auto industry and the tech industry are becoming even more interconnected."

And, the main floor will have businesses showing off the latest tech, Forlenza said. The company Navya, for example, will have an automated shuttle that will be able to take passengers around the main floor using a predetermined route.

This is looking to be a successful show," Forlenza said. "We are expecting more than 11,000 attendees. Last year we had 10,500.

Holding the show in the Cobo Center is something that Forlenza takes pride in. SAE has a contract with the facility that extends to the year 2023.

"This is one of the better venues in the country to hold an event of this size," Forlenza said. "They've improved the facilities and it's exciting to be a part of downtown Detroit's rebirth. I hold about 25 events a year for SAE and this is the biggest."

In years past, said Forlenza, there was some concern about Detroit, but the story has changed and there's so much going on downtown.

There's now so much to see and do that getting out of Cobo is now part and parcel of attending the show at Cobo," Forlenza said. "It's exciting to be down there and see the changes that have been going on in the city.

"I like to think that we have some part to play in helping bring Detroit back.

"Our members have commented on how much the downtown area has changed and we help show the city off."

RED WING

SHOES"

GM Sales in March Go Out Like a Lion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deliveries for GM and the industry were up about 1 percent versus a vear ago.

"March was an exceptional month for us. A growing economy and strong new products helped us execute a very successful plan to conquest customers from other brands," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president, Sales Operations.

"Once customers purchase a GM product, they tend to stay in the family as we deliver an award-winning ownership experience that is hard to beat.

March and First Quarter Sales Highlights (vs. 2017) show that crossovers, pickups, SUVs, and six different car lines drove GM's growth, Cain said.

Chevrolet crossovers were up 39 percent, with the Trax and the new Equinox and Traverse seeing their best March sales ever. Bolt EV deliveries reached 1,774 units. In the first quarter, Chevrolet crossovers were up 28 per-

Buick crossovers were up 50 percent. It was the Encore's best month ever, and it was the Envision's best March, with the Enclave posting a 6 percent increase.

In the first quarter, Buick crossovers were up 17 percent.

GMC crossovers were up 42 percent, led by the best March ever for the Acadia and the best month ever for Terrain. In the first quarter, GMC crossovers were up 21 percent.

Cadillac's XT5 was up 17 percent in March, and 10 percent for the quarter. Cadillac car deliveries were up 7 percent in March and for the first quarter, with

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every nameplate posting higher sales in March.

The company's three-truck pickup strategy delivered again, said Cain, with sales up 19 percent in March, led by a 24 percent gain for the Chevrolet Silverado, a 52 percent gain for the Chevrolet Colorado and a 9 percent gain for the GMC Canyon. In the first quarter, pickup deliveries were up more than 2 percent.

Chevrolet and GMC led the large SUV segment once again in March. Sales were up 4 percent in total and 13 percent on a retail basis, and retail segment share was more than 70 percent, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates. In the first quarter, large SUV total sales were in line with a year ago.

Chevrolet's Spark, Sonic and Malibu were strong sellers, up 2 percent, 16 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

"Consumers are keeping the U.S. economy growing and auto sales very healthy," said Mustafa Mohatarem, GM's chief economist.

"The job market is strong, consumer confidence is at decade-high levels and we see clear evidence that business owners are taking advantage of tax reform to upgrade their fleets."

GM's March average transaction prices (ATPs), which are net of incentives, were in line with a year ago, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates, and they were up more than \$900 in the first quar-

GM's incentive spending as a percentage of ATP was 14.5 percent in March, and 13.3 percent in the first quarter, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates. Spending was up less than one percentage point in March but down 0.8 points for the quarter.

Macomb County Sets Seminar for Expectant Parents

The Macomb County Health Department, through a grant, has partnered with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to host two free infant safety expos for new and expecting parents, said county spokeswoman Roneeka Pleasant-Brown.

The expo will focus on infant safety such as best sleep practices, safe car installations and reducing infant mortality in Macomb County, Pleasant-Brown said.

It will take place on Thursday, April 12, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the Roseville & Eastpointe Recreation Authority Center at 18185 Sycamore in Roseville, and on Friday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Max Thompson Family Resource Center at 11370 Hupp Ave. in Warren.

The Macomb County Health Department welcomes anyone who is pregnant, or a parent or caregiver of an infant under the age of 1, to attend one of the expos, Pleasant-Brown said.

In addition to the information being made available, a catered meal will be provided, several local vendors will be present and participants will have a chance to win prizes, Pleasant-Brown said.

Due to limited seating, RSVPs are required. Those wishing to learn more about the two meetings and to register to attend, should visit Macomb County's Web site at health.macomb gov.org.

Those without access to a computer can call 586-469-5520 to sign up as well, Pleasant-Brown said.



