



Barra with the Corvette that will be auctioned for charity later this year.

Barra Shows Design of 'Vette That's Coming in Summer

It's not often people have a chance to own a genuine piece of automotive history and help those in need. But that's exactly what the folks at General Motors are offering.

GM will auction the final-production, seventh-generation 2019 Chevrolet Corvette this summer, with the proceeds benefiting the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

This announcement, along with confirmation of the next-generation Corvette's development, was made last week by General Motors Chairman and CEO Mary Barra, who was honored at the foundation's annual

Footsteps to the Future Gala in New York on April 11.

"GM, GMC and Chevrolet support the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation and its commitment to injured and fallen military members, first responders and their families," said Barra.

"The sale of this iconic Corvette will help the foundation continue its good work, and pave the way for the Next Generation Corvette that we will introduce on July 18."

The final seventh-gen Corvette – a black 2019 Z06 model – will be auctioned at the Barrett-Jack-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

'Battle of the Brands' Lets FCA Employees, Friends Play Hockey on Wings' Home Ice

by Jim Stickford

It didn't look like the Red Wings. In fact, it didn't look anything like the Red Wings.

That's because a group of amateurs were on the ice at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

It was the seventh annual battle of eight teams of FCA employees, each team named after an FCA

brand – the Ram, Jeep, Maserati, Mopar, Dodge, Alfa Romeo, SRT Hellcats and Demons.

For a \$295 fee, participants in FCA's "Battle of the Brands" got to play on the ice where the Red Wings play, get a customized hockey uniform and help the United Way of Southeast Michigan – which is a bargain, said event organizer Mike Merlo.

The Battle took place Saturday, April 13. Originally scheduled in March, the postponement came when the Red Wings needed Little Caesars Arena to hold a special memorial for hockey legend Ted Lindsay.

The yearly event features different teams consisting of FCA

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Players for the Mopar and Ram teams enjoyed a game at Little Caesars Arena in downtown Detroit.

Special Mustang Design Celebrates Power

When Ford introduced the new Escape, company officials said SUVs were a cornerstone of the company's future sales strategy. But that doesn't mean that the people at Ford have forgotten about the Mustang and Mustang power.

Strengthening Ford's performance reach for 2020 and just in time for the pony car's 55th anniversary, the new 2.3L High Performance Package for the entry-level Mustang EcoBoost creates the most powerful four-cylinder sports car offered by an American automaker, said Ford spokesman Jiyan Cadiz.

This is the result of a unique EcoBoost engine powered by Ford Performance and upgraded handling components from the

Mustang GT Performance Package, he said.

"The Ford Performance Focus RS 2.3-liter engine is a high-revving marvel, and anyone who's driven this EcoBoost engine instantly loves how quickly it responds and delivers power," said Carl Widmann, Mustang chief engineer.

"When our team got the chance to try this specially built engine in a Mustang, we immediately agreed, 'We have to do this.'"

Reminiscent of development of the original Mustang in 1964, the car began as a five-person skunkworks project in the Ford Performance garage, Widmann said. Following an experiment with a Focus RS engine swap, the

Mustang team leveraged Ford's quickening product development times to accelerate and complete the design-to-approval process for the 2.3L High Performance Package in under 10 months.

Available on the entry-level Mustang EcoBoost fastback coupe or convertible models this fall, the Mustang EcoBoost package, said Widman, was developed to feel at home both on thrilling mountain and coastal roads and even on the most precise autocross courses, thanks to its Mustang GT brakes, performance tires, and chassis and aerodynamics hardware from the Mustang GT Performance Package.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Auto Shanghai Brings Out the New Buicks

Buick's new Encore small SUV, Encore GX compact SUV and GL8 Avenir concept MPV made their global debut last week at 2019 Buick Brand Night in Shanghai.

They were joined by the VELITE 6 MAV electric vehicle, which was launched in China. All four products were on display at Auto Shanghai 2019.

The Encore models and VELITE 6 are part of Buick's plans to introduce eight new and refreshed products this year and more than 20 new and refreshed models between 2019 and 2023 in China, said Jean Liu-Barnock, general director of Buick for SAIC-GM.

