

Live from California – Chevy’s Latest Corvette

There’s a lot of anticipation for the latest generation of Corvettes, said GM spokesman Kevin Kelly. And thanks to the Internet, it will be possible for the public to see the new car at the same time as the automotive press.

The debut will highlight the late Zora Arkus-Duntov vision of a vision for a mid-engine Corvette, said Barry Engle, executive vice president and president, the Americas, GM. Arkus-Duntov is considered the father of the Corvette.

That vision will come to life the evening of July 18, in Orange County, Calif., and the world can watch the Corvette reveal via livestream from the comfort of their own homes, Engle said.

The livestream opens at 7:30 p.m. PDT/10:30 p.m. EDT on July 18 and can be accessed through Chevrolet’s social media channels – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The stream will include Corvette video footage, a hosted preshow and the reveal presentation, Kelly said. It will be available for viewing across the globe, in all seven continents.

“We have been working on making sure folks could watch the reveal from the comfort of home since we began work on the reveal planning last year,” Kelly said. “The California con-

nection will become more apparent at the reveal itself.”

“There is a large contingent of Corvette fans across the world waiting for the reveal of the Next Generation. We’re happy to give these fans, and all sports car enthusiasts, a way to see and learn about the vehicle at the same time as those participating live in California,” said Engle. “Viewers will hear directly from Chevrolet leadership, engineering and some special guests about the highlights and background of this first mid-engine Corvette.”

The livestream debut is the

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The public will get to see the actual Corvette on July 18.

Chevy, Carhartt Building Brands Together

It just makes sense.

Chevrolet, one of the world’s largest car brands and Carhartt, America’s leading workwear brand, have entered into a strategic partnership where Carhartt will become the Official Workwear of Chevy Trucks and Chevy Trucks will be the Official Partner of Carhartt.

This partnership is a celebration of two brands committed to providing consumers with rugged, long-lasting products, inspired by hardworking people, said Hugh Milne, Chevrolet Truck marketing manager.

“When you look at both of our brands and our customers, there’s a natural connection between Chevrolet and Carhartt,” said Milne. “Both have more than 100 years of history rooted in Detroit. And today, both brands have built a reputation for delivering quality durable products.”

Carhartt was founded in 1889 when its founder, Hamilton Carhartt, recognized the need for stronger durable garments for railroad engineers, said GM spokesman Monte Doran. Under

the motto “Honest value for an honest dollar,” the Carhartt bib overall was created and rapidly evolved into the standard for quality workwear.

Today, Carhartt remains just as committed to developing the best products and creating authentic partnerships that help consumers on and off the jobsite, Doran said.

By comparison, Chevy Truck recently celebrated its centennial – it delivered the first trucks to

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Production Ending For Volkswagen’s Famous Beetle

by DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) – Volkswagen is halting production of the last version of its Beetle model this week at its plant in Puebla, Mexico. It’s the end of the road for a vehicle that has symbolized many things over a history spanning eight decades since 1938.

It has been: a part of Germany’s darkest hours as a never-realized Nazi prestige project. A symbol of Germany’s postwar economic renaissance and rising middle-class prosperity. An example of globalization, sold and recognized all over the world. An emblem of the 1960s counterculture in the United States. Above all, the car remains a landmark in design, as recognizable as the Coca-Cola bottle.

The car’s original design – a rounded silhouette with seating for four or five, nearly vertical windshield and the air-cooled engine in the rear – can be traced back to Austrian engineer Ferdinand Porsche, who was hired to fulfill Adolf Hitler’s project for a “people’s car” that would spread auto ownership

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Ford Joins Forces with VW to Develop EV, AV Technology

Ford and Volkswagen are teaming up to develop AV and EV technology. This is a move that is predicted by auto experts such Mark Wakefield of Alix Partners.

Wakefield and others have said in the past that the development of AV and EV tech will be very expensive, so it makes sense for OEMs to share the cost.

Ford Motor Company and Volkswagen AG are expanding their global alliance to include electric vehicles – and will collaborate with Argo AI to introduce autonomous vehicle technology in the U.S. and Europe – positioning both companies to better serve customers while improving their competitiveness and cost and capital efficiencies, said Ford spokeswoman Jennifer Flake.

