

Gladiator is a Different Kind of Pickup Truck

by Jim Stickford

After months of anticipation, Detroiters got a chance to see the new Jeep Gladiator at the recent North American International Auto Show (NAIAS).

Trevor Dorchie, spokesman for FCA, said that since the new Jeep Gladiator was first introduced at the Los Angeles Auto Show in November, people have been wanting to get a good, up-close look at the Jeep truck.

"The reaction to the Gladiator has been great," Dorchie said. "Folks have been anticipating the truck for a while and we are happy to deliver a look to real people and not just auto writers. The people who have seen the truck have been saying it's finally here and it looks great and that it's been worth the wait."

Dorchie said that the Gladiator has been in development at Jeep for a couple of years. It will be built in Toledo and uses its own open platform.

"It was always designed to be a mid-size truck," Dorchie said. "We don't have any sales goals, but I will say that we'll build one for anybody who wants one."

The overall look of the truck is meant to resemble the Jeep Wrangler, Dorchie said. The pickup has several features that come straight from the Wrangler.

One such feature is the door hinges. Unlike most pickup trucks, the Gladiator's door hinges are on the outside. This design has a specific purpose beyond looks.

"The hinges are on the outside of the doors to make it easier to remove the doors when desired," Dorchie said. "As a pickup

truck, the Gladiator plays in a different space from more conventional trucks. It's aimed at the kind of people who enjoy using a Wrangler to go off-roading. It's meant to look like a truck that has open-air capabilities and gives drivers freedom to go where they want, while still being a pickup truck."

That's why the Gladiator has three different top options, Dorchie said. Owners will have the ability to customize the truck to meet their particular needs.

The 2020 Jeep Gladiator utilizes a variety of ways to optimize ride, handling and sound

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Gladiator is designed to be an off-roading truck, which is why its doors can be easily removed.

Bitter Cold Vortex Causes GM to Close Several Sites

by Jim Stickford

Record cold in Michigan resulted in the closing of many Detroit OEM facilities across the state and the Midwest.

Things were going well for Detroit automakers. As of 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30, only one facility – FCA's Belvidere Assembly in Illinois – had been reported closed due to the extreme cold weather.

But the situation changed due to a fire involving equipment at Consumers Energy's Ray Natural Gas Compressor Station in Macomb County.

The blaze began at 10:33 a.m. Jan. 30. The fire was contained and there were no injuries, according to a statement from Consumers Energy. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

As a result of the fire, all gas flow from the compressor station was shut in until safety and damage assessments could be completed.

The media statement further declared that Consumers Energy activated natural gas peaking storage fields in Northville and St. Clair to help deliver natural gas to its customers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Gravity System Has Human Touch

Thanks to new technology, automotive design isn't just a desk job any more.

At the Ford Design Studio, a designer enters a virtual room and begins a 3D sketch. He is designing a virtual car around himself and adjusting the attributes to best suit him, the driver, said Ford spokesman Austin Stowe.

This work is part of Ford's latest exploration of a new process that places the customer at the center of design and can help reduce the time it takes to create a vehicle.

Ford is the first automaker to work with Gravity Sketch – a 3D virtual reality tool that enables

designers to create more human-centric vehicle design, Stowe said. Designers trade in their sketchpads for a headset and controllers to become immersed in virtual reality, imitating gestural interactions through motion tracking that replicates sketching with pen and paper.

Michael Smith, Ford design manager, said seeing all angles of a vehicle as it is being drawn truly unleashes creativity and fosters development of human-centric design from start to finish.

"Jumping right into 3D gives us a 360-degree view of a vehicle as it's being created," he said.

Traditional automotive design begins with a 2D sketch that's then scanned to produce a high-quality illustration. Once these renderings are evaluated, a few are translated into data using computer-aided design software to create a 3D model, Smith said.

That model is transferred into a virtual reality environment for further evaluation and to determine the design's feasibility. This can take weeks, meaning designers need to be extremely selective about which designs make it to the 3D modeling stage.

Gravity Sketch allows designers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Mopar's CAP program is developing the next generation of technicians.

New FCA Training Program Helps Fill Technician Gap

The need for automotive technicians is real, said FCA spokesman Jeff Bennett, and for those interested in such a career, FCA has a program that will help.

