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The Design Center Band performed at the recent Grand Prixmiere party on Belle Isle held in June.

Design Center Band Performs at GM Events

by Jim Stickford

They work at the General Motors Design Center. They are a band. Hence the name the Design Center Band.

"We used to be called the Design Center Blues Band, but the variety of music we play has diversified so we changed it," said Brian Bungard, a metal model maker at the Tech Center and longtime member of the band.

"I've been involved with the band since 2006. I was invited to join by my friend Chris Knack. He's a clay modeler and he's also a musician. He had been asked by then Vice President of Design Ed Welburn to provide music for an 'All People' meeting in the Design Dome. Ed wanted live music while people walked in. That's how we got started."

An All People meeting is a planned gathering of employees where they can discuss issues and learn what's going on in the company, Bungard said. His contribution to the band is his guitar

"I don't just play for GM," Bungard said. "I also play acoustic guitar for my church a couple of times a month with my wife Linda. But the Design Center Band plays strictly for GM events. We

just played for another All People meeting at the Design Cen-

Their gigs sometimes take the band away from the Tech Center, Bungard said.

On June 1 of this year, the played at the Grand band

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

TACOM Gets New **Executive For** Logistics Support

The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command revealed that Marion Whicker has been promoted to the Senior Executive Service and will permanently assume the role of executive director of TACOM's Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC), succeeding Brian Butler, who was named the Deputy to the Commander for TACOM in April 2016.

Whicker, a U.S. Army executive with 34 years experience, most recently was the acting executive director for the ILSC, said TACOM spokeswoman Donna Edwards. In this new permanent

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SUVs and Trucks Prove They Have Staying Power

by TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - For the past five years, few people wanted a lowly used small car such as the Chevrolet Cruze or Ford Focus.

Compact and subcompact cars sat on dealer lots for weeks as the SUV craze in the U.S. accelerated.

Early this year, dealers and industry analysts started to see a change, with sales and prices for used compact and subcompact cars increasing after taking a fall every year since 2013. That's in part because of rising gas prices, stagnant middle class wages and deals that are still too good to pass up.

Until recently, lower demand had depressed car prices, but especially for smaller ones, which bottomed out in 2017 as the cost

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2018 Jeep Wrangler



2018 Lincoln Navigator



2018 Chevrolet Traverse

Detroit OEMs All Report Sales Numbers Up in June

the Detroit Three automakers are in, and the news is good.

GM showed a 5 percent sales increase for the second quarter of 2018 compared with the same time in 2017. Earlier this year, the company announced that sales figures would be released on a quarterly basis from now on instead of monthly. This was the first sales report since that policy change.

Ford and FCA continue to release sales figures month by

The June sales numbers for month. Ford reported in June that the company saw a 1.2 percent sales increase in June of 2018 compared with June of 2017. FCA reported June 2018 sales of 202,264 vehicles, an 8 percent increase compared with sales in June 2017 of 187,348 vehicles.

GM spokesman Jim Cain said very strong truck sales and a wave of new crossovers helped General Motors deliver more than 758,000 vehicles in the Unit-

of 2018. Second-quarter sales at Chevrolet and GMC far outpaced the industry on a year-over-year basis, growing 6 percent and 7 percent, respectively, while industry sales are estimated to be up 1 to 2 percent, Cain said.

Cadillac sales were up 3 percent and GM's overall sales were up 5 percent for an estimated 0.5 percentage points.

Chevrolet's newest crossover. the 2018 Traverse, stands out as ed States in the second quarter one of the most successful re-

designs of any vehicle in the industry this year, Cain said. Sales in the first half of 2018 increased by more than 17,000 units, year over year.

"Customers are buying with confidence because the economy is strong and they expect it to remain strong," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president, Sales Opera-

"GM is in a fantastic position with so many new crossovers at

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Ford has chosen Grand Rapids as its latest "City of Tomorrow" site.

Grand Rapids is Ford's Latest Test Site

has to start somewhere. Why not Grand Rapids?

Ford Motor Company and the city of Grand Rapids are working closely with public stakeholders as well as AT&T, Dell Technologies, Microsoft, PlanetM, and The Right Place to launch the Grand Rapids City of Tomorrow Challenge – a crowdsourcing platform for residents, businesses and community groups to propose and pilot solutions that improve mobility in Grand Rapids.

