



2019 Ford Ranger



2019 Dodge Challenger



2019 Chevrolet Equinox

Regrets From Failed FCA Renault Deal

by ELAINE GANLEY
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) – Renault's chairman on June 12 expressed his frustration with the French government for resisting a merger deal proposed by rival carmaker Fiat Chrysler, and at a critical time – ahead of what he views as a coming "tsunami" from China's auto industry.

Jean-Dominique Senard told a shareholders' meeting in Paris that "I have rarely seen a merger proposal that could give so much positive synergy, incredibly validating and robust."

He said that at a board meeting convened to discuss the plan, everyone had approved the plan "with enthusiasm" except one. Board members from Renault's alliance member, Nissan, abstained but in a "very positive way."

Senard said the French government, which is Renault's biggest shareholder with a 15 percent stake, had not shared his analysis of the benefits of the merger "at this stage."

"I can frankly say that disappoints me," he said.

Senard opened to the possibil-

Detroit OEMs Beat Europe's in Quality Study

by Jim Stickford

The Koreans led the way in the 2019 J.D. Power Initial Quality Study (IQS), but Detroit automakers took four of the top 10 quality rankings.

Dave Sargent, vice president of Global Automotive at J.D. Power, spoke to the Automotive Press Association at a special gathering in Detroit on June 19, presenting the results of the 2019 IQS.

He said that once again the Korean brands – Genesis, Kia and Hyundai – took the top three spots. Ford and Lincoln brands finished fourth and fifth, the first time those two brands were in the top five spots in the same year. Chevrolet took the sixth spot and Dodge took the eighth spot.

These results put these four American brands ahead of both Toyota and Lexus, Sargent said.

The survey methodology was the same as in past years. J.D. Power surveyed about 76,000 2019 model year new vehicle buyers about the quality of their vehicles 90 days after initial purchase. The rankings were broken down into problems per 100 vehicles (PPV) to get a score.

"We covered just about every major brand in the auto industry," Sargent said. "The lower the PPV, the better. The industry average was 93 PPVs. The Buick brand had a PPV of 92, finishing ahead of the industry average. It placed 11th on our list."

Genesis' PPV was 63, Kia 70, Hyundai 71, Ford 83, Lincoln 84, Chevrolet 85, Nissan 86, Dodge 90, the same as Toyota and Lexus.

"This was the first without an PPV industry average improvement since 2012-2014," Sargent said. "So this kind of thing is unusual, but it's not unheard of."

The survey found two kinds of problems, Sargent said. They could be broken down into a "defect" category and a "design" category. They saw a lot more defect category issues – like paint dents, noisy brakes and such – this year.

"These are what we call 'traditional' defects," Sargent said. "As to why we saw more, we can't prove this, but given the fact that there was a sales slowdown, the sales turn rate was longer, it makes sense to consider that having a car sit out longer can cause things like paint chips."

As to the concept of design defects, that's something else, Sar-

gent said. If a part or system operates exactly as designed, but new buyers have problems with it, then there's nothing to be done.

"I always say, you shouldn't have automotive engineers design for other automotive engineers. They're not normal people when it comes to cars," Sargent said. "So having an entertainment system or a GPS system that is too complicated for people to use is a problem – and it's not something that the dealership can fix, like a paint chip."

There's only so much that a dealer can do in a situation like that, Sargent said. People refuse to read the operating manuals and having them sit through a three-hour demonstration of how every system works is not something most people want to do when they get a new car.

"Think about it," Sargent said. "You've just gotten a new car. You want to take it home and show it off. You don't want to sit in it at a dealership while someone shows all the systems."

Advanced Driver Assist Systems (ADAS) are gaining consumer interest, but more vehicles with ADAS means there are more systems out there where things can go wrong. ADAS is improving, but its popularity is almost working against it.

"Our survey shows that customers want these systems," Sargent said. "The OEM who can deliver them in a way that works and has the trust of drivers will be the winner in ADAS."

Sargent said that, traditionally,

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Ford Creates Local Information and Community Center

by Jim Stickford

Ford is working hard to be a good neighbor.

That, according to Lucia Soto, acting spokesperson for Ford at the opening of the company's "Michigan Central Information Center" at 1907 Michigan Avenue in Detroit.

The office had its debut on June 19, exactly one year after Ford announced that the Dearborn automaker was purchasing the old Michigan Center train station for the purpose of refurbishing.

The information center is located in a building known as The Factory and is meant to be a

place where people in the neighborhood can go to learn about the progress of Ford's efforts in Corktown.

It is also meant to be something of a community anchor, said Soto.

"We want this to be a place where people can go to get information, not just on the progress of Ford's construction, but on events and people who are in the neighborhood," Soto said. "If someone has anything to announce, they can come here and we can put it up as sort of a community bulletin board."

John Vincent, a technical spe-

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Corktown residents check out Ford's new local information center.



These LTU engineering students carried on a school tradition by winning a ground vehicle design contest.

Lawrence Tech Engineering Students Win Design Event

For the third consecutive year, Lawrence Technological University has won first place in the Self-Drive Challenge event at the 27th annual Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition.

LTU was crowned champ on June 10 after four days of competition at Oakland University in Rochester, said LTU spokesman Matt Roush.

The winning vehicle is called ACTor, for Autonomous Campus Transport/Taxi. The two-seat Polaris Gem electric vehicle was donated to the university through a gift from Hyundai MOBIS, the parts and service division of the Korean automaker.

Dataspeed Inc., a Rochester Hills engineering firm specializing in mobile robotics, converted the vehicle to a drive-by-wire system, Roush said. Also donat-

ing to the effort were a pair of Ann Arbor high-tech firms. Soar Technology Inc. provided a LIDAR (laser-based radar) unit to help the vehicle find its way, while Realtime Technologies Inc., a simulation technology firm, and the auto supplier Denso provided cash donations for on-board computers and other parts. Veoneer, a spinoff of the Swedish auto supplier Autoliv, provided a 3D LIDAR as well as automotive radars.

The win included a \$3,000 prize and plaque.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University of Daytona Beach, Fla., finished second in the event, while Bob Jones University of Greenville, S.C., finished third. Other competitors in the Self-Dri-

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LTU Team Wins Ground Vehicle Design Contest

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ve challenge included Oakland University, the University of Detroit-Mercy and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Coached by C.J. Chung, professor of computer science at LTU, the team was comprised of undergraduate computer science majors Sean Bleicher of Fenton, Charles Faulkner of Aurora, Ill., and Mitchell Pleune of Rochester Hills, team captain. Nick Paul of Plymouth, an LTU IGVC team alumnus now employed at Soar Technology and an adjunct professor at LTU, was a co-coach.

The IGVC was established in 1993 by the U.S. Army's Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) Ground Vehicle Systems Center (formerly known as TARDEC) and the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International. Sponsors include GLS&T, RoboNation, Hyundai MOBIS, the Michigan chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, Continental, Northrop Grumman, Veoneer, Molex, OpenJAUS, Roush, Robotic Research, FCA, FEDITC LLC, FEV, IAmRobotics, Magna, General Dynamics Land Systems, Brightwing, Dataspeed, and MathWorks.

Ford Creates Corktown Information Center

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cialist mobility researcher at Ford, was also at the information center's debut to show how Ford is using the latest technology to try to mitigate any traffic problems in the neighborhood as a result of new businesses visiting as a result of the Michigan Central project.

"Ford is investing in new forms of mobility," Vincent said. "So we need to monitor how these vehicles perform across the city's eco-system, and how they move and how they interact with the neighborhoods. We need to know what impact they will have on the city."