The Mopar Career Automotive Program (CAP), an FCA initiative aimed at developing the next generation of service technicians, launched a new and innovative networking campaign designed to link students with potential career opportunities.

The "Assemble Your Future" campaign gives students the opportunity to meet with dealer representatives, FCA technicians and Dodge//SRT and Mopar-sponsored professional racing teams, Bennett said.

About 40 Mopar CAP students, instructors and dealers located near four different National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) national events will be invited to the track for a day of networking this year.

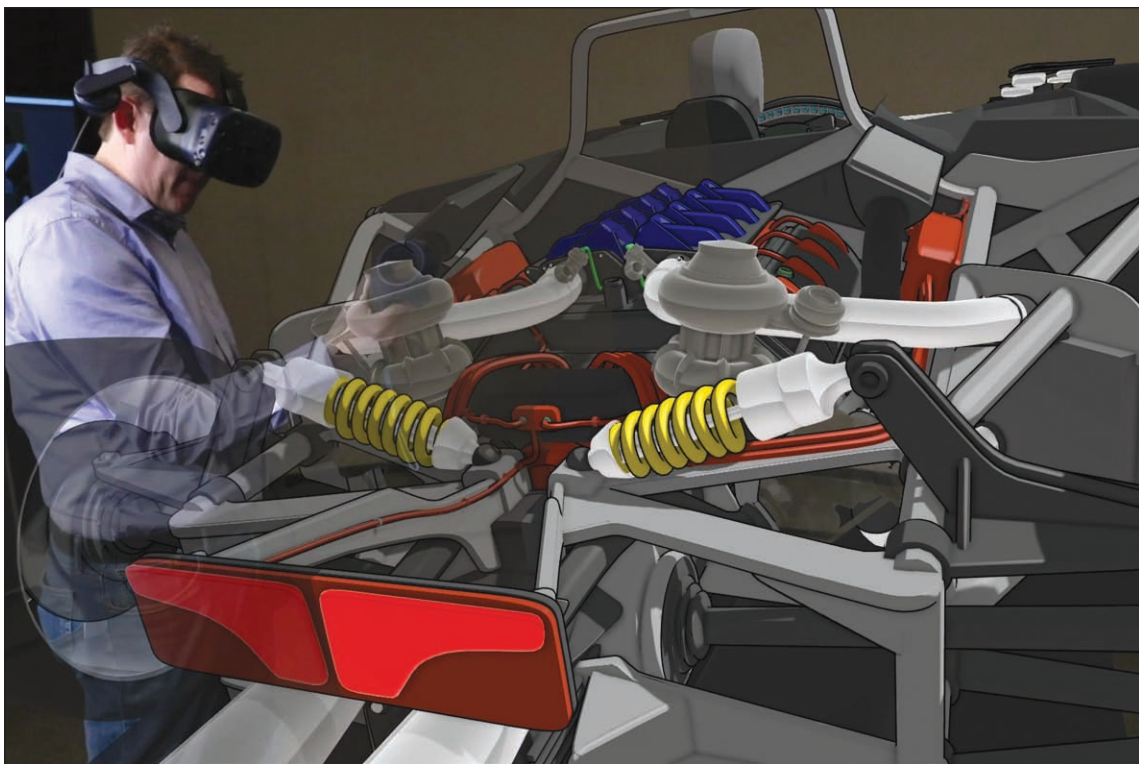
"We want our students to not

only see the entire spectrum of a service technician career, but also take steps to make it happen by talking to potential employers or someone who has been there before and found success," said Steve Beahm, head of Parts and Service (Mopar) and Passenger Car Brands, FCA - North America.

"These are very good jobs that offer a solid income and the chance to work on some of the hottest brands with some of the coolest technology in the market."

Mopar CAP prepares students to begin their automotive technician careers upon graduation from a certified, two-year training institution, such as a university, college, community college or technical center, Beahm said. Currently, FCA has 9,000 active students enrolled in its Mopar CAP program.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ford's the first OEM to use Gravity Sketch – a 3D virtual reality tool that helps design human-centric vehicles.

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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.
for the next edition of Monday

William Springer II, publisher
Lisa A. Torretta, operations
Jim Stickford, editor

Detroit Auto Scene is a registered
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www.DetroitAutoScene.com

FCA Program Trains New Technicians

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There are an estimated 750,000 auto technicians working nationally, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Another 46,000 will need to be hired between 2019 and 2026 to meet increased demand.

