# Tech Center News®

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**MAY 14, 2018** 

#### **Cadillac Ends Production of ATS Sedan**

Cadillac ATS sedan have been confirmed.

On May 9 Cadillac spokesman Donny Nordlicht confirmed in an email to the Web site CarBuzz that the brand will be discontinuing the ATS sedan at the end of its 2018 model year.

"Production of the ATS Sedan is ending due to extensive plant upgrades, expansion and re-tooling to prepare for the next generation of Cadillac sedans. Cadillac's future sedan portfolio will consist of three sedans, positioned in different segments and clearly differentiated by size and price," Nordlicht said in the email to CarBuzz.

The confirmation came just weeks after Cadillac announced that it was replacing brand president Johan de Nyscchen with Steve Carlisle. That announcement was made on April 18.

Rumors about the fate of the ATS had been circulating in the automotive press for the past several months. The Web site The Truth About Cars in December wrote a story speculating that Cadillac would be discontinuing the ATS sedan.

The editors wrote that sedans were not selling nearly as well as they had in the past.

Going by GM VIN code documents submitted to the National

appears changes are afoot for both the ATS and CT6. The smallest Cadillac offering, the ATS, is listed as a coupe-only proposition for 2019. Powertrains carry over from the previous year, but there's no sedan in sight," The Truth About Cars editors wrote.

In a May 9 article Jonathon Ramsey wrote for the Web site AutoBlog that the move by Cadillac "won't surprise anyone paying attention to statements from Cadillac or ATS sales figures. Brand then-president Johan de Nysschen strongly hinted last summer that three sedans would bite the dust come 2019, and one would be refreshed. We've seen

Rumors about the end of the tration for the 2019 model year, it the gussied-up CT6, so that puts the XTS, CTS, and ATS in the funeral home. The XTS would die an unavenged death, while the CTS downsized into the properly midsized CT5 and targeted buyers in the \$35,000 to \$45,000 range, overlapping with \$34,595 ATS sedan pricing by doing so. The ATS would go on hiatus, eventually resurrected as a compact luxury offering possibly called CT3 in coupe form and CT4 as a sedan sometime around

> "As for the market situation, ATS sales are up 7.3 percent in the U.S. through the end of April

> > **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



Highway Traffic Safety Adminis- The 2018 model year ATS Sedan will be the last version of the car.



2019 Suburban RST

#### **Chevrolet Bets Big on SUVs** With Suburban RST Variant

GM is continuing to develop new and improved SUVs for the marketplace.

To that end, Chevrolet unveiled the new Suburban RST Performance Package. Featuring a 420-hp, 6.2L V8 engine, Magnetic Ride Control with performance calibration and a new Hydra-Matic 10L80 10-speed automatic transmission, the Suburban RST Performance Package brings a blend of style and performance to Chevy's portfolio of full-size SUVs, said GM spokesman Kyle

"The RST Performance Package made its debut on the Tahoe RST last spring, and the response from our customers was overwhelmingly positive," said Sandor Piszar, director of Chevy Trucks Marketing and Advertising. "In fact, Tahoe RST with the Performance Package is the fastest-turning Tahoe model, and we've received customer requests to offer the same performance and power to Suburban RST. Delivering on

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3** 

## 2019 Corvette Pacesetter at Indy 500 Race

The 2019 Corvette ZR1 is the official Pace Car for the 2018 Indianapolis 500 presented by PennGrade Motor Oil and will lead drivers to the green flag on Sunday, May 27, for the 102nd running of the legendary race.

It marks the 15th time a Corvette has served as the official Pace Car since 1978, and the 29th time a Chevrolet has led the field dating back to 1948, when a 1948 Fleetmaster Six convertible paced the race, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

No other vehicle has served as the Pace Car more than the Corvette. To celebrate the supercar's connection to "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," the 2019 Corvette ZR1 and the other 14 Corvettes that have paced the 500 were on display on the front straightaway last month at the Indianapolis Motor Speed-

'Chevrolet is proud to once again pace the Indianapolis 500," said Steve Majoros, marketing di-

"The ZR1 is the most powerful and fastest Corvette ever made. It's the perfect choice to pace 'The Greatest Spectacle in Rac-

The 2019 Corvette ZR1 Pace Car features:

- LT5 Small Block 6.2L super charged V8 engine with 755 hp and 715 lb-ft of torque;
- 8-speed 8L90 paddle-shift automatic transmission;
- ZTK Performance Package featuring a stanchion-mounted adjustable carbon-fiber high rear wing, Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires and performance suspension;
- Selective Ride Magnetic Control;
- Brembo Carbon Ceramic brake system;

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 



rector for Cars and Crossovers. The 2019 Chevrolet Corvette ZR1 to pace 102nd Indianapolis 500.

## Musk Behavior Raises Questions on Tesla

by TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Elon Musk's quirky behavior has long been chalked up to that of a misunderstood genius. But never have his actions caused so much angst on Wall Street.

Investors have for years endured millions of dollars in shortterm losses in hopes of a longterm payoff. They might have even been able to stomach the \$8.3 million that Telsa Inc. burns through each day. But it was a blogger who served up queries conference call May 2 that left

many wondering how much more they can take.

Just after the electric car and solar panel company announced a record first-quarter loss, the Tesla CEO cut off two analysts who sought some basic answers: details about the company's cash needs and orders for its allimportant Model 3 mass-market electric car.

"These questions are so dry. They're killing me," Musk said as he dismissed an RBC Capital Markets analyst in favor of a more to his liking.

Musk called the analyst questions boring and "not cool."

Shares fell quickly in afterhours trading, and analysts began writing that Musk shouldn't bite the hands that feed his company's enormous cash needs because soon he may need more. By the afternoon of May 3. Tesla stock had lost nearly 6 percent of its value.

While they may be dry in nature, we argue such questions are extremely important for a highly leveraged and cash-hun-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Scott with the special "oversteer" 2017 Mustang GT.

## Ford, Michigan Police Teach Teens to Drive Cars Safer

by Jim Stickford

The best way to get through an automobile crash is to avoid it altogether. That was the message being taught to Michigan high school students at a special driving school event sponsored by Ford on May 7.

The event was titled "Ford Driving Skills" and featured driving experts from Michigan law enforcement agencies and those hired by Ford teaching high school students safer driving practices. It was held at Ford's test track in Romeo.

Nolan Katerberg, program manager for the Ford Motor Company Fund, help put together the May 7 event.

"This program has been around in one form or another since 2003," Katerberg said. "It's been 15 years. The whole point is to strive for a safer drive. We will teach more than 200 high

school students today about safe driving. Over the past weekend we had more than 1,000 students here taking the class and driving on the special course we set up.