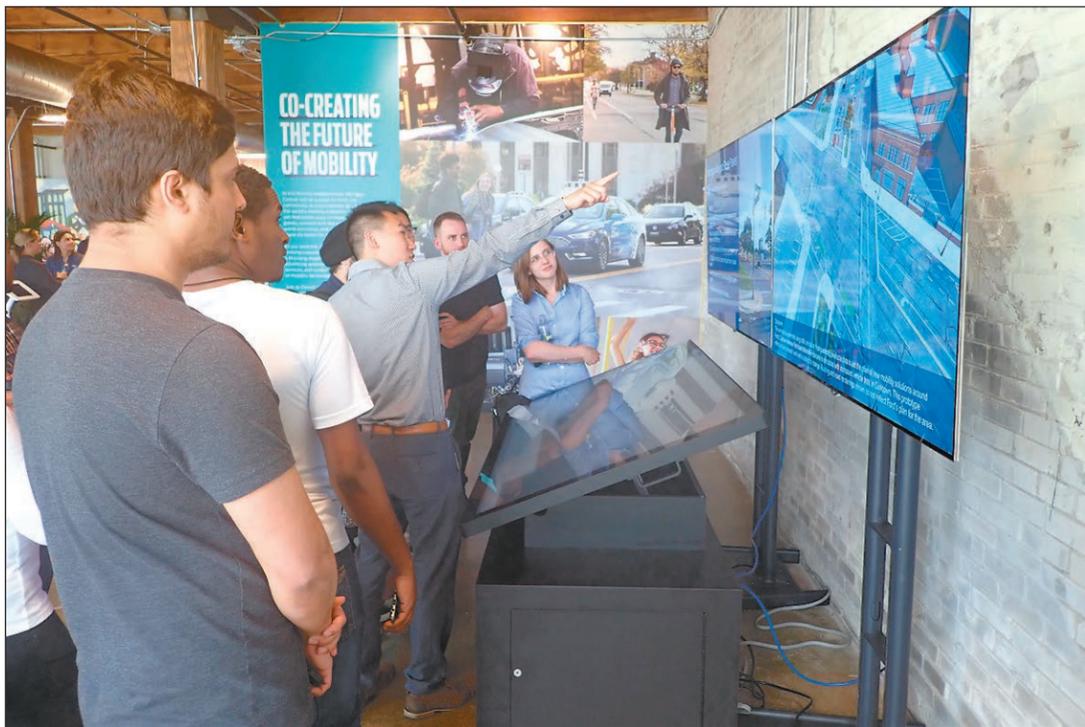
To that end, Ford is using computer modeling and computer simulations as part of the company's research, Vincent said. Some of the work was shown on table and wall displays to people visiting the information center.

"The table display shows our research and the progress it has made," Vincent said. "It shows how our solutions in new mobility, such as e-scooters and shared mobility shuttle service, might affect traffic in the neighborhood around the Michigan Central project. This information includes, but is not limited to carbon emissions, energy consumption, street space and curb space. With this information, we hope to be able to visualize and analyze the transportation demographic and other data in support of a better transportation system."

Vincent said that the simulations go up to the year 2023, comparing what the traffic would be like if Ford wasn't doing anything to projected traffic patterns as Ford's project progresses.

"Ultimately, we are looking at things like self-driving cars, Spin e-scooters and shared mobility shuttles and how their use might mitigate traffic issues," Vincent said.

"We've learned a lot from local residents and businesses over the past year as we further our



Vincent explains how Ford is collecting data to find ways to mitigate traffic issues caused by its presence.

plans for the development of Michigan Central Station," said Mary Culler, Detroit development director for Ford Motor Company. "Our new information center will provide an ongoing opportunity to share our plans, celebrate the culture of the area and continue learning from the community. In this historic neighborhood, we're building a place where people can solve real-world challenges and create future opportunities together."

In December, the company launched a pilot program using its ride-hailing service GoRide to help families pick up meals and attend appointments at local food banks, Culler said. Spin, an electric scooter startup Ford acquired last year, has expanded its fleet of scooters in Corktown to make it easier for residents and visitors to get around.

Argo AI, Ford's partner for autonomous vehicle system development, started on-road testing of a Ford Fusion Hybrid

self-driving vehicle in Detroit earlier this month, Culler said. Similar vehicles are already deployed in Pittsburgh, Palo Alto, Miami and Washington, D.C., in an effort to learn more about how autonomous technology can be used in various urban environments. Ford's self-driving vehicle business unit, based at The Factory at Corktown, has made a \$1 billion

investment in Argo AI, an artificial intelligence company.

Ford's City:One Challenge is also launching in Detroit this month. The crowd-sourcing program is designed to bring together residents, businesses and community groups to propose and pilot solutions to improve mobility for current and future residents of the Michigan Central Station development area, Culler said.

Detroit OEMs Initial Quality Scores Beat Europeans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when a new vehicle is launched it has more problems. It usually takes about a year for an OEM to work out all the bugs of production. That pattern held true in 2019. Newly-launched vehicles had a PPV score of about 10 higher than carryover models.

Detroit manufacturers took the top spots in several categories, Sargent said. The Chevrolet Malibu and the Ford Fusion tied for first in the Midsize Car category.

The Chevrolet Equinox took first in Compact SUV, while the Ford Escape was second. The Dodge Grand Caravan was second in the Minivan Category. The Dodge Challenger was the highest rated vehicle in the Midsize Sporty Car category. The Chrysler 300 took the third spot in the Large Car category.

Detroit OEMs also did well in the Compact SUV category, with the Chevrolet Equinox finishing first and the Ford Escape finishing second.

The Chevrolet Tahoe was top in the Large SUV category, while the Ford Expedition took third.

The Ford Ranger was first in the Midsize SUV category, Sargent said. That was unusual because it was launched in the U.S. market in 2019.

In the Large Premium SUV category, the Cadillac Escalade took first and the Lincoln Navigator took second. In the Large Heavy Duty Pickup Truck category, the Chevrolet Silverado HD was first and the Ford Super Duty was second.

In the Midsize SUV category, the Ford Flex was second and the Jeep Grand Cherokee was third.

"I have to say that the Dodge brand had a good year," Sargent said. "This was the first time they finished ahead of the industry average. The Jeep Grand Cherokee did well, and the Challenger won a by a pretty decent margin in its category. Chevrolet was tops in four pretty important categories."

"Ford having both its brand and the Lincoln brand finishing



Dave Sargent

in the top five is an accomplishment."

But Sargent noted that Ford's PPV score of 83 is closer to the industry average of 93 than it is to Genesis PPV score of 63 or the Kia score of 70 and the Hyundai score of 71.

When asked why the Koreans have done so well, Sargent said that they have a "laser sharp" focus on quality.

"When automakers design cars they have to balance a lot of factors," Sargent said. "There is the quality card, the design card, the engineering card, the cost card. For the Koreans, the quality card always trumps the other cards. If you asked me in 1992 if it were possible in 2019 that the Koreans would be first in IQS scores, I'd have doubted you."

It takes time for an OEM to overcome a bad reputation, Sargent said. Many in the public don't know that the Koreans are at the top, and many don't know that Detroit manufacturers have made great improvements in quality. Conversely, many don't know that this year no European manufacturer had a brand with a PPV score above the industry average.

Sargent also said that the days of absolute brand loyalty are largely gone. One way to attract new customers is through quality and the OEMs know that, which is why they pay attention to things like the IQS.

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Fiat 500X Urbana

Fiat 500X Urbana Model Has Great Style, Tech

American fans of Italian design and style now have a reason to rejoice.

The Fiat brand has unveiled the new 2019 Fiat 500X Urbana Edition, a custom-appearance package that adds unique wheels, LED lighting, roof rails and sleek black-themed accents inside and out, said FCA spokesman Bryan Zvibleman.

Designed and manufactured in Italy, the new 2019 Fiat 500X features a new, standard-equipped 1.3-liter turbocharged engine with the latest iteration of the FCA exclusive MultiAir (called MultiAir III) valve-actuation technology, engine stop-start (ESS) technology and best-in-class torque, Zvibleman said. Also standard are a nine-speed automatic transmission and an all-wheel-drive system with a disconnecting rear axle that contributes to improved fuel efficiency.

