

GM, UAW Show Off Robots to 5th Grade Girls

GM Warren Transmission Operations and UAW Local 909 recently hosted nearly 130 5th grade girls from three local schools to participate in the plant's first annual Get WISE (women in science and engineering) program.

The May 24 event was designed to educate students about various career opportunities related to science and engineering, said GM spokesman Kevin Nadrowski.

While on the production floor tour, students received real-world engineering experience through manufacturing overviews and hands-on demonstrations, Nadrowski said. Warren hourly and salaried team members showcased processes used by the plant to produce 6-speed transmission and electric drive units that power some of GM's exciting vehicles.

Students learned about torque settings and controls, how to program a robot, participated in a self-guided vehicle demonstration, competed in team STEM challenges, and had the opportunity to interact with professional women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

Elisha Huddleston, Strategic Business manager, Global Workplace Safety, was instrumental in

establishing Get WISE programs at GM facilities, Nadrowski said.

"The Get WISE program educates young girls about various career opportunities in STEM. The girls interact with women who have science and technical degrees and participate in com-

petitive engineering activities," Huddleston said. "Our mission is to leave the students energized with the desire to choose a career in a STEM field."

Participating schools included students from Warren Woods Public Schools, Fitzgerald Public

Schools, and Warren Consolidated Schools. The event was also supported by 10 high school seniors from four area schools, who were participating as role models, leaders, and guides.

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Macomb County Students learning about STEM got to observe robots in action at GM Transmission in Warren.

GM, SoftBank Form Alliance For AV Tech

General Motors is joining forces with the SoftBank Vision Fund.

The deal was finalized on May 30, and the Fund will invest \$2.25 billion in GM Cruise, further strengthening the company's plans to commercialize AV technology at large scale. GM will also invest \$1.1 billion in GM Cruise upon closing of the transaction, said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra.

"Our Cruise and GM teams together have made tremendous progress over the last two years," said Barra. "Teaming up with SoftBank adds an additional strong partner as we pursue our vision of zero crashes, zero emissions and zero congestion."

"GM has made significant progress toward realizing the dream of completely automated driving to dramatically reduce fatalities, emissions and congestion," said Michael Ronen, managing partner, SoftBank Investment Advisers. "The GM Cruise approach of a fully integrated hardware and software stack gives it a unique competitive advantage. We are very impressed by the advances made by the Cruise and GM teams, and are

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Ford repurposing this old Corktown factory to develop new technology.

Corktown Has Renaissance; Ford to Use Former Factory

The trend of new construction in downtown Detroit is continuing, thanks to Ford.

Marking its return to the Motor City, Ford is moving its electric vehicle and autonomous vehicle business teams into a refurbished former factory located in Detroit's historic Corktown neighborhood, said Ford spokeswoman Emma Bergg.

Much more than just a relocation, the move is a purpose-driven strategic decision, offering a new work environment and customizable workspace that will enable the acceleration of Ford's push into electrification and strengthen its development of self-driving vehicles said Sherif Marakby, Ford vice president, Autonomous Vehicles and Electrification.

"Moving our teams to Corktown will further enhance our electric and autonomous vehicle development," said Marakby. "It

gives our teams the workspace they need to promote collaboration and big thinking, and an urban setting that delivers crucial insight for both programs."

Serving as home to a number of companies over its 110-year history, the former factory is located in a thriving neighborhood that gives Ford teams the opportunity to immerse themselves in the lifestyle and mobility challenges of an urban environment, Bergg said. This daily immersion allows them to identify problems and generate solutions that will inform the development of the company's self-driving and electric vehicles.

The historic 45,000-square-foot building has undergone extensive renovation to bring about optimal working conditions for employees dedicated to autonomy and electrification, Bergg

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Power Races Penske Chevy to Indy Victory

Talk about living up to one's name. The winner of the 102nd Indianapolis 500 was Will Power.

Victory hasn't come easy for Power, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah. The racer didn't secure his first oval victory until his eighth Indy car season in 2011. But his seventh win, the 2018 Indianapolis 500, proved to be the biggest one of his career. The win also proved to be a success for Chevrolet Racing.