The students who attended the event on different days were taught by professional driving instructors and police on how to avoid dangerous driving situations, Katerberg said. These students came from 61 high schools in the state and participated in safe driving campaigns during this school year. Ford gave each school group \$1,000 to come up with a campaign.

Some students printed t-shirts, others put up posters, Katerberg said. Some even created YouTube

Ford, along with the safety drivers it hired, worked with people from Michigan law enforcement agencies. Kari Arend.

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#### Macomb County **Business Invest** In Equipment

As part of National Economic Development Week that took place May 7 through May 12, the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development announced that in 2017, its clients invested more than \$417.4 million in new equipment and space while retaining 2,140 jobs and creating 3,729 new

County business development staff provide free and confidential services to businesses of all sizes to help them thrive and grow within the region.

"These investment figures continue to illustrate the progress and impact of our department's business development services. said MCPED Director John Paul Rea. "Working collaboratively with our communities and business development partners, we are achieving our goal to help companies grow."

Overall, the investments made in 2017 represent a healthy mix of industries including defense and advanced manufacturing.

## **Supplier Fire Affects Production of F-Series Pickup Truck**

Trouble caused by a fire at a factory that supplied parts to Ford's best-selling F-150 pickup truck resulted in production of the vehicle being halted at the company's Dearborn Assembly Plant on May 9.

In a statement to the press on May 9, Ford officials declared that the company was working with its supply base to offset impacts of a fire that occurred at one of the company's suppliers on May 2 and is affecting the production of certain vehicles, due to a shortage of die-cast components.

"This is a fluid situation, but we are working closely with our supplier partners to do everything we can to limit the impact on our production," said Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president of Global Operations. "It's a full team effort and we're confident that any impacts will be short term. The good news is we have strong inventories of our bestselling F-Series pickups and other vehicles, and customers won't have a problem finding the model they want."

Current impacts from the supply shortage, included:

- F-150 production is suspended at Kansas City (Mo.) Assembly Plant and will also be suspended at the Dearborn (Mich) Truck Plant at the end of the afternoon shift the evening of May 9.
- Ford F-Series Super Duty production is down at Ken-Truck Plant in tucky Louisville. Ford expects Super Duty production to continue at Ohio Assembly Plant in Avon Lake

The production difficulties followed a fire at the Eaton Rapids plant of Meridian Magnesium Products. The facility is owned by the Chinese firm Wangfeng Auto Holdings Group, which acquired it in 2013.

Abhay (Abe) Vadhavkar, who worked with Meridian Magnesium before retiring in September 2017 as Ford's senior manager for stampings, structures and raw materials for supplier technical assistance in purchasing North America, was quoted in the Detroit Free Press as saying "Ford has 100 percent of its truck radiator supports in North America coming out of the Eaton Rapids facility.

"You don't have multiple suppliers for a complicated part like this one. You have specialty manufacturers because it's more efficient. And you can't just take molds for the casting and ship them to another plant or supplier overseas.

Eaton Rapids Fire Chief Roger McNutt said in a statement to the media that about three-quarters of the facility appeared to have been seriously affected by the fire and that it might take a couple of weeks to get the facility back up and running.

Ford officials confirmed that Meridian produces the "front bolster," which structurally reinforces the engine where the radiator is attached, for the F-150, Super Duty trucks, Expedition and

Production of the Ford F-150 pickup truck in Dearborn was halted.

Navigator. The supplier also makes a third-row seat cushion pan for the Ford Explorer, Ford Flex and the Lincoln MKT, and a lift gate for the MKT.

The Detroit News reported that FCA, General Motors Co., BMW and Mercedes-Benz also have halted or adjusted production on some vehicles in the U.S. and Canada as a result of the May 2 explosion and fire at Meridian Magnesium Products.

At GM's Wentzville, Mo., facto-

ry, the company has been forced to cut production of the GMC Savana and Chevrolet Express big vans. But workers there have shifted to building midsize pickup trucks that come down the same assembly line, said spokesman Nick Richards. It's not clear how long van production will be suspended, he said.

AP reports that FCA might have to cut some overtime shifts at its Toledo site that makes Wrangers.

## **County Voters Approve MCC's New Millage**

Macomb County voters on May 8 approved an operating millage proposal for Macomb Community College, renewing the college's millage for 20 years and restoring it to the rate previously approved by voters.

The college's millage rate had been subjected to seven Headlee rollbacks since 2000, equating to \$1.5 million annually, said Jeanne M. Nicol, director of Public Relations for MCC.

The college's millage is 26 percent of the college's \$135 million

operational budget and is vital to ensuring that college has the faculty, staff and resources necessary to provide the education and training that connects residents to workplace opportunity,

The approved millage will update and replace the current operating millage and will run from 2018 - 2038.

"We appreciate the community's support and commitment to preserve Macomb Community

Macomb County's indispensable education and training resource," said Dr. James O. Sawyer IV, president, Macomb Community College.

"Our residents' willingness to continue to invest in the college to ensure local access to training in high-demand fields as well as an affordable start to a bachelor's degree underscores the true nature of partnership between the community and the college, and our shared dedication to bolstering economic vitality."





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#### General Motors Names Wenig To Its Board

Devin Wenig, eBay president and CEO, has been elected to the General Motors board of directors.

"Devin brings significant expertise in technology, global operations and strategic planning to our board," said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra. "His experience in customer-facing roles and insights into digital marketplaces will enhance our current and future business priorities at a critical time in the company's

Wenig, 51, was appointed president and chief executive officer of eBay in July 2015, said GM spokesman Tom Henderson. He joined the company in 2011 to oversee eBay's Marketplace business as its president. Before joining eBay Wenig spent more than 18 years at Thomson Reuters, and was chief executive officer of Thomson Reuters Markets for the last four.

Wenig earned a bachelor's de-



Devin Wenig

ris Doctor from Columbia University Law School. He is a co-chair of the Governors of the Consumer Industries for the World Economic Forum, member of the Business Council and a trustee of the Paley Media Center.

The election of Wenig to the board's slate of nominees will bring GM's Board of Directors to 11 members, 10 of whom are non-employee directors, Henderson said. Wenig will stand for election at GM's Annual Meeting gree from Union College and a Ju- of Shareholders on June 12, 2018.

#### Warren Annual 'Garage Sale'

The city of Warren is holding ing Garage, located on Van Dyke, its annual "Greatest Garage Sale" on Sunday, May 27 and Monday,

The Sunday sale begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 5 p.m. The Monday sale begins at 7 a.m. and goes until 8:30 p.m.