"Assemble Your Future" will focus on NHRA national events scheduled for Houston in April, Denver in July, a September stop near Reading, Pa., and a final race in Las Vegas in the fall.

The races will cover about 15 schools operating in those areas.

The goal is to continue expanding the campaign by adding more racing venues over the coming years, Bennett said.

Charity Begins at Home with GT Heritage Edition Auction

Ford's automotive excellence with the GT Heritage Edition sports car has paid off big for United Way for Southeastern Michigan.

All \$2.5 million raised by the auction of the first GT Heritage Edition sports car is going to support United Way for Southeastern Michigan, said Ford spokesman Matt Leaver.

Rick Hendrick, Hendrick Motorsports owner, was the winning bidder at the 48th annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Jan. 19, Leaver said.

The high-stakes sale followed the auction of the first 2020 Mustang Shelby GT500 for \$1.1 million at the 48th annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction, Leaver said. The total \$3.6 million raised in both sales by Ford will be donated to two long-time charity partners.

On Jan. 18, VIN 001 of the 2020 Mustang Shelby GT500 raised \$1.1 million to benefit JDRC, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research.

"The chance to become the owner of the first 2019 Ford GT Heritage Edition with famous Gulf racing colors is an opportunity of a lifetime," said Joe Hinrichs, Ford president, Global Operations. "More importantly, being involved in helping to raise much needed funds and awareness for United Way will help them improve the lives of families in Michigan."

Hinrichs and Dr. Darienne Driver, president and CEO, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, drove the 2019 Ford GT Heritage Edition VIN 001 across the auction block, Leaver said.

Celebrating Ford's 1968 Le Mans-winning race car with its original paint scheme, this Ford GT Heritage Edition features No. 9 graphics on the hood and doors, a ghosted image on the interior door panels, a unique serialized ID plate, and exposed carbon fiber inside and out.

"United Way for Southeastern Michigan improves lives and empowers families to succeed," said Driver. "Proceeds from the sale of

this rare Ford GT supercar will bolster our efforts to ensure more families in underserved communities across southeast Michigan can access the resources they need to build a strong, equitable community."

Edsel B. Ford II, Ford Motor Company board member, and Aaron Shelby, grandson of the legendary Carroll Shelby, energized the arena Jan. 18 as they accompanied the new Shelby GT500 onto the block.

Craig Jackson, CEO and chairman of the Barrett-Jackson Company, now owns the coveted Shelby, Leaver said. He can choose from all available colors and options for this first-produc-

tion Mustang Shelby GT500, which debuted at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Jan. 14. The car will be available this fall.

"Ford Motor Company has always championed and supported organizations that seek to improve the lives of people and communities who are at risk," said Edsel B. Ford II.

"We're proud to have helped continue this tradition at the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction in Scottsdale.

"Working with JDRC and United Way of Southeastern Michigan, we helped raise much-needed funds and awareness for these two wonderful organizations."

Several historic new Ford vehicles have been sold with proceeds benefiting charity at the Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale through the years.

"Over the last decade Barrett-Jackson, Ford and Shelby have teamed up to create some incredible moments in automotive history," said Craig Jackson, CEO of Barrett-Jackson. "As a lifelong Shelby Mustang fan, it was especially exciting to be the winning bidder of the 2020 Shelby GT500 VIN 001. It's a direct descendant of the Green Hornet and Little Red Mustangs and will be a welcome addition to my personal Shelby collection."



The first 2019 Ford GT Heritage Edition was sold for \$2.5 million for United Way of Southeastern Michigan.

Gladiator a Different Kind of Pickup Truck

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

characteristics while bolstering fuel economy even while towing and hauling, Dorchie said.

Utilizing a body-on-frame design and featuring a superbly engineered five-link suspension system, Gladiator delivers on capability, with composed on-road driving dynamics, passenger safety and best-in-class towing and 4x4 payload capacity.

Gladiator's body-on-frame design uses advanced materials and engineering to be lightweight, yet stiff and durable, and features a new lightweight, high-strength steel frame, Dorchie said.

When compared to Jeep Wrangler 4-door, Gladiator's frame is an additional 31 inches longer while the wheelbase is 19.4 inches longer.