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Cadillac Unveils New XT4 to the World

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participating U.S. Cadillac dealers nationwide, Nordlicht said.

Additional XT4 highlights include smart chassis features including available twin-clutch, decoupling all-wheel drive and Available Active Sport Suspension featuring Continuous Damping Control and new electro-hydraulic braking assist.

De Nysschen said a team of young designers representing the heart of the XT4's target customer demographic helmed the design, "penning an expressive SUV that injects a higher degree of sculpture into Cadillac's lineup and today's vehicle is very close to their original visions for the exterior and interior."

The XT4 has a great presence that is confident and poised," said Therese Pinazzo, exterior design manager. "It exudes Cadillac's DNA, but with a new boldness that speaks to the youthfulness of its team and its customers."

In keeping with Cadillac's new "Y" trim strategy, the Luxury, Premium Luxury and Sport models offer distinctive styling cues and trim finishes to create unique personas and greater choice for customers, Pinazzo said. XT4 Sport models feature a gloss black mesh grille inspired by Cadillac's high-performance V-Series models, gloss black window moldings and specific Sport alloy wheel choices. Luxury and Premium Luxury models feature grilles with bright metallic accents, satin aluminum window moldings and satin chrome-accented door handles.

Eight exterior colors will be offered on the 2019 XT4 at launch: Atlantic Metallic, Autumn Metallic, Crystal White Tricoat, Twilight Blue Metallic, Shadow Metallic, Red Horizon Tintcoat, Stellar Black Metallic and Radiant Silver

Metallic, Nordlicht said. Echoing the exterior design themes, the new XT4's cabin conveys boldness and strength with youthful athleticism, he said. Sweeping arcs and tapered lines enhance the feeling of spaciousness and give it a taut, tightly wrapped appearance, said Nordlicht.

The interior elements come together in a sophisticated and modern design, de Nysschen said, adding that intuitive technology includes available nextgeneration wireless device charging and an in-cabin air ionizer.

With the XT4's interior, we distilled Cadillac to its essence,' said Phillip Kucera, Interior Design manager. "We've been able to be simpler and bolder than we have ever been before, giving the SUV attitude and a sporty conno-

At launch, the 2019 XT4 will be offered in seven interior environments, based on Luxury, Premium Luxury or Sport trims:

- XT4 Luxury Light Platinum/Jet Black with Aluminum Metallized decor trim.
- XT4 Premium Luxury Jet Black with Diamond-Cut Aluminum, Light Platinum/Jet Black with Linear Galaxy High-Gloss Wood, Sedona/Jet Black with Fineline Calico High-Gloss Wood.
- XT4 Sport Jet Black with Cinnamon Accents with Twenty-Two High-Gloss Carbon Fiber, Light Wheat/Jet Black with Red Accents and Morello Red High-Gloss Carbon Fiber, Sedona/Jet Black with Fineline Calico High-Gloss Wood.

The new Cadillac XT4 has a new Cadillac 2.0L Turbo engine. This advanced, power-dense inline-four-cylinder – 118.5 hp per liter - features an industry-first tripower system. The system is designed to optimize performance and efficiency by having three distinct operating modes, including high and low valve lift and Active Fuel Management (cylinder deactivation).

A nine-speed automatic transmission is paired with the new engine, helping the XT4 achieve a Cadillac-estimated 30 mpg in highway driving. The vehicle also features the next generation of electronic precision shift with an intuitive shifting sequence.

The XT4 is also the first Cadillac to introduce electro-hydraulic braking assist, which supplants the traditional vacuum-assisted power braking system with an electro-hydraulic system that enhances fuel economy and takes up less space under the hood, Nordlicht said.

AAA: Michigan's **Gas Prices Are Slightly Lower**

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) - AAA Michigan says gas prices statewide have declined by about 2 cents per gallon as of

The Dearborn-based auto club announced early last week that the average price for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline was about \$2.69 per gallon.

Prices are about 24 cents more than at the same point this time last year.

Michigan's lowest average price was about \$2.67 per gallon in the Flint area. The highest was about \$2.73 per gallon in the Ann Arbor area.

The Detroit-area's average daily gas price was about \$2.70 per gallon, about 2 cents more than last week's average.

AAA Michigan surveys daily fuel prices at 2,800 gas stations across the state.



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Gilmore Museum Honors Foyt

In celebration of the 102nd running of the Indy 500, the Gilmore Car Museum near Kalamazoo has opened a special exhibit honoring auto racing icon A.J. Foyt. The exhibit opens on April 14.

"A.J. Foyt: A Legendary Exhibition," which originally debuted at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum last year, will arrive at the Gilmore Car Museum with a twist, featuring West Michigan's connections to the race and the iconic driver, said Christopher Shires, the museum's executive director.

