

SUVs, Crossovers, Pickups Dominate 2018 Field

Jeep Brand Sales Top Record Set in 2016

2018 was a good year for FCA, with the automaker increasing sales by 9 percent compared with 2017.

FCA spokesman Jeff Bennett said the company sold 2,235,204 in 2018, compared to 2,059,376 in 2017.

FCA's total December U.S. sales of 196,520 vehicles represented a 14 percent increase compared with sales of 171,946 vehicles in December 2017.

Retail sales for the month rose slightly to 151,077 vehicles. Fleet

sales totaled 45,443 vehicles and accounted for 23 percent of total sales during the month.

"The Jeep Wrangler was the standout for the month and the year," Bennett said. "Wrangler notched record December sales of 19,800 vehicles and full-year sales of 240,032. The results significantly exceeded the former full-year sales record of 202,266 set in 2015."

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Terrain Sets a Torrid Pace With 34 Percent Increase

For General Motors, the year of the crossover was 2018. Crossovers accounted for more than a third of GM's total vehicle sales.

General Motors delivered 2,954,037 vehicles in 2018, including more than 1 million crossovers, almost 974,000 pickup trucks and more than 280,000 large SUVs, said GM spokesman Jim Cain.

"We have built the most successful pickup, SUV and

crossover business in the industry and we gained considerable momentum in the fourth quarter of 2018 as dealers began delivering the all-new Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra and Cadillac XT4," said Kurt McNeil, U.S. vice president, Sales Operations.

GM's fourth quarter deliveries totaled 785,229 units and the company's share of the industry's retail sales grew every

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F-150 Still Top Seller

Pickup trucks proved to be Ford's strongest sellers in the year 2018.

"December capped another strong year for Ford and the industry – Ford sold more than 900,000 F-Series trucks in 2018 to extend our leadership position to 42 consecutive years as America's best-selling pickup; our commercial vans mark 40 straight years of leadership and we had a record year for Ford SUVs, all of which helped us post our ninth straight year as America's best-selling brand," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

Overall, Ford sold 2,497,318 vehicles in 2018, said Ford spokesman Erich Merkle. That is a 3.5 percent decrease compared with the 2,586,715 vehicles sold in 2017.

A continued stronger mix of trucks and SUVs expanded transaction pricing for another new record of \$38,400, a \$1,600 increase over December last year; this compares to a \$470 increase

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



2018 Cherokee



2018 GMC Terrain

Ford's Latest Technology Going to the Dogs

In many places around the world, the coming of the new year is celebrated with fireworks and even gunshots in the air.

But the soundtrack to that experience can be a painful one for pets and worrying for owners, said Ford spokesman Emmanuel Lubrani.

An estimated 45 percent of dogs in the UK show signs of fear when they hear fireworks – causing distress to owners and their families, too, according to a report out of Europe.

And Ford has worked on one possible answer to that problem – a noise-canceling kennel that uses similar technology to that found in cars and headphones to protect sensitive canine ears and ensure owners do not have to banish their pets from the rest of the family, Lubrani said.

Once microphones inside the prototype kennel detect the sound of the fireworks, a built-in audio system emits opposing frequencies that in effect cancel out

the noise completely – or at least reduce it significantly. High-density cork, ideal for soundproofing was an integral part of the design.

The result? No more stress for one's pet, Lubrani said. A concept for now, but with the potential to mean a much better start to the year, both for dogs – and for their owners.

"Many animals find fireworks scary – and compared to people, dogs can hear things that are four times farther away, and across a much wider range of frequencies. Preparing in advance of fireworks displays is the key – and part of that is to identify a place where your pets feel safe and happy," said Graeme Hall.

Hall is known as the "The Dogfather," one of the UK's best dog trainers who has helped 5,000 dogs and their owners with behavioral problems, Lubrani said.

The idea was inspired by the noise-canceling technology that Ford has introduced to the Edge

SUV, a technology that helps to ensure quieter journeys for drivers and passengers. When microphones pick up high levels of noise from the engine or transmission, that noise is counteracted using opposing sound waves from the car's audio system.