The longer wheelbase and the bed's positioning center aft of the rear axle centerline enables



Gladiator door hinges are on the outside for easier door removal.

for better weight distribution and a more comfortable and composed ride when carrying cargo.

The prop shaft, brake, fuel lines and exhaust system were lengthened to accommodate the changes needed to make the proven body-on-frame design work with the most capable mid-size truck ever.

A traditional steel bed utilizes four steel cross-members to reinforce the load floor while the aluminum tailgate is damped.

Utility and versatility are maximized with strong integrated tie-downs, under-rail bed

lighting and an optional covered external power source, Dorchie said.

To protect critical vehicle components while on the trail, including the fuel tank, transfer case and automatic transmission oil pan, Gladiator employs four skid plates and bars, Dorchie said.

Rubicon models benefit from the use of heavy gauge tubular steel rock rails to curtail potential body damage inflicted while out on the trail. Rubicon models also feature segment-exclusive rock rails for the bed corners.

Ford Builds a Better Exoskeleton

FLAT ROCK, Mich. (AP) – Ford Motor Co. and other manufacturers want to help their workers take a load off. Or at least make it easier to lift a load up.

Ford is among several companies providing wearable technology to elevate and support their workers' arms.

Nicholas Gotts wears an EksoVest during his shifts building Mustangs at the Flat Rock Assembly Plant in suburban Detroit.

He says the exoskeleton makes

his job "a whole lot easier and a lot less strenuous."

Ford piloted the EksoVest at two U.S. plants before deciding last year to expand its use to 15 factories and seven countries around the world.

The vest provides lift assistance for 5 to 15 pounds (2.3 to 6.8 kilograms) per arm.

Aerospace giant Boeing Co. is among other companies that provide their workers with exoskeletons to help in the manufacturing process.

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Sierra HD Designed to Provide Power, Comfort



GMC's 2020 Sierra 3500 HD Denali Dual Rear Wheel has hauling power.



GMC didn't stint on technology or cabin space with the 3500 HD.

The competition in the heavy-duty pickup truck market just got a little heavier.

Members of the public got to see the new 2020 GMC Sierra Heavy Duty (HD) pickup at the 2019 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS).

Duncan Aldred, vice president of Global GMC, called the new truck "bigger, stronger and smarter."

The new pickup combines greater trailering capability with technologies designed to provide customers with a world-class towing experience, Aldred said.

"The all-new 2020 Sierra HD is the most capable heavy-duty truck that we've ever offered," said Aldred. "For customers who demand a premium, innovative heavy-duty truck that supports their passions, the next-generation Sierra HD can pull like a pro."

The 2020 Sierra HD was the second new heavy-duty pickup launched at NAIAS. Ram also debuted its new Ram 2500/3500 at the show.

Aldred said form and function come together in the new Sierra Heavy Duty, with features that include an enhanced ProGrade Trailering system with class-leading available 15 camera views, including a segment-first transparent trailer view to virtually see through a trailer in tow.

Also included is an available smart trailer designed to integrate the iN-Command control

system from ASA Electronics that provides the ability to monitor and control select functions of compatibly equipped trailers through the myGMC mobile app, as well as a segment-exclusive available 15-inch-diagonal head-up display that offers useful trailering information, including vehicle speed, navigation information and an inclinometer display for the road grade.

This truck also has MultiPro, the world's first six-function tailgate, allowing easier loading, unloading and bed access and is available on all trim levels, Aldred said.

Other features include a larger, commanding design that provides more room for cargo and occupants, best-in-class Crew Cab front headroom and legroom for the driver and other front-row occupants and a new, segment-first, Allison 10-speed automatic transmission mated to the legendary 6.6L Duramax turbo diesel, Aldred said.

For those looking to take refined capability off-road, GMC fortifies the new AT4 brand with a new Sierra AT4 Heavy Duty available for Crew Cab configurations as both a 2500 and 3500 single rear wheel offering, said GM spokesman Fred Ligouri.

The new Sierra HD marks the introduction of a new 10-speed Allison automatic transmission – the first-ever offered in the heavy-duty pickup segment, said Ligouri. The new 10-speed trans-

mission with closer gear spacing, he said, allows the engine to operate in an optimal range at all times with varying load and terrain conditions.