"Buick is focused on electrification, connectivity, intelligence and sharing as part of the Buick

Blue strategy in China," said Liu-Barnock. "With the new models, Buick is starting a new journey in our largest market to build on our sales of 10 million vehicles over the past two decades."

As Buick's first global all-elec-

tric vehicle and SAIC-GM's first electric vehicle for the mass market, the VELITE 6 MAV (which stands for Multi-Activity Vehicle) integrates GM and SAIC's re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The VELITE 6 MAV EV made its debut at the Shanghai auto show.



The Mustang GT Performance Package edition has an EcoBoost engine.

LTU Earns a \$35,000 Grant To Support Small Startups

The New Economy Initiative (NEI) has awarded a two-year grant of \$350,000 to Lawrence Technological University (LTU).

The grant is intended for the support of the Centropolis Accelerator that will expedite the growth of small manufactures and emerging hardware startups in Southeast Michigan.

NEI is a philanthropic collaboration working to grow an inclusive culture of entrepreneurship in southeast Michigan.

Its aim is to benefit all residents and strengthen the regional economy, said LTU spokesman Matt Routh.

As a special project of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, NEI is designed to act as a strategic grant maker, convener, and storyteller in its efforts to build and sustain

a network of support for diverse entrepreneurs who are creating a better future for their communities.

"We are so grateful for the NEI's partnership with LTU and their shared commitment to help strengthen the foundation of Michigan's manufacturing, product design and engineering heritage," said LTU President Virinder K. Moudgil.

"NEI's two-year commitment provides LTU and the Centropolis Accelerator the ability to offer in-depth client programs and resources, especially as we move forward with the opening of the accelerator's 6,300-square-foot facility on campus this fall."

The grant enables the Centropolis Accelerator to offer small

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

www.DetroitAutoScene.com

"As a university-based accelerator program, LTU is also a key partner to engage and develop the next generation of students and leaders in design, engineering and manufacturing in Michigan."

Its new-generation pure electric drive system offers a smooth, quiet and natural driving experience, Liu-Barnocki

The models offer highly efficient power with decreased fuel

New performance calibration tuning is applied to the elec-

The 2020 Ford Mustang with 2.3L High Performance Package arrives at dealerships this fall.



Buick also announced at the

It leverages the brand's knowledge of the high-end MPV market and deep insight of what consumers want – merging science, technology, art and luxury, the hallmarks of today's Buick portfolio, Liu-Barnocki said.



2019 Chevrolet Tahoe



2019 Chrysler Pacifica



2019 Lincoln Navigator

Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval Vehicles

Different vehicles appeal to different demographics, and *Good Housekeeping* has come up with its own list of best vehicles, based on a criteria oriented toward family needs.

Vehicles named by *Good Housekeeping* include the Chrysler Pacifica, the Lincoln Navigator, the Buick Enclave, the Chevrolet Tahoe and the Chevrolet Traverse.

The Good Housekeeping Institute (GHI) worked with *Car and Driver* to screen hundreds of new vehicles and identify the top makes and models for 2019, said Laurie Jennings, Good Housekeeping Institute Director & Lead Consumer Tester.

GHI experts logged more than 5,000 miles on test tracks and open roads while assessing the top priorities drivers value in a vehicle: safety, value, handling, interior design, comfort and on-board technology.

To select the best vehicles, engineers, analysts and consumers evaluated several features such as the ease of folding and stowing seats, storage and trunk cargo space, as well as the fit and installation of child safety seats. Bonus points were awarded for innovative technology such as hands-free liftgates and other features that improve the driving experience.

The Chrysler Pacifica was named the 2019 Best New Car award winner in the Minivan category. Last year, the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid took home the 2018 Best New Car in the Hybrid category.

"It's the ultimate family vehicle with all the useful features you want, at an unbeatable value," says Rachel Rothman, Good Housekeeping Chief Technologist & Engineering director.

"It also has tons of bins and cubbies so everyone has a spot to store their toys and snacks, second-row passengers each get their own LCD screen. Plus, the infotainment system is

super-easy to navigate," said Jennings.

The Lincoln Navigator was named Best New Luxury Large SUV.

Judges wrote that it "is the best Lincoln in a while. The super-sized SUV prioritizes style and design just as much as space and function."