"We wondered how the technologies we use in our cars could be applied to help in other situations. Could dogs enjoy quieter New Year's Eve celebrations through the application of our

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Using the latest quiet tech, Ford has built a new kind of doghouse.



Mark Reuss

Mark Reuss Named GM's New President

General Motors has appointed Mark Reuss as company president, effective immediately.

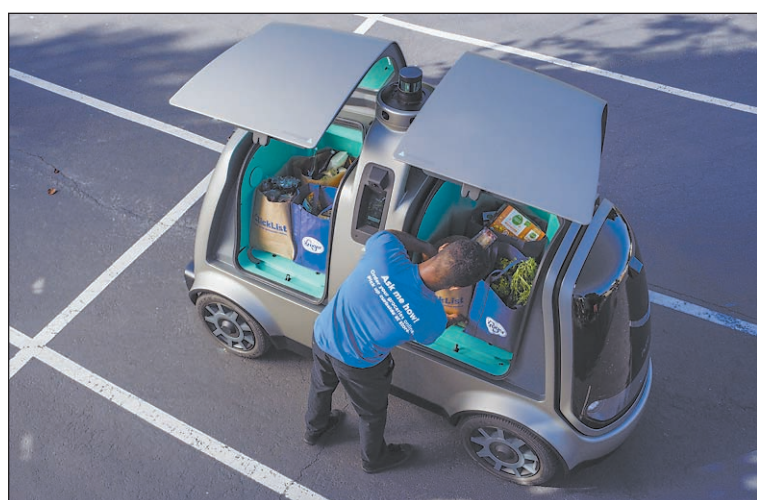
Reuss currently leads the Global Product Group and Cadillac and will now assume responsibility for the Quality organization, said GM spokesman Pat Morrissey.

"Mark's global operational experience, deep product knowledge and strong leadership will serve us well as we continue to strengthen our current business, take advantage of growth opportunities and further define the future of personal mobility," said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra.

"Mark has played a critical role in leading the development of the company's award-winning vehicles while transitioning his team to prepare for growing electrification and autonomous technologies."

Reuss said, "I am very proud

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



A Kroger employee loads up an experimental AV to deliver groceries.

Kroger's Test Delivery AV Begins Next Phase in Arizona Market

Nuro and The Kroger Co. have launched the first-ever unmanned delivery service available to the general public.

Since August, the companies have operated a self-driving grocery delivery service in Scottsdale, Ariz., with an autonomous Prius fleet, each one followed by a store representative, said Kroger spokeswoman Kristal Howard. The autonomous vehicles have completed nearly one thousand deliveries to the general public. Kroger officially launched the service on Dec. 18.

With this recent launch, the fleet is expanding to include Nuro's custom unmanned vehicle known as the R1. The R1 travels on public roads and has no driver, no passengers and only transports goods, Howard said. Nuro, which has its headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., has been developing the R1 since 2016, and announced its partnership with Kroger, America's largest supermarket retailer, in June.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

www.DetroitAutoScene.com

Reuss has also been leading the transformation of the company's global product development workforce and processes to drive world-class levels of engineering.

“We see sales remaining solid in 2019 and we look forward to expanding our vehicle portfolio

Total sales of all GM utility vehicles, including large SUVs, reached 1,295,700, up 7 percent. The Chevrolet Tahoe and Subur-

Compass sales rose 46 percent and reached 12,745 in December. Total year's sales were

GM has now sold more pickups in the United States than any other competitor for five consecutive years, Cain said. Through November, the next closest competitor had sold 821,558 pickups.

This bodes well for Lincoln-brand SUVs, said Merkle, as the new Lincoln Aviator is poised to

Dodge brand December sales rose 17 percent to 32,528 vehicles. Challenger's yearly sales rose 3 percent to 66,716 – a new record for the nameplate. The

"We are very bullish on pickups heading into 2019," McNeil said. "The light-duty launch has been one of the best in our history, with a very smooth production ramp-up of the new models and a faster-than-expected sell-down of the old models. We are

Fiat December sales declined 44 percent to 977 vehicles in December. Fiat finished the year with 15,521 vehicle sales.