Power led a 1-2 Chevrolet sweep of the 102nd Indianapolis 500 presented by PennGrade Motor Oil with a 3.1589-second victory over pole-sitter Ed Carpenter, Farah said.

Power, who was the 2014 Veri-

zon IndyCar Series (VICS) champion, started on the outside of the front row in the No. 12 Verizon Team Penske Chevrolet for the 200-lap race. Ambient temperature was 91 degrees, tied for second-highest in race history. Power led for 59 laps.

"I can't describe it. I feel like collapsing. I want to cry. I was wondering if I would ever win it and thoughts went through my mind during the month," said Power, who in 10 previous starts came closest to winning in 2015 with a runner-up finish to fellow Team Chevy driver Juan Pablo Montoya. "This was the last box to tick, but I'm not done."

Chevrolet claimed its 10th Indi-

anapolis 500 victory dating to 1988 when Rick Mears won from the pole for Team Penske. Since its return to Verizon IndyCar Series competition in 2012 with the 2.2-liter twin-turbocharged, direct-injected V6 engine, Team Chevy has posted three 1-2 finishes.

"Will Power showed speed all month and today he delivered a huge win for his team, Roger Penske and Chevrolet," said Jim Campbell, GM's U.S. vice president of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. "Will and his crew never gave up all race. They kept making the right adjustments on

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Race car driver Will Power entered the Indy 500 victory lane with the help of a powerful Chevy race engine.

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Macomb County
Sprint & Splash
Coming Soon

Sprint and Splash organizers set a record for registrations ahead of the event, with more than double the amount of individuals signed up than at this time last year. In all, more than 500 individuals are expected to participate in the festival of races, which will be held on Saturday, June 16 at Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township, said county spokeswoman Amanda Minaudo.

“This year is slated to be our biggest ever for Sprint and Splash participation,” said Minaudo. “We’ve seen continuous growth over the last six festivals and we are thrilled by our progress, especially because this year, the event benefits two wonderful organizations - the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Foundation and the Clinton River Watershed Council. These new beneficiaries support natural resources close to all of our hearts, the Metroparks across our region and Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River and its tributaries.”

GM Teams Up with SoftBank For New Tech

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thrilled to help them lead a historic transformation of the automobile industry.”

“We’re excited to be joining forces with a tech leader who shares our belief that AV technology will change the world,” said General Motors President Dan Ammann.

“We look forward to partnering with SoftBank as we work toward deploying this technology safely and in massive scale.”

The SoftBank Vision Fund investment will be made in two tranches, said General Motors spokesman Tom Henderson.

At the closing of the transaction, the Vision Fund will invest the first tranche of \$900 million.

Tranches are pieces of debt or securities designed to divide risk or group characteristics in order to be marketable to different investors.

Each portion, also known in financial circles as a tranche, is one of several related securities offered at the same time but with varying risks, rewards and maturities to appeal to a diverse range of investors, Henderson said.

At the time that Cruise AVs are ready for commercial deployment, the Vision Fund will complete the second tranche of \$1.35 billion, subject to regulatory approval, Henderson said.

Together, this will result in the SoftBank Vision Fund owning a 19.6-percent equity stake in GM Cruise and will afford General Motors increased flexibility with respect to capital allocation, Henderson said.

The General Motors and SoftBank Vision Fund investments are expected to provide the capital necessary to reach commercialization at scale beginning in 2019.



Ammann (left) and Barra (right) give Ronen a look at the Cruise AV, which has no steering wheel.

MCC Celebrates Macomb County’s History

On June 21, when County Executive Mark Hackel hoists the torch and kicks off the Macomb County Bicentennial Relay from the county administrative building in downtown Mount Clemens, he will not only be carrying a torch bearing symbols of Macomb County’s distinguishing characteristics, but also a symbol of learning, partnership and collaboration, said Macomb County Community College Manager of Media Relations Sean Patrick.