In addition to new front and rear fascia designs, the new FIAT crossover offers full LED headlamps, fog lamps and nearly 70 safety and security features that now include adaptive cruise control and Front Park Assist, Zvibleman said.

Based on the Fiat 500X Trekking model, 500X Urbana Edition exterior features include Miron black-painted mirror caps, door handles, taillamp surrounds, liftgate bezel, fascias and sill moldings with a copper-accented 500X logo. Upgraded 18-inch matte black and Miron wheels are also accented with a copper center cap. In addition, black side roof rails, full LED headlamps plus fog lamps, as well as dark headlamp surrounds, add to the 500X Urbana Edition's head-turning appearance.

Inside, the 500X Urbana Edition features unique seats with black Castiglio chevron-patterned fabric and copper-embroidered 500 logos, a black-textured instrument panel with a copper 500 logo, a black-painted center console, and Miron-painted radio and vent bezels.

The Urbana Edition package is available for \$895 on the well-equipped 500X Trekking model, which starts at \$25,995 U.S. MSRP, excluding destination. Other options and packages may be added to the 500X Urbana Edition, including Advanced Driver Assistance Group: \$1,395, featuring auto high-beam headlamps, Blind-spot Monitoring and Rear Cross Path detection systems, Full-speed Forward Collision Warning-Plus, LaneSense Lane Departure Warning-Plus, rain-sensing windshield wipers and adaptive cruise control.

There is also the Dual-pane panoramic sunroof and Beats

premium audio system option for \$995.

The Cold Weather Group option is \$295 and features heated front seats and windshield wiper deicer.

The Comfort Group option is \$795 and includes automatic temperature control air conditioning with dual-zone controls, eight-way power adjustable driver seat, overhead ambient lighting, four-way power lumbar driver seat adjust and automatic dimming rearview mirror.

The GPS Navigation option is \$695.

The Fiat 500X Urbana Edition is available now in Fiat studios as well as select Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram stores, Zvibleman said.

Cadillac Adds to Super Cruise Connections

Cadillac is expanding the availability of Super Cruise to an additional 70,000 miles of compatible, divided highways in the United States and Canada.

This expansion will make the industry's first true hands-free driver assistance feature available on more than 200,000 total miles of compatible highways by the fourth quarter of 2019, said GM spokeswoman Katie Downey.

To date, Super Cruise has been available on more than 130,000 miles of limited-access freeways. The expansion builds on Super Cruise's unique combination of precision LiDAR map data, high-precision GPS, a state-of-the-art Driver Attention System and a network of camera and radar sensors, Downey said.

Some of the divided highways added will include limited interchanges and traffic control devices. In the cases of railroad crossings, pedestrian crossings, stoplights or stop signs, Super Cruise will alert drivers to take back control of the vehicle. As always, it remains important for drivers to stay engaged and vigilant at all times while Super Cruise is engaged.

To enable the expanded functionality, an enhancement to the Super Cruise system will be available to 2018 and 2019 model year Cadillac CT6 owners through their Cadillac dealer.

Following the completion of the system enhancement, the new, additional map miles will be sent to customer vehicles over

the air throughout the summer and fall, Downey said.

In addition to the mileage expansion, the software update will also include performance improvements, enhancements to increase Super Cruise availability and enhancements to the Driver Attention System.

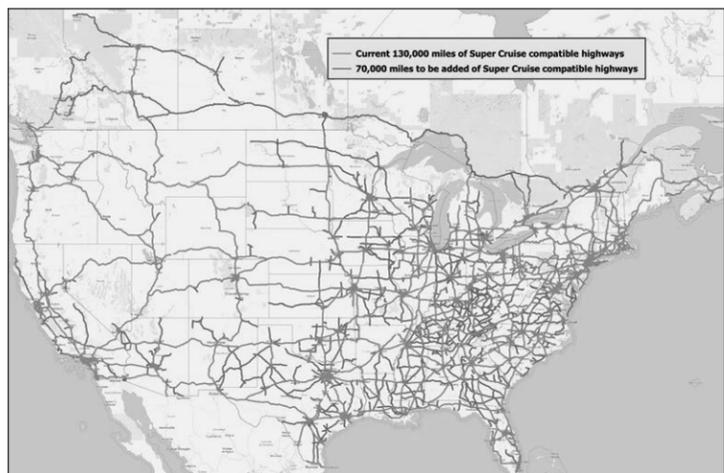
"We are constantly working to make Super Cruise the most beneficial system for our customers," said Mario Maiorana, Super Cruise chief engineer. "Expanding our offering of compatible highways will allow people the ease and convenience of traveling hands-free more often."

Last year, Cadillac made updates to its Super Cruise driver assistance feature based on customer feedback, including making Super Cruise activation easier

for the driver and adding dynamic lane offset so that a CT6 with Super Cruise activated can adjust slightly over in its lane for driver comfort when passing large vehicles. Gauge cluster messages were also added, to inform drivers why Super Cruise may not be available in certain instances.

Customers have traveled 2.5 million miles using Super Cruise since its launch. Super Cruise is currently available on the 2018 and 2019 model year Cadillac CT6 and will be available on the 2020 model year CT6 later this year, Downey said. Super Cruise will be available on Cadillac's new CT5 sedan next year.

For information about Super Cruise, visit www.cadillac.com/supercruise.



The Super Cruise availability map shows the system's latest connections.

Oakland Upgrades Radios

Oakland County is enhancing the safety of residents, guests and businesses by improving the ability of first responders to communicate with each other during emergencies, including seamless interoperability with neighboring counties as well as state and federal agencies, said Bill Mullan, Oakland County Media and Communications officer.

The county has entered into a contract with Motorola Solutions to replace its aging public safety radio system with the ASTRO 25 land-mobile radio (LMR) network which will interface with the statewide Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS). Oakland County will be the first user in Michigan to utilize Motorola Solutions' "Phase 2" technology that will more than double the number of users on one system.

Motorola Solutions Regional Vice President Chris Lonnett said his company will be working with Oakland County to take the county's public safety communications to the next level. In addition to interoperability, the AS-

TRO 25 land-mobile radio (LMR) network will provide Oakland County's public safety departments countywide paging of fire fighters with new 700/800 MHz pagers.

"This new partnership with Motorola Solutions will launch Oakland County into a whole new level of emergency communications," said Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard. "Technology is constantly changing and this investment will give our first responders the tools they need to serve our residents."

The contract with Motorola Solutions requires one percent grade of service which means 99 out of 100 times the two-way radio system will be fully available to a first responder. Also, the contract requires the new radio system to cover 97 percent of the county outdoors and 95 percent of the county while in buildings. A 31-site simulcast system will help ensure Motorola Solutions provides reliable communications that will provide full-system capacity to every first responder in Oakland County.



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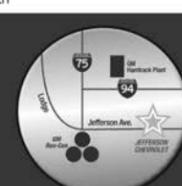
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TRAVELING SOUTH

Stop and See First Wrecker

Did you know that the first tow truck was built using a Cadillac body?

Those driving South this summer might want to explore an unusual part of automotive history – the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn., just off I-24, near where it intersects with I-75.

Cathy Brumgard, director of the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum, said the museum has been officially opened at its present location at 3315 Broad Street in 1995.

"It all really started back in 1986," Brumgard said. "Some men belonging to a group called 'the Friends of Towing' created a display of towing paraphernalia. I'm talking about things like flares and smudge pots and other items that might be associated with tow trucks over the years. They put the gear in a tractor trailer and hauled the truck around the country to display at car shows and such."

In 1995 it was decided to create a permanent museum and Chattanooga was chosen because the city is the birthplace of the tow truck, Brumgard said.

"The tow truck was invented in 1916 by named Ernest Holmes," Brumgard said. "When he was young he had a neighbor who was a mechanic and Ernest loved to watch him work."

Apparently Holmes wanted to be a mechanic himself, but his parents discouraged him after the neighbor poked one of Holmes' eyes. He took his parents' advice and got a job at a local department store called Love-man's.