Year-end 2018 inventory was 755,000 units, essentially equal to 2017, Cain said.



2019 Ford F-150

Dealer inventory continues to

Intrepid Control Systems Hitting CES

“Most autonomous development vehicles employ a multitude of different proprietary systems, components and computers from different sources, requiring developers to waste a lot of time trying to tie them all together. Our Autonomous ONE motherboard provides a single, clean platform to quickly and

In addition to being an all-in-one vehicle interface, Autonomous ONE can also be used for automatic and manual remote download, control and monitoring of data through a Wireless 4G/5G or 60 GHz WiGig connection, Hatfield said. It has been designed to be affordable for OEMs to purchase.



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2019 Escalade Sport Edition

Magneti Marelli's Sending New Technology to NAIAS

by Jim Stickford

The 2019 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) gives auto supplier Magneti Marelli the perfect opportunity to show what the company's been up to during the past few years.

Gene Spektor, president and CEO of Magneti Marelli North America, said the company has been developing new automotive tech, and NAIAS allows them to show what the company has been doing to a specific and targeted audience.

"Automotive technology has changed greatly in the past five to 10 years," Spektor said. "As regulations change, we're seeing more safety technology going into vehicles. In 2018, for example, rear backup cameras were required in all vehicles sold in North America.

"What's next for us is that we're going forward in looking at new Autonomous Vehicle technology. We are moving to make the technology we will show off at NAIAS become actual production tech that can go into new vehicles."

Among the new tech is Magneti Marelli's third-generation Smart Corner, Spektor said. It represents the progress the company has made in developing a flexible platform by integrating autonomous sensors into headlamps and tail lamps to provide OEMs with the required functionality for autonomous driving, while maintaining styling aesthetics and world-class lighting performance, he said.

It can accommodate any sensor an OEM may choose to deploy, Spektor said, including LiDAR, radar, cameras, or ultrasonics, as well as advanced, LED-based lighting features like adaptive driving beam (ADB) and DLP. Smart Corner, he said, provides a 360-degree view around the vehicle with redundancy.

"Because the sensors are integrated into existing headlamps and tail lamps," said Spektor, "an OEM benefits from a fully calibrated, plug-and-play solution, resulting in a simplified manufacturing process that is lower cost and lighter weight than alternatives."

And because of the equipment's placement at the four corners of a vehicle, he said, people don't see bulky sensors on the hood or the roof of the vehicle – a plus when adopting new technology.

And advances in LED lighting help focus light better on the road and give OEMs the ability to create unique looks for their vehicles, Spektor said. At a time when SUVs are dominating vehicle sales, being to tailor vehicle

designs to create a new look for product really matters.

NAIAS visitors will also see how the company integrates cameras, sensors and perception software to provide driver monitoring functionality. A key feature of Magneti Marelli's solution is that it requires very little computing power and works without complex hardware, said Spektor.

"Once a user's status and mood is determined, the data interfaces with the Human Machine Interface (HMI) to dynamically adapt the car's environment," he said.

The company will also display integration of multiple displays, controls and feedback to serve the driver by delivering information how, when and where they need it.

This latest display technology can augment perception, depth and reality, without tapping into valuable dashboard real estate, Spektor said.

"As displays go digital on dashboards," he said, "it's now possible for drivers and passengers to customize the display to meet their preferences. Some drivers like a relatively simple display that doesn't overwhelm them with information. They can now set the display to show just what they want. And if someone else drives the car, perhaps the main driver's spouse, then that person can set up his or her own display arrangement. When that person is finished, the display can go back to the main driver's preference."

Overall, events like the upcoming NAIAS are more important than ever, Spektor said.

"We can reach a direct audience at just one location," he said.

"We can show what vehicles can do with our technology and display what tech is available right now. This is a very good way to reach a targeted audience."

Ford's Latest Tech Goes to the Dogs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Active Noise Control system? We have a few more ideas in progress as to how our everyday lives might benefit from a little Ford know-how," said Lyn West, brand content manager, Marketing Communications, Ford of Europe.