The specially designed bicentennial torches represent nearly eight months of collaboration and work by MCC faculty, staff

and students representing three program areas: media & communication arts, machining and climate control, Patrick said.

“We were honored to be asked to contribute in such a meaningful way to Macomb County’s Bicentennial Celebration,” said James O. Sawyer IV, president, Macomb Community College. “To us, it spoke of a great trust and pride in Macomb Community College’s faculty, staff and students, as well as confidence in the quality of our programs. We knew it would be a great learning experience for the students involved, but the cross disciplinary project also led to deep

learning and appreciation of each other’s challenges and triumphs for the faculty and staff involved.”

The project involved working in teams organized by expertise and engaging in group communications and meetings across the disciplines that took the project to a much higher level.

The process for creating what will be eight commemorative torches for use during the two-day relay started with research on the history of Macomb County and on designs of commemorative torches, including previous designs of different Olympic torches.

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GM, UAW Help Show Local Students Value of STEM

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Becky Girling, a 5th grade teacher at Fitzgerald Public Schools, appreciated the opportunity to have her students participate in Warren Transmission's Get WISE event.

"The Get WISE program is an outstanding opportunity for girls to understand STEM career possibilities, but more importantly, it empowers girls to believe they are unique young women who can do anything in life with confidence and pride. Congratulations to GM for a job well done," Girling said.

This is the first Get WISE program the plant has conducted for local school students, but hopes to make it an annual event, Nadrowski said.

Tammy Golden, Warren Trans-

mission Plant manager, said she fully supported the planning and execution of the event.

"It is so important for young girls to feel confident that they can accomplish anything. Activities such as the Get WISE event exposes young women to STEM-related careers and helps students envision a career in engineering and manufacturing," Golden said. "We're proud to open our doors to the local schools to help showcase real-world opportunities for girls."

Nadrowski said that a special thanks should be given to Renee Hawatmeh, GSC 6-Speed Business Team Leader, for leading local activities, as well as all plant volunteers that supported the event. Warren Transmission Operations is represented by UAW Local 909.



Local students got to see STEM manufacturing technology in action at GM Warren Transmission.

National Association of Counties Praises Macomb's Innovative Programs

The National Association of Counties (NACo) named Macomb County as a recipient of five 2018 Achievement Awards.

The annual award program, now in its 48th year, recognizes innovative, effective county government initiatives that strengthen services for residents. Awards are given in 18 different categories, including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health and civic engagement, said county spokesman John Cwikla.

"It is a great honor for the county to be recognized on this national platform," said Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel. "County employees do what they do simply because they enjoy doing what they do every day to serve our community. These awards are a complete validation of their passion, dedication, creativity and leadership."

Macomb County was recognized and received awards for the following work:

- The Macomb County IT Department SMS texts to PSAP program: The 911 Short Message Service (SMS) is a text messaging service component of most telephone services. The Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) is a call center responsible for answering calls to an emergency telephone number for police, firefighting and ambulance services. In a joint agreement with the Association of Public Safety Communications and the National Emergency Number Association, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon have voluntarily committed to provide text-to-911 services in all areas served by their networks where a 911 call center is prepared to receive texts. Macomb County's goal was to comply with the mandate and to become ready

to receive the text-to-911 messages from the public.

- The Macomb County IT Department agendas and minutes system: The Macomb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) conducts multiple committee meetings per month for which all county departments must submit items – contracts, purchase approvals, memos, notices, presentations – for inclusion on agendas. Subsequently, minutes of each meeting are produced by the BOC and made publicly available.

- The Macomb County IT Department ISP conversion: The Macomb County Information Technology department implemented inbound/outbound redundant internet connectivity by utilizing the Border Gateway Protocol to be used for exchanging routing information between gateway hosts.

- The Macomb County IT Department coordination of fire dis-

patch for multiple communities: Macomb County has engaged neighboring communities to share emergency fire dispatch service resources and systems. The goal of this project was to implement the Macomb County Fire Dispatch solution for the Harrison Township Fire Department, Washington Township Fire Department and Mount Clemens Fire Department municipalities. The successful implementation of consolidating the fire services would result in the increase in centralized management of fire services in the area.