The bigger frame, stronger propulsion and smarter technologies are expected to deliver dramatically greater towing capacity than previous models, well in excess of 30,000 pounds.

More details regarding a new gas engine and trailering capabilities of the truck will be made available to the public shortly, Ligouri said.

The 2020 Sierra HD goes on sale later this year in 2500HD and 3500HD dual rear wheel and single rear wheel configurations.

Flint Assembly will build the 2020 Sierra Heavy Duty.

MotorCities Now Offering New Mini-Grants

MotorCities National Heritage Area Partnership is offering two grant opportunities for 2019.

Both its new Mini-Grant program, as well as the Challenge Grant program, are now accepting applications, said Bob Sadler, spokesman for the group.

"The new mini-grant program provides smaller awards than our traditional challenge grant program, but they present an opportunity for greater impact to projects and communities across the region," said MotorCities Executive Director Shawn Pomaville-Size. "These grants are intended for short-term, high impact projects that need that extra little bit to move from concept to reality. They can include tours, field trips, conferences, lectures, planning and studies."

A total of up to 10 mini-grants with a max value of \$1,500 each will be awarded in the first year. The deadline for mini-grant applications is March 15. Call 313-259-3425 x307 or byopp@motorcities.org to learn more.

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Ford Gravity Helps Design

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to speed the process from weeks to hours, skipping the 2D stage and working with a 3D model from the beginning. Designers can anchor a driver at the center, rotating their 3D design to view it from any angle to create a scalable vehicle around their driver, Smith said.

They can even step inside the vehicle sketch to quickly adjust design attributes to best suit occupants. Gravity Sketch enables Ford designers to place the customer at the center of the vehicle as designers are sketching it.

"This application has the potential to help ensure we are delivering the very best vehicle designs for our customers," said Smith.

"It moves the entire process into the world of virtual reality, giving us greater options for reviewing more models in the 3D environment to create the best possible vehicles."

Across five global Ford design studios, dozens of interior and exterior designers are now experimenting with Gravity Sketch

for workflow feasibility and its potential for real-time co-creation and collaboration.

Shifting to a model that designs and evaluates in virtual reality could revolutionize the entire process by drastically reducing development time and allowing for more 3D representations in the evaluation stage.

"Our collaboration with Ford designers has enabled us to fine-tune this application application to better suit their needs so they can build the best possible vehicles for their customers," said Oluwaseyi Sosanya, Gravity Sketch CEO & co-founder.

FCA Recalling Ram 1500 Trucks

DETROIT (AP) – Fiat Chrysler is recalling more than 182,000 pickup trucks worldwide to fix an electrical problem that can knock out the power steering.

The recall covers Ram 1500 pickups from the 2019 model year. Most are in the U.S. and Canada. One-third are still on dealer lots.



GM is expanding work at the company's Spring Hill, Tenn., site

Lear Appoints Cheng to Board of Directors

Mei-Wei Cheng has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Lear Corporation, a global automotive technology provider based in Southfield, said Lear Automotive spokeswoman Katya Pruett.

Cheng currently serves as the non-executive chairman of the Board of Directors of HCP Packaging and is a member of the Board of Directors of both Interplex Holdings Pte. Ltd. and NIU Technologies.

He previously served as the non-executive chairman of the Board of Directors of Pactera, a Blackstone portfolio company, as well as a director and senior advisor to several other manufacturing and technology companies, Pruett said.

From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Cheng was CEO of Siemens North East Asia and President and CEO of Siemens Ltd., China.

Prior to joining Siemens, Cheng spent more than a decade at Ford Motor (China) Ltd. as chairman and CEO. In addition,

Cheng has served as chairman and CEO of GE (China) Ltd. and president of AT&T China, Pruett said.

Additionally, Cheng has lectured on "Leadership" and "How to Do Business in China" at Cornell, Dartmouth, the China Europe International Business School and various multinational companies.

"We are pleased to welcome Mei-Wei to Lear's Board of Directors," said Henry D.G. Wallace, Lear's non-executive chairman. "Mei-Wei's deep knowledge of the Chinese market, strong leadership, and executive experience will be instrumental in helping guide our growth and strategy, particularly in China."

Cheng holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering/operations research from Cornell University and an MBA from Rutgers University.