Just a prototype for now, the noise-canceling kennel is the first in a series of Ford initiatives – called Interventions – that applies automotive know-how to help solve everyday problems, Lubrani said.

Cadillac Launches Escalade Sport Edition

When it comes to elegant styling, black is the new black.

Cadillac is introducing the 2019 Escalade Sport Edition, a bold new look for those who aren't afraid of the dark, said GM spokeswoman Tara Kuhnen.

"This new black-accented version is the first special edition available for the current generation of the sales- and segment-leading, award-winning SUV," Kuhnen said.

Offered on Luxury, Premium Luxury and Platinum models, the new Sport Edition is designed to be distinguished by gloss black exterior trim, including the front grilles, window moldings, body side moldings and more, as well as a unique Midnight Silver finish on the standard 22-inch wheels, said Steve Carlisle, Cadillac president.

"Two decades after its introduction, the Escalade remains the segment's benchmark and sales leader," said Carlisle. "The Sport Edition extends that momentum in response to customer and dealer demand for a dark and aggressive look."

Escalade has led the full-size luxury SUV segment in sales for

15 of its 20 years on the road, Carlisle said.

"It is driven by a powerful blend of sophisticated style, uncompromising capability, innovative technology and exceptional craftsmanship," Carlisle said.

And the Escalade's list of awards keeps growing. In fact, J.D. Power named the Escalade as having the "Best Initial Quality and Resale Value among Large Premium SUVs," and *Consumer Guide Automotive* named it a Best Buy Award winner for five consecutive years, Kuhnen said.

"In addition to its stylish looks the Escalade Sports Edition boasts a powerful 6.2L V8 engine rated at an SAE-certified 420 hp that drives all models," Carlisle said.

"Each model is available in 2WD and 4WD configurations and can go from 0 to 60 mph in less than 6 seconds."

As with other Cadillac models, the Escalade features the latest Cadillac user experience system, offering connectivity and embedded navigation with intuitive, smartphone-like functionality.

These features are greatly

appreciated by today's luxury vehicle consumer, Kuhnen said.

Additional highlights and select features offered include:

- Magnetic Ride Control with driver-selectable modes.
- Available 4G LTE Wi-Fi Hotspot (includes 3GB/three-month data trial).
- Automatic Parking Assist.
- Fold-flat second- and third-row seats with power-folding third row.
- Heated and cooled front seats with heated second-row bucket seats.
- Heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel with wood accents.
- 12.3-inch-diagonal instrument cluster display with high-resolution digital driver information center.
- Bose Centerpoint audio system featuring 16 speakers.
- Hands-free liftgate with Cadillac logo illumination.

The Escalade Sport Edition package is \$2,700, and the starting MSRP in the U.S.A. is \$84,906 including destination charge. It will be available for orders beginning in the first quarter.

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Lawrence Tech University Students Help Disabled

Lawrence Technological University sophomore engineering students once again spent the fall semester designing products to help developmentally disabled people improve their lives.

Students worked with the Dearborn-based Services to Enhance Potential (STEP), which finds and manages job placements for the disabled, and ConnectUs, a Livonia-based nonprofit that provides quality programming for individuals with severe multiple disabilities, said LTU spokesman Matt Roush.

The students are part of a course, EGE 2123, Entrepreneurial Engineering Design Studio, that is required in most LTU engineering programs. Students meet with the nonprofit agencies and their clients, witness, firsthand, the clients' challenges, and design and build physical products to help solve those challenges.

"Creating a product for a real person – and in particular, a person with a disability – and seeing directly the impact that they can have on that person's life, really resonates with the students," said Heidi Morano, director of LTU's Studio for Entrepreneurial Engineering Design (SEED).

In December, the students presented their products in open houses to LTU faculty, staff, and students, as well as working professionals in engineering and related fields, Roush said. Attendees cast votes to name first- and second-place teams in both sections of the EGE 2123 course.

Winners in the afternoon class that worked with STEP were:

- First place, Ramp It Up, who produced a 3-D printed magnetized bracket to aid the production of roller assemblies used to transport cafe-

teria trays. Team members were Joe Daszcz, of Allen Park; Chris Langston, of Farmington Hills; Devin Morrison, of Madison Heights; Maurice Rivers, of Chicago; and Matthew Wenzel, of Howell.