"He did a lot of jobs at the store," Brumgard said. "He did some designing, worked in shipping. Apparently, in those days you did whatever needed doing and jobs weren't so clearly defined. Anyway, he wasn't very happy and his wife, named Hattie, came into an inheritance and suggested they use the money to set up his own workshop."

And that's what Holmes did, Brumgard said. He started his own car repair shop. As vehicles became more popular, Holmes was getting a lot of telephone calls from people whose vehicles had broken down.

"Chattanooga is by a mountain and a river, so people were often driving their cars into the river bank or into ditches by the mountain," Brumgard said. "So Holmes would get six or eight men to come with him when he'd get a call to fetch a car. They'd literally tie ropes to the vehicles and the men would have to pull them out of the ditch or river bank. Holmes said that there had to be a better way, so he started experimenting. That's how the tow truck was created. The first one was built off a 1913 Cadillac body. He patented it in 1919, and liked to use Packards for his trucks because they were light weight and sturdy enough to haul heavy cars."

He started the Ernest Holmes Company, which manufactured tow trucks until it was sold to the Dover Corporation in 1973.

The current museum is located only three miles from Holmes' original workshop where the first tow truck was made, Brumgard said. The museum features an accurate replica of Holmes' first tow truck.



The first tow truck, seen here pulling a car out of a ditch, was actually built in 1916 on a Cadillac body.

Other displays include 20 fully-restored tow trucks from the past 100 years. Among them is a 1948 COE Chevrolet Truck with a Holmes 515 bed mounted on the back. Peter Aspesi purchased this truck in 1996 from Gannon Chevrolet in Westboro, Mass., and a W-45 wrecker was manufactured in Chattanooga, Tenn. by the Ernest Holmes Company from 1941 until 1949.

A total of 7,238 units were built. This wrecker was manufactured in early 1943 and has a rating of 15 tons. The wrecker was used in France, after the invasion in conjunction with the Red Ball Express.

The Red Ball Express was the Army truck line that delivered critically needed supplies to the front lines during WWII. This wrecker was used by the U.S. Army until December 1947 when it was given to the French Army.



This reproduction of the first tow truck is on display at the museum.

The museum's summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and military, \$8.50 for

AAA members, \$6 for children ages six to 14. Children five and under get in for free.

To learn more about the museum and its exhibits, go to internationaltowingmuseum.org.

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<p style="text-align: center;">2019 RAM 1500 BIGHORN CREW CAB 4X4</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>0 DOWN</p> <p>SAVE \$15,387*</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$229 *24 MO. 10K 0 DOWN \$33,163* MSRP \$48,550</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA LIMITED</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>0 DOWN</p> <p>SAVE \$11,381*</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$355 *36 MO. 10K 0 DOWN \$37,549* MSRP \$48,930</p> </div>

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Some Renault Stockholders Express Regret Over Failed FCA Merger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ity of reopening talks, saying that the merger proposal "remains in my head potentially remarkable and exceptional."

Fiat Chrysler had proposed a 50-50 merger that would have created the world's third-largest carmaker worth almost \$40 billion. But the role of Nissan, Renault's longtime alliance partner, was unclear and the French government wanted more time to sort out the details. Fiat Chrysler pulled the proposal, citing political conditions in France.

Renault's alliance with Nissan has become strained since the arrest last November in Tokyo of former chairman and CEO Carlos Ghosn, who is no longer in the company. Ghosn has been charged with falsifying financial reports in under-reporting compensation and breach of trust in having Nissan Motor Co. shoulder investment losses and paying a Saudi businessman.

The upheaval led to a restructuring of Renault with Senard brought in and Thierry Bollere becoming the new chief executive.

While the Ghosn saga dominated headlines for months, it was the merger failure that was on the minds of many shareholders on June 12.

"I was surprised to see FCA (Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles) pose an ultimatum, saying it's 'Take it or leave it and we won't let you take the time to think about it,'" said Herve Charron, a retiree heading into the meeting. "It's a bit scandalous. When the stakes are at 30 billion euros, you have to think and take your time."

Another shareholder was more philosophical.

"I was quite surprised (after

negotiations with Fiat-Chrysler fell through) but that's business. Half of all mergers go awry. This one didn't even happen!" said Daniel De Rincquesen.

Answering questions from shareholders on the merger failure, Senard said the wider industry context was critical, notably looming rivalry from the fast-growing Chinese auto industry.

"We face a period in which the blossoming of the Chinese industry will probably translate into a form of tsunami" in our region, Senard said. Anticipation and strength are essential, he added.

Senard said he quickly realized that a merger with Fiat Chrysler had something for both Renault and the alliance between Renault, Nissan and Mitsubishi.

New Bridge Plan Receives a Look

DETROIT (AP) – Details of community benefits tied to a commuter bridge being built between Detroit and Canada have been released.

Officials and elected leaders from Michigan and Canada said June 14 that the plan calls for helping foster the growth of small regional companies and encouraging residents on both sides of the Detroit River to apply for Gordie Howe International Bridge project-related jobs and training. The plan also has a \$20 million neighborhood infrastructure investment strategy that includes about \$8 million for aesthetics and landscaping.

Officials say the plan will be financed by Canada.

The \$4.4 billion bridge is expected to open in 2024. When completed, it will connect Windsor, Ontario, with Detroit.

General Motors Petitions Feds On Takata Air Bag Recall

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors is trying to avoid recalling potentially deadly Takata air bag inflators in thousands of full-size pickup trucks and SUVs for the fourth straight year, leaving owners to wonder if vehicles are safe to drive.

The automaker petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to exempt it from recalls that were required under a 2015 agreement between Takata and the government.

Takata inflators can explode with too much force, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing shrapnel.

Twenty-four people have been killed and hundreds injured by the inflators worldwide.

For GM, the stakes are high. If NHTSA requires it to do all the recalls, the company will have to repair more than 6 million trucks and SUVs at a cost of \$1.2 billion, more than half the profit reported by the company in its most recent quarter.

GM's petition, posted June 19 by the government, says the inflators are unique to GM and are safe, with no explosions even though nearly 67,000 air bags have deployed in the field.

But Takata declared the GM front passenger inflators defective under a 2015 agreement with the government. GM's efforts to avoid the recalls raise questions about whether the inflators are safe and why NHTSA has taken more than three years to rule on GM's petitions. The first one was filed in May of 2016.

"Any fool can see that they're just stalling for time," said Craig Kohlhorst of Wellington, Fla., who recently traded in a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban in part be-

cause of the danger presented by the air bags. "They figure if they keep stalling, it'll go away and they won't have to expend the funds to address the issue."

Takata used the volatile chemical ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion and inflate air bags. But high humidity and hot temperatures can cause the chemical to deteriorate and burn too fast, blowing apart metal canisters designed to contain the explosions and hurling shrapnel. At least 24 people have been killed worldwide and 200 have been hurt.

The problem forced the Japanese company into bankruptcy protection and touched off the largest series of automotive recalls in U.S. history including up to 69 million inflators in the U.S. alone. The recalls are being phased in based on the age of vehicles and exposure to high temperatures and humidity.

Kohlhorst said he was afraid to drive the Suburban because his wife and 15-year-old daughter sat in the front passenger seat and would have been hit by shrapnel if the inflator exploded. Also, shrapnel could have flown into the back seat where his 4-year-old daughter sat. He traded in the Suburban because of its age and rising cost of maintenance, but said the air bags made him trade sooner than he would have liked. In its place he got a new Toyota Corolla, largely for his older daughter to drive.

Even though GM filed the petition in January, NHTSA didn't publish it in the Federal Register as required until Wednesday. GM also had to file recall paperwork, but NHTSA does not make that public until a decision is made on the petitions.

A spokeswoman for NHTSA said June 19 that she would check on questions about the length of time it's taking to make a decision.