We are proud to honor this incredible racing legend, with ties to our local community, with an exhibit celebrating one of the most diverse and successful careers in auto racing history," said Shires.

Enterprises sponsored the team in 1977 when Foyt became the first driver to ever win the Indianapolis 500 four times, Shires

Jim Gilmore, Jr., the nephew of Museum founders Donald and Genevieve Gilmore, was once Mayor of Kalamazoo and owner of several TV/radio stations and automotive dealerships throughout the country.

Gilmore sponsored his first Indy race team in 1967 with Gordon Johncock, from nearby Hastings, Mich., behind the wheel. A 1968 Gerhardt-Offy driven by Johncock for the Gilmore Broadcasting Team will be part of the exhibition, Shires said.

A.J. Foyt joined the Gilmore team in 1973. With a total of 67 career victories, he became INDY CAR Racing's most acclaimed driver. He is also the only person to have won the Indy 500, the Daytona 500 and the 24 Hours of Le Mans (with co-driver Dan Gur-

The four-time Indy wins has been matched only two other times: Al Unser won his fourth Indy 500 in 1987, ten years after Foyt made history, and Rick Mears won in 1991.

"A.J. Foyt is perhaps the most iconic and well-known driver in the 108-year history of the Brickvard." said Shires.

Several cars that Foyt drove in competition, from his early dirt tracks days to the pinnacle of auto racing - the Indy 500 - will be on display. Foyt's Indianapolis 500 winning cars; the Bowes Seal Fast Special of 1961, the Sheraton-Thompson Specials from 1964 & 1967, and the Gilmore-Foyt Coyote that ran in 1977 are part of the exhibit.

It may surprise many that the Indy 500 – known as the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" - had Kalamazoo-based Jim Gilmore strong West Michigan ties since the beginning, Shires said.

The inaugural Indy 500 in 1911 was won by Ray Harroun who still has family in the Kalamazoo area. In 1915, company namesake Louis Chevrolet ran the brickpaved Indianapolis 500 race in the Blood Brothers' Cornelian racecar built in nearby Allegan.

Today, that car is owned by the Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed of Lincoln, Neb., which has graciously loaned it to the Gilmore Car Museum, Shires

Still, the most legendary West Michigan connection is certainly the iconic A.J. Foyt and the record-breaking Gilmore/Foyt Race team.

The Gilmore Car Museum is located midway between Chicago and Detroit, just minutes from Kalamazoo, Shires said.

It displays nearly 400 vehicles year-round, exhibits throughout the season, and offers everchanging special exhibits as

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Ford Honors Dealers Across the Globe for Their Charitable Work

Ford dealers in the United to children's causes totaled 13 States contributed more than \$110 million and 50,000 hours to charitable causes and nonprofits in 2017, according to Ford Motor Company's annual survey on dealer giving.

The survey coincides with the 18th annual Salute to Dealers awards held last month at the 2018 National Automobile Dealers Association Convention and Expo in Las Vegas, said Ford spokeswoman Sherrice Gilsbach.

Ford launched its Salute to Dealers awards program in 2001 to demonstrate a commitment to its thousands of dealer owners who step beyond their showroom doors to make a difference in their communities.

The generosity of dealers participating in the survey reflects Ford Motor Company's commitment to community and sets Ford and Ford dealers apart from the competition, said Gilsbach.

More than 90 percent of dealers said their teams give both time and money to local causes, according to the annual dealer giving survey. Most say they are driven to make a difference in their communities because giving is a part of their dealership tradition.

"Ford dealers are the best in the world," said Edsel B. Ford II, who chairs the Salute to Dealers awards program and serves on the company's board of directors. "Their level of commitment to bettering the communities in which they operate is not only commendable, it also helps to strengthen the Ford and Lincoln brands in communities across the world."

Contributions to police, firefighter and other first responder initiatives topped the list last year, with 17 percent of dealers reporting giving to those causes, Gilsbach said. Dealer donations percent, while contributions to educational programs and scholarships also totaled 13 percent; 10 percent reported giving to veterans' causes.

This year, Edsel B. Ford II and four other judges selected six winners from a total global field of more than 60 nominees from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Europe, Asia Pacific, Mexico, Africa and the Middle East regions. As part of the awards program, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services is donating \$10,000 to a charity of the dealer's choice.

A painted portrait of each honoree features a montage of the philanthropic and volunteer activities that led to the award. Duplicates of the portraits will join a Salute to Dealers display in the lobby of Ford World Headquarters.

Ford Motor Company's 2017 awards recognize several dealers for their unparalleled generosity and commitment to their communities.

Charlie Diers of Diers Ford-Lincoln in Fremont, Neb., was one of the honored dealers. His bio said that Diers has consistently given back to his community for decades. His outreach extends to St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Archbishop Bergan School with the donation of 20 acres of family farmland for one of Nebraska's largest Catholic churches. He was a lead donor and fundraiser for building the church and adjacent new elementary school.