They also liked it because "it's all about comfort when it comes to the interior: there's an impressive amount of legroom in the second and third rows, a whopping 13 cupholders and tons of storage both for passengers and in the cargo area. And if you want the ultimate upgrade for long roadtrips you can even get 30-way massaging front seats."

The Chevrolet Tahoe was the winner in the Best New Large SUV category. Judges liked the Tahoe's third row for extra seats. They called it the best of both worlds, a utility-centric vehicle that also makes for a comfortable family ride.

Judges noted its quick acceleration for how large it is because while it "is a true powerhouse, the Tahoe easily handles everything from towing your boat to the lake to bringing nearly the whole soccer team to practice."

"Chevrolet has been the best-selling brand of fullsize SUVs for four decades, because we have continually offered buyers a compelling combination of performance, capability, and reliability," said GM spokesman Monte Doran. The current Tahoe is no exception, offering up to 95 cubic feet of storage, 8,600 pounds towing capacity, and 23 miles per gallon with the 420-hp, 6.2L V8 engine."

GM got double honors in the Best New Midsize SUV category. Good Housekeeping named both the Buick Enclave and the Chevrolet Traverse as top vehicles in that category.

Judges liked the Traverse because it makes for a great large family vehicle that "packs everything you love about a hardwork-

ing SUV into a practical ride that can fit your crew and their gear."

Judges also praised the Traverse, calling it "the perfect ride if you need a ton of cargo space for the whole family, but don't want to feel like you're driving a supersize SUV or minivan."

They also called it "roomy even for its class – store six carry-on suitcases behind the third row or fold the second and third rows to fit a staggering 38!! Teen Driver system also comes standard and enables parents to set limits for new drivers and monitor things like" distance driven, speed and get collision alerts.

The Enclave won honors as a "true family car, the Enclave is a solid, elegant SUV with a cavernous interior and since 2018 design improvements have made it much easier to drive."

The Enclave was also praised for the fact that it gives drivers and passengers "one of the roomiest three-row vehicles available in this category and boasts a good amount of space for cargo and small items."

For more information on Good Housekeeping's 2019 Best New Car Awards, visit the Web page goodhousekeeping.com/2019carawards.

Mazda 3 Models Recalled for Wiper Problems

DETROIT (AP) – Mazda is recalling nearly 190,000 Mazda 3 compact cars in the U.S. because the windshield wipers can fail.

The company says in documents posted April 13 by the United States National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that the recall covers cars from the 2016 through 2018 model years.

According to information released by NHTSA, the Japanese automaker traced the problem to metal deposits that can cause a wiper relay to stick, knocking out the wipers and limiting driver visibility.

The company said in statements made to the government and to the media that it has no reports of crashes or injuries due to the problem.

Mazda dealers will replace the front wiper control module for owners of the Mazda 3 compact car at no cost to owners starting June 3.

For more information, visit mazdausa.com/owners/recalls.

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Meeting 2: 11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. (lunch included)

Location: Courtyard by Marriott Detroit Warren
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Auto Safety Group Seeks Nissan Brake Recall

DETROIT (AP) – A U.S. auto safety group wants the government to investigate automatic emergency braking on some Nissan Rogue SUVs, alleging that the safety feature makes the vehicles brake even when there's no emergency.

The nonprofit Center for Auto Safety filed a petition with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration seeking the probe. The group says about 675,000 Rogues from the 2017 and 2018 model years should be recalled.

Nissan says it has notified all customers of a software update that improves performance of the automated braking system. But the center says the campaigns don't acknowledge the seriousness of the safety problem and give owners little incentive to get the SUVs fixed.

In a letter posted April 12 by the government, center Executive Director Jason Levine says it found 87 complaints about unintended braking in the safety administration's database. "Many complaints indicate that braking is abrupt or forceful, endangering both the Rogue occupants as well as people in the vehicles nearby who are forced to avoid a collision with a suddenly stopped vehicle," the letter says.

Automatic emergency braking uses cameras and radar to slow or stop vehicles when drivers don't take action. The technology has great potential to save lives, but it also can develop glitches.