The agency consolidated all four GM petitions into one and said it would take public comment at regulations.gov/document?D=NHTSA-2016-0124-0246 until July 18.

In its petition, GM said Northrop Grumman tested 4,270 inflators by artificially exposing them to added humidity and temperature cycling, and there were no explosions or abnormal deployments. It says GM has "established that worse-than-worst-case humidity exposure and temperature cycling will not cause inflator ruptures ... at any point within even unrealistically conservative vehicle service life estimates."

The company simulated aging of the inflators for an estimated 35 years, the petition said.

GM said in a prepared statement that it's confident the vehicles "do not present an unreasonable risk to safety, continue to perform as designed in the field and will continue to perform as designed."

Tests on one inflator taken from a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado showed abnormally high pressure inside the canister, but it did not rupture.

GM also said its trucks have solar-absorbing glass that holds down cabin temperatures, keep-

ing the inflators cooler and reducing hot-and-cold cycles that cause the ammonium nitrate to deteriorate.

Jason Levine, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety, a nonprofit consumer group, said NHTSA appears to be paralyzed in the GM case. Information provided by GM thus far isn't sufficient for NHTSA to approve the petition, said Levine, who questions the validity of some tests done for GM. He questioned the need for a delay by NHTSA in making a decision. "There's millions of these things on the road. It is not right. It's bad policy, bad practice," Levine said. "It only engenders concern and fear potentially unnecessarily. NHTSA needs to do its job."

Under NHTSA's agreement with Takata, GM should be recalling the 2010-2014 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra heavy duty pickups this year, as well as 2010-2013 light duty Silverados and Sierras. Also covered are the 2010-2014 Chevrolet Tahoe and Suburban SUVs, the 2010-2014 Cadillac Escalade SUV, and the 2010-2014 GMC Yukon SUV.

All of the recalls are being phased in by age of vehicles and areas of the country where they are located.

Because General Motors filed its petition to avoid the recalls, owners will not be notified that their vehicles have the potentially dangerous inflators, according to NHTSA.

See Lingenfelter Collection Over Some Coffee

From June 1 to Aug. 24, car enthusiasts are invited to start each summer weekend enjoying auto "show and tell" at Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee, powered by LaFontaine Automotive Group. Each Saturday morning event will open from 8 – 10 a.m., rain or shine. All makes and models welcome, said Lingenfelter spokesman Chris Morrisroe.

There is no fee to participate but guests are asked to donate to Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Nonperishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted on-site this summer, Morrisroe said.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments including coffee by Laperfetto Cappuccino, browse the indoor showroom, display their personalized cars, and meet other car buffs from the community and around the country.

Updates on weekend special activities and featured cars from the Lingenfelter Collection will be posted on Lingenfelter Cars & Coffee Facebook page and website: www.lingenfelter.com, Morrisroe said.

Lingenfelter's address is 47451 Avante Drive in Wixom. It is close to where I-96 and Beck Road connect.

"Come on down, it'll be a lot of fun," Morrisroe said.

U.S. Grant's Michigan Home Moved

DETROIT (AP) – The Detroit home of President Ulysses S. Grant is being moved from the former Michigan State Fairgrounds to the Eastern Market, where it will be refashioned as a public education and resource center.

Sandra Clark, the director the Michigan History Center, said Thursday that the two-story white clapboard house that was built in the 1830s will be renovated and established as a museum to celebrate the nation's 18th president.

"This will not be a traditional house museum," said Clark. "Our hope is to make it a place to explore Grant's life and the impact he made on Detroit while living here and in his later actions as a

Civil War general and U.S. president."

Grant lived at the house with his wife, Julia Dent, from April of 1849 until May of 1850. Their first son, Frederick, was born there.

The Michigan State Housing and Development Authority has provided a grant to support the move. Clark said it could cost as much as \$200,000 to get the house ready to relocate. The move is tentatively scheduled for August, but the operation to renovate and secure the property could take as long as two years.

The home was saved from demolition in 1936 when the Michigan Mutual Liability Co. insurance company bought it and presented it as a gift to the fairgrounds.



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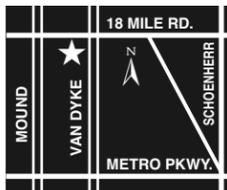
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New COO at Spartan Motors



Todd Heavin

Todd A. Heavin was appointed Chief Operating Officer of Spartan Motors, Inc. of Charlotte, a North American automobile design company that designs, engineers and manufactures specialty chassis, specialty vehicles, truck bodies and aftermarket parts for the recreational vehicle, emergency response, government services, defense, and delivery and service markets.

With comprehensive executive and operational leadership experience spanning over three decades, Heavin brings extensive knowledge in driving operational improvement with lean manufacturing systems, successfully leading multiple mergers and acquisitions through integration across companies large and small, and gaining efficiencies through operational excellence, said Spartan spokeswoman Samara Hamilton.

In this role, Heavin will leverage and enhance the Spartan Production System. Spartan's manufacturing, engineering, quality assurance, supply chain management, project management, and environmental health and safety teams will report to Heavin immediately.

"Todd is a seasoned and trusted operational leader who consistently delivers results," said Daryl Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer, Spartan Motors. "I have tremendous confidence in his ability to further align our team to drive the business forward with purpose as we pursue the next generation of market leadership for Spartan."

Heavin, a proven multi-site operations and lean manufacturing leader with vast Tier I automotive supplier experience, will leverage and improve upon Spartan's highly skilled operational team in pursuit of long-term sustainable growth. He brings global

and domestic operations leadership experience, as well as automotive supply base operations management and segment leadership roles at suppliers and final-stage manufacturers across the supply chain. Additionally, he brings a wealth of highly profitable merger, acquisition, integration and restructuring experience to the Company.

"Spartan Motors is at a unique point on their growth trajectory where the right strategies and a refocus on operational metrics, alongside the implementation of the lean manufacturing and continuous improvement principles of the Spartan Production System, can yield immediate and significant returns," said Heavin. "I look forward to joining the Spartan team and fine tuning the operational machine that will take optimization to the next level. Spartan is far from the end of driving efficiencies in the business. The time is right to advance the business environment with emphasis on the operational metrics that will both foster organic growth and make inorganic expansion a more seamless experience for the organization and our customers alike."

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GKN Powder Gets New Auburn Hills Headquarters

GKN Powder Metallurgy has opened its new North American Powder Metallurgy Headquarters and Additive Manufacturing (AM) Customer Center.

The 38,260 square foot facility, located in Auburn Hills expands the company's global 3D printing network and extends its scope of in-house powder metallurgy capabilities.

Housing more than 80 employees from the three GKN Powder Metallurgy's businesses, Hoegaens, GKN Sinter Metals and GKN Additive, the space is designed to inspire teamwork and enhance exceptional customer experiences, said GKN spokeswoman Kayla Varicalli. The building includes 20,700 square feet of collaborative working areas and 17,700 square feet of shop floor space to complete the cohesive working environment.

"We are excited to start a new journey in Auburn Hills with a space that is dedicated to our team, our community and the advanced technology we create for our customers," said Reid Southby, President, GKN Sinter Metals Large Segment. "This building reinforces our commitment to the North American market and continued global growth."

The building includes a 3,200 square foot AM Customer Center, equipped with two EOS M290 Direct Metal Laser Sinter (DMLS) printers. The DMLS machines incorporate powder bed fusion technology, creating functional prototypes within a two-week lead time and allowing customers to test factors such as usability, ergonomics, manufacturability and materials in the early stages of the development process.

This metro-Detroit location expands GKN Powder Metallurgy's global 3D printing network, providing customers the exclusive opportunity for efficient lead times and local customer support at their fingertips, Varicalli said.

The building offers room for growth, and GKN Powder Metallurgy stays committed to global development in metal AM for prototypes, medium series and aftermarket.

"GKN Powder Metallurgy is at an exhilarating point in its journey of growth and innovation," Southby said. "We now have the opportunity to provide our customers and strategic partners with local and exceptional support on all fronts of our business."