"I'm a farm kid who learned early that it's not work when you're doing something you enjoy," he said. "From sitting on my grandfather's lap steering a Model A to driving one down Main Street in a parade in my hometown, I've found joy in this business. One of the most remarkable



Diers, left, receives award for giving to charity from Edsel Ford II.

parts has been what it's enabled us to do in the community.'

Ford also honored Dan Hay of Jim Burke Ford, Bakersfield, Calif. Gilsbach said Dan and Michele Hay believe in the spirit of generosity, promoting the concept of service over self and encouraging civic responsibility. In 1975, they started a youth leadership program called Ford Dimension. In gratitude, alumni of the program established the Jim Burke Education Foundation.

The foundation provides opportunities for students to excel through grants, scholarships and the Ford Dream Builders program. It accepts 32 high school seniors into a yearlong class that provides career and leadership training through student-led projects designed to improve the lives of people in the community, while tackling issues such as bullying, literacy, human trafficking and college attainment.

The Hay family is engaged in providing financial and board level support for local hospitals, schools, the state university and Boy Scouts programs.

Also honored was Don Jenkins

of Jenkins and Wynne Ford-Linin Clarksville. Tenn. Gilsbach said his commitment to his community runs deep. Jenkins devotes countless hours fundraising for Austin Peay State University. He has helped to raise nearly \$40 million to support enrollment for economically disadvantaged students, and to build new dorms, a recreation center and university center.

"My dad taught me that I must give my time and money to the community where I make my living," Jenkins said. "No one will remember how many vehicles we sold. They will, however, remember our passion for helping our community.'

Gilsbach said Ford also honored Siegfried Ernst of Ernst + König GmbH, Freiburg im Breisgau, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, because he and his wife Tanja support their community by engaging in activities focused on improving the lives of others.

Each of their 14 dealerships has ongoing involvement with at least one community cause and every employee contributes in some way. Ernst + König sup-

ports its many nonprofit causes through its motto: A Thing from the Heart. Since its creation, a substantial amount of money has been raised, with thousands of hours donated by employees.

Another international honoree was Al MacPhee, MacPhee Ford, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. Gilsbach said he was chosen for his unwavering passion for his community, which can be seen in his commitment to supporting education, culture, the environment and health care. Active in community-based organizations, MacPhee has provided ongoing support to the local health sciences center and Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation.

Ford also honored Ivo Luiz Roveda, Ford Center, Curitiba, PR. Brazil. Gilsbach said he was chosen because, with his employees, Ivo Roveda personally engages in numerous educational and social initiatives focused on improving diversity in the work-

This includes a one-year professional training program for hiring people with disabilities into his business. Psychological support, meals and skill development are provided while trainees earn a salary. Roveda has gone to great lengths in restructuring company software and operating systems to accommodate the visually impaired he employs.

Through his Second Chance Project, Roveda provides automotive mechanic training to individuals who have fallen on hard times, including people who have been addicted to alcohol and drugs, have lived on the streets or are ex-prisoners. As trainees, they are provided with food, clothing, transportation and other necessary resources to aid them as they work through the course requirements, Gilsbach

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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 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

FCA Sales Saw **Sharp Increases** Last Month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ram Light Duty pickup truck rose 8 percent to 26,050 vehicles. The new 2019 Ram 1500 pickup truck began shipping to dealers in the second half of the month, Bennett said. The truck is being produced at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.

Chrysler brand total sales rose 15 percent in March to 19,499 vehicles compared with the same month a year ago. The Chrysler Pacifica minivan posted a 40 percent sales increase with sales of 13,086 compared to sales figures of 9,340 last year.

Chrysler's other vehicle, the 300, also saw an increase of 25 percent. This year, the 300 saw sales of 6,223 compared to sales of 4,969 during the same time last year.

Dodge brand total sales declined 2 percent to 49,184. But the news wasn't all bad, Bennett said. Sales of the Dodge Challenger rose 31 percent to 8,150 vehicles compared to March 2017 sales of 6,225.

Part of the reason for Dodge's overall sales drop can be traced to the Dart. Last year, FCA was still selling the now-discontinued vehicle in relatively large numbers. March 2017 sales were 1,578. This year, Dodge sold a grand total of 87 Darts. That is a 94 percent decrease

Sales of Fiat declined 47 percent to 1,544 vehicles

Alfa Romeo brand sales of 2.576 vehicles were up significantly compared with the same month a year ago. Giulia led the brand with 1,284 sales followed by Stelvio at 1,270 vehicles.

Last year, the Stelvio had not vet reached showroom floors, Bennett said.