Volkswagen CEO Dr. Herbert Diess, Ford President and CEO Jim Hackett as well as Argo AI CEO Bryan Salesky formalized

the agreement on July 11. Volkswagen is joining Ford in investing in Argo AI, the AV technology platform company.

Working together with Ford and Volkswagen, Argo AI’s self-driving system (SDS) is the first with commercial deployment plans for Europe and the U.S. Plus, being able to tap into both automakers’ global reach, Argo AI’s platform has the largest geographic deployment potential of any autonomous driving technology to date. Volkswagen and Ford independently will integrate Argo AI’s SDS into purpose-built vehicles to support the distinct people and goods movement initiatives of both companies.

Argo AI’s focus remains on delivering a SAE Level 4-capable SDS to be applied for ride sharing and goods delivery services in dense urban areas, Flake said.

Ford and VW will have an

equal stake in Argo AI, and combined, VW and Ford will own a substantial majority. The remainder will be used as an incentive pool for Argo AI employees, Flake said. The full transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and closing conditions.

“While Ford and Volkswagen remain independent and fiercely competitive in the marketplace, teaming up and working with Argo AI on this important technology allows us to deliver unmatched capability, scale and geographic reach,” Hackett said. “Unlocking the synergies across a range of areas allows us to showcase the power of our global alliance in this era of smart vehicles for a smart world.”

Company leaders also said Ford will become the first additional automaker to use VW’s

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Diess, left, and Hackett formalize the new Ford-VW alliance.

Billionaire EDS Founder H. Ross Perot Dies at 89

DALLAS (AP) – H. Ross Perot rose from a childhood of Depression-era poverty to become a self-made billionaire who twice ran for president with a mixture of folksy sayings and simple solutions to America’s problems. His 19 percent of the vote in 1992 stands among the best showings by an independent candidate in the last century.

Perot died of complications from leukemia July 9 at his home in Dallas surrounded by his family, family spokesman James Fuller said. He was 89.

As a boy in Texarkana, Texas, Perot delivered newspapers from the back of a pony. He earned his billions in a more modern way, however. After attending the U.S. Naval Academy and becoming a salesman for IBM, he set out on

his own – creating and building Electronic Data Systems Corp., which helped other companies manage their computer networks.

The most famous event in his storied business career didn’t involve sales or earnings. In 1979, Perot financed a private commando raid to free two EDS employees who were being held in a prison in Iran. The tale was turned into a book and a movie.

“I always thought of him as stepping out of a Norman Rockwell painting and living the American dream,” said Tom Luce, who was a young lawyer when Perot hired him to handle his business and personal legal work. “A newspaper boy, a mid-

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Concours d’Elegance Previews 2019 Show

by Jim Stickford

Fans of classic cars got a taste of what will be on display at the 2019 Concours d’Elegance during a special press preview held at the Detroit Central Station on July 10.

This year’s Concours will take place at the Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth between Friday, July 26 and Sunday, July 28.

Larry Moss is chairman of this year’s event and is chairman of the Concours Board of Directors.

“This is the 41st year we’ve held the Concours,” Moss said. “We use it raise money for a variety of



This 1961 Rolls Royce Phantom V was one of the Concours preview cars.

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Library Hosting
Special Quiz
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“Would you like to try your hand at Jeopardy without the pressure of the Hollywood lights and live studio audience?” said Warren librarian Paul Konkolesky. “Sandie Baker, six-time Jeopardy champion, will lead teams in a Jeopardy style game with many of the questions geared towards outer space to match our Summer Reading Program theme. Prizes will be awarded to the best teams. This is an adults only program. Registration is required so grab a few friends and prepare to give some answers, in the forms of some questions, of course.”

The special event will take place on Thursday, July 25, between 6 and 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center branch of the Warren library, Konkolesky said.

To register, people should call 586-751-0770.

GM's Employee
Car Show News

The annual GM-UAW Employee Car Show will take place on Wednesday, July 24, at the GM Tech Center in Warren between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the west end of the campus.

The event, which is put on by both GM salaried employees and members of UAW Local 160, is expected to have more than 900 vehicles registered this year, said GM spokeswoman Jasmin Saleh. As of now, more than 500 vehicles have already been registered to be on display at the show.

The theme of this year's show is “Past, Present and Future.” Types of vehicles on display will include hot rods, custom vehicles, special-interest and concept cars as well as classic cars from Detroit's rich automotive history.