Man's Good Luck Turns Bad Over Lottery Split

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) – A suburban Detroit man who was in the middle of a divorce when he won more than \$30 million must share the lottery windfall with his ex-wife.

The Michigan appeals court says a marriage isn't over until it's over. It means Mary Beth Zelasko can keep \$15 million awarded by an arbitrator, although she and Rich Zelasko had been separated for two years when he bought the Mega Millions ticket in 2013. Their divorce wasn't final until 2018.

In a court filing, an attorney for Rich Zelasko said, "Rich was lucky, but it was his luck, not Mary's, that produced the lottery proceeds." But arbitrator John Mills said the ticket was marital property. The couple had agreed to have Mills make certain decisions during the divorce case.

The appeals court last week found no errors.

Ford Gets Its Dance On Via Community Grants

Ford is taking its responsibilities to the neighborhoods it operates in seriously.

As part of its Celebrating Culture and Community Grants Program, Ford Motor Company is awarding \$250,000 this year to support nonprofit projects that reflect the unique culture and history of the neighborhoods surrounding Michigan Central Station.

The grants are tied to Ford's renovation of the 105-year-old train depot, which will be the centerpiece of a new innovation and mobility hub in Detroit, said Ford Company Fund spokeswoman Stafanie Dunham. As part of its commitment to the area, Ford is investing \$2 million over the next four years through the Community Benefits Agreement to support a variety of nonprofit projects aimed at bringing innovative programs and opportunities to residents in the community.

Grant recipients were selected based on votes from a panel of judges, as well as approximately 200 local residents and community leaders who attended a special pitch session in late May.

"We want to thank everyone who submitted creative and thoughtful ideas for celebrating the vibrant culture of our neighborhoods," said Pamela Alexander, director, Community Development, Ford Motor Company Fund. "With help from the community, we determined these four proposals represent a diversity of talent and topics. We look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have in the neighborhoods surrounding Michigan

Central Station for years to come."

The grantees are:

- **S.A.Y. Detroit/Capturing Belief, \$85,000** – Build a visual history of the community and mentoring young residents in photography and creative writing.
- **Heritage Works, \$75,000** – Activate community spaces with music, movement, visual and spoken word artists in green spaces, non-traditional venues, existing events and schools.
- **Matrix Theatre Company,**

\$55,000 – Record first-person accounts, oral histories and cultural perspectives of the rich diversity of people living in the area.

- **Motor City Street Dance Academy, \$35,000** – Engage community members via hip-hop and empower them with the S.E.E.D. Program (Spreading the Elements Everywhere in Detroit).

Grant recipients are expected to complete their projects in 2020. Topics for future grants may include streetscapes and neighborhood beautification; en-

trepreneurship and job creation; mobility and innovation.

With phase two of the renovation work underway, Michigan Central Station is on its way to becoming a base for thousands of entrepreneurs, innovators, designers, technologists and Ford employees to come together to solve the world's mobility problems. It will host a mix of office, retail, entertainment, food and hospitality spaces.

Ford expects the renovated train station to be ready for tenants and open to the public once again in 2022.



The Motor City Dance Academy, seen performing here, is getting a \$35,000 community grant from Ford.

For Fun Driving, Younger Buyers Pick Top OEMs Autos

(AP) – Ronald Montoya of Edmunds recently analyzed the demand for some vehicles by younger car buyers.

"You're likely familiar with the stereotype of a middle-aged person who impulsively splurges on an expensive new car," Montoya said. "But there's also a similar experience at a different life stage: buying a flashy and fun vehicle right after you get your first well-paying job. You might call it a quarter-life crisis car."

Most financial experts would argue that the last thing these young people need right now is a big loan, Montoya said. But if you've got some disposable income, and don't want to wait until your 40s or 50s to drive a fun car, Edmunds has picked out six vehicles under \$30,000 that deliver driving excitement without breaking the bank. All of the listed manufacturer suggested retail prices (MSRP) include destination fees.

2019 FORD MUSTANG

The Mustang has long provided sleek styling. What you might not know is how good the rest of the car has gotten recently. Despite representing the bottom rung of Mustangdom, the EcoBoost is powered by a turbocharged four-cylinder engine that makes a stout 310 horsepower. This entry-level Mustang also comes stan-

dard with a surprising amount of racy hardware, including a limited-slip rear differential for improved traction and an electronic line-lock to facilitate burnouts (at the track only, of course).

Mustang EcoBoost starting MSRP: \$27,490.

2019 HONDA CIVIC

Honda offers a variety of Civic models, but the Si is the one that will get you through a quarter-life crisis. Available as a coupe or sedan, the Si comes with a 205-horsepower engine that provides quick acceleration. A lot of the enjoyment also comes from shifting your gears via the standard six-speed manual transmission. Compared to a regular Civic, you also get an adaptive suspension that enhances both handling and ride comfort, stronger brakes, a unique rear spoiler, Si-branded sport seats, an upgraded 10-speaker stereo, and a unique instrument panel.

Civic Si sedan starting MSRP: \$25,220.

2019 HYUNDAI KONA

The Kona is one of the best subcompact crossover SUVs on the market. When equipped with its optional 175-horsepower turbocharged engine, it gets up to speed quicker than just about everything else in the class. It's al-

so fun to drive around turns thanks to its sporty handling. On top of that, you get a lot for your money. Even a base Kona comes with a decent set of features, including a 7-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone integration. Our pick, the Limited, has the upgraded engine plus extras such as leather upholstery and a premium sound system.

Kona Limited starting MSRP: \$26,595.

2019 JEEP WRANGLER

Here's what you don't get with the Wrangler: a quiet cabin, a cushy ride quality and lots of standard features. But it's easy to overlook that when you're getting iconic styling and an SUV that can be a capable off-roader or a rugged-looking boulevard cruiser. It's still the only SUV available that has a removable roof and doors, too. The base Sport trim fits under our \$30K limit, but it's missing features you might expect from a vehicle made in 2019, such as air conditioning. You'll need to spend a little more to get them.

Wrangler Two-Door Sport starting MSRP: \$29,540.

2019 MAZDA MX-5 Miata

The Miata is a two-seat roadster that prioritizes thrills over

frills. You won't find expansive elbow room, high-tech features or generous trunk space here. But the Miata's small size and nimble handling contributes to the fun. Its simple fabric top that can be lowered in just a few seconds. A bevy of upgrades for 2019 makes the Miata enticing, including a revised 181-horsepower engine that gives the Miata quick acceleration.

Miata Sport starting MSRP: \$26,650.

2019 VW GOLF GTI

The Golf GTI blends a user-friendly interior, practicality and performance for an attainable price. VW's formula is to take the humble Golf hatchback and transform it with a more powerful engine (228 horsepower for 2019), a sport-tuned suspension, upgraded brakes, and subtle enhancements such as bigger wheels and sport seats. Golf GTI Rabbit starting MSRP: \$29,790.

Montoya said it's OK to splurge a little and replace your old hand-me-down car with a new ride. The cars on this list should help keep your budget intact. Additionally, many of our picks are available used and are within the same vehicle generation, which means that you'll retain all the features of their new counterparts but for far less money.



2019 Ford Mustang



2019 Jeep Wrangler

Waymo, Renault and Nissan Enter Into AV Alliance

by MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Self-driving car pioneer Waymo is teaming up with automakers Renault and Nissan to make its first journey outside the U.S. with a ride-hailing service that will dispatch a fleet of robotaxis in France and Japan.

The partnership announced June 19 underscores Waymo's ambition to deploy its driverless technology throughout the world in an attempt to revolutionize the way people get around.

The Mountain View, Calif., company can afford to try because it's backed by one of the world's richest companies, Google, which secretly began working on driverless technology a decade ago before spinning off that project into what is now known as Waymo.

After launching its ride-hailing service in France and Japan, Waymo intends to explore the possibility of operating in other European and Asian markets with Renault and Nissan.