- The Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development Urban Forestry Partnership: Green Macomb is an initiative designed to strengthen economic vitality, improve community well-being and enhance our natural environment by supporting and building Macomb County's green infrastructure.

Actively engaged partners include local municipalities, utility providers, businesses, nonprofit organizations and residents all guided by various Macomb County departments. Supported through volunteerism and grants from the US Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and ITC, the purpose of the Urban Forestry Project is to plant trees in communities.

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Hyundai Invests Big in Company's Alabama Plant

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – Hyundai plans to invest more than \$350 million to build a plant in Alabama and also update an existing one there, officials said May 29.

The automotive manufacturer with headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, said it plans to invest \$388 million to construct the 260,000-square-foot (24,000-square-meter) engine head manufacturing plant, as well as enhance its assembly plant in Montgomery.

The investment is the company's biggest in the plant since it opened in 2005, and the new facility is scheduled to be operational by mid-2019.

The plant will create 50 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$52,000, Gov. Kay Ivey said. The company has already started fielding applications for the workers.

Some new positions will be taken by current employees and their jobs will be filled with new workers, plant spokesman Robert Burns said.

The company is investing in new manufacturing technologies at the plant, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama President and CEO Dong Ryeol Choi said. The money will support operations for making new models of Sonata and Elantra sedans.

Hyundai announced in March that its redesigned Santa Fe SUV would be assembled entirely in Montgomery. Chris Susock, the plant's vice president of production operations, had said the company expects the new Santa Fe to reverse a trend that had the plant decrease its overall production. For several years, the plant made only Sonata and Elantra sedans.

Ford Helps with Corktown Neighborhood's Renaissance

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said. The newly designed layout fosters collaboration and team building, with rolling desks that allow groups to customize their workspace as needed, flexible options for meetings, and interactive screens that make working together easier.

Corktown employees are part of cross-functional global teams working with product development, purchasing, and marketing, sales and service groups around the world to deliver the right vehicles for customers in each region.

The move to Corktown is part of an \$11.1 billion investment in global electric vehicles announced earlier this year.

The Corktown location is now home to Ford Team Edison.

That is the company's dedicated global electric vehicle team, Bergg said.

The team is moving quickly to deliver electrified vehicles that offer exciting experiences and enhanced capabilities based on what people need and want – including the new Mustang-inspired battery-electric SUV slated for 2020.

In the next few years, Ford plans to offer hybrid options on high-volume nameplates such as Mustang, F-150, Explorer, Escape and Bronco, in addition to hybrid options for every new Ford SUV introduced, Bergg said.

The work done in the Corktown facility will also be important in helping accelerate the development of Ford's battery-electric vehicle program.

A total of 40 electrified vehicles will be available globally from Ford by 2022, including 16 full battery-electric vehicles, Bergg said.

Ford's approach to electrification entails enhancing the best

attributes of its vehicles, including performance, capability and convenience, Bergg said.

Ford's new electric vehicles will offer customers additional capabilities – such as an on-board electric generator on the hybrid F-150 – and better mileage without sacrificing the great performance they have come to expect.

Since owning a battery-electric vehicle represents a change in lifestyle, Ford is rethinking how to ensure seamless and convenient charging, while also looking to offer full-vehicle over-the-air software updates to enhance capability and features.

Working alongside Ford Team Edison will be the company's autonomous vehicle business team. Ford already is combining its self-driving vehicle expertise with the robotics and artificial intelligence experience of Argo AI.

The work in Corktown will complement that effort, Bergg said.

With its autonomous and electric vehicle teams working side-by-side, the company will be able to deliver on its plan to develop a purpose-built, custom-designed



Ford's Corktown facility will adhere to modern office concepts.

self-driving vehicle that runs on a hybrid-electric powertrain.

Planned to begin production in 2021, Ford's first autonomous vehicles will be designed to move people or goods, making them excellent tools for businesses to enhance and grow their operations, as well as provide great, intuitive experiences to the customers they interact with, Bergg said.