- Second place, tie, Gasket Smashkit, who produced a board with cones affixed to it to help workers punch holes out of gaskets without damaging the gasket. Team members were Lauth Aljida, of Novi; Dillon Tierney, of Highland Township; and Meshal Alharbi, of Kuwait.
- Second place, tie, Inspect Tech, who designed a device to incorporate inspection in the manufacturing process of a component in bumpers. Members were Samantha Khon, of Dearborn; Alyssa Downs, of Southgate; and Miguel Sanchez Munoz, of Spain.

Winners in the evening class ConnectUs were:

- First place, AMTF, a team that designed a table with jacks and actuators that raised and lowered to accommodate the height of a client's wheelchair. Team members were Garrick Beaster, of Romulus; Ethan Harrington, of Shelby Township; Aidan Nolan, of Clarkston; and Joel Trend, of South Lyon.
- Second place, Ticket Masters. They designed and built a new ticket dispenser for ConnectUs. Team members were Emily Gandolfi, of Falmouth; Tyler Gregory, of Livonia; Matthew Luckow, of Dearborn; and Matt Quigley, of Rochester.

Classic Fiat 500 Honored as Work of Art

It's not often that a car can also be a museum-certified work of art, but that's what the Fiat 500 is.

Following last year's acquisition of the Fiat 500 by The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Fiat 500 F series will be on public display at the Museum for the first time from Feb. 10 to May 27, 2019, as a highlight of The Value of Good Design, an exhibition drawn from MoMA's stellar collection of industrial design, said FCA spokesman Bryan Zvibleman.

"500 is an icon of Italian style that never went out of fashion and that over the decades gained fans all around the world because of its key features and strong personality," said Luca Napolitano, head of EMEA Fiat and Abarth brands.

"Since 1957, Fiat 500 has always brought colors and smiles to everyday lives on the roads of the world, becoming an ambassador of the 'Bel Paese' (beautiful country) and an icon of style and design 'made in Italy'."

The model on display at MoMA will be a 500 F series, the most popular 500 ever, produced from 1965 to 1972. Counting the other versions (namely, the Sport, D, L and R) of the first generation, more than 4 million cars were produced from 1957 to 1975.

The car is a clear expression of form following function, a logical and economical use of materials and a belief that quality design should be accessible to all, Zvibleman said.

The development of inexpensive, reliable cars like the Fiat 500 was essential for the motorization of the post-war European continent. Through its design and its centrality to the story of mid-century Italy, the 500 embodies many of the principles that typified mid-century modernist design and connects it to themes

explored in works throughout the Museum's collection, said Zvibleman.

Commonly referred to as the "Cinquecento," the Nuova 500 was designed by designer and engineer Dante Giacosa and launched in 1957.

Giacosa, who joined Fiat in 1927, was responsible for many of the most important designs to emerge from the automaker during his 43-year career, including the original 500 "Topolino" and the later 500 "Nuova," Zvibleman said.

A compact, rear-engine city car, the 500 was conceived as an economical car for the masses. Despite its small exterior dimensions, Giacosa's design maximized interior volume, resulting in a surprisingly spacious interior that could accommodate four passengers.

The standard-feature foldable fabric roof imbued this economy car with a sense of luxury while simultaneously reducing the amount of steel – a precious commodity at the time – necessary for production of the car.

This undisputed success was followed up in 2007 with the

launch of the new generation, Zvibleman said.

Featuring objects from domestic furnishings and appliances to ceramics, glass, electronics, transport design, sporting goods, toys and graphics, The Value of Good Design (Feb. 10-May 27, 2019) explores the democratizing potential of design, beginning with MoMA's Good Design initiatives from the late 1930s through the 1950s, which championed well-designed, affordable contemporary products.

The concept of Good Design also took hold well beyond the Museum, with governments on both sides of the Cold War divide embracing it as a vital tool of social and economic reconstruction and technological advancement in the years following World War II, of which the Fiat 500 is a classic example, Zvibleman said.