Twenty automakers representing 99 percent of U.S. new-car sales signed a voluntary agreement with the government to make the feature standard on all light vehicles by Sept. 1, 2022.

FCA's 'Battle of Brands' Played on Wings' Ice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

employees and their friends, Merlo said. This year, there were eight teams who played a total of four games.

Each team had a veteran of the Red Wings Alumni team helping out, including veteran Mickey Redmond. He played for the Red Wings between the years 1970 and 1971. He is 71.

Merlo is director – Product Development, Plant & Technical Support, Supplier Quality at FCA. He has been a part of the Battle of the Brands since the beginning.

"It was started by Mike Tonietto, director of manufacturing. He ran the event for the first two years, but then got an overseas assignment. I took over and have run the event for the past five years. When asked how I got stuck with the job, I say that it's a real labor of love and I am proud to have been a participant from the start."

Merlo said the teams come from FCA facilities across Canada and the Midwest. Over the years, players have come from Ontario, Illinois and Indiana, as well as from FCA facilities in Michigan.

Having teams made up of players coming from disparate locations makes having practice where people can actually learn to work together hard.

"Players usually meet their teammates on the day of the games," Merlo said.

Unfortunately, Merlo was unable to play in the 2019 Battle because of its schedule change. He agreed in January to participate in a U.S. Hockey event in Florida on April 13 and didn't want to get out of that obligation when the date of the 2019 Battle was changed.

This year's Battle of the Brands began about 12:30 on Saturday, with the Ram team beating the Mopar squad, 5-2. That was followed by Jeep overcoming Maserati, 6-3, then an open skate period where members of the public could skate on the LCA ice.

After the public left the ice, the Demons won a scoring tussle with the Alfa Romeo squad, 11-8. The final game saw the Dodge team outstate the SRT Hellcats, 7-6.

"You don't have to actually work for a particular brand to be placed on their team," Merlo said. "We try to make sure each team has a balance of players. We have a lot of FCA employees in Canada, and I put the Canadian players on the Demon team. Because hockey is so big in Canada could explain why that team scored 11 goals. Then again, the Alfa Romeo group did knock in eight goals."

The players wore uniforms based on actual NHL designs. Traditionally, the Ram brand has worn the Red Wings-based design, Merlo said. The Chrysler brand wasn't represented at this year's battle because Merlo likes to mix things up and give different brands within FCA a chance to shine. Chrysler will be back in future battles.

"This was the first year we allowed women to play," Merlo said. "We had several female players this year and it turned out to be a nice thing for everyone."

One of the female players was Jen Perry, who's married to Chuck Allensworth, an FCA employee who works in the Electrical Powertrain Software Validation department. He's been an FCA employee for 20 years. Perry and Allensworth were able to



Perry and Allensworth played together for the Mopar team.

play a couple of shifts together for Team Mopar.

When asked about his hockey experience, Allensworth said he's only been playing the game of hockey for a few years.

"I started dating someone who had been playing hockey for most of her life and still played all the time," Allensworth said. "I got tired of just watching and decided to try the game myself."

Perry plays defense because she likes how that position allows her to see plays develop across the whole rink. Allensworth said he plays forward because it's the position he's most comfortable with.

Perry plays with a co-ed league in Ann Arbor. While there are a lot of men's leagues around Detroit, co-ed leagues are rarer.

"My Ann Arbor team is called Rampage," Perry said. "When I first asked to join, they didn't quite know what to do with me. It was almost like I was an alien."

"They asked where would I change? But when they saw me play and learned I was a decent player, they accepted me fast."

So when they opened up the

Battle teams to women, Perry was glad to sign up.

"It is just amazing to play on the ice of a professional team," Perry said. "The rink is standard size, but it's really humbling to skate on the same ice as the great pros who play in the NHL. I am very fortunate."

Merlo said that the Battle of the Brands raised about \$350,000 for United Way. In addition to the \$295 player fees, many friends and families of the players bought tickets to see them play. Also, some Red Wings alumni sign jerseys, which are then auctioned off in the fall.

"I would say this year we will have raised between \$60,000 and \$65,000 for United Way, depending on how much the signed jerseys go for," Merlo said. "This is a great event that helps a great cause. And I want to thank the folks at Olympia Entertainment and the Red Wing alumni players. Without them, none of this would be possible and they deserve a lot of credit."