The annual event will be held in the Warren City Square Parknorth of 12 Mile Road. Admission to the public is \$1.

Items sold at the sale include jewelry, antiques, arts & crafts, furniture, household items, automotive parts and equipment, sports equipment and clothing.

To learn more about the event. call 586-268-8400.

## Chevy Bets Big on SUVs with New Suburban

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those requests with the Suburban RST Performance Package is another example of how Chevrolet has continually invested in the segment, developing models with combinations of capability, technology and performance to meet the needs of different customers.

Available later this summer, this is the first time Suburban will offer the 6.2L V8, which has 420 horsepower and 460 lb-ft of torque, Piszar said.

"The engine delivers three state-of-the-art technologies - direct injection, Active Fuel Management and continuously variable valve timing - to make the most of power, torque and efficiency across a broad range of operating conditions," Piszar said.

The Suburban RST will also feature a new 10-speed automatic transmission. Smaller steps between each ratio maximize engine power under acceleration. With a wide 7.39 overall gear ratio spread and lower numerical top gear ratio, the transmission also reduces engine revolutions at highway speeds.

Magnetic Ride Control is an active suspension that "reads" the road every millisecond, triggering damping changes in the electronically controlled shock absorbers in as few as 5 milliseconds, Suba said.

As a result, the suspension delivers both improved body-motion control during cornering and a more comfortable ride while cruising.

The new performance calibration included in the Suburban RST Performance Package increases body control for even higher levels of responsiveness and comfort.

"When you want to hustle, the Suburban RST with the Performance Package offers high levels of acceleration, braking and road-holding grip," said Eric Stanczak, chief engineer for Chevrolet full-size trucks.

"When you want to relax, it is very refined, with exceptional ride comfort and interior quiet-

Available performance accessories for Suburban RST include a custom tuned Performance Dual-Side Exit exhaust system designed, engineered and backed by Borla, with sleek exhaust tips that improve exhaust flow by 28 percent for enhanced performance and decreased fuel consumption.

Borla, and not GM, is responsible for the safety, quality and warranty for this exhaust system. Suba said.

An available Performance front brake upgrade package designed, engineered and backed by GM features massive red Brembo six-piston, fixed aluminum calipers with brake pads clamping on larger-than-stock 16.1 inch x 1.3 inch Duralife rotors coupled with an 84 percent increase in brake pad area and a

42 percent increase in rotor area to increase system thermal capacity. Duralife rotors feature a hardened surface to reduce cor-

The Performance Package is available as an upgrade to the Suburban RST, which was introduced last year.

Styling is based largely on trends in the aftermarket space virtually all chrome trim has been eliminated for a sporty, street appearance.

Changes include body-color grille surround and door handles; gloss-black grille and mirror caps; and black roof rails, window trim, badging and Chevy bowties. RST package also includes 22-inch wheels wrapped in Bridgestone P285/45R 22 tires.

The Suburban RST is expected to boast a towing capacity of 8,100 pounds, Suba said.

Full performance metrics will be announced closer to its launch.

Chevrolet has been the bestselling full-size SUV brand for 43 consecutive years, Piszar said. Today, Tahoe is the top selling vehicle in that market segment, and Tahoe and Suburban account for nearly one out of every two Full-Size SUV sales when their respective sales figures are combined.

Tahoe and Suburban customers are also the most loyal owners in the segment, with 77 percent of owners replacing their full-size SUV with another Tahoe or Suburban.



#### Trump Meets With Detroit OEM Execs

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Donald Trump told leaders of the world's top automakers on May 11 that he wants to see more cars built in the United States as his administration weighs plans to reduce gas mileage and pollution requirements enacted during the Obama administration.

Trump said in a meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House that he intended to discuss environmental controls, fuel efficiency standards and the "manufacturing of millions of more cars within the United States, for Michigan, for Ohio, for Pennsylvania" and states like South Carolina and North Carolina.

As the auto executives introduced themselves, the president joked to Sergio Marchionne, the chairman and chief executive of Fiat Chrysler, that "right now he's my favorite man in the room" because he's moving a plant from Mexico to Michigan.

The meeting came as the administration has been holding extensive negotiations with Mexico and Canada on a rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the automotive industry is watching very warily.

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## Magazine Honors FCA's Efforts at Workplace Diversity

The editors of *DiversityInc* magazine have named FCA US to the magazine's 2018 list of "Noteworthy Companies for Diversity" and to the list of "Top Companies for Veterans."

This is the 10th year the company has earned a place among the magazine's top 50 or most noteworthy companies for diversity since the benchmarks were established in 2001, said FCA spokesman Mike Palese. It is the second consecutive year that FCA US earned a position on the magazine's top companies for veterans list, which was established in 2017.

These annual benchmarks recognize the best diversity-management leaders in the U.S. Selected companies excel in such areas as hiring, retaining and promoting women, minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ employees and veterans, as well as programs that support supplier diversity, *DiversityInc* editors wrote when naming winning companies. More than 1,000 companies participated in the 2018 evaluation.

"FCA US has a longstanding, enterprise-wide commitment to diversity and inclusion while promoting a work culture where all employees and business partners are engaged, included and respected," said Barb Pilarski, head of Human Resources, FCA US. "Our pledge to our employees,

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FCA US Diversity, Talent and Business Resource Group (BRG) leaders at the awards reception in New York.

our dealers, our suppliers and our customers is to ensure that diversity and inclusion is an everyday practice in our workplace. We value the recognition and feedback we receive from influential organizations like *DiversityInc*."

Examples of the company's accomplishments include FCA US receiving Silver Status as a Michigan Friendly Employer by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in recognition of recruitment strategies aimed at Veterans, as well as FCA US achieving a 100 percent rating on Human Rights Campaign's 2018 Corpo-

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rate Equality Index (CEI), which rates employers on their LGBTQ workplace policies and benefits, Palese said. The company has attained a 100 percent CEI rating 11 times since the benchmark was established in 2002.

FCA US also supports various organizations that advance women's involvement in STEM professions, including Michigan Council of Women in Technology and Society of Women Engineers, Palese said. Internally, the company supports seven business resource groups representing a range of affinity communities, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ, Veterans, Native Americans and Women.

These employee directed groups are each assigned an executive sponsor, and individually and collectively pursue initiatives that enhance the FCA US work culture by focusing on career development of members, celebrating multicultural differences and bringing value to the company and external communities through volunteer, charitable as well as different strategic activities. Palese said.

The company continues its leadership in promoting and providing opportunities for minority-owned suppliers.