The exhibition also raises questions about what Good Design might mean in today's world, and whether values from mid-century can be translated and redefined for a 21st-century audience.



This classic Fiat 500 is now on permanent display at MoMA.

MCC Called 'Veteran-Friendly' by Vets Group

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) named Macomb Community College as a certified Veteran-Friendly School, awarding the college gold-level recognition for the fourth consecutive year.

The Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their commitment to support student veterans and their dependents in utilizing their G.I. Bill and navigating other educational resources, said Sean Patrick, manager of Media Relations at MCC. It awards gold-, silver-, and bronze-level status to institutions that offer veteran-centric services and programs.

"Offering assistance to veterans, active-duty military and family members, all of whom have been willing to sacrifice for our freedoms, is very rewarding," said Kara Fields, director of Veteran Services at Macomb Community College.

"Through collaboration with the Veterans Administration, the State of Michigan, Macomb County and numerous other organizations, we help our students get the help they need and deserve with dedicated, hands-on support."

A strength of the Macomb program is its connections to and relationships with local, county, state and federal assistance programs, Fields said. Macomb's Office of Veteran and Military Services will reach out and find assistance for student veterans and active military personnel for resources that transcend their educational needs through a collaborative network of county, VA and veteran service organizations.

The gold, silver and bronze rankings awarded by MVAA are based on a set of seven criteria:

- Established process for

identification of current student veterans.

- Active student-operated veterans association.
- Veteran-specific career services, resources, advising and/or outcome monitoring.
- On-campus veterans' coordinator or designated point of contact.
- System to evaluate and award credit based on prior military training and experience.
- Monitoring and evaluation

of student veteran academic retention, transfer and graduation rates.

- Veteran-specific website.

MVAA is a Michigan state government agency within the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

It serves as the central coordinating point for Michigan veterans, connecting those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state.

Kroger Testing AV System in Arizona

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"Nuro envisions a world without errands, where everything is on-demand and can be delivered affordably. Operating a delivery service using our custom unmanned vehicles is an important first step toward that goal," said Nuro President and co-founder Dave Ferguson.

"Kroger customers are looking for new, convenient ways to feed their families and purchase the products they need quickly through services like pickup and delivery," said Yael Cosset, Kroger's chief digital officer.

"Our autonomous delivery pilot with Nuro over the past few months continues to prove the benefit of the flexible and reliable technology. Through this exciting and innovative partnership, we are delivering a great customer experience and advancing Kroger's commitment to redefine the grocery experience by creating an ecosystem that offers our customers anything, anytime, and anywhere."

Kroger experienced 60 percent digital sales growth in the Phoenix area in the third quarter, and its coverage area now reach-

es more than 90 percent of the area's customer households, Howard said.

Customers can place delivery orders immediately, for delivery 7 days a week by shopping at a local store or online or on a mobile app. They place their order based on slot availability.

Grocery orders can be scheduled for same-day or next-day delivery by Nuro's fleet of self-driving vehicles, now featuring the custom unmanned R1 as well as self-driving Prius vehicles. The price is \$5.95 flat fee, with no minimum order.

Detroit Mayor Previews NAIAS

DETROIT (AP) – Mayor Mike Duggan is scheduled to receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the show floor construction for the 2019 North American International Auto Show at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Duggan will meet Jan. 7 with many of the skilled trades workers who help on the show. He will be joined by auto show chair Bill Golling and vice chair Doug North.

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FCA Aims For Big Splash at 2019 CES

Visitors to CES 2019 in Las Vegas will be able to get a closer look at the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivan with Waymo's self-driving system.

The autonomous minivan will be one of the highlights of the FCA US booth during the consumer technology show's four-day run Jan. 8-11, said Dale Jewett, FCA Multimedia editor.

From a partnership launched in 2016, the Waymo-equipped Pacifica Hybrid minivans are among the most advanced vehicles on the road today and include a powerful hardware suite and software honed over millions of miles of on-road testing, Jewett said.

CES 2019 attendees can also plug-in with the Pacifica Hybrid minivan available to consumers and explore the Hybrid Electric Pages, displayed on the 8.4-inch Uconnect screen. The pages provide owners with helpful information about the hybrid powertrain and access to charging schedules, Jewett said.