Cadillac Enjoys Stronger March Sales Worldwide

Cadillac sold 34,404 units globally in March 2018 — an increase of 25.6 percent from the same month last year — marking the brand's 22nd consecutive month of global sales growth. The March sales increase was spurred largely by continued consumer demand for the XT5 luxury crossover and the iconic Escalade. For the first quarter of 2018, Cadillac global sales of 96,331 units were up 22.5 percent compared to the same period in 2017, said Cadillac spokesman CJ Smith.

"March was an exceptional sales month for Cadillac, bringing the first quarter of 2018 to a strong close," said Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen. "Despite new competition, demand for Cadillac products – especially our SUV portfolio – continues to grow. Having just unveiled the first-ever Cadillac XT4 and CT6 V-Sport at the New York International Auto Show, the prospects of continued growth are excellent.'

Cadillac saw significant growth across the world in March, with gains reported in Asia, the Unit-

ed States, Europe and Israel, Smith said. China continues to be a critical market for the brand, with sales up 45.6 percent year over year.

The U.S. market saw its strongest March since 2014, with volume growth across all Cadillac vehicle lines resulting in total volume up 12.7 percent year over year. Sales were driven by impressive performances of both the Cadillac XT5 and the Escalade, which continues to gain market share with retail sales up 15 percent for the month. The brand's sedan portfolio also saw robust growth during the first quarter of 2018.

Sales of the XTS, CT6 and ATS also saw significant gains.

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

Smith said that in the United States, Cadillac sold 14,494 vehicles in March of 2018. That's compared to 12,861 vehicles in March of 2017.

Goodyear Faces More Legal Troubles

DETROIT (AP) - The U.S. gov- in 1999, six in 2000, eight in ernment's road safety agency says it has received allegations that defective Goodyear motor home tires caused crashes that killed or injured 95 people during the past two decades.

The allegations were revealed in an information-seeking letter dated April 3 that was sent to Goodyear by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agency began investigating whether the company's G159 tires are unsafe last year after a judge ordered the release of Goodyear data that had been sealed under court orders and settlement agreements.

Lawsuits and safety advocates allege the tires were designed for delivery trucks and not for recreational vehicles that travel at highway speeds. They allege that Goodyear kept the tire problems secret for years by settling cases and getting judges to seal records. Despite the allegations, the tires have not been recalled.

In a statement made April 4, Goodyear said it received the letter "and will cooperate fully with NHTSA in its investigation, including providing requested information on its G159 tires."

The investigation covers about 40,000 tires made from 1996 to 2003. In the letter to Akron. Ohio-based Goodvear Tire & Rubber Co., the agency says it has allegations that the injury claims in 1998, four more 2001, 18 in 2002 and 57 more from 2003 through 2015.

The letter did not break down how many of the claims involved deaths, nor did it specify the source of the information.

In a Dec. 28 document that started the investigation, NHT-SA said it obtained claim and complaint data about the tires after the court order unsealed the documents and released them to NHTSA.

The nonprofit Center for Auto Safety and Public Justice sought to have the records released to the public, which Goodyear opposed. An Arizona judge ruled in favor of the center on April 4, unsealing most of the information. But Jason Levine, the center's executive director, said release of the documents was delayed pending an expected appeal from Goodyear.

In his ruling, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge John Hannah wrote that Goodyear's need to keep information confidential "does not come close" to outweighing the public's need for access.

"That information - primarily concerning the tire's design, its testing, the decision to market it for use on motor homes, and the adjustment data generated by consumer experience with it - should be made public because it relates to and reveals a substantial potential risk to tires resulted in two deaths or public health or safety," he wrote.







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Ford Helping Customers Stay Connected

Personal communications technology has come a long way in just a few years with the advent of new hardware and software. This can can make staying connected with the latest tech a chore because this tech is always being undated.

But Ford is doing something about that.

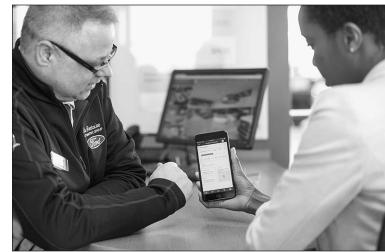
Millions of customers can soon upgrade the connectivity in their older-model Ford vehicles to include a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, smartphone control of existing key fob features, vehicle health and security alerts, and vehicle location tracking, said Ford spokeswoman Sherrice Gilsbach.

Using a simple device that plugs into the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD II) port below the steering wheel, the new FordPass SmartLink experience gives owners of 2010-17 model year Ford vehicles those connectivity features normally available only on newer vehicles equipped with modems, said Gilsbach.

"Vehicle connectivity has improved at a rapid rate in recent years," said Frederiek Toney, president, Global, Ford Customer Service Division. "We believe offering an affordable way for our customers to upgrade their older-model vehicles to include more modern technology will improve their ownership experience for years to come.