As urban populations surge and new technologies emerge,

The future of transportation the ways people move around cities are changing, said Ford spokesman Fazel Adabi. In Grand Rapids, for example, the use of public transportation continues to drop and most families have two or more cars, according to the American Public Transportation Association.

With Grand Rapids experiencing the largest population increase in Michigan percentagewise, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there is a need to alleviate congestion and reduce transportation wait times, Adabi

Solutions to many mobility issues already exist in some form, but the City of Tomorrow Challenge creates a more inclusive process in which residents can express their ideas as they participate in working to ensure a future where people and businesses can thrive, Adabi said.

By working with communities to crowdsource new mobility designs and innovations, and funding pilots to test the top solutions, the program's goal is to help improve quality of life for

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31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

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Lingefelter Sets Cars & Coffee Meetings

A special Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee meeting will be held the weekend of July 14-15.

Normally, car enthusiasts start each summer weekend enjoying auto "show and tell" during a Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee Series at Lingenfelter's North Engine Build Facility in Wixom.

But, for this special weekend, two locations have been set up. Participants are invited to spend two days sharing "everything auto" with others in both Wixom and the Lansing area.

On July 14, car lovers will meet in Wixom to show off their auto designs and see the latest and greatest in performance cars from Lingenfelter Performance Engineering. The next day, Sunday, July 15, all are invited to meet up again - but at Henry's Place on Marsh Road in Okemos in the Lansing area. Go to lingenfelter.com to learn more.

Pent-up Demand Has an Effect on Price of Used Vehicles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of their closest competitor for basic transportation - small SUVs – was rising. By early this year, analysts and dealers say the spread between small SUVs and cars was so large that the cars became more attractive.

Also, rising gasoline prices sent buyers on a tight budget from SUVs and other segments to the lower-cost small cars.

At Paddock Chevrolet in Kenmore, N.Y., near Buffalo, the dealership was paying \$10,200 to \$10,500 for 3-year-old Cruzes at the beginning of the year. Now it's paying \$11,500, said owner Duane Paddock.

'We did find it surprising," he said. "Normally, prices continued to come down. It's definitely been harder to find the lower-value vehicles.'

In the first quarter of 2013, the average three-year-old compact car sold for \$14,328, according to the Edmunds.com auto pricing site. By the same period in 2017, the sales price had fallen almost 10 percent to \$12,958. But in the first quarter of this year, it rose to \$13,464. (Edmunds regularly provides content, including automotive tips and reviews, for distribution by The Associated Press.)

Black Book, a car pricing and automotive analytics company, reports that sales of used compact and subcompact cars each are up 5 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier.

"Compact cars have been beaten down in value," said Anil Goyal, executive vice president of Black Book, "They're very attractive for a value buyer."

Five years ago, the cars were about 50 percent of U.S. new-car sales. But trucks and SUVs have since risen to 67 percent.

Ivan Drury, senior analyst at Edmunds, believes gas prices are a big part of the equation. By the end of March, the national average price per gallon of regular rose to \$2.61, 33 cents higher than the same time last year. It continued to jump during the second half, with prices now hovering around \$2.85, 58 cents more than a year ago, according to AAA. Last week, the OPEC cartel countries agreed to pump more crude, a move that should contain recent price increases.

Used-car buyers typically are more sensitive to prices, especially if gasoline is taking a bigger bite out of their budgets, and that's fueling increased demand for smaller cars, Drury said.

The average wholesale value (what dealers pay at used-vehi-

cle auctions) of a 3-year-old compact car is about \$9,800, according to Goyal. But the average crossover SUV compact \$13 250

So far, there hasn't been a similar shift in sales of new small cars or new or used midsize cars as the truck and SUV boom continues, Drury said. He doesn't see the new-vehicle market changing even with gas hitting \$3 per gallon in much of the nation. But used midsize cars could see increased prices and demand when second-quarter data comes out, he said.

Glenn Mears, owner of five dealerships around Canton, Ohio, including Honda, Nissan, Ford and Fiat Chrysler, says they're having trouble finding compact used cars, but not midsize ones. "You can find (midsize Honda) Accords all day long," he said. "You can't find (compact) Civics right now."