Other key factors in design and performance include commer-

cial-grade quality for lower cost of ownership, improved durability to operate in tough urban environments, and dependable safety features integrated by the teams deeply involved in development, Bergg said.

In addition, the hybrid-electric powertrain will help reduce emissions and achieve maximum mileage to keep the self-driving vehicle on the road longer each day.

GM Helps Veterans with Vehicle Discounts

General Motors' four brands – Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac – have come together to make the GM Military Discount the best program of its kind for active duty, reserve members and military retired from the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The core of the program remains the same: Soldiers and sailors, as well as members of their immediate families, qualify for a special discount on new vehicles at participating dealers,

said GM spokeswoman Lauren Langille.

Effective immediately, those who serve and their families can take advantage of the discount for up to three years after discharge.

"Supporting service members and their families is truly part of our fabric at GM," said Steve Hill, vice president, U.S. Sales, Service and Marketing for General Motors.

"Extending the discount to three years post-service allows military families to settle back in-

to civilian life and take the time they need before purchasing a new vehicle."

For four years in a row, GM – which employs more than 6,000 veterans – has been recognized as the top automotive employer for veterans and their spouses in the *Military Times*' "Best for Vets" and VIQTRY's "Military Friendly Spouse and Gold Employer" rankings.

The companies on these lists earn their rankings by recruiting and supporting veterans and military families.

GM Celebrates Racing History at RenCen

Just in time for the 2018 Detroit Grand Prix, GM has unveiled a bit of the company's racing history.

General Motors' motorsports heritage took the pole position in GM World in the heart of the company's Renaissance Center headquarters in Detroit.

A dozen modern and vintage racing vehicles and pace cars from across the motorsports spectrum filled the new display, which opened last week to the public ahead of the June 1-3 running of the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

"The new display in GM World celebrates one of the richest histories in motorsports," said Tim Mahoney, Global Chevrolet chief marketing officer and GM Global Marketing Operations leader. "With the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix only a few days away, it offers a great reason to visit the Renaissance Center before heading to Belle Isle for the races."

GM World fills the five-story atrium at the center of the Renaissance Center. The experiential installation included vehicle displays, large LED information screens and a vehicle turntable around the atrium's center column. Specialists were on hand to answer questions about the displays and the roster of new vehicles, Farah said.

The featured vehicles in the new motorsports display were:

- 1967 Camaro Indy 500 pace car that was driven by Mauri Rose.
- 2015 Corvette Indy 500 pace car that was driven by Jeff Gordon.
- 2016 Camaro SS Indy 500 pace car that was driven by Roger Penske.
- 2018 Silverado NASCAR support truck.



The 1967 Camaro Indy 500 pace car was on display at GM headquarters.

- Silverado NASCAR Camping World Truck Series pace truck.
- 2012 #90 Corvette Daytona Prototype.
- 2018 #48 Camaro ZL1 Hendrick Motorsports Jimmie Johnson NASCAR race car.
- 2018 Camaro ZL1 pace car.
- 2017 Chevrolet IndyCar.
- 2018 Camaro GT4.R "Black-dog Speed Shop" World Challenge GTS race car.
- 2001 Corvette C5-R American Le Mans Series race car.
- 2015 Cadillac ATS-V.R IMSA GT-3 race car.
- 1987 #5 Rick Mears Chevrolet-powered Penske PC17 IndyCar race car.

Additional vehicles will be added this summer, and the display also features racing engines from various series, Farah said.

The strong contingent of Chevrolet race cars and murals acknowledges a century of winning racing history, from IndyCar – where brand namesake Louis Chevrolet forged his reputation more than a century ago – to NASCAR, IMSA, NHRA and more, said Jim Campbell, U.S. vice pres-

ident of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports.


"GM's Chevrolet and Cadillac brands have both had long, storied histories in motorsports," said Campbell.

"Racing is a fundamental part of what we do – from transferring technology learned on the track to helping us build better vehicles to connecting with consumers through something they love."

General Motors has been a partner of the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix since it returned to Detroit's Belle Isle in 2012, Farah said.