Highlights of this year's show will include a featured display area for invited “Rat Rod” cars as well as a display of 25 select motorcycles, Saleh said.

Michigan Home to Several Corvette Summer Car Shows

2019 promises to be a busy summer for Michigan Corvette fans, according to Larry Courtney, event coordinator for the organization, “Corvettes on Woodward.”

On Saturday, July 27, the Mainstreet Memories Car Show will be held in Port Huron. The staging lane for registration will be open from 7 to 11 a.m.

The actual show is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vehicles will not be judged because the show is meant to be about community, not competition, Courtney said. Go to mainstreetmemoriesph.com for more information on the show.

The following week, on Saturday, Aug. 3, the Competition Corvette Club of Michigan will hold its annual car show at Fountain Walk in Novi.

“Come out and experience the event of the summer, where you and your ride will participate in one the most exciting shows of the year,” said club president Rod Grimes. “We are car enthusiasts and look forward to viewing your special ride. Funds generated contribute to our charitable events, where we provide DPS college scholarships, Ronald McDonald House, Fifty Thanksgiving Day dinners, and meals for families at Christmas.”

The event, located at 44175 West 12 Mile Road in Novi, runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The entrance fee is \$25.

Go to competitioncorvetteclubofmichigan.club for more information.

On Saturday, Aug. 10, the Americas Corvette Club will hold its Corvettes America gathering at Everest Academy in Clarkston. Admission to the show is \$10 per vehicle.

Events include a judged competition and a people's choice competition. Registration at the gate begins at 7:30 a.m. For more information, go to corvette-

samerica.org/Corvettes_America/about.html.

The annual Woodward Dream Cruise will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17. A special 2019 Corvette Reunion will be held that evening from 5 to 9 p.m. in downtown Flint.

The event, which is held from 5 to 9 p.m., is meant to celebrate Flint's Corvette heritage, said Corvette Reunion chairman Gary Drago.

The Corvette was first manufactured in Flint and this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Reunion gathering, Drago said.

“The Corvette will be 66 years old,” Drago said. “As many of you may know, the Corvette was born here in Flint in 1953. We are very proud of that and to bring you one of the most exciting Corvette shows in the country.”

“Anyone who owns a Corvette can bring their car to the show free. You don't need to belong to a club to come and enjoy. It's free to come, free to park and free to have a fantastic day viewing thousands of fantastic vehicles throughout the Back to the Bricks event. If you want to enter your Corvette into the judged portion of the show, there is a \$25 fee.”

To learn more about the event, go to corvettetreunionatbacktothebricks.com.

The summer fun concludes on Saturday, Aug. 24, with the Corvettes Crossroads Auto Show in Mackinaw City. The annual event is sponsored by the Mackinaw City Chamber of Tourism and is held in downtown Mackinaw City.

According to the event's Web site – mackinawcity.net/macki-

nawcity/event/Corvette_Crossroads_Auto_Show – “beginning Friday, Corvettes of various vintages will begin arriving in the area, cruising and getting registered for Saturday's festivities. On Saturday, hundreds of Corvettes will be on display at the Mackinaw Crossings Mall parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A poker walk for show participants will also be offered during the day.

“People's choice style of judging will determine winners in several different award classes. Winners will be announced at an awards presentation at 3 p.m. Saturday's festivities will culminate with a parade of Corvettes across the Mackinac Bridge, beginning at 7 p.m. All Corvettes are welcome and there is a nominal fee for non-show registered Corvettes.”



This special festival in Mackinaw City is just one of many events in Michigan that celebrate the Corvette.

Billionaire EDS Founder H. Ross Perot Dies at Age 89

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shipman, shaking Dwight Eisenhower's hand at his graduation, and he really built the computer-services industry at EDS.”

“He had the vision and the tenacity to make it happen,” Luce said. “He was a great communicator. He never employed a speechwriter – he wrote all his own speeches. He was a great storyteller.”

Perot first attracted attention beyond business circles by claiming that the U.S. government left behind hundreds of American soldiers who were missing or imprisoned at the end of the Vietnam War.

Perot fanned the issue at home and discussed it privately with Vietnamese officials in the 1980s,

angering the Reagan administration, which was formally negotiating with Vietnam's government. Looking out for the health care needs of veterans became a long-time concern of Perot.