Drury sees gradual increases in small-used-car prices continuing, but nothing dramatic unless gas prices reach \$4 per gallon. He bases his prediction on consumer behavior during previous gas price spikes.

Stagnant wages also may be a factor. Hourly pay is growing more slowly than it has in the past when the unemployment rate was this low, around 4 percent. But now, rising inflation has eroded some of the benefit. In May, average hourly wages rose 2.7 percent from a year earlier, but inflation increased by slightly more at 2.8 percent.

"All of those combined together might tell a fair amount of the story," said Mears.

MCC Students Proved Skills, Won Medals

Several Macomb Community College career and technical students won a top national award at the 2018 SkillsUSA Championships held in Louisville, Ky., on June 27-28.

More than 6,300 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.4 million square feet, equivalent to 20 football fields or 25 acres, said SkillsUSA spokeswoman Karen Kitzel

Sean Patrick, manager of Media Relations at MCC said the following students won awards at the SkillsUSA event:

- Micaela Frakes-Sieger Web Design – Gold Medal;
- Web • Morgan Lashbrook – Design – Gold Medal;
- Michael Pawlusiak Adver-

• Shawn Gallagher – Culinary, job skill demonstration - 6th place;

- Emily Koenig Television Production – 6th place;
- Autumn VanFleteran Television Production - 6th place;
- Chelsea Devalminck Photography - 9th place.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 102 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking, Kitzel said. Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entrylevel workers.

Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. More than 1,900 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year, Kitzel said.

Skill Point Certificates were awarded in 72 occupational and leadership areas to students who met a predetermined threshold score in their competition, as defined by industry. The Skill Point Certificate is a component of SkillsUSA's assessment program for career and technical educa-

"More than 6,300 students from every state in the nation participated in the 2018 SkillsUSA Championships," said SkillsUSA executive director Tim Lawrence. "This showcase of career and technical education demonstrates our SkillsUSA partnership at its finest. Our students, instructors and industry partners work together to ensure that every student excels. This

tising Design - Bronze Medal; program expands learning and career opportunities for our members.

The SkillsUSA Championships event is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. More than 360,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 18,000 sections and 53 state and territorial associations. The national, nonprofit partnership of students, instructors and industry is a verified talent pipeline for America's skilled workforce that is working to help solve the skills gap.

Campaign to Buckle Up Pays Off

With Michigan's Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign now complete, preliminary reports indicate law enforcement officers from 142 police departments statewide conducted 14,384 traffic stops resulting in 4,364 seat belt and child restraint citations from May 21 through June 3, said Michigan State Police spokeswoman Kari Arend.

"Thanks to all the law enforcement officers who are working hard to encourage seat belt use across the state," said Michael L. Prince, director of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. "Motorists need to remember to buckle up on every trip, every time, to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries on Michigan roads. Our goal is to save lives, not write tickets."

In 2017, seat belt use in Michigan was 94 percent, slightly higher than the national seat belt use rate of 89.7 percent, Arend said.



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JULY 9, 2018 COVERS THE TECH CENTER AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA

TACOM Gets New Executive for **Logistics Position**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

role, Whicker will report to Commanding General Maj. Gen. Clark LeMasters, with accountability for overseeing the readiness of the majority of Army maintenance, fielding, new equipment training, supply chain management, and systems readiness.

"Marion proves once again that the U.S. Army and TACOM are fortunate to have a wealth of proven talent ready to step quickly and seamless into a key leadership position," said Brian Butler, U.S. Army TACOM's deputy to the commander.

"Marion is a perfect fit for this critical role.

"Her demonstrated effectiveness at delivering equipment, training and parts on time to our Soldiers, her deep understanding of our mission, and her ability to lead and develop people add up to a powerful combination that will meet the needs of the Army exceptionally well."

Whicker's extensive career with the Army started in 1984 at the Detroit Arsenal, where she held numerous supply chain, fleet planning, project management, asset management, fielding and training leadership and fiscal planning roles of increasing responsibility. She is regarded as one of the Army's premier logisti-

"It's an absolute honor to be and civilian employees.



Marion Whicker

promoted to the Senior Executive Service, and to be asked to lead the entire ILSC team, a role that Brian Butler and Janet Bean both mastered so well," Whicker

"I'm looking forward to building on that legacy by continuing to provide exceptional service and support to our men and women in uniform."