Since 1983, the company has purchased nearly \$62 billion from minority-owned, womenowned and veteran-owned suppliers. FCA US spent \$8.2 billion with diverse suppliers in 2017, representing 18 percent of the company's total annual purchasing, Palese said.

FCA US supplier diversity goals require that up to 8.5 percent of a tier-one supplier's buy be sourced to certified minority-owned businesses and 3 percent sourced with women-owned businesses. The company began tracking veteran-owned business spend in 2018.

In recent years, FCA US was honored with key leadership awards for its supplier diversity programs, including:

- National Minority Supplier Development Council – Corporation of the Year, Top Tier II Diversity Program Award, Innovation, Impact Award.
- Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council – Corporation of the Year Award.
- Women's Business Enterprise National Council – Top Corporation for six consecutive years.
- Great Lakes Women's Business Council – Corporation of the Year.
- Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – Top Corporation.
- Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce – Corporation of the Year.
- WBE Great Lakes Excellence in Supplier Diversity Award.

"FCA US has been a leader in supplier diversity for the past 35 years, and was the first automaker to have suppliers follow in our footsteps to promote diverse spend in their own supply bases," said Scott Thiele, Chief Purchasing Officer, FCA. "We will continue to prioritize access and development opportunities for minority-, womenand veteran-owned businesses to strengthen our partnership with leaders in our community and industry"

"Events of the past year have demonstrated that decisive ethical leadership is necessary to guide any organization to success," said Luke Visconti, founder and CEO of DiversityInc. "Successful leaders hold themselves accountable to be culturally competent, a skill that requires constant learning. *DiversityInc* Top 50 and Noteworthy companies have a metrics-evidenced ability to treat people more fairly than other large companies.

"They also have a greater-thanaverage return for their shareholders."



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## Cadillac Brand Ending ATS Sedan

this year compared to 2017. However, the ATS sold only 13,100 units in the U.S. in 2017, compared to 21,505 units in 2016 and a high of 38,319 in 2013, its first full year on sale."

Ramsey speculated that Steve Carlisle will keep the ATS Coupe as a way to attract "sporty" car buyers to the Cadillac brand.

The Detroit News called the death of the ATS sedan part of a larger product overhaul by Cadil-

Nordlicht was quoted as saying that ultimately Cadillac will only have three sedans in the brand's lineup, with each sedan covering a different price point for Cadillac.

On the Cadillac Web page, the ATS sedan was described it as being "upgraded with the nextgeneration Cadillac user experience and new convenience features designed to complement the segment's most fun-to-drive car.'

The Cadillac ATS had its fans. Kyle Hyatt, writing for CNET's Road/Show Web page said "the Cadillac ATS is a pretty decent

car. In ATS-V trim, it's borderline amazing. Unfortunately, though, the ATS sedan is going the way of the buffalo . . . . "

"The ATS launched in 2012 as the smaller, more fun and affordable alternative to the CTS. Considering Cadillac's previous small-car effort (hint: it zigged), producing a BMW 3 Series (video) competitor was a bold move, but one that was for the most part successful. The ATS sedan was comfortable, well-appointed and handsome and had a solid selection of powertrain options. Over the years, it's only gotten better, but for some reason, people never fully embraced the pint-size Caddy like they did its bigger brother and that's kind of a shame."

Patrick George, editor of the Web site Jalopnik wrote that the ATS sedan was first introduced in 2012, making it due for a "modern replacement." He added that it was fun to drive but unfortunately "people want their luxury crossovers and SUVs and Cadillac is scrambling to play catchup with a lineup full of sedans that buyers weren't especially keen on."

#### GM Reaches Korean Deal from China. It earlier scaled

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -South Korea said May 10 that it has reached an agreement with General Motors to inject \$4.35 billion in funding and other measures to turn around the loss-making Korean unit.

Finance Minister Kim Dongyeon told reporters that the American automaker agreed to other measures meant to ensure the company stays in South Korea for at least 10 years. GM will be restricted from selling any shares for the next five years and obligated to retain at least a 35percent stake in its Korean unit for the following five years.

South Korea can also veto a sale by GM of 20 percent or more of its assets during the next decade, effectively blocking any withdrawal during that time.

GM's restructuring plans include a shutdown of one of its four plants in South Korea and reducing its workforce by nearly 3,000. They stoked worries that GM Korea, the country's thirdlargest carmaker and provider of more than 150,000 jobs, may permanently close. Kim said the latest measures should ensure GM's long-term presence.

"We have laid out the foundation for GM to continue to do businesses beyond 10 years in a win-win situation for both the South Korean economy and GM," he said.

GM agreed to open a new regional headquarters in South Korea to manage its strategies for the Asia and Pacific region, apart

down a regional headquarters in Singapore.

Under the agreement, the state-controlled Korea Development Bank, GM Korea's secondlargest shareholder with a 17percent stake, will inject \$750 million while GM will provide \$3.6 billion in fresh loans for capital spending for the next 10 years. GM will also convert its Korean units debt of \$2.8 billion into equity, helping it save on interest fees.

Apparently alluding to criticism of taxpayer-funded bailouts of loss-making shipbuilders, the government said GM Korea will surely survive and turn around with the latest funding if GM carries out its promises to allocate two new vehicle models to Kore-

Since GM's acquisition of Daewoo Motor Co. in 2002, South Korea has served as an Asian manufacturing hub for GM, mainly producing small and compact cars. But it has struggled in recent years as its cars lost popularity with Korean buyers and its exports and profit margins fell. GM's decisions to stop selling mainstream Chevrolet models in Europe, to sell its Opel unit and to stop selling cars in India hit the South Korean unit hard since it was producing cars for European markets and parts to be sent to emerging countries for assembly. GM Korea's annual production fell to 520,000 in 2017 from 940,000 in 2007.

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The ATS is made in GM's Lansing Grand River Assembly plant. The factory will be used for other Cadillac products, Nordlicht

#### 2019 Corvette is **Setting Pace at Indy 500 Race**

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- ZR1 chrome-aluminum wheels, 19-inch front and 20-inch rear;
- Standard Performance Trac tion Management and Electronic Limited-Slip Differen-
- Unique Indy 500 graphics package; GM Design fully integrated
- safety strobe system;
- Performance Data and Video Recorder.

The Corvette ZR1 Pace Car can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 2.85 seconds and reach a top track speed of 212 mph, the fastest Corvette in history.

Chevy has a long history with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Farah said. Chevy was founded in 1911, the year of the first 500-mile race, and company cofounder Louis Chevrolet, with brothers Arthur and Gaston, competed in early Indy 500 races. Arthur wa in the 1911 race, and Gaston won it in 1920.