Perot's wealth, fame and confident prescription for the nation's economic ills propelled his 1992 campaign against President George H.W. Bush and Democratic challenger Bill Clinton. In June of that year, a Gallup poll showed Perot leading his major-party rivals.

Perot dropped out in July, however, saying later that he did so to prevent Republicans from sabotaging his daughter's wedding. He rejoined the race less than five weeks before the election, but his popularity had fallen. Critics said he had a penchant for embracing conspiracy theories. He finished third in the popular vote and was shut out in the Electoral College.

Still, Perot recorded the highest percentage for an independent or third-party candidate since President Theodore Roosevelt's second-place showing in 1912. Some Republicans blamed Perot for causing Bush's defeat by splitting the anti-Clinton vote, although exit polls were inconclusive.

Perot's second campaign four

years later was far less successful. He was shut out of presidential debates when organizers said he lacked sufficient support. He got just 8 percent of the vote, and the Reform Party that he founded and hoped to build into a national political force began to fall apart.

However, Perot's ideas on trade and deficit reduction remained part of the political landscape. He blamed both major parties for running up a huge federal budget deficit and supporting trade deals that allowed American jobs to be sent to other countries. The movement of U.S. jobs to Mexico, he said, created a “giant sucking sound.”

Perot continued to speak out about federal spending for many years. In 2008, he launched a website to highlight the nation's debt with a ticker that tracked the rising total, a blog and a chart presentation.

Perot's themes – that Washington is corrupt, wastes taxpayer money and ignores the working class – have been repeated by other candidates since and helped Donald Trump win the presidency in 2016.

In Dallas, Perot left his mark by creating the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, helping finance

the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, and being a major benefactor of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He also provided help to families dealing with medical expenses or other challenges, according to those who knew him.

Henry Ross Perot was born in Texarkana on June 27, 1930. His father was a cotton broker; his mother a secretary. Perot said his family survived the Depression relatively well through hard work and by managing their money carefully.

In 1962, with \$1,000 from his wife, Margot, Perot founded Electronic Data Systems. Hardware accounted for about 80 percent of the computer business, Perot said, and IBM wasn't interested in the other 20 percent, including services.

Many of the early hires at EDS were former military men, and they had to abide by Perot's strict dress code – white shirts, ties, no beards or mustaches – and long workdays. Many wore crewcuts like Perot.

In 1984, he sold control of the company to General Motors Corp. for \$2.5 billion and received \$700 million in a buyout. In 2008, EDS was sold to Hewlett-Packard Co.

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Concours d'Elegance Previews Vehicles for the 2019 Show

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different worthy causes. This year it's the Rainbow Connection, which helps sick children get wishes. And we are also helping Project Beautiful Inside and Out. That is run by Doris Gilles, wife of FCA designer Ralph Gilles. They help troubled women in Detroit."

Moss said that the board is proud of the Concours event.

"It's been called the third-best Concours show in the country," Moss said. "We get people and vehicles from across the country and around the world here. We picked the train station to have our press preview after Ford contacted us about holding it here. We really want to help the city of Detroit, so this is a natural place for us, and we really think what's being done here is great for the city and greater Detroit."

Ken Lingenfelter, owner of the Lingenfelter car collection, brought his 2019 Corvette ZR1 to the preview. He is also a member of the Concours board of directors.

"GM only made 2,000 of these cars," Lingenfelter said. "I started my car collection two decades ago. There are 250 vehicles in it, and I specialize in muscle cars and exotics. I'm glad to have my Corvette at this show. The Lingenfelter Collection is not open to the public. It's used to raise money for charity."

Lingenfelter said that this year's Concours show will upwards of 300 vehicles at this year's show.

"We have a special selection

committee that looks for excellent examples of historic vehicles," Lingenfelter said. "We have several categories of vehicles that will be judged. Each category will have a winner, and there will be a 'Best in Show' winner as well. Winning 'Best in Show' at an event like ours is more than an honor. It adds value to the vehicle and you will get invited to more events."

Lingenfelter said his favorite vehicle he saw at the preview was the red 1970 Ferrari 246 Dino L brought to the train station by collectors Ricca Gonzalez and Kip Wasenko.

"I've owned the Ferrari since 1975," Wasenko said. "It has just under 50,000 miles on it, and will be entered into the Ferrari class of vehicles at this year's Concours show."