Merlo said that planning for Battle of the Brands 2020 will start in September, so for the next few months he gets a break before it all starts up again.

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The Pacifica is being advertised on Spanish-language channels.

FCA Ads Court Hispanics

FCA is aiming to make the Chrysler Pacifica a vehicle that appeals across a broad demographic.

To that end, top Hispanic actor, writer and director Eugenio Derbez is taking on a new character in a new marketing campaign for the Chrysler Pacifica with a new 30-second spot specifically created for the Hispanic market, said FCA spokeswoman Alyse Nagode.

The 30-second spot, "Tough Decision," opens with a salesman attempting to convince a customer to purchase a Pacifica. Derbez lends his voice that brings the Chrysler Pacifica to life, giving the minivan a bold and buoyant personality that cannot wait to talk about all the benefits, features and details that the Pacifica has to offer, Nagode said.

With its available class-exclusive hands-free dual sliding doors, Stow 'n Vac, class-exclusive Stow 'n Go seating, Uconnect Theater with two 10-inch touchscreens, it is clear

that this minivan speaks for itself, said Nagode.

"Advertising to multicultural consumers is a high priority for our company," said Juan Torres, head of Multicultural Advertising, FCA US. "Today, the U.S. auto industry growth is largely driven by multicultural sales, and Latinos have a high affinity for the minivan segment. Collaborating with Eugenio Derbez allowed us to use his bold and fun attitude to match that of the minivan."

"The 30-second spot uses humor and Eugenio's iconic voice to highlight the advantages of minivan ownership and communicate to consumers the unparalleled features of the Pacifica."

The 30-second spot will air on top Hispanic networks that include Telemundo, estrellaTV, UniMas, Univision, Galavision and Universo and can be viewed via the Chrysler brand's official YouTube channel.

The Chrysler brand's "Tough Decision" was created in partnership with Austin-based agency GSD&M.

Barra Shows Design of 'Vette That's Coming in Summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

son Northeast sale in Connecticut June 28. Registration information is available at www.barrett-jackson.com.

Every dollar of the winning bid, said Barra, will go to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, named for New York City firefighter Stephen Siller, who died during the Sept. 11 attacks.

The foundation builds mortgage-free, accessible smart homes for the most catastrophically injured service members and helps pay off the mortgages for families of first responders killed in the line of duty. More information is available at www.tunnel2towers.org.

"The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation thanks GM, GMC and Chevrolet for supporting the brave men and women of our armed forces and our first responders," said Frank Siller, the foundation's chairman and CEO. "This generous gift will help us

provide more injured veterans with the independence they deserve."

For the past five years, GMC has supported the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation as its national foundation of choice. In that time, it has helped the foundation raise more than \$10 million.

That includes \$2.2 million raised last year, with \$925,000 of it coming from the auction of the first production 2019 Corvette ZR1.

It was purchased by Chevrolet dealer and NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick at the 2018 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale sale.

Other money has come from employee donations and events across the country such as 5K Tunnel to Towers races and other activities sponsored by GMC dealers.

"GM is committed to helping those who have given so much for their country," Barra said.

GM's current and retired workforce includes 60,000 veterans.



Huron County's wind turbines are one way GM produces clean energy.

GM Produces Green Power

Historian and philosopher Will Durant summed up some of Aristotle's work by writing, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit."

General Motors last week again repeatedly received its eighth 2019 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Sustained Excellence Award in Energy Management for continued leadership and superior contributions to ENERGY STAR.

GM's commitment to reducing energy intensity since 2010 has eliminated 1.5 million tons in carbon emissions, equivalent to the electric use of 260,000 homes for a year.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presents the Sustained Excellence Award to partners that have already received ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year recognition for a minimum of two consecutive years and have gone above and beyond the criteria needed to qualify for recognition.

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, providing simple, credible, and unbiased information that consumers and businesses rely on to make well-informed decisions.

Thousands of industrial, commercial, utility, state, and local organizations – including more than 40 percent of the Fortune 500 – rely on their partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deliver cost-saving energy efficiency solutions.