"This is an ideal opportunity for Waymo to bring our autonomous technology to a global stage," Waymo CEO John Krafcik said.

Waymo, Renault and Nissan didn't set a timetable for when their ride-hailing service will be ready to be launched and be available to the public as a regular service. They left most other details vague.

It seems likely it will still be several years before Waymo will be in a position to be able to pose a serious challenge to Uber, the world's largest ride-hailing service.

Although Waymo's self-driving

technology is widely considered to be the world's most advanced, it still isn't adept enough to be trusted without a human poised to take control in case something goes awry with the robot.

Waymo had hoped to launch a fully autonomous ride-hailing service last year in the Phoenix area, but instead is still keeping human safety drivers in those vehicles more than six months after it rolled out.

That service, known as Waymo One, is still only offering rides to a few hundred passengers that previously participated in a test program.

Krafcik told the German newspaper Handelsblatt last year that Waymo will likely use a different brand of motor vehicle for its ride-hailing services outside the United States.

That could be one reason Waymo is working with France-based Renault and Japan-based Nissan, household names in their home countries.

Waymo has previously struck deals with two other automakers – Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Jaguar – but those involved ordering tens of thousands of vehicles to be equipped with self-driving technology for services in the U.S.

So far, Waymo is only using Fiat Chrysler Automobile minivans for the company's Phoenix-area service.

The partnership with Renault and Nissan also involves a long-time alliance they formed with Mitsubishi. But the fate of that alliance has been in limbo since Carlos Ghosn, the former CEO of both Renault and Nissan, was arrested late last year on charges that included falsifying financial reports.

FCA Vehicles Tops in ASG Performance

It's a matter of science.

FCA US vehicles earned four awards from the Automotive Science Group (ASG) in their 2019 Automotive Performance Index (API) study.

The 2019 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid continues to be a leader in its class, taking home two awards for the third consecutive year: Best All-around Performance and Best Environmental Performance. The 2019 Jeep Compass and 2019 Fiat 500L won the Economic Performance Award in their respective segments, said FCA spokeswoman Claire Carroll.

In ASG's data-driven automotive assessment, the Pacifica Hybrid outperformed all minivan variants in its competitive segment, said Colby Self, managing director at ASG. The Pacifica Hybrid also earned a class-leading environmental performance rating, outperforming the average vehicle in its segment by 34 percent, thereby producing 34 percent less CO₂e emissions over the first 6.5 years in its life cycle.

"The Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid furthers FCA's position in the ASG 2019 study with its 32-mile all-electric range and advanced gas-electric combination that not only reduces emissions, but also significantly reduces fuel costs by leveraging the increasingly cleaner U.S. power grid as a fuel source," said Self. "The plug-in remains unrivaled in the minivan segment, providing the best all-around performance in its class since the model was first introduced in 2017."

The 2019 Jeep Compass, with its best-in-class retail price, combined with its competitive fuel economy rating, outperformed 235 crossover variants in its competitive class, Self said. The Jeep Compass continues to hold the lowest cost of ownership

when considering purchase and operating costs across the first 6.5 years of vehicle ownership.

Similarly, ASG awarded the Fiat 500L the Best Economic Performance award.

The 500L is not only the lowest priced vehicle in the wagon class, but also the 500L takes advantage of vehicle light-weighting strategies that maximize operational efficiency, coming in as the lightest vehicle architecture, Self said.

"The Jeep Compass and Fiat 500L both stand out in ASG's 2019 study for their best-in-class economic performance, with both models providing the best value in their competitive seg-

ments," said Self. "In fact, the Compass has held this title for three consecutive years, while the 500L maintains its best value proposition for the second year running."

The Automotive Science Group is a research group founded by Eco-innovations, LLC, an environmental policy consultancy entity that was established in 2007. Self said.

ASG is changing the way we define value in today's automotive marketplace by providing life-cycle data-driven findings that help consumers make purchasing decisions that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and economically viable," Self said.



2019 Jeep Compass

VW Employees Reject UAW

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) – Workers at Volkswagen's plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, voted June 14 against forming a factory-wide union, handing a setback to the UAW's efforts to gain a foothold among foreign auto facilities in the South.

The vote of hourly workers began June 12 and concluded June 14. Preliminary results show 833 employees voted against representation and 776 voted for it, the German automaker said in a statement. VW said about 93 percent of the roughly 1,700 eligible employees voted.

"Our employees have spoken," Frank Fischer, president and CEO of Volkswagen Chattanooga, said in the company statement.

He said results are pending certification by the National Labor Relations Board and legal review. Fischer said the company looks forward to "continuing our close cooperation with elected officials and business leaders in Tennessee."

Volkswagen has union representation at all of its other major plants worldwide.

A win in Chattanooga would have offered the United Auto Workers its first fully organized, foreign-owned auto assembly plant in the traditionally anti-union South. UAW officials have questioned why Chattanooga should differ from Volkswagen's other union-represented plants worldwide, or Spring Hill, Tennessee's General Motors plant with 3,000 UAW-represented workers.

UAW organizing director Tracy Romero said she was proud of the pro-union voters at the plant.

"The company ran a brutal campaign of fear and misinformation," Romero said in a statement, adding that the automaker tried to make workers afraid of losing the plant and suffer other repercussions.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn and other top Republicans urged a "no" vote, saying a union could cause economic harm. Blackburn said attempts to unionize will harm workers, adding, "We don't need union bosses in Detroit telling Tennessee what's best for our workers."

In April, Gov. Bill Lee drew cheers and jeers when he told

VW employees in a closed-door meeting that he believes "when I have a direct relationship with you, the worker, and you're working for me, that is when the environment works the best," according to a recording obtained by Labor Notes, a pro-union publication.

In 2014, Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga voted 712-626 against unionization through the Detroit-based UAW, heeding the advice of then-U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, then-Gov. Bill Haslam and other GOP officials who urged a "no" vote.

During that election, Corker waited until voting had actually started at the plant in his hometown when he all but guaranteed that the company would announce within two weeks of a union rejection that it would build a new midsize SUV at its only U.S. factory, instead of sending the work to Mexico.

Volkswagen announced a new SUV would be produced in Chattanooga five months after the vote, essentially confirming Corker's prediction but on a different timeline.

UAW claimed "interference by politicians and outside special interest groups" swayed the 2014 election. The union ultimately dropped an appeal of that vote.

After the loss, a smaller bloc of Chattanooga workers voted for union representation in 2015, but Volkswagen refused to bargain with them unless all hourly workers had a vote. Instead of dragging out the fight over the smaller group, the union was granted this week's vote.

Other than the smaller vote at Chattanooga, the UAW has not fully organized a foreign-owned auto assembly plant in the South. A 2017 vote at the Nissan plant in Canton, Mississippi, failed by a wide margin.

Even with recent losses at VW and Nissan, the UAW won't stop trying to organize assembly plants in the South owned by international automakers, said Kristin Diczek, vice president of labor, industry and economics at the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Ann Arbor.

"It's never the end," she said before the vote. "Win or lose, it's hard to organize."

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Legislature Debates Road Taxes

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Sales taxes collected at the gas pump would be shifted to road repairs under a budget plan approved June 13 by the Michigan House, where majority Republicans called it a first step in response to Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's call for higher fuel taxes to fix deteriorating transportation infrastructure.

GOP lawmakers said they structured their blueprint so schools and municipalities, which now get most of the sales tax on fuel, would be held harmless. But Democrats were skeptical, saying the spending bills would not do enough to improve the roads and ultimately would create new fiscal problems for education and local governments.

Michigan spends less per capita on transportation than many states but has fuel taxes that rank among the country's highest. That is because it assesses a sales tax on gasoline – which is rare – while the revenue primarily helps fund education and local governments.

"People expect when they pay at the pump that every penny paid in taxes at the pump is a penny that is going to go toward roads. That is what we just accomplished with this budget while funding our roads at a record level without raising taxes one cent," said Republican House Speaker Lee Chatfield.