FordPass SmartLink is available exclusively through Ford dealerships nationwide starting in mid-2018 and is the latest example of Ford's aggressive connected vehicle plan, Toney said. By 2019, 100 percent of Ford's new U.S. vehicles will be built with connectivity.

With more than two years of research and development invested, FordPass SmartLink engineers, in collaboration with Aptiv Verizon Connect, have



FordPass SmartLink provides a wi-fi hotspot and car security alerts.

worked to make the technology function seamlessly on 2010-17 Ford vehicles.

"From security to performance, we've conducted extensive testing and made a number of improvements to ensure FordPass SmartLink enhances the customer experience for our Ford vehicle owners," said Don Butler, executive director of Ford's Connected Vehicle and Services.

FordPass SmartLink customers pay \$16.99 a month, plus installation, for 24 months to purchase the device and receive telematics services that enable remote key fob, location and vehicle health features, Butler said.

Also included is a complimentary trial of a Verizon 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot with 1 gigabyte or 30 days of data - whichever comes

To continue use of the Wi-Fi hotspot beyond the initial trial period, customers can add their FordPass SmartLink device to their existing Verizon account or establish a new one.

"Having reliable Wi-Fi on the go is no longer just 'nice to have' it's become a 'must-have,' and Ford recognizes that," said Susan Heystee, senior vice president, worldwide OEM business at Verizon Connect. "Streaming music and podcasts in the front seat or keeping kids entertained on their mobile devices in the back is now as easy as turning on Ford-Pass SmartLink's Verizon 4G LTE

FCA Spinning Off Magneti Marelli

MILAN (AP) - FCA has announced it will spin off the Magneti Marelli components business as part of its five-year plan to be announced in June.

FCA CEO Sergio Marchionne said in a statement March 5 that the move would allow the Italian-American automotive company to focus on its core business while giving the components business "the operational flexibility" necessary for growth in the coming years.

Under the spin-off, shares will be distributed to FCA investors. The separation is expected to be completed by early 2019.



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2018 Colorado ZR2 Earns More Awards

The 2018 Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 has added to its growing list of awards with recognition as a 2018 Autotrader Must Test Drive Award winner

ZR2 was one of twelve winners announced by the Web site in late March and the only pickup truck in the group, said GM spokesman Phil Lienert. The winners were chosen for several factors, including "interior comfort and materials, available technology features and ride quality.'

The truck was commended by the Web site for its "easy-tohandle dimensions," as well as its "cool off-road capabilities." Autotrader notes that "ZR2 is a true off-road machine, rugged and ready for almost anything you can throw at it."

Autotrader judges said that the 2018 Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 combines the easy-to-handle dimensions of a midsize pickup truck with the cool off-road capabilities some shoppers need -"or, at least, the capabilities they say they need, even if they just plan to mostly use their truck in the city.

Yet the ZR2 manages both, with content specialist Dwight Cunningham noting that "for a serious off-roader, the ZR2 handles city driving with the ease of a nice sedan.

Of course, with that said, the ZR2 still accomplishes its purpose quite well; automotive data manager Ben Cheney notes the ZR2 is "a true off-road machine," while associate editor Rob Nestora says it's "rugged and ready for almost anything you can throw at it."

Although the 2018 Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 can be pricey, said executive editor Brian Moody, with a starting MSRP of around \$41,000 with shipping, "nearly everyone shopping for a small truck thinks they want a Toyota Tacoma, but this proves there are credible alternatives.'

Anita Burke, vehicle chief engineer for GM Midsize Truck, said, "We're honored by this recogni-



2018 Colorado ZR2

tion and thrilled that Autotrader has picked up on the versatile footprint and serious off-road capabilities of ZR2.

"ZR2 builds on the already-capable platform of the Colorado, and we agree that all customers looking for a great truck, not to mention an excellent off-road vehicle, should give it a spin, as it's every bit as enjoyable on paved roads as it is on sand dunes, two-tracks and while rock crawling.

The ZR2 is effectively a segment of one, combining the nimbleness and maneuverability of a mid-size pickup with a host of new off-road features and technology, Lienert said.

Compared to a standard Colorado, the ZR2 features a threeand-a-half-inch wider track and a suspension with a two-inch lift from the factory.

Functional rocker protection has been added for better performance over rocks and obstacles, and the front and rear bumpers have been modified for better off-road clearance.

Class-exclusive features include front and rear electronic locking differentials, available diesel engine, and the first offroad application of Multimatic Dynamic Suspensions Spool Valve damper technology.

Lienert said as a result, the Colorado ZR2 delivers exceptional performance in a variety of

State Fights Over VW Settlement

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - The unrelenting power struggle between North Carolina Republicans and the Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is back in court.