He is also a graduate of Dartmouth's Tuck Executive Program and MIT's Program for Senior Executives.

GM to Spend \$22M at Spring Hill Facility

GM says its efforts to improve engine performance is continuing.

General Motors is investing \$22 million at its Spring Hill, Tenn., manufacturing complex to enable the engine plant to build 6.2L V8 engines with GM's advanced Dynamic Fuel Management technology.

GM has invested more than \$2 billion in the Tennessee complex since 2010, said GM spokesman Dan Flores.

"This investment will enable our Spring Hill team to continue building our award-winning engines enhanced with technology that will improve fuel efficiency and performance for our customers," said GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra during a visit to the plant to meet with employees and community leaders to celebrate the new Cadillac XT6.

"This investment reflects our

commitment to vehicles and technologies our customers desire today and in the future."

For several years, General Motors has been transforming its business to win in the core automotive business and the future of personal mobility, Barra said. The new investment is evidence of the company's commitment to optimize its core business to meet strong customer demand.

GM's Dynamic Fuel Management technology is the industry's first cylinder deactivation technology, which enables the engines to operate in 17 different cylinder patterns to optimize performance, Flores said. DFM enables only the cylinders needed to deliver the power a customer wants.

In addition to the new investment, GM is completing a previously announced \$300 million in-

vestment at the complex for production of the new Cadillac XT6. Spring Hill will be adding more than 200 jobs for the all-new, three-row Cadillac crossover, Flores said.

GM's Spring Hill Manufacturing complex consists of a flexible vehicle assembly plant and an engine plant. On the vehicle side, the plant produces the GMC Acadia, Holden Acadia and Cadillac XT5.

In addition, Cadillac just unveiled the new Cadillac XT6 and the plant will begin building the vehicle later this year. The engine plant builds four- and eight-cylinder engines.

The Spring Hill complex opened in 1990 and currently employs about 3,800 people.

In addition to the Spring Hill complex, GM has a parts distribution center in Memphis.



The Tech Center in Warren was one of several GM sites across Michigan that were closed due to the cold.

Brr . . .Cold Shuts Down OEM Sites in State

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Natural gas is stored underground and reserved in these fields, which are activated when energy demand requires it. In addition, the company reached out to its largest business customers to reduce gas usage while they continued to investigate the incident.

Later on Jan. 30, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a formal statement to the public, saying that due to "extremely high demand for natural gas with record-low temperatures" and the incident at Consumers Energy's Macomb site, the company has asked that "everyone who is able to please turn down their thermostats to 65 degrees or less" do so until noon on Feb. 1.

In addition to making a public statement on this subject, the governor also sent out an emergency alert at about 10:30 p.m. Jan. 30 to cell phones in southeast Michigan asking people and businesses to reduce their heat.

In response to this request by Consumers Energy and Gov. Whitmer, GM closed down facilities in the state.

In a statement to the media, GM declared that it "suspended operations at 13 manufacturing facilities and three non-manufacturing locations after a request by Consumers Energy in Michigan to allow the utility to manage supply issues brought on by the extreme temperatures and equipment issues."

Manufacturing locations powered by DTE will continue with normal operations." Employees were notified by location as to when production would be suspended and when they would return to work. Hourly and salaried employees

at affected GM manufacturing facilities were told to call their plant hotline or a company number for details.

Suppliers were to be contacted by GM representatives on specific details regarding their operations.

GM operations were suspended at the following Michigan manufacturing locations:

- Bay City Powertrain
- Orion Assembly
- Pontiac Stamping
- Flint Assembly
- Flint Stamping
- Flint Engine
- Flint Tool & Die
- Lansing Delta Township Assembly
- Lansing Grand River Assembly
- Lansing Regional Stamping
- Lansing Grand River Stamping
- Saginaw Metal Casting Operations
- Warren Transmission.

Non-manufacturing locations included:

- Warren GM Tech Center
- Pontiac Engineering
- Grand Blanc Customer Care and Aftersales HQ.

GM locations that were unaffected included the RenCen, Milford Proving Ground, CCA-Ypsilanti and CCA-Willow Run, and manufacturing facilities in Detroit-Hamtramck, Romulus, Brownstown and Grand Rapids.

In response to the request from Consumers Energy and Gov. Whitmer, FCA canceled the first and second shifts at the company's Warren Truck and Sterling Heights Assembly plants on Jan. 31. Employees returned to the plants on Feb. 1.