The event generated \$58 million in local spending in 2017, bringing thousands of racing fans to the unique, 2.35-mile road course created temporarily each year on the 982-acre island in the Detroit River.

Chevrolet and Cadillac compete in several series during the three-day event, including Chevrolet-powered race cars in the headline Verizon IndyCar Series doubleheader races, as well as the IMSA Sports Car Series (Cadillac Dpi-V.R) and Trans Am (Camaro and Corvette).





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Marchionne celebrated FCA's being debt free by wearing a neck tie.

Marchionne Has Unveiled Final FCA Plan

BALOCO, Italy (AP) – In his last big presentation as CEO of Fiat Chrysler before retiring next year, Sergio Marchionne said June 1 that the Italian-American carmaker will this month hit its long-held goal of having no debt as it turns its focus to making more electrified cars.

As he announced the company's five-year plan, Marchionne broke with personal style and donned a tie instead of his signature sweater, as he said he would if the debt target was reached.

The daylong presentation of targets focused on Jeep SUVs, Ram trucks and premium brands Maserati and Alfa Romeo, which together "comprise the most significant part of our revenues," Marchionne said. Plans for the brands relied heavily on adding electrified powertrains, a technology where Fiat Chrysler has lagged.

Notably absent were the marquee brands: Fiat and Chrysler, which both represent the less-profitable passenger cars currently off consumers' radar, particularly in the United States, where Fiat Chrysler makes more most of its profits, but also in fast-growing China.

The business plan is Marchionne's grand finale, 14 years to the day after he was named Fiat CEO. His tenure has included landmark deals, including the Fiat merger with bankrupt U.S. carmaker Chrysler and the spin-offs the industrial vehicle business and sports carmaker Ferrari.

The 65-year-old Italian-Canadian has his successor as CEO will come from within the company.

In a break from fashion tradition, Marchionne unzipped a knit cardigan to reveal a blue tie - the first, he said, he has worn in a decade. It is a gesture he had promised if Fiat eliminated debt, which he said will happen by the

end of the month. Marchionne is famous for unfailingly wearing navy blue cashmere sweaters and never a tie, no matter the event.

Marchionne said debt is "a legacy that has dogged both Fiat and Chrysler for decades," and that erasing it "is a fundamental change in how this company is perceived. It is a significant milestone in the process of healing of a structural weakness."

All new models for the Jeep, Maserati and Alfa Romeo brands launched in the next five years will have some version of electrified powertrains, while eliminating diesels, brand chiefs said in presentations. Truck maker Ram will limit its alternative powertrains to a high-end premium truck, the TRX, which will compete with Ford's Raptor.

Jeep brand chief Mike Manley

did not provide a target for 2022 sales, which are currently around 1.9 million vehicles a year. But he said that now one in every 17 utility vehicles sold in the world is a Jeep and he expects that to be one in 12 by 2022.

Jeep will enter three new segments: a small city-car size SUV targeting customers accustomed to sedans and hatchback, larger SUVs with three rows of seats, and the extra-large SUV. Meanwhile, the premium brand Alfa Romeo plans to increase annual sales to 400,000 by 2022, having missed a goal this year.

The head of Fiat Chrysler's luxury brand Maserati, Tim Kumschick, said the brand aims to compete with Tesla with an all-electric supercar named "Alfieri" that will accelerate from 0-100 kilometers (0-60 miles) an hour in around two seconds.

Own a True Movie Vehicle

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) – Last year, Kansas City custom car builder Joe Pace sold his home-made replica of the "Dumb and Dumber" Shaggin' Wagon to a Minnesota car collector for \$20,000.

"I miss it already," Pace said after the sale.

Now he's made a second carpet-covered Mutt Cutts van just like the one from the 1994 movie starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. And he's upped the price. It can be yours for \$30,000 – no IOUs.

The 2003 Ford Econoline van features shag carpet on the exterior, a floppy red tongue hanging from the hood and an "I've Got Worms" sign on the bumper. The interior boasts faux fur-covered captain's chairs, a 40-inch TV with a DVD player, a mysterious briefcase and a fake parakeet with a "Hello my name is Petey" keychain attached to its cage.