The biggest Uconnect news is also at CES 2019. The 12-inch screen that debuted on the all-new 2019 Ram 1500 pickup will be showcased, along with the debut of SiriusXM 360L.

The Uconnect 4C system with the 12-inch screen can be split to display multiple applications at the same time, such as the Surround View Camera system and HVAC controls, or go full screen for a single application, such as navigation or entertainment.

SiriusXM 360L combines the power of the entertainment company's satellite and on-demand streaming programs, giving Ram owners a wider variety of music, talk and sports choices, Jewett said.

Thief Caught At Chrysler Lot In Fairbanks

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — Persistence paid off for the owner of a Fairbanks car dealership after police investigated a suspected burglary in progress but departed without finding a suspect.

Lane Nichols, owner of Gene's Chrysler, and his son continued the search the evening of Dec. 24 in the dealership's storage yard and found a man hiding in an SUV, the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* reported.

"You know, you can only be violated so many times, and I was just so happy that we got one of the bad guys," Nichols said. "He was dressed for Arctic weather and he systematically went through (the) entire lot. The video is actually pretty informative."

The 29-year-old suspect faces misdemeanor theft and trespassing charges.

Security cameras sent an alert to the dealership manager at 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and captured footage of a man rummaging through vehicles.

Nichols met police at the business. They searched the car the suspect was last seen entering but could not find him.

The officers left but Nichols and his son decided to keep looking. They soon got a call from the manager, who was still monitoring security footage.

The manager directed them to a sport utility vehicle, where Nichols and his son found the suspect lying on the second-row floorboard, facing the back seat.

The man was bundled up for Arctic conditions and wore a headlamp.

Nichols implied he had a weapon and told the man not to move. Police arrived and made the arrest.

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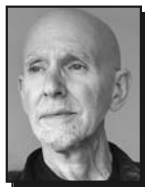
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Uber Gets Permission to Restart AV Testing

by TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has approved Uber's request to resume testing of autonomous vehicles on public roads in the Pittsburgh area.

The approval, effective Dec. 18 and lasting for one year, comes about nine months after one of Uber's autonomous test vehicles hit and killed an Arizona pedestrian. Testing was suspended after the March 18 crash in Tempe, Ariz.

Uber can test throughout Allegheny County, where Pittsburgh is located. Its vehicles must have at least one human backup driver and two if the company plans to go over 25 miles per hour, department spokeswoman Erin Waters-Trasatt said.

Uber spokeswoman Sarah Abboud confirmed the approval but declined to say when the testing would resume.

The ride-hailing company had previously said it wanted to resume testing in a Pittsburgh entertainment, shopping, office and residential area called the Strip District, where its automated vehicle operations are located.

Speed limits on most roads in the district are no higher than 25 mph, and it has narrow roads, railroad tracks, potholes and numerous pedestrians that present challenges for self-driving vehicles.

Uber also has said it would test only during daytime hours and not in inclement weather.

The company filed an application to restart testing back in November, as it issued a lengthy safety report pledging to put two human backup drivers in each vehicle and take a raft of other precautions.

Company officials have ac-

knowledge they have a long way to go to regain public trust after the crash that killed Elaine Herzberg, 49, as she crossed a darkened Arizona road outside the lines of a crosswalk.

Police said Uber's backup driver in the autonomous Volvo SUV in Arizona was streaming the television show, "The Voice," on her phone and looking downward before the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the autonomous driving system on the Volvo spotted Herzberg about six seconds before hitting her, but did not stop because the system used to automatically apply brakes in potentially dangerous situations had been disabled. A Volvo emergency braking system also had been turned off.

Among the other precautions, San Francisco-based Uber will keep the autonomous vehicle system engaged at all times and will

activate Volvo's automatic emergency braking system as a backup.

In addition, Uber is requiring more technical training and expertise of employees sitting behind the wheel of the vehicles, according to a 70-page safety report the company released last month.