Ford reported to the media that the company did not close any facilities due to natural gas

restrictions, but it did lower the temperature in its Livonia Transmission Plant and Van Dyke Transmission Plant to minimum levels.

Ford stated that it also suspended heat treatment processes at Sterling Axle Plant and stopped paint processes and parts of the stamping operation at Michigan Assembly Plant, which builds the new Ranger mid-size pickup truck.

Ford said in its statement that several small office buildings in Dearborn are closed due to a separate DTE power outage.

Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein To Speak at MCC

It won't be Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, but rather the real journalists, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who will be speaking at Macomb Community College's Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road in Clinton Township, on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

The two reporters will have a 3:30-4:30 question-and-answer session with students about their experiences and viewpoints on the role of the news media.

Later that day, Local 4 News reporter Paula Tutman will moderate a session with the two Washington reporters focused on the role of a free press in a modern democracy.

The 6:30-8 p.m. presentation is open to the public.

MCC spokesman Sean Patrick said that space for the evening presentation is limited, so people interested in attending should call 586-445-7271.

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Mopar Creates Partnership With Pennzoil

Dodge//SRT and Mopar have entered into a partnership with Pennzoil to pump up participation in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), doubling their number of event title sponsorships for the 2019 season, said FCA spokesman Darren Jacobs.

Mopar will claim headline sponsor duties at the NHRA tour stop in Houston, and Dodge//SRT will take title rights for the fall NHRA Las Vegas race, Jacobs said.

The brands will also continue their primary sponsorship roles at NHRA events near Denver and Reading, Pa.

Here's the Dodge//SRT and Mopar 2019 NHRA Title Sponsorship Schedule:

- April 12-14: Mopar Express Lane NHRA Spring Nationals Presented by Pennzoil, Baytown, Texas (New event).
- July 19-21: Dodge Mile-High NHRA Nationals Presented by Pennzoil, Morrison, Colo.
- Sept. 12-15: Mopar Express Lane NHRA Nationals Presented by Pennzoil, Reading, Pa.
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 3: Dodge NHRA Nationals Presented by Pennzoil, Las Vegas (New event).

"With growing interest in drag racing, Dodge//SRT and Mopar are doubling down on our commitment to NHRA for the 2019 race season, partnering with Pennzoil and adding new event title sponsorships that will supercharge our outreach to the performance lovers who fuel our brands," said Steve Beahm, head of Parts and Service (Mopar) and Passenger Car Brands, FCA - North America.

"Many of our customers carry a passion for performance on the street and on the strip, and our long-running involvement with NHRA offers the perfect opportunity to connect with these car enthusiasts and owners. Our two new event title sponsorships help us strengthen that connection."

"NHRA," said Brad Gerber, NHRA vice president of Sales and chief development officer, "is excited to expand upon our partnership with Dodge//SRT and Mopar, while bringing on another prominent brand in Pennzoil."

"We're looking forward to having fun and lots of excitement in the following years with Dodge//SRT, Mopar and Pennzoil as partners."

Audi to Resume Operations in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) - A union that represents workers at an Audi plant in Hungary says it has ended a seven-day strike after agreeing on a wage increase and other benefits with the German automaker.

The strike started Jan. 28 and stopped production at the plant in the city of Győr that employs 13,000, while also affecting the supply chain of an Audi plant in Germany.

The union said late Jan. 30 that workers will get a wage hike of 18 percent, or at least 75,000 forints (\$273) a month, and after May 1 they will be entitled to at least one weekend off each month.

The deal also calls for workers to receive anniversary bonuses and other benefits.

Foreign carmakers such as Audi, Mercedes, Opel and Suzuki have been among the biggest drivers of Hungary's economic growth in recent years.

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Camaro ZL1 1LE Offers Automatic Option

The 2019 Camaro ZL1 1LE was designed to combine power with a smooth performance.

This version of the Camaro now will offer an available 10-speed automatic transmission beginning late February, said GM spokesman Christopher Bonelli.

During development, Chevy engineers pushed the limits of the automatic transmission to be more than one-half second faster than the standard manual on General Motors' 2.9-mile Milford Road Course, Bonelli said.