Whicker, a native of Trenton, Mich., holds a master's of science degree from Central Michigan University, a bachelor's degree in business administration from Iowa Weslevan College, and the Army's highest certification in Life Cycle Logistics. She has one daughter.

TACOM, headquartered here in Warren, is the only active-duty U.S. Army installation in the tristate area of Michigan, Ohio and

It's home to approximately 7,500 Michigan-based military

GM's Design Center Band Hits Right Notes

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Prixmiere Party put on by GM at the opening of the 2018 Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle.

The event was a party and fundraiser," Bungard said. "All the money went toward the Belle Isle Conservancy. The event was co-chaired by Michael Simcoe, General Motors vice president of Global Design, and his wife Margaret.

"It was a lot of fun to play there in front of all of those people and we helped raise money for a great cause."

The Design Center Band has a rotating membership of between 11 and 12 members, Bungard said. Performers at the Grand Prixmiere included Clay Davis on trombone and vocals, Max Sullivan on drums, Lynn Popa on trumpet, Mike Palazzolo was a singer, Tony Green on guitar, Chris Carden on saxophone, Tina Berry was a singer, Phil Karas on keys and also a singer,



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Brian Smith on trumpet, Reggie Gay on bass, Bungard on guitar, Ken Klausterhaus on bass, Dave Pando on drums, Tony Arrondondo on keys, Todd Storrs on trumpet and Gail Hebel, singer.

"Since the band's founding, we've really expanded our musical repertoire," Bungard said.

"We play an eclectic variety of music. It's multigeneration, multiethnic.

'We play some rock, some jazz, R&B, Motown."

It can be difficult to get the

band together for rehearsal, Bungard said. People have lives, families and work obligations.

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But all the work and effort is worth it when they come together and play, he said.

The band's next gig is July 27 at the GM-UAW Local 160 Employees Car Show. The event. open to current and past GM employees and their families, is held on the grounds of the Tech Center and goes from 10 a.m. to 2





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Cars.com Names Cherokee as 'Most American' Vehicle

For consumers who want to support the U.S. economy, determining a product's homegrown credentials is no easy task in today's global economy - but it's an important question amid a new era of import tariffs and ongoing renegotiations of longstanding trade pacts.

Few origin stories are as complicated as that of a modern automobile, whose badge and even assembly location don't tell the whole story, said Kelsey Mays, senior Consumer Affairs editor at Cars.com.

Cars.com's American-Made Index ranks the "most American" models on the market. These vehicles top the list for 2018:

- 1. Jeep Cherokee: Belvidere,
- 2. Honda Odyssey: Lincoln, Ala.
- 3. Honda Ridgeline: Lincoln,
- Ford Taurus: Chicago
- Chevrolet Volt: Detroit
- Honda Pilot: Lincoln, Ala. Acura MDX: East Liberty, Ohio
- 8. Ford Explorer: Chicago
- Ford F-150: Claycomo, Mo., and Dearborn.
- Chevrolet Corvette: Bowling Green, Kv.

The 2017 American-Made Index's No. 1 Jeep Wrangler was redesigned for the 2018 model year, and the 2018 Wrangler's dedomestic content knocked it off the top 10 entirely, but in its place is another Jeep SUV: the Cherokee, last year's No. 2 car on the index, Mays said.

With high domestic-parts content - 72 percent for the 2018 model year – and all engines and transmissions from the U.S., the Illinois-built Cherokee topped more than 100 U.S.-built vehicles on Cars.com's 2018 American-Made Index. Honda's Odyssey



2018 Jeep Cherokee

minivan and Ridgeline pickup

truck round out the podium;

both vehicles are built in Ala-

bama with high domestic content

ranks No. 4, followed by the

AMI's highest-ranked newcomer.

the No. 5 Chevrolet Volt. Plug-in

cars, be they fully electric or a

plug-in hybrid like the Volt, often

lack high domestic content amid

global sourcing for batteries -

one of the most cost-intensive as-

pects of any car with a significant

electric driving range. But the

Volt's battery is assembled near

Detroit, with cells from a plant in

western Michigan. Its domestic

content, 66 percent for 2018,

The Volt is one of four new

models - along with the Acura

MDX, Ford Explorer and Chevy

Corvette - that didn't appear on

the 2017 AMI, when Cars.com re-

designed the index to analyze

more factors and focus on the im-

pact of each single vehicle pur-

that where a car is built is funda-

mental to its economic impact. In

a Cars.com survey of more than

1,000 licensed drivers, 83 percent

named assembly location as an

important factor in determining

economic impact, Mays said. Yet

more than 7 in 10 survey respon-

By and large, consumers agree

lands it in the top 10.

chase, Mays said.