The House action was the latest move in what appears likely to be a protracted budget process that that will extend into the summer months. Whitmer in March proposed her plan, including a 45-cents-a-gallon gasoline and diesel tax increase, while the GOP-led Senate passed its proposal in May. Her blueprint would eventually boost transportation spending by roughly \$2 billion annually, while the Senate proposal would spend an additional \$132 million earlier than planned.

Under the House budget, the state would gradually direct \$850 million more to roads a year – though Chatfield characterized it as a "first step" and said there will be further talks with Senate leadership and the Whitmer administration.

Democrats opposed the transportation budget, K-12 budget and other spending bills that were passed June 13. The measures would increase funding for schools and universities but less so than Whitmer wants. They also would cut public transit – shifting the money to roads – reduce information technology spending across state government and not include water infrastructure improvements proposed by the governor.

Quicken Loans Settles Federal Suit

DETROIT (AP) – Quicken Loans has agreed to pay \$32.5 million to settle a lawsuit that accused the company of fraudulently sticking the government with bad mortgages.

The deal was disclosed June 14, and the case was dismissed by a Detroit federal judge.

The government had accused Quicken of cutting corners when verifying the income of certain borrowers. Quicken also was accused of seeking improper appraisals so it could make a larger mortgage.

The loans were insured by the Federal Housing Administration, which paid Quicken if a borrower defaulted.

Quicken denied the allegations.

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- Side Blind Alert



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36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$265* \$999 DOWN	36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$289* \$999 DOWN
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- LED Head Lamps
- Heated Front Seats



Stk. #19B1161

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36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$295* \$999 DOWN	36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$339* \$999 DOWN
36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$324* \$0 DOWN	36 MO. LEASE PRICE \$368* \$0 DOWN

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Sale Price **\$33,351***



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NEW 2019 GMC SIERRA DOUBLE CAB 4X4 Elevation Ltd

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- Black Out Trim Pkg.

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Stk. #19T2728

Was \$42,620 Sale Price **\$30,377***
36 MONTH LEASE **\$218*** \$999 DOWN
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"ALL NEW" 2019 GMC SIERRA DOUBLE CAB 4X4 SLE

- 8 Speed Transmission
- Turbo Charged Engine
- Heated Power Seats
- Heated Steering Wheel
- Remote Keyless Start
- HD Trailer Package
- Locking Differential

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Stk. #19T2189

Was \$45,970 Sale Price **\$36,295***
36 MONTH LEASE **\$266*** \$999 DOWN
36 MONTH LEASE **\$295*** \$0 DOWN

NEW 2019 GMC ACADIA SLE

- 7 Passenger Seating
- Color Touch Screen Radio
- Rear Back-up Camera
- Keyless Start
- Bluetooth
- XM Radio
- Apple/Android CarPlay

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Stk. #19T2693

Was \$33,995 Sale Price **\$27,775***
NO GM DISCOUNT REQUIRED
27 MONTH LEASE **\$199*** \$999 DOWN
36 MONTH LEASE **\$239*** \$0 DOWN

NEW 2019 GMC SIERRA 2500HD CREW CAB 4X4 SLT SLT DIESEL

- 6.6L Turbo Diesel
- Heavy Duty Trailer Pkg.
- Snow Plow Prep Pkg.
- Remote Start
- Allison Transmission
- Bose Navigation
- Heated Leather Seats

0% APR for 60 Months Available



SPRAY-IN BED LINER INCLUDED

Stk. #19T2335

Was \$69,670
NO GM DISCOUNT REQUIRED
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- Rear Climate Control
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- Remote Start
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- Power Liftgate

0% APR for 72 Months Available



Stk. #19T2772

Was \$56,585 Sale Price **\$45,995***
36 MONTH LEASE **\$399*** \$1599 DOWN
36 MONTH LEASE **\$449*** \$0 DOWN

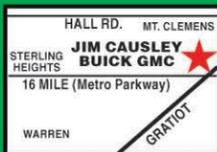
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STOCK # B490027

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WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

2019 GMC TERRAIN SLE1
LEASE FOR **\$189*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



PURCHASE FOR **\$26,019***

STOCK # G591403

2019 GMC 1500 LIMITED ELEVATION EDITION
LEASE FOR **\$199*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



PURCHASE FOR **\$29,889***

STOCK # WVF78C

2019 GMC ACADIA SLE1
LEASE FOR **\$199*** PER MONTH | **4** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



GM EMPLOYEE PRICE TO EVERYBODY!

PURCHASE FOR **\$29,369***

STOCK # G594818

2019 GMC CANYON DENALI CREW CAB
LEASE FOR **\$249*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



PURCHASE FOR **\$38,139***

STOCK # G595116

2019 GMC YUKON SLE
LEASE FOR **\$419*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



PURCHASE FOR **\$47,439***

STOCK # G594893

2019 GMC YUKON XL DENALI
LEASE FOR **\$669*** PER MONTH | **39** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN



FORMER DEMO UNIT

PURCHASE FOR **\$68,109*** LIST PRICE \$82,825 SAVE OVER \$13,000

STOCK # G591708

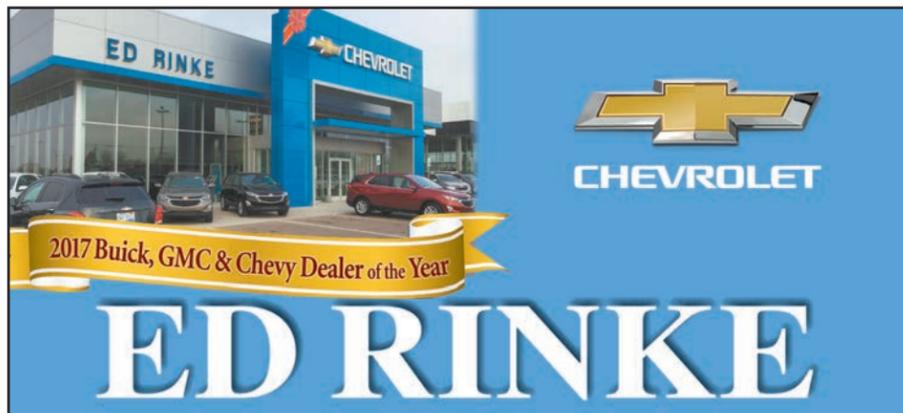
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2019 CHEVROLET TRAX LT
PURCHASE FOR **\$16,359*** MSRP \$24,760



LEASE FOR **\$159*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 594195

2019 CHEVROLET EQUINOX 2FL
PURCHASE FOR **\$25,019*** MSRP \$30,900



LEASE FOR **\$179*** PER MONTH | **24** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

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2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CUSTOM DBL CAB
PURCHASE FOR **\$28,979*** MSRP \$40,890



LEASE FOR **\$189*** PER MONTH | **24** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 592366

2019 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT
PURCHASE FOR **\$21,379*** MSRP \$27,560



LEASE FOR **\$199*** PER MONTH | **24** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 490216

2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LD 1500 CUSTOM
PURCHASE FOR **\$30,359*** MSRP \$42,905



LEASE FOR **\$199*** PER MONTH | **24** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # WVK23V

2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 CUSTOM CREW CAB
PURCHASE FOR **\$33,469*** MSRP \$45,015



LEASE FOR **\$219*** PER MONTH | **24** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 592479

2019 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71 CREW CAB
PURCHASE FOR **\$33,119*** MSRP \$38,575



LEASE FOR **\$249*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 594320

2019 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS
PURCHASE FOR **\$28,629*** MSRP \$35,030



LEASE FOR **\$279*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 594094

2019 CHEVROLET BLAZER 1LT
PURCHASE FOR **\$28,999*** MSRP \$33,495



LEASE FOR **\$279*** PER MONTH | **36** MONTHS | **\$999** DOWN

STOCK # 594950

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