Pennsylvania law doesn't allow testing of autonomous vehicles without human backup drivers. Google's Waymo has carried passengers without human drivers in the Phoenix area, but recently backed off of that and is only ferrying passengers with human backups. General Motors' Cruise Automation expects to carry passengers without human backups next year.

Later, Uber will pursue bringing its self-driving cars back to public roads in Arizona, California and Toronto, Ontario, its other test sites. Arizona suspended the company's permission to test.

Ghosn's Stay Behind Bars Extended by Japanese

by YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) – Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn will be detained at least through Jan. 11, the Tokyo District Court said Dec. 30, as the once-revered auto industry figure faces allegations that have marked a stunning downfall.

Ghosn, who led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades and helped save the Japanese automaker from near bankruptcy, was arrested Nov. 19 on suspicion of falsifying financial reports. He also faces a breach of trust allegation, for which his detention had been approved previously through Jan. 1.

The Tokyo District Court said in a statement that it had approved prosecutors' request for a 10-day extension.

Ghosn has been charged in the first set of allegations, about under-reporting Ghosn's pay by about 5 billion yen (\$44 million) in 2011-2015.

Those close to Ghosn and his family say he is asserting his innocence as the alleged underreported amount of money was never really decided or paid, and Nissan never suffered any monetary losses from the alleged breach of trust.

It is unclear when Ghosn may be released on bail. Tokyo prosecutors consider Ghosn, a Brazilian-born Frenchman of Lebanese ancestry, a flight risk.

In Japan, formal charges can mean a suspect will get detained for months, sometimes until the trial starts, because of fears of tampered evidence.

Another Nissan executive, Greg Kelly, was arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Ghosn on the under-reporting of income and was freed Dec. 25 on 70 million yen (\$635,600) bail after more than a month of detention.

Kelly said in a statement released through his lawyers he had suffered while in detention because of his neck ailment and hoped to get medical treatment. He also said he was innocent and hoped to regain his reputation.

"I expect that the trial will start soon. I have not been involved in alleged false entry. I believe my innocence will be revealed in the trial," Kelly said.

Falsifying financial reporting is a serious crime in Japan, with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a 10 million yen (\$89,000) fine, or both. But some experts are puzzled that the allegations against Kelly and Ghosn are about underreporting income from Nissan. Nissan is in charge of filing such financial reports, not individual executives.

Past cases of companies and officials getting charged in Japan with falsifying such reports tend to be about misrepresenting company profits or other numbers that relate to the overall operations of the business, not executive compensation.

Nissan as a legal entity has also been charged in the underreporting of income. But no other individuals besides Ghosn and Kelly have been arrested or charged.

The latest allegations of breach of trust against Ghosn, according to prosecutors, center around having Nissan shoulder a private investment loss of 1.8 billion yen (\$16 million) in 2008, and having Nissan transfer \$14.7 million to another company.

Nissan has said Ghosn and Kelly were the masterminds behind a scheme to underreport income and use company money and assets for personal gain. Nissan officials have been cooperating closely with the prosecutors in the investigation. Suspects in Japan are routinely interrogated daily without a lawyer present, although lawyers are allowed to visit their clients.

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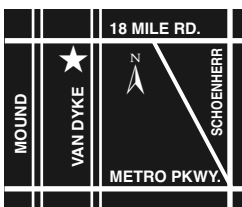


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*All prices and payments include GM rebates. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Pricing subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of active GM employee discount (unless otherwise stated). Must have GM Employee discount and lease loyalty. All leases are 10,000 miles per year with approved A Tier credit. All Vehicles shown are \$999 down unless otherwise stated. Disposition Fee may be required at vehicle turn in. Must have lease loyalty or lease conquest vehicle in household on certain models. Prices and payments are plus tax, title, plate, doc fee, refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles - to be determined by lender. 2019 model year vehicles are priced and discounted at supplier discount with a competitive lease or lease loyalty depending on vehicle model. Pricing includes Ed Rinke bonus cash, while supplies last. **\$3,500 trade in is valid on 2008 or newer vehicles w/ under 115k miles in drivable condition, no branded titles, reconditioning determined by appraiser. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for complete details. ** Exp date: 1/9/2019.