The Chicago-built Ford Taurus

and U.S.-sourced drivetrains.



2017 Ford Taurus



dents said other factors surpass economic impact in their purchase decision, and nearly 3 in 10 said they care only a little or not at all about economic impact.

That bears out when looking at sales of domestically produced vehicles: A Cars.com analysis of Automotive News data found that cars built in America account for only about 53 percent of passenger-vehicle sales in the U.S. through the first quarter of 2018.

U.S. assembly is a critical component of AMI eligibility, but that factor alone doesn't guarantee a seat at the table, Mays said.

The AMI considers five major factors to zero in on the economic impact of a given model: assembly location, domestic-parts content as determined by the American Automobile Labeling Act, engine sourcing, transmission sourcing and factory jobs provided by each automaker's U.S. plants.

AALA domestic-parts content is the only public content-rating system for cars, but the decades-old legislation is far from perfect. For starters, it doesn't distinguish between Canadian and U.S. parts.

That's why the American-Made Index analyzes engine and transmission sourcing - to ensure two of the most cost-intensive components in any car are from the U.S., not Canada, Mays said. Second, AALA doesn't fully capture the value of labor, so the AMI considers factory labor in a workforce calculation.

The American-Made Index disqualifies cars below the top 40 percent of the current crop of domestic-parts content ratings - a fluid threshold depending on the year - as well as any models that face immediate discontinuation without a U.S.-built successor. For cars sold here that hail from U.S. and foreign assembly plants, the AMI also accounts for foreign production, as it does for engines or transmissions that hail from non-U.S. regions.

Cars with a gross vehicle weight rating of greater than 8,500 pounds (that is, heavy-duty trucks and commercial vehicles) are exempt from AALA ratings and thus not counted by the AMI, Mays said.

A Cars.com analysis of factory employment found that auto plants across the U.S. directly owned by automakers provide some 250,000 jobs - everything from vehicle assembly to drivetrain production, casting and

Thousands more employees work in white-collar positions for automakers that cover everything from product development to marketing.

2018 Chevrolet Volt

A 2015 study by the Center for Automotive Research found the U.S. auto industry directly employed some 322,000 at the time. But two larger workforces sprang out from that: 521,000 people building auto parts and 710,000 people working at new-car dealerships, according to CAR's study.

Think of it this way, Mays said. For every 20 people employed in the auto industry, four of them work at the automaker itself, but about seven work in auto-parts manufacturing. And the biggest group - nine - are employed at new-car dealerships.

Of course, that doesn't include independent mechanics and body shops, auto-parts stores, gas stations and much more, Mays said.

Such is the domino effect of building vehicles: CAR estimated in 2015 that every direct U.S. employee at an automaker generated 6.6 additional jobs, Mays said.

Ford Makes Grand Rapids Latest 'City of Tomorrow'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grand Rapids residents and visitors by providing dynamic mobility options that build on the existing transportation system.

"As our city grows, we want to ensure we are working with our community to make getting around Grand Rapids easier," said Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalvnn Bliss.

"We also want to strengthen confidence in our existing transportation systems.

"We have joined the City of Tomorrow Challenge because we believe Grand Rapids is a place where innovative ideas can improve mobility in our

Throughout the eight-month program, those who live, work and play in Grand Rapids are invited to explore dynamic mobility options, including making the city's streets more walkable and bike-friendly, extending the use of transportation systems and the information they provide, and enabling smart transportation choices, Adabi

The Challenge includes a prize of up to \$100,000 to fund pilots that test the top solutions in a real-world setting.

"Grand Rapids is already on the forefront of transportation with our vision for mobility," said Josh Naramore, the city's Mobile GR-Parking Services man-

"With the City of Tomorrow Challenge, we can create a place that is a beacon of growth for years to come - a place where everyone can thrive.'