Since 1992, ENERGY STAR and its partners helped save American families and businesses nearly 4 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity and achieve over 3 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions.

In 2017 alone, ENERGY STAR and its partners helped Ameri-

cans avoid \$30 billion in energy costs. More background information about ENERGY STAR can be found at energystar.gov/about and energystar.gov/numbers.

The ENERGY STAR is the highest honor an organization can receive from the EPA for energy management. In 2018, GM had 17 buildings ENERGY STAR-certified, including two data centers. It met the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry with eight additional facilities globally for a total of 135 recognitions, more than any other company, said GM spokeswoman Jennifer Korail.

"Energy efficiency is a key part of General Motors' strategy for a future with zero emissions," said Alfred J. Hildreth, global energy manager for GM. "While our comprehensive energy strategy integrates sustainable practices across our value chain for maximum progress, our approach prioritizes reducing energy consumption through robust energy efficiency programs. We're honored to serve as an industry leader and are thankful for ENERGY STAR's continued recognition."

In 2010, GM committed to reducing its energy and carbon intensity by 20 percent by 2020, and in 2017, met and exceeded this goal ahead of schedule, Korail said.

"Energy efficiency and conservation is a team effort, with each plant contributing to energy-related goals as part of its business plan," Hildreth said.

"Teams share best practices and implement low cost/no cost initiatives identified in energy treasure hunts and use energy performance contracting for larger projects like LED lights, building management systems and variable speed drives on motors."

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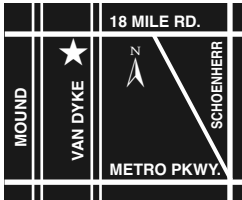
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Former VW CEO Winterkorn
Charged With More Crimes

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – German prosecutors charged former Volkswagen CEO Martin Winterkorn and four others with fraud in the emissions cheating scandal that has helped turn many Europeans against diesel engines and accelerated the push toward electric cars.

Prosecutors said April 15 that Winterkorn knew about the scheme since at least May 2014 and failed to put a stop to it.

That contradicted his claim that he didn't learn about it until shortly before U.S. investigators announced it in September 2015. Winterkorn resigned as CEO five days later.

VW has admitted installing software in its diesel cars that turned on pollution controls when vehicles were being tested and switched them off during everyday driving. That made it look as if the cars met tough U.S. limits on harmful pollutants known as nitrogen oxides.

In all, some 11 million cars worldwide were equipped with the illegal software.

Prosecutors said the defendants – all top Volkswagen managers – were part of a deception that started in 2006.

The 71-year-old Winterkorn and the others, whose names were not released, face six months to 10 years in prison if convicted of aggravated fraud involving serious losses. Other charges include unfair competition and breach of trust.

Prosecutors said the defendants could also be forced to forfeit sales bonuses ranging from around \$340,000 to \$12.45 million.

Winterkorn is already under indictment in the U.S. on charges of fraud and conspiracy to vio-

late the Clean Air Act and could get up to 20 years in prison. But he cannot be extradited from Germany to the U.S.

Winterkorn's attorney, Felix Doerr, said that the defense could not comment on the German case because prosecutors had not provided adequate opportunity to review the case files. Prosecutors turned over seven DVDs with hundreds of file folders of material on April 5.

The case, consisting of a 692-page indictment backed by 300 file volumes holding 75,000 pages, was filed in a local court in Braunschweig a little over a week ago. The court will decide if the case will proceed to trial.

Prosecutors said among other things that the defendants carried out a software update costing 23 million euros in 2014 to try to cover up the true reason for the elevated pollution during driving.

The prosecutors said they are still investigating 36 more suspects. Volkswagen's corporate involvement in the Braunschweig investigation ended last year with a 1 billion euro fine. Volkswagen noted that the indictment was against individuals and had no further comment.

The prosecutors' move is only one of the legal proceedings unleashed by the scandal.

Volkswagen has paid more than 27 billion euros (currently \$31 billion) in fines and civil settlements with authorities and car owners since getting caught.

The automaker apologized and pleaded guilty to criminal charges in the U.S., where two executives were sentenced to prison and six others charged, although they could not be extradited.



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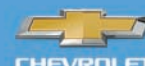
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