Lawyers for the two sides were in a Wake County courtroom April 4 in a dispute over who controls money from federal block grants and money settling Volkswagen's high-profile lawsuit.

An attorney for Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore says about \$180 million is at stake in Cooper's lawsuit. Republican legislative majorities last summer buried deep in the state budget plans to decide how to spend federal grants for health and community development programs and from compensation for VW cheating on diesel pollution measures.

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Trouble With Tesla Crashes

NEW YORK (AP) – The vehicle in a fatal crash in late March in California was operating on Autopilot, making it the latest accident to involve a semi-autonomous vehicle, Tesla confirmed.

The electric car maker said the driver, who was killed in the accident, did not have his hands on the steering wheel for six seconds before the crash, despite several warnings from the vehicle. Tesla Inc. tells drivers that its Autopilot system, which can keep speed, change lanes and self-park, requires drivers to keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel in order to take control of the vehicle to avoid accidents.

Tesla said its vehicle logs show the driver took no action to stop the Model X SUV from crashing into a concrete lane divider. Photographs of the SUV show that the front of the vehicle was demolished; its hood was ripped off; and its front wheels were scattered on the freeway.

The vehicle also caught fire, though Tesla said no one was in the vehicle when that accident happened.

The company said the crash was made worse by a missing or damaged safety shield on the end of the freeway barrier that is supposed to reduce the impact of a crash into the concrete lane divider.

The crash happened in Mountain View, in California's Silicon Valley. The driver was Walter Huang, 38, a software engineer for Apple.

"None of this changes how devastating an event like this is or how much we feel for our customer's family and friends," Tesla

said on its website March 30.

Earlier in March, a self-driving Volvo SUV being tested by ridehailing service Uber struck and killed a pedestrian in Arizona.

Tesla Inc. defended its Autopilot feature, saying that while it doesn't prevent all accidents, it makes them less likely to occur than vehicles without it.

Federal investigators are looking into last week's crash, as well a separate crash in January of a Tesla Model S that may have been operating under the Autopilot system.

On April 2, the National Transportation Safety Board said it's "unhappy" about Tesla's decision to release information a fatal crash investigation involving its Autopilot system.

The NTSB was referring to the vehicle, using the semi-autonomous system, that crashed into a concrete lane divider in California last month, which ended up killing the driver.

Tesla spokespeople said that data shows the driver did not have his hands on the wheel, as recommended, and received several warnings from the system prior to the crash.

Christopher T. O'Neil is a spokesman for the NTSB. He says, "In each of our investigations involving a Tesla vehicle, Tesla has been extremely cooperative on assisting with the vehicle data." He adds, "the NTSB is unhappy with the release of investigative information by Tesla.'

The NTSB says its next update will come in a preliminary rewhich generally takes weeks.

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NADA Creates Recall Information Program

To keep the public informed about vehicle safety, the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) joined with the National Safety Council (NSC) in support of its Check To Protect campaign.

The campaign is designed to educate the public about the importance of addressing open vehicle recalls, said FCA spokesman Jeff Bennett.

NADA chairman and FCA US dealer Wes Lutz made the announcement last month at the NADA conference and convention in Las Vegas, Bennett said.

Lutz also intends to promote Check To Protect on his dealership websites and during interactions with customers.

He encouraged fellow auto dealers to follow his lead by using and promoting CheckToProtect.org as the go-to resource for drivers to learn whether a vehicle has an open recall.

"NADA wholeheartedly supports the National Safety Council's Check To Protect initiative, and is proud to be a partner in its efforts to educate and raise awareness about the importance of getting recall repairs completed," said Lutz, owner of Extreme Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep-Ram dealership located in Jackson, Mich.

"I'm honored to be the first dealer to link directly to the Check To Protect website from my dealership home page, and I'm encouraging all franchised dealers, of every brand, to do so as well.'

The council said it is grateful for NADA's support and encourages vehicle owners to go to CheckToProtect.org to review their recall status, Lutz said.

Those with an open recall are encouraged to make an appointment with their certified auto dealer today, he said. All recalls are 100 percent free for drivers to have repaired at authorized dealerships regardless of the age of the vehicle.

"For Check To Protect to work on a national level, the National Safety Council knows it needs dealer support," said Kelly Nantel, vice president of communications and advocacy for the Council.

"At the end of the day, dealers are the ones who repair the open recalls and close the loop.

"This relationship raises awareness about the Check To Protect campaign among dealers, drivers and their communities all places we want to spread the word."

The council launched Check To Protect in June 2017. Since that time, more than 100,000 people have visited CheckToProtect.org to learn whether their vehicle has an open recall.