"Chevrolet and IMS enjoy one of the longest-running and strongest bonds in motor-sports," said J. Douglas Boles, Indianapolis Motor Speedway president. "Seeing all of the incredible Corvettes that have paced the Indianapolis 500 on the track today is an exciting reminder of the rich history of this great relationship."



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#### Musk Behavior Raises Doubts About Tesla

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

gry company," Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas wrote in a note to investors.

The conference call behavior was labeled bizarre by some investors. It also followed some recent wild tweets by Musk about building a cyborg dragon, how his eyebrows can grab things and an April 1 post in which he wrote, "Despite intense efforts to raise money, including a lastditch mass sale of Easter Eggs, we are sad to report that Tesla has gone completely and totally bankrupt. So bankrupt, you can't believe it."

To be sure, Musk has joked in the past and poked fun at critics. He often posts updates to his 21.5 million Twitter followers about his companies, retweets posts from happy customers and warns about artificial intelli-

A Tesla spokesman wouldn't comment on Musk. But the stock slide showed that Wall Street's seemingly endless patience with Musk - who is also a rocket scientist and tunnel company chief - may be growing thin.

Tesla has fallen far short of Musk's promises to ramp up Model 3 production, which the company has said is key to turning a profit. Tesla has more than 450,000 waiting orders, but it can't monetize them unless the cars can be assembled en masse. Without additional cash, some analysts have predicted that Musk faces a reckoning if he needs more money from investors to fund operations, capital spending and debt payments that are due early next year.

Musk, who has tweeted about sleeping at the Tesla factory, said they've overcome automation failures like a "fluffer bot" that couldn't install fluffy Fiberglas mats

atop battery packs. The firstquarter loss hit nearly \$710 million with a cash burn of \$745 million. Free cash flow, which is cash generated minus capital spending, was a negative \$1 billion.

Musk promised restructuring, more Model 3 output and capital spending cuts to ease cash strain. A net profit is likely by the third quarter, he said.

But the growing cash burn, slow Model 3 production nearly a year after it began, and rising fixed costs have caused investor concerns to mount.

"This is what puts companies out of business," said Gartner analyst Michael Ramsey. "In this case the demand seems fine, but you can't actually produce those vehicles. The amount of cash required may become so large that they can't find their way out of it through share offerings anymore.

Investors have consistently given Musk a pass for frequent misses of lofty production targets in the past, and Ramsey said that probably won't change. Investors see the targets as shooting for the stars, and they applaud if Tesla makes it only halfway there, he said. If Tesla does run short of cash, big institutional investors such as Fidelity likely will come to the rescue, but that may cause a change at the top, Ramsey said.

In Detroit where auto executives marvel at Tesla's stock price rise despite its losses and production problems, quiet cheers over the company's troubles were almost a certainty. Bob Lutz, a retired General Motors chairman and chief spokesman for Detroit's Tesla disdain, said the odd conference call and first-quarter numbers show the reckoning is near.

"It's classic Musk - he doesn't want to talk reality, as reflected by disastrous numbers. He wants to deflect, and mesmerize the crowd with science-fiction tales: Mars, Hyperloop, Semis, Tunnels ... why change? It's worked so far," Lutz said. "He is doomed."

After the conference call cutoffs, Musk, as he has in the past, showed humility and introspection. He talked about building a new factory for a second SUV and hitting 2,000 orders for a proposed Tesla semi. But he said the 15-year-old Tesla right now is focused on getting Model 3 output to more than 5,000 per week, with a good profit margin per

"We need to become a profitable company," he said. "It is high time we became profitable. And the truth is, you're not a real company until you are, frankly.'

#### Thieves Hit FCA **Truck Plant** In Warren

WARREN, Mich. (AP) - Police say a group of thieves drove off with as many as 10 new Dodge Ram pickup trucks during a predawn raid of an auto plant's storage lot north of Detroit.

Warren police say a security employee at Fiat Chrysler's Warren Truck Assembly Plant saw someone drive one of the trucks through a lot gate about 4 a.m. May 3 and be followed by eight or nine more trucks. Warren Police Commissioner Bill Dwyer described it as "a convoy."

He says investigators believe the thieves rode to the factory in a stolen truck found nearby and then cut through the storage lot's fence to get inside.

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#### FCA Finances Look Good

FCA recently held its Annual Meeting of Shareholders in London. Several topics were talked about, including how the company has adopted a "green" approach to manufacturing.

CEO Sergio Marchionne said that n 2017, FCA continued to transform the company's sustainability commitments into concrete actions that aim to create long-term value responsibly.

"We recognize that our environmental and social activities affect not only our aspiration to grow the business but also our determination to positively affect our world," Marchionne said.

The 2017 FCA Sustainability Report, released on April 13 at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, was meant to communicate to stakeholders the most relevant social, economic and environmental achievements and long-term targets addressed by the company, said FCA spokeswoman Mary Gauthier.

In 2017, FCA shipped 4.7 million vehicles to customers around the world, while continuing to reduce the environmental footprint of its operations, Marchionne said. Over the past seven years, we decreased CO2 emissions by 3 percent, water used by 37 percent and waste generated by 58 percent per vehicle produced in FCA's mass market assembly and stamping plants.

"We engaged our workforce in our activities, and in 2017 collected more than 2.8 million suggestions from employees on potential improvements to products and processes. Work-related injuries at plants worldwide decreased for the 11th consecutive year, Marchionne said.

"We continued our efforts to develop vehicles responsibly through dedication to efficient powertrains, improved aerodynamics, weight reduction, safety and quality. Our actions to improve vehicle fuel efficiency and



Sergio Marchionne

reduce vehicle CO2 emissions included the launch of the eTorque Assist mild hybrid technology on the all-new Jeep Wrangler.'

FCA strengthened its collaboration with Waymo, Google's selfdriving car company, to integrate self-driving technology Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans and support the launch of the world's first driverless ridehailing service, Marchionne said. FCA is exploring other ways through which the company can provide autonomous vehicle services to its customers.

"FCA supported the communities where we live and work by committing more than 25 million eros around the world in 2017," Marchionne said. "Our employees volunteered more than 240,000 hours to nonprofit activities during work time. FCA is conscious of the effect that our activities and products have on society and the environment, and of our role in developing solutions to reduce our environmental footprint. Our global activities support the transition toward a circular economy and contribute to achieving the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).'

## **Cadillac Racing Teams Did** Well at Mid-Ohio Challenge

Cadillac V-Performance Racing team Mustang Sampling Cadillac finished fourth May 6 at the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Acura Sports Car Challenge at Mid-Ohio. The No. 10 Konica Minolta Cadillac DPi-V.R finished fifth and the No. 31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac DPi-V.R came home in eighth.