Grand Rapids marks the third location for the City of Tomorrow Challenge, following announcements in Pittsburgh and Miami-Dade County earlier this month.

Each challenge is tailored to a specific city or county and is focused on addressing its unique needs, Adabi said.

"What may work for one city might not work for another," said John Kwant, vice president, Ford City Solutions.

"Grand Rapids has its own unique needs, and it understands how seeking out new ideas to complement existing transportation systems can aid its effort to become a more accessible, walkable city.

"The City of Tomorrow Challenge will deliver that."

By crowdsourcing ideas, the Challenge seeks to come up with ways for communities to employ technology to create the best mobility solutions that will underpin the city of tomorrow, Adabi said

"The foundation for smarter city infrastructure of tomorrow is being laid today," Mike Geertsen, director of government solutions at Microsoft.

"Ford, local government leaders in Grand Rapids and Microsoft all have a shared philosophy that in an effort to make cities smarter, safer and more sustainable, adopting innovative technology solutions will help bring positive and inclusive change citizens are asking for.

"Leaders in Grand Rapids recognize the time to elevate the conversation and invest is

"The innovative mobility solutions deployed here in Grand Rapids," said Trevor Pawl, vice president of PlanetM, a mobilityfocused brand and business development program at the MEDC, "will lead to real and meaningful improvements in the quality of life and access to transportation throughout the communi-

"We are proud to be a partner in this effort in Grand Rapids and look forward to the impact it will have in expanding Michigan's mobility ecosystem.'

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Dow Develops Water-Based Bonding Agent

A viable alternative to solventbased bonding agents for rubberto-metal anti-vibration applications is now available from Dow.

The new generation of MEGUM water-based primer and cover coat systems provides outstanding performance – equal to solvent-based formulations – with significantly reduced VOCs – all at a competitive cost, said Dow spokeswoman Terri Howe.

"Making products with a lower environmental impact without sacrificing performance is a proud achievement," said Dr. Stefan Dehnicke, global technology manager - Specialty Adhesives at Dow Automotive.

"A 75 percent water-based formulation allows the possibility for new optimized manufacturing footprints with no atmospheric pollution. This accomplishment sets a new standard in rubber- to-metal bonding, including dynamically challenging applications."

MEGUM water-based bonding agents are available as both primer and cover products that can be used together or separately. Product advantages include:

- Bond strength fully compatible to solvent-based systems on natural rubber, NBR, HNBR and EPDM.
- Excellent performance in dynamic real parts testing with EPDM – at the same levels as used for solventbased standards.
- High salt-spray and corrosion resistance.
- Non-flammable.
- High solids, low viscosity with the opportunity to spare dilution.
- Advantaged economics versus solvent-based agents.
- High flexibility, water-based primer MEGUM W 9300.



From left, Stanton, Thomas-Little, Doughty, Sawyer and Yanez.

AT&T's Donation to MCC Aids High Schoolers

AT&T is supporting area teens with a \$10,000 contribution to Macomb Community College's Career Academies, a hands-on summer program that helps high school students explore potential career paths.

"One of the best things we can do for youth is to help them find and develop interests and talents, and that's our goal with the Career Academies program," said MCC President James O. Sawyer IV.

"Thanks to AT&T's generous support, we'll be able to expose more high school students to career paths that have sparked their interest, and that kind of experience at such a young age is invaluable."

The program spans fields such as public service, culinary, information technology and robotics.

Each academy, guided by experts in the field, provides hands-on exploration activities and allows high school students the chance to experience for themselves what a chosen field has to offer and if it is a good match with their skills and interests.

"How to best develop Michigan's next generation of talent should always be a priority for our state's decision-makers," said State Representative Henry Yanez.

"And in today's diverse, fastmoving economy, it's important to embrace innovations like MCC's Career Academies program, which does a fantastic job of introducing our area's young students to the wealth of career opportunities available in today's job market."

AT&T has been a longtime sup-

porter of Macomb Community College, contributing a total of \$82,000 to the college since 2009.

"AT&T is proud to support Macomb Community College and their efforts to develop the talents of Michigan's future workforce," said David Lewis, president of AT&T Michigan.