All the work was done by Pace, who is well known locally for his movie cars.

He made a glow-in-the-dark Ecto-1 from "Ghostbusters" and, back in the '80s, he built a repli-

ca of the DeLorean time machine from "Back to the Future."

On Memorial Day, Pace listed his Shaggin' Wagon van on Facebook. By the next day, it had been shared more than 25,000 times with more than 9,000 comments.

Pace told *The Kansas City Star* that he'd barely slept because his phone had been "burning up" nonstop with calls and notifications.

Most of the calls were pranks, at least one person asked if he could trade the van for a Honda mini bike.

On Facebook, some posters appeared genuinely interested in the vehicle.

"What brand of carpet is that anyway?" wrote James Welling. "Is it stain resistant?"

Others balked at the van's price tag, Pace said.

"LOL that price is so unrealistic," posted Andrew Wirka. "5K maybe."

Evan Steeves wanted to know if the van had a "shake button" for when it's rainy. Alex Kato joked that he'd rather buy the van than pay for his wedding.

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Chevrolet Wins at Indy 500

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the car at the right time, and Will simply drove a great race.

“Will’s win is extra special because it is Chevrolet’s 10th win at this iconic race, and Roger’s 17th Indy 500 championship. We couldn’t be prouder of the one team effort with Chevrolet Propulsion, motorsports, Ilmor, Pratt & Miller and Team Penske. The Chevrolet Indy V6 delivered the right combination of power, durability and efficiency all race long.

“Ed Carpenter was also fast during the month of May, clinching the pole, leading many laps today and finishing runner-up, capping a 1-2 finish for Chevrolet. The Speedway was packed today, the atmosphere was electric and it was a thrilling race to the end.”

Power, the first Australian to win the Indy 500, became the first driver to win on both the Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval and the 2.439-mile, 14-turn road course that incorporates sections of the 2.5-mile oval to complete a May sweep, Farah said. He’s won three of the past four years on the permanent road circuit.

Power is the 72nd different driver to win the 500-Mile Race and tied Al Unser Jr. for eighth on the all-time Indy car list with 34 victories. Chevrolet has powered six of Penske’s wins in “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.”

“He won the race today because he was the best. It’s a great day for Team Penske and a great day for Chevrolet,” Roger Penske said.

Carpenter, who secured his third Indy 500 pole in a Chevrolet in the past six years, led a field-high 65 laps in the No. 20 Fuzzy’s Vodka Chevrolet for his name-

sake team. His previous best finish was fifth in 2008.

“I’m extremely proud of the entire Ed Carpenter Racing team. It’s been a few years since I had a top-10 finish, so this feels good,” said Carpenter.

Simon Pagenaud, who started second in the No. 22 Menards Team Penske Chevrolet, finished a career-best sixth in the race. Reigning Verizon IndyCar Series champion Josef Newgarden, driving the No. 1 Verizon Team Penske Chevrolet, completed the Team Chevy top 10 with an eighth-place finish.

A single-car incident in Turn 2 on Lap 68, ended Danica Patrick’s ambitions to become the first female Indy 500 winner. She stated that it would be the last race of her motorsports career.

Auto Pioneer Honored by Indiana

KOKOMO, Ind. (AP) – A new historical marker in Kokomo is the central Indiana city’s latest tribute to auto pioneer Elwood Haynes.

The plaque was unveiled May 21 next to a bronze statue of Haynes outside Kokomo’s Seiberling Mansion.

Haynes invented one of the first automobiles in the U.S. in Kokomo, about 40 miles north of Indianapolis.

The Kokomo Tribune reports that in 1894, Haynes drove a self-propelled car that he’d been working on for years.

A Kokomo machine shop built Hayne’s prototype, which is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Haynes then soon began manufacturing his vehicles in Kokomo.

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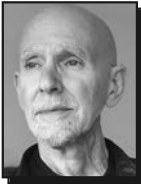
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