The racing conditions were near perfect with sunny skies and 75 degrees as the 34 car field took the green flag at 1:05 p.m. ET. The Cadillac DPi-V.R teams all had ground to make up following qualifying. With varying strategies, including the hopes of full course caution periods which never came to fruition, the speed of the winning Acura prototype could not be matched after a further reduction of horsepower by IMSA for the Cadillac teams.

Joao Barbosa and Filipe Albuquerque in the No. 5 Mustang Sampling Cadillac DPi-V.R drove hard all race to finish in fourth position. The duo, drove a near perfect race, with strong team pit stops, but just could not match the pace of the front runners.

"It was an interesting race with no yellows, I wasn't expecting that certainly not at Mid-Ohio since it's a very narrow track with a lot of traffic," Barbosa said. "Everyone behaved, which is really good. Our race was the best it could be. The team did a great job and we were able to make up a few positions. We didn't have the outright pace, but we had a consistent car, great pit stops, and great strategy. That's all we had today, so we move on to Detroit and hopefully we can be stronger there.

The track itself is pretty interesting, but we didn't have the grip that I wish we did," Albuquerque said. "Overall the winning car was in a different category than everyone else. But it was a clean race with no adventures with the safety car, which could have played a little better for us. We did win our brand race being the best Cadillac. It was a smart race because we gained points towards the championship. In my opinion, the team

won the race, they did a brilliant job with strategy, with our stops and made the most of whatever we had.'

The Wayne Taylor led Konica Minolta Cadillac team with drivers Renger Van Der Zande and Jordan Taylor also had a strong day coming to the checkered flag

"I think we were kind of in our own race today," Taylor said. "We couldn't really race with the lead pack, which was the top four cars. So basically, we were racing for fifth and sixth for most of the race and, once someone else fell out, we were battling for fourth and fifth. We thought we had the right strategy. I'm not sure what went wrong, how we got jumped, but I still think it was the right strategy. But considering what we have, I think we can be happy with a fifth-place finish. Looking at the championship, it's good to be consistent, especially when you have so many good cars in the field, now. You can't risk a bad finish. So, considering how we didn't have the fastest car, I think coming away with good points is pretty good."

"We were racing the No. 5 today," Van Der Zande said. "Everyone in front us was at a different level of speed. I drove very hard. I drove very fast. I though my stint was flawless, basically. Somehow, the No. 5 beat us, which we have to find out why. At the same time, Jordan did a great job, the team did a great job. I love this track. Apart from the fact you can't overtake cars in your own class, I really enjoyed the track itself. It's an intense place. To get the lap time you want, you really have to nail it, which makes it quite special.."

Felipe Nasr and Eric Curran were able to battle up to eighth in their No. 31 Whelen Engineering Cadillac DPi-V.R.

"It's fun to come back to Mid-Ohio and run our Whelen Cadillac around here," Curran said. "We got a little off on the initial set-up of the car, it was really loose. We made some adjustments to make up for it later in our run.

#### MCC Has Motorcycle Safety Program

Macomb Community College has expanded its motorcycle safety program and is adding four new basic rider courses, which will be held for the firsttime at the college's Center Campus in Clinton Township.

These classes are intended for the inexperienced or beginner rider, said Sean Patrick, manager of Media Relations at MCC. The first weekend course begins June 8 with additional courses scheduled throughout the summer.

Taught by Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors, the basic rider web-enhanced course consists of three hours of online preparation, five hours of classroom instruction and 10 hours of hands-on training, Patrick said.

Designed for someone with minimal experience operating a motorcycle, the course focuses on basic riding skills including clutch and throttle coordination, braking, turning and shifting.

Successful completion of the course will result in a waiver by the Michigan Secretary of State Office of its riding and written

All class participants are required to supply their own equipment including a Depart-Transportation-apment of proved helmet, long-sleeved jacket or shirt, heavy-duty long pants, eye protection, gloves and

For more information or to register for these classes, email motorcycle@macomb.edu.







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## Ford, Michigan Police Create Program to Help Teens Learn Safe Driving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

communications strategist for the Michigan State Police's Office of Highway Safety Planning, was also at the May 7 event. She said that they have a long way to go when it comes to everyone practicing safe driving.

"Look at buckling up with a seat belt," Arend said. "We've gotten pretty good at buckling up when we're in the front seat. But too many people don't do it when they are passengers in the back seat. That's why we're trying to educate teens and preteens. So that when they get older they are in the habit of buckling up.

Katerberg said the Ford education course is concentrated on four areas of study.

The first is vehicle handling, there they study speed manage-

ment and then space management. The final topic is hazard recognition. That's learning how to avoid it when someone or something suddenly appears in front of a vehicle when the vehicle is in motion, Katerberg said.

So with the help of Ford and police, four special courses were set up in Romeo for students to drive, said Mike Speck, lead facilitator for the Ford Driving Skills4Life program. All the students got to drive the vehicles provided by Ford. For example, a couple of Mustangs were altered so that they easily went into oversteer mode. The students were taught how to handle that.

In other cases, students were allowed to drive around a course defined by traffic cones as fast as they liked, Speck said. They then had to repeat the same course at the same speed, but this time do-



Students got to drive new Fords along several teaching courses at the Ford test facility in Romeo.

ing it while texting. Every time, cones were knocked over.

In another course, students wore special goggles that distorted their eyesight, replicating the effects of drinking. This was meant to demonstrate the dangers of drinking and driving, Speck said.

"The biggest thing we're trying to teach is a safe driving thought process," Speck said. "We're trying to educate these students about how they choose to drive. We appeal to their common sense. A big issues with teens, in general, is that they're not great at assessing risk. We can't appeal to their sense of fear because teenagers really don't think like that. So we try to teach with an element of fun and show them the common sense of safe driving.

"And that includes teaching them how to avoid trouble in the first place and some physical aspects of driving, so if they do get in a situation, they know how to handle themselves."

handle themselves."
Sgt. Mike Shorkey of the Macomb County Sheriff's Department was one of the law enforce-

ment instructors on hand May 7, who helped students throught the different obstacle courses set up.

He said the students get a kick out of the drunk goggles, but more importantly, they learn just how hard it is to drive while impaired because of consumption of alcohol.

"The kids drive one lap normally and then drive the same lap with the drunk goggles," Shorkey said. "They usually hit a lot of cones on the second lap and find it much harder to avoid obstacles. The biggest comment I hear is 'I can't believe how hard it is to drive and how vision is affected.' They ask me if driving while drunk is really like it is with the goggles. I say yes. I've seen drunk drivers who have driven their vehicles into house, trees and into ditches. I've asked them if they know where they were, and heard answers that were off by dozens of miles.'