"The young students enrolling in Macomb's Career Academies are our state's future, and we are more than happy to play a role in helping them find and develop the skills and talents that will eventually carry Michigan forward."

Present at the check presentation ceremony were MCC's Edward Stanton, director, Admissions and Jill Thomas-Little, vice president, Student Services, along with AT&T's director of external affairs Lori Doughty.

Lear Automotive Presents Future Plans for Growth

Lear Corporation, a global supplier of automotive seating and electrical systems, hostedan Investor Day at its Global Product and Technology Center in Southfield.

The Lear team on June 27 outlined plans to leverage its unique product capabilities to profitably grow sales in both business segments. The company also reviewed its convergence opportunity to leverage its E-Systems electronics and software capabilities to offer industry leading seating innovations.

"Lear is in the strongest competitive position in its 100-year history, at a time when industry trends, such as electrification, connectivity and mobility, are driving tremendous growth opportunities," said Ray Scott, Lear's President and CEO. "This is truly an exciting time in the automotive industry, and Lear is positioned to accelerate our growth, improve our earnings and continue to deliver superior shareholder returns."

During the meeting, the company outlined growth opportunities that would increase total sales from \$22 billion this year to over \$30 billion in 2023 while increasing core operating margins, said Lear spokesman Mel Stephens. Lear's product segment presidents, Frank Orsini for Seating and Jeneanne Hanley for E-Systems, provided detailed reviews of their unique product and process capabilities that will drive future growth. In addition, Lear formally introduced its new Chief Technology Officer, John Absmeier, to the investment community. All of the presentations from the Investor Day are now posted on Lear's website at lear.com.



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Tesla Meets Production Goals – For Now

DETROIT (AP) - Tesla Inc. made 5,031 lower-priced Model 3 electric cars during the last week of June, surpassing its often-missed goal of 5,000 per week. But the company still only managed to crank out an average of 2,198 per week for the quarter.

Tesla reported making 28,578 Model 3s from April through June, according to its quarterly production release on July 2.

The Model 3, which starts at \$35,000, is the key to turning Tesla from a niche maker of expensive electric cars to a profitable, mass-market automaker. The company badly needs cash from the compact cars to deliver on CEO Elon Musk's promise to post a net profit and positive cash flow in the third and fourth quarters. The company has had only two profitable quarters in its 15year history.

To hit the 5,000-per-week mark, Tesla had to erect a second Model 3 assembly line under a tent outside its Fremont, Calif., factory, and Musk had to spend nights in the plant working out bugs with automation and other problems. The company now says it expects to hit 6,000 Model 3s per week by late August, with its Model 3 assembly line under the plant's roof reaching 5,000 on its own.

'The last 12 months were some of the most difficult in Tesla's history," the company's statement said. Hitting the 5,000 mark "was not easy but it was definitely worth it," the statement said.

Tesla critics now wonder if it can keep up the 5,000-per-week rate, and they question whether it can build high-quality vehicles underneath the heavy-duty tent on the site of what once was a joint-venture factory for General Motors and Toyota.

Dave Sullivan, manager of product analysis at AutoPacific Inc. and a former manufacturing manager for Ford Motor Co., said reaching the 5,000-per-week won't make Tesla profitable by itself. He predicted the company will have trouble sustaining it because parts suppliers will have difficulty keeping up and bottlenecks will develop in the body assembly and paint shops.

Tesla, he said, delayed delivery of many of the Model 3s that it made in the second quarter to boost revenue and achieve the third-quarter profit that Musk promised. The company books revenue when vehicles are delivered.

"They did everything they can to artificially pump up the third quarter," Sullivan said. "I think the fourth quarter will be the quarter of reckoning."

CFRA Research analyst Efraim Levy lowered his rating on Tesla shares from "Hold" to "Sell," saying he doesn't see the production rate as "operationally or financially sustainable" in the short term. Over time, he expects it to rise, though. Still, the stock is trading above his 12month price target of \$300, so he

recommends selling it, he wrote last week in a note to investors.

Shares of Tesla Inc. fell around 2 percent to \$336.21 in late-day trading July 2.