FCA US is a founding partner of Check To Protect, Bennett

"Recall awareness and compliance are critically important to safety," said Kristen Kreibich, Safety Advocacy, FCA U.S. Vehicle Safety and Regulatory Compliance.

"FCA US is proud to be working with NSC to develop Check To Protect."

NADA began in 1917 when 30 auto dealers traveled to the nation's capital to convince Congress not to impose a luxury tax on the automobile, Bennett said. They successfully argued that the automobile is a necessity of American life, not a luxury. From that experience, NADA was born. Today, NADA represents nearly 16,500 new car and truck dealerships, with both domestic and international franchises.

Ford March Sales 'Edge' Up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With total sales of 87,011 pickups, Ford F-Series saw its best March performance since 2000, making for 11 consecutive months of gains.

Another element of Ford's lineup showing strength were Ford brand's SUVs which saw sales increase by 7.3 percent last month, turning in an all-time record for the month of March.

Sales of Ford EcoSport totaled 3,296 vehicles, while Ford Explorer gained 3.9 percent overall and Ford Edge sales expanded 18.7 percent.

As dealer inventories improve, sales of new Ford Expedition are growing; retail sales climbed 46.1 percent in March, Merkle said.

And retail sales of the new Lincoln Navigator saw a triple-digit increase in March, gaining 101.6 percent on a mix of 80 percent Black Label and Reserve models Lincoln's two highest trim levels. Average transaction pricing for Navigator grew \$25,600, Merkle said.

"March represented a strong start to the spring selling season for both Ford and the industry," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"We saw incredible demand for our trucks and SUVs, selling over 87,000 F-Series pickups. Ford brand SUVs established a new sales record in March.

"Demand for our all-new Lincoln Navigator is off the charts, with some customers buying the SUV sight unseen.

"Our all-new Ford Expedition is moving off dealer lots in 17 days or less. We're seeing growth in all regions of the country, plus strong demand for Platinum Expedition

"This high-trim-level SUV represented 26 percent of sales last month, expanding transaction pricing by \$11,500.

LaNeve added that Ford's total fleet sales were 34.9 percent of total vehicle sales for March 2918. That is about the same for the same time last year when total fleet sales accounted for 33.7 percent of total vehicle sales.

The trend toward vehicle sales being dominated by SUVs and trucks continues, Merkle said. Sale of traditional cars were 52,635 in March of 2018. That's 8.1 percent down from March 2017's sales of 57.244.

SUV sales, on the other hand, were 82,395 compared to 76,625 sold in March of 2017 - an increase of 7.5 percent. And truck sales continue to be the company's leaders. Ford sold a total of 109,276 in March of 2918. That's a 6.7 percent increase over last year's 102,381 in March sales.

Apropos of nothing, Ford's total March car sales were exactly 50,000 in 2018. The 2017 sales number was 53,780.

Merkle said the Ford Focus saw a sales increase of 11.8 percent, selling 16,137 in March compared to sales of 14,437 the same time in 2017.

On the other hand, Taurus sales dropped from 4,030 in 2017 to 2,569 in in 2018 – a 36 percent decline.

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Ford Loses Discrimination Lawsuit

awarded nearly \$17 million to a because he says two supervisors repeatedly berated and criticized him for his Arab background and accent.

On March 28, a federal jury in Michigan ruled that Faisal Khalaf was subjected to workplace discrimination and retaliation after he reported the abuse, the Detroit Free Press reported. Khalaf was born in Lebanon and holds a PhD in industrial engineering. He worked for the automaker for more than 15 years.

"There was a high-level executive at Ford Motor Co. that my client reported to . . . that would berate him and criticize him week after week about his English," said attorney Carol Laughbaum.

One of Khalaf's supervisors would slam his fist on a table and scream at him for his English, according to Laughbaum.

"It wasn't a matter of 'Please, can you repeat this?' but 'What is wrong with you? Why don't you understand this?" she said.

The jury awarded Khalaf \$15

DETROIT (AP) - A jury has million in punitive damages, \$1.7 million in retirement and pension former Ford engineer who sued losses, and \$100,000 for emotionthe automaker for discrimination all distress for the actions of Ford supervisors Bennie Fowler and Jay Zhou.

> A Ford representative said the company disagrees with the verdict and is pursuing options to get it "corrected." The case was filed under a statute that allows unlimited punitive damages. The intention was to punish the defendant and deter them from future discriminatory employment practices, said Laughbaum.

The harassment started when Khalaf was placed under Fowler's supervision in 2012.

Before the supervisory change, Khalaf earned a "top achiever" performance rating. After. Khalaf received frequent and unwarranted criticism and hostility over his ability to speak and understand English. He was put into "demeaning" and "servile" positions, including being asked to bring Fowler coffee, according

to the complaint. Fowler retired in October 2017, and Zhou continues to serve as Ford's executive technical leader for quality.





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