Shorkey said that students are surprised when he shares that information with them, but that is to be expected because they are young and haven't had a lot of experience with situations that he has encountered his more than 21 years in the Macomb County Sheriff's Department.

One of the people who took the training was Cheyenne Scott, a student volunteer who helped put the show on.

"I really enjoyed doing the oversteer course in the 2017 Mustang GT," Scott said. "My teacher, Rob Knipe, showed me what to do and how to compensate. I feel much more confident, so that if I ever get in a similar situation in real life, I'll know what to do.

"This is the first time I've done drifting and I now know firsthand how to act. It's very impressive, and not just the oversteer course. Learning how to handle and avoid difficult driving situations has been fun and important. I'm glad to be involved in this event."

Katerberg said that the Romeo event was just one of many stops across the country that the Ford program will make this year. Teaching safe driving is something Ford believes in and will continue to support in the future.





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This Corvette is one of the vehicles that has been at past "Cars & Coffee" events held by Lingenfelter.

## Enjoy Cars and Coffee at Lingenfelter's

From June 2 to Aug. 25, car encommunity and around the counthusiasts are invited to start each summer weekend enjoying auto "show and tell" at Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee. Each Saturday morning event will open from 8 -10 a.m., rain or shine, said Lingenfelter spokesman Chris Morrisroe.

There is no fee to participate in any of the friendly meetings, but guests are asked to donate to Gleaners Community Food Bank as a way of helping out the greater community at large, Morrisroe

Nonperishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted on-site during the summer =, Morrisroe said.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments, browse the indoor showroom, display their personalized cars, and meet other car buffs from the

Morrisroe said the gathering will be held at Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, North Engine Build Facility, 47451 Avante Drive, Wixom. For those unfamiliar with the area it is near I-96 and Beck Road.

Updates on weekend special activities and featured cars from the Lingenfelter Collection will be posted on Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee Facebook page and website: www.lingenfelter.com.

Each weekend will have a particular theme, Morrisroe said. On June 2, the theme is pretty simple. It's "kicking off the summer."

The other themes are as follows:

• June 9th – Matick Coverlet Corvette Day - Cruise in from Matick Chevrolet, Gather at Matick Chevrolet in Redford at 7 am for a cruise to Lingen felter at 7:30am

- June 16 Camaro Day;
- June 23 Cadillac V Day;
- June 30 Show and Shine Adam's Polishes;
- July 7 Trucks, Trail Blazers & Typhoons Day;
- July 14 & 15th Lansing Cars & Coffee Weekend, "East Meets West";
- July 21 GTO/SS/G8/Holden Day - Gleaner's Fill-A-Trunk;
- July 28 Concours d'Ele= gance of America and Cruise w/Lingenfelter to Inn of St. Johns in Plymouth;
- Aug. 4 Chevy Day;
- Aug. 11 Ford Day;
- Aug. 18 American Muscle Car Day Woodward Dream Cruise;
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## **Toyota Sees Profits Surge**

Corp. reported May 9 that its quarterly profit rose 21 percent as cost cuts and booming sales in some markets offset the toll from higher U.S. incentives.

January-March profit at Toyota, which makes the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models, totaled 480.8 billion yen (\$4.4 billion), up from 398 billion yen the same quarter the previous year. Quarterly sales rose nearly 2 percent to 7.58 trillion yen (\$69 billion).

The absence of past costs related to the massive Takata airbag inflator recall, which has slammed automakers around the world, also helped results, said Koji Kobayashi, Toyota's executive vice president and chief financial officer.

yen (\$23 billion) profit for the fis- after the Akira Kurosawa film cal year, up 36 percent on-year, on 29.38 trillion yen (\$268 billion) sales, up 6 percent.

Toyota released results before the Tokyo markets closed, which was surprising. Many big Japanese companies wait until after trading ends to announce earnings - a practice that has been standard for decades.

Kobayashi, tapped by President and Chief Executive Akio Toyoda to help guide Japan's top automaker, said the company hopes to grow leaner, staying true to its practice of valuing grassroots input from its workers – a trademark Toyota work style that has inspired manufacturers around the world.

Much waste still could be eliminated, he said, pointing to the custom of "nemawashi," the traditional Japanese effort to form a consensus before making a decision. The company also creates internal reference materials that no one really looks at, he said.

"All workers must think like a

TOKYO (AP) - Toyota Motor Toyota person," he told reporters.

> Toyota will pursue growth with a strategy of seeing itself as a "mobility company," not just an automaker, spending aggressively on research. It is banking on artificial intelligence and networking technology, as in connected and self-driving vehicles, to woo consumers. All top automakers and many technology companies are working on similar products and services.

> Ecological vehicles are another area where competition is heating up. Toyota leads the world in selling gas-electric hybrid vehicles, but has lagged in electric vehicles. It has been working hard to catch up in recent years.

Toyoda called his new manage-Toyota reported a 2.49 trillion ment team "the seven samurai," classic. He said he hopes to turn the major changes happening in the auto industry into a big opportunity for the company.

Being a "mobility company" means more than pushing ahead with more of the same, but pursuing "a future that we forge ourselves," he added.

Just like his grandfather Kiichiro Toyoda turned a loom company into an automaker, he must also take up new challenges, Akio Toyoda said.

"We will do more than just survive. We will build toward the future," he said.

In the fiscal year through March, Toyota sold 10.44 million vehicles around the world, up from 10.25 million vehicles the previous fiscal year.

It expects to sell 10.5 million vehicles for the year through March 2019, with sales growing in regions other than its main U.S., Japanese and European markets, such as South America and Africa.

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2019 Ford Ranger

#### **Fire Stalls Several OEMs**

damaged a Michigan auto parts supply factory is causing production problems at Ford, Fiat Chrysler and General Motors, but it's too soon to tell yet whether dealers will run short of vehicles

So far Ford has been hit hardest by parts shortages. The company has had to temporarily lay off 7,600 workers as it cuts production of the F-Series.

But General Motors has been forced to stop producing full-size vans at a factory in Missouri, and production of Fiat Chrysler's Pacifica minivan has been curtailed in Windsor, Ontario.

It's all because of a May 2 fire that severely damaged the main plant at the Meridian Magnesium Products of America factory in Eaton Rapids near Lansing that makes structural parts, about one-third of which goes to Ford.

Multiple automakers have turned to Meridian to produce parts made of the lightweight metal as they try to shed pounds to meet government fuel efficiencv standards.