Consumer Edge Research Senior Analyst Jamie Albertine takes a more bullish view. He says Musk doesn't manage for quarterly results, and believes Tesla can keep producing at the current rate. "I don't believe their goal was to simply hit 5,000 a week and somehow revert to a lower production rate in the future," Albertine said. "Their goal is to hit it sustainably with high quality production."

He thinks the company can reach production of 10,000 vehicles per week, or roughly a halfmillion per year. That will significantly lower capital spending and other expenses so it can turn a profit, said Albertine, who has met with Tesla management.

Last summer, when the first Model 3s began rolling off the assembly line, Musk promised to build 5,000 per week by December and 10,000 per week in 2018. But he also warned at the time that Tesla was entering at least six months of "manufacturing

Detroit Automakers Report Better Car Sales Figures

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all four of our brands, the industry's only three-truck pickup strategy and clear leadership in large SUVs."

Jeep brand notched its best month of June sales ever with 86,989 vehicles sold compared with 73,153 in June 2017. Driving the results were the Cherokee, Compass and Wrangler nameplates. Cherokee and Compass sales nearly doubled, with Cherokee reporting 22,433 vehicle sales compared with 11,895 in June 2017. Compass sales were 15,142 compared with 8,311 in June 2017. Wrangler sales increased to 23,110 vehicles compared with 18,839 in June 2017, said FCA spokesman Jeff Ben-

Ram Truck brand scored a variety of records as sales increased 6 percent to 51,729 vehicles, making it the best June sales ever, Bennett said. Ram brand retail sales also had their best June ever, rising 4 percent to 36,750. Driving the increase was light-duty pickup truck retail sales, which rose 11 percent to 24,036 vehicles. Total sales of the Ram ProMaster van nearly doubled to 6,996 vehicles.

Chrysler brand total sales declined 32 percent in June to 13,484 vehicles compared with June of the previous year, while Dodge brand total sales rose 9 percent to 46,387 as Charger sales rose 4 percent to 6,640 vehicles compared with 6,379 vehicles in June 2017.

GM spokesman Jim Cain said very strong truck sales and a wave of new crossovers helped General Motors deliver more than 758,000 vehicles in the United States in the second quarter of 2018.

Second-quarter sales Chevrolet and GMC far outpaced the industry on a year-over-year basis, growing 6 percent and 7 percent, respectively, while industry sales are estimated to be up 1 to 2 percent, Cain said. Cadillac sales were up 3 percent and GM's overall sales were up 5 percent for an estimated market share of 16.6 percent, up 0.5 percentage points.

Chevrolet's newest crossover. the 2018 Traverse, stands out as one of the most successful redesigns of any vehicle in the industry this year, Cain said. Sales in the first half of 2018 in-

creased by more than 17,000 units, year over year.

"Customers are buying with confidence because the economy is strong and they expect it to remain strong," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president, Sales Operations. "GM is in a fantastic position with so many new crossovers at all four of our brands, the industry's only threetruck pickup strategy and clear leadership in large SUVs."

Ford Motor Company's June U.S. sales totaled 230,635 vehicles - a 1.2 percent increase; first-half 2018 sales are down 1.8 percent, with 1,277,691 vehicles sold, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle

Retail results in June are up 2.9 percent on sales of 156,788 vehicles, while transaction prices gain \$540; through the first half, retail sales totaled 854,889 vehicles - a slight decline of 1.1 percent, Merkle said. The industry shift to trucks and SUVs plays into Ford's strengths, with Ford trucks, SUVs, commercial and Lincoln all posting gains.

Gilmore Car **Museum Has Corvette Show**

The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners will open their 90-acre historic campus for their very first All-Years Corvette Show and Swap Meet on Sunday, July 22.

"Show your Corvette - any year - for \$20 (includes driver and passenger admission)," said Jay Follis, museum spokesman. "General public admission will be \$14 per person, children 11 and under and Gilmore Car Museum members visiting as show spectators are free of charge. All admission includes access to the museum's 90-acre historic campus and over 24 different buildings and galleries of automobile displays."

'We are the nation's largest car museum and on July 22 we'll be featuring one of the nation's favorite sportscar," said Chris Shires, executive director of the Gilmore Car Museum.

The Corvette Show, the first show of its kind for the museum, has show organizers anticipating a large turnout both on the show field and in numbers of spectators, Follis said.

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