In fact, on longer tracks like the Nürburgring, where you can take advantage of the lightning-quick shifts and all 10 gears, drivers can expect to shave off several seconds from their previous lap times with the six-speed manual ZL1 1LE.

"This transmission is optimized for speed," said Camaro Chief Engineer Mark Dickens. "With unique Track Mode calibrations and 10 gears, you are always in the perfect gear when rolling on or off the throttle. You may not be a professional race car driver, but now you can shift like one."

Not only does the 10-speed transmission save time at the track, it gives customers more performance options, Dickens said.

The automatic provides standard paddle shifters for when they want a more engaging experience, Dickens said.

This new transmission comes with many changes that live up to the requirements of the 1LE performance package, Bonelli said. Unique calibrations were made to the transmission, electronic limited slip differential and performance traction management system.

The front and rear Multimatic DSSV (Dynamic Suspension Spool Valve) dampers have been

tuned to accommodate the quicker shifts in weight transfer, Dickens said.

New hardware includes a new transmission oil pan and an additional cooling duct for the steering gear.

"Adding an automatic transmission is another example of the Camaro portfolio delivering what customers want. This ultimate 1LE is another appealing option that is true to its racing heritage," said Steve Majoros, director of Chevrolet passenger car and crossover marketing.

Additional ZL1 1LE features include:

- Downforce-producing aero: Unique features include a carbon fiber rear wing, specific air deflectors and dive planes on the front fascia that produce grip-generating downforce to help the car stick harder and drive faster in turns.
- Adjustable suspension: Racing-derived, lightweight Multimatic DSSV dampers front and rear offer exceptional wheel and vehicle control. The front-end ride height is adjustable, along with the camber geometry. The rear

stabilizer bar also offers three-way adjustability.

- Wheels and tires: Specific lightweight forged aluminum wheels are an inch wider but an inch smaller in diameter, front and rear, than standard ZL1 wheels and are used with new summer-only Goodyear Eagle F1 Supercar 3R tires¹ that deliver max-lateral grip of 1.10g.
- Lighter weight: The lighter wheels and dampers, along with thinner rear glass and a fixed-back rear seat, contribute to more than 50-pound lower curb weight than a standard ZL1 Coupe.
- Supercharged performance and more: The power behind the ZL1 1LE is the 650-horsepower, supercharged LT4 engine. Brembo brakes are included, along with dual-zone automatic climate control, Bose premium audio system, heated and ventilated front seats and heated steering wheel.

The ZL1 1LE Track Performance Package has an MSRP of \$7,500 and the available 10-speed automatic transmission an MSRP of \$1,595.



The 2019 Camaro ZL1 1LE boasts a 10-speed automatic transmission.

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Ghosn Speaks to the Press

TOKYO (AP) – Nissan Motor Co. said Jan. 28 it has received an inquiry from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, suggesting investigations into dealings by its former chairman Carlos Ghosn could expand beyond Japan.

The Japanese automaker confirmed "we have received an inquiry from the SEC, and are co-operating fully. We cannot provide further details."

The statement followed reports by both Japanese and foreign media that the U.S. financial markets watchdog was investigating Nissan's pay to executives in the United States.

Bloomberg, citing people familiar with the matter, said the SEC was probing whether Nissan's executive-pay disclosures were accurate and if the carmaker had taken enough steps to prevent improper payments.

Ghosn is facing charges in Japan of falsifying financial statements by under-reporting his compensation and of breach of

trust related to his handling of investment losses and payments to a Saudi businessman.

Ghosn has been detained in Tokyo since his arrest on Nov. 19.

He has said he is innocent of any wrongdoing.

Nissan has factories in Canton, Miss., and in Smyrna, Tenn. The company's shares are traded as American Depository receipts in the U.S.

Ghosn led an expansion of production in the U.S., Nissan's biggest market.

Ally Financial
Reports Profit

DETROIT (AP) – Ally Financial Inc. (formerly known as GMAC) on Jan. 30 reported fourth-quarter earnings of \$290 million.

On a per-share basis, the Detroit-based company said it had net income of 70 cents. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, were 92 cents per share.

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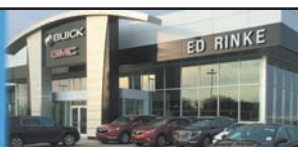
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 - Rear Vision Camera!
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