While the auto industry has a

DETROIT (AP) - A fire that history of working around parts shortages from natural disasters and fires, it may be more difficult this time because there are few companies that produce magnesium parts, said Kristen Dziczek, vice president of the Center for Automotive Research's Industry, Labor & Economics Group.

There's a lot of demand for these light-weighting materials,' she said. "Everybody needs it. Everybody wants it, and the supply chain isn't mature yet for this kind of volume.'

Equipment that wasn't damaged will have to be relocated and automakers will have to find another place to get magnesium castings, Dziczek said, Meridian has other buildings in Eaton Rapids and another magnesium plant in Ontario, but it's unclear how much volume they can pick up, she said.

FCA confirmed that Pacifica production had been affected but said no workers had been laid off.

Instead, they'll switch to making an older minivan as the company works with Meridian to get more parts.

## The Ranger Being Tested For 2018 Debut

The 2019 Ford Ranger midsize pickup truck is coming soon, and Ford wants to make sure that it is ready for kind of driving Ranger owners love to do.

So from grueling lab tests to robotic testing too harsh for humans to endure, from jagged trails in the Australian Outback to the Arizona desert, Ford is torturing its 2019 Ranger to make sure the new truck is up to Built Ford Tough durability standards and ready for adventure, said Rick Bolt, Ford Ranger chief engineer. Ranger testing is based on the same proven standards of the legendary Ford F-150.

'We torture every component - from its high-strength steel frame to its EcoBoost engine to its cloth and leather-trimmed seats - to ensure Ranger is ready for any season and nearly any terrain," said Bolt.

Ford's rigorous approach to ensuring Ranger quality and capability starts in the lab, progresses to the proving grounds then is confirmed through intense real-world challenges in locations near and far, said Ford spokeswoman Dawn McKenzie.

At Ford's Michigan Proving Grounds, a fully loaded Ranger hits the brutal Silver Creek track with impacts so severe robotic drivers are used so humans don't get injured, McKenzie said. In the lab, a four-post shaker table abuses Ranger for days to check against squeaks and rat-

In the real world, Ranger towing capability is tested in high temperatures on the unforgiving long steep grades of Davis Dam in Arizona, while the Australian Outback treats the truck to more heat and choking dust over harsh off-road terrain, McKenzie

The 2019 Ranger will offer purpose-built features like a Terrain Management System, Trail Control and blind spot monitoring with trailer support, plus a host of available adventure-ready features, the new Built Ford Tough Ranger makes its exciting return to the United States in early 2019. Bolt said.

Even its design is tough, Bolt said. Ranger's body features a high beltline that emphasizes strength, while a raked grille and windshield provide an athletic appearance - designed to aid in aerodynamics and reduce wind noise. Short overhangs are functional off-road for clearing obsta-

From the rear, the Ranger nameplate stamped in the tailgate with a design meant to con-

vev a sense of strength, and the tailgate itself is designed to handle people and cargo, McKenzie said.

"A rugged steel bumper with an available integrated trailer hitch receiver helps make towing campers, ATVs or watercraft a breeze," Bolt said.

Ranger's twin-power dome hood houses its 2.3-liter Eco-Boost engine designed for efficiency and capability thanks to direct fuel injection, a twin-scroll turbocharger and 16-valve design, Bolt said.

For added durability, the engine features a forged-steel crankshaft and connecting rods, and chain-driven dual overhead



2018 Pacifica Hybrid

## Pacifca Hybrid Earns Praise

Chrysler going green with the 2018 Pacifica Hybrid minivan has not gone unnoticed by the people who keep tracks of such things.

It was named as the winner of the Best Environmental Performance and Best All-around Performance awards from the Automotive Science Group (ASG) in their 2018 Automotive Performance Index (API) study, said FCA spokeswoman Claire Carroll.

"With 84 MPGe, the Pacifica Hybrid reveals new possibilities for fuel economy gains and emission reductions, earning the Pacifica Hybrid ASG's coveted Best Environmental Performance award," said Colby Self, managing director of ASG. "The Pacifica Hybrid, with its 33-mile all-electric driving range, leverages the increasingly cleaner U.S. power grid as a fuel source to significantly improve the environmental benefits of the PHEV powertrain in 2018, and across future vears?

The Pacifica Hybrid earned a class-leading environmental performance rating in ASG's Study, outperforming the average vehicle in its segment by 34 percent, thereby producing 34 percent less CO2-e emissions over the first 6.5 years in its life cycle, Carroll said

When looking at all 823 minivans, crossovers and SUVs assessed in ASG's 2018 Study, the Pacifica Hybrid maintained a 24 percent smaller carbon footprint than the average large vehicle available to North American consumers in 2018.

ASG's annual study found the Pacifica Hybrid to offer the best all-around value and performance in its class for the second

#### FCA Recalling **Older Jeeps**

DETROIT (AP) - FCA is recalling more than 325,000 older Jeep SUVs in North America to fix a suspension problem that could limit a driver's control of the vehicles.

The recall covers Liberty SUVs from the 2004 through 2007 model years. FCA says water can get into the rear lower control arms and cause rust and possibly cracks.

That could hurt a driver's ability to control the SUVs and cause a crash.

consecutive year, earning ASG's most privileged distinction as the Best All-around Performance award winner in its class. To this end, the Pacifica Hybrid establishes a new benchmark for performance and value, earning ASG's distinguished honors in 2018, Self said.

ASG's environmental performance analysis is a comprehensive data-driven life-cycle assessment, analyzing environmental factors from raw material extraction and vehicle production through each vehicles' operational life.

Self said that using a unique combination of vehicle data inputs that include conventional specifications, as well as environmental, social and economic performance indicators, the 2018 API assessed 823 crossover/SU-Vs by analyzing the natural capital, the social and human capital, and the economic efficiencies embodied within each vehicle to derive their real market value relative to other competitive offers.

#### Ford Executive Named As the Person to Help United Way Drive

Ford's Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president of Global Operations, will lead the United Way for Southeastern Michigan Community Giving Campaign from 2018 through

Hinrichs begins his two-year commitment as campaign chair in July and will become the face of United Way's annual giving campaign, said Ford spokesman Eric Mitchell.

"Ford's mission to make people's lives better is advanced and bolstered by our long-term relationship with United Way," said Hinrichs. "It is my privilege to serve in this leadership capacity and I look forward to working closely with the people of Metro Detroit to raise the quality of life for all people facing challenges in our community."

Since 1949, Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, has been a proud supporter of United Way for Southeastern Michigan and its predecessor United Foundation of Detroit, Mitchell said.

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