Other vehicles on display include a 1969 Pontiac GTO Judge owned by Tom Abrams of Canton, a 2017 Ford GT owned by Andy Benedict of Bloomfield Hills, a Cadillac V-16 owned by Keith Crain of Detroit, a 1950 Cadillac Fleetwood 60 Special owned by Nick and Christopher Gabriel of Taylor, a 1961 Rolls Royce Phantom V owned by James George of Shelby Township, a 1919 Willys Knight 88-8 owned by Greg Gumtow of South Lyons and a 1923 Cole Series 890 owned by Ben and Kevin Fleck of Canton.

Moss said that the three-day weekend of events begins at 8 a.m. on Friday, July 26, with a motoring tour of metro Detroit. It's being presented by Hagerty Insurance.



Lingenfelter displays his Corvette at the Concours d'Elegance preview.

On Saturday, there will be a cars and coffee gathering from 7 to 11 a.m.. The Chairman's dinner will be held from 6 to 11 p.m., and the Collector of the Year honored will be John D. Groendyke; the Enthusiast of the Year honored will be Bill Warner; and Wayne Carini

will be honored as the Grand Marshall.

On Sunday, the Parade d'Elegance will be held from 1 to 4 p.m.

"These are just some of things we have planned for the weekend," Moss said. "People can learn more by going to Concours-USA.org."

Chevy, Carhartt Team Up

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customers in 1918. Chevrolet has built more than 85 million trucks globally in the 100 years since. That truck lineup includes Silverado, the most dependable, longest-lasting full-size pickup trucks on the road, Dorna said.

"Teaming up with Chevy Trucks was a natural fit for us at Carhartt, as it aligned two Detroit-based iconic brands serving hardworking men and women throughout the nation," said Janet Ries, vice president of Marketing at Carhartt. "Our mission is to develop rugged gear to serve and protect hardworking people; it's built to be dependable and built to last – just like Chevy Trucks."

Connecting these two iconic Detroit brands provides ample opportunities for organic product placements and integrations in the coming year, Milne said said.

Warren Library Diet Seminar

The Warren Public Library will holding a special presentation on how people can improve their diets and lose weight this summer on July 15, said Warren librarian Paul Konkolesky.

Called "Improve Your Health" Keto, Paleo and Other Whole-Food Lifestyles," the presentation takes place at 6 p.m. in the Warren Civic Center Library branch. Space is limited. Call 586-751-0770 to save a spot.

New Corvette's Debut Done Via Internet

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first phase of the next generation Corvette's coming out, Kelly said.

Following the reveal on the Internet, the next generation Corvette will hit the road for two national dealership tours that will include vehicle specialists and numerous interactive displays, Kelly said.

At these events, Chevy dealers will host customers to showcase the new mid-engine supercar, display customizable parts (seats, wheels, accessories, etc.) and teach people how they can personalize their own Corvette.

"With all the excitement around this vehicle, we don't want people to have to wait to experience it in person," said Engle.

"Our national tours will bring the Next Generation car right to our customers' local Chevrolet dealership, where they can start imagining themselves in their very own personalized mid-engine Corvette."

The tours will begin on the East and West Coasts, Kelly said.

There will be stops at more than 125 select dealerships across the U.S. starting after the reveal and extending through early 2020. Tour dates and cities will be available starting on July 19.

MCC Fall Class Registration Kicks Off Staring This Week

Beginning July 17, registration is open for all admitted students interested in taking fall classes at Macomb Community College.

New this fall, students may enroll in an interest-free payment plan that allows them spread out their tuition payment, said MCC spokeswoman Tish Wirth.

Terms of the payment plan, including the amount of down payment and number of payments, are based on when students enroll. Go to mycollegepaymentplan.com/Macomb for more information about the plan.

Students may register for classes online at www.macomb.edu. Online registration is available daily except from 12 to 1:30 a.m. and from 6 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Computers and staff are available for assistance with My Macomb self-registration in the Student Services Labs, located in G Building on South Campus and H Building on Center Campus. Records & Registration staff also are available to assist students with lobby computers in G buildings on both campuses.

Macomb's 2019 fall class offerings are available at www.macomb.edu. Click on the "Future Students" tab on the college's homepage. Then click on "Class Offerings & Catalog." Information about applying to attend Macomb Community College is also available on the "Future Students" tab. Click on the "Apply for Admission" tab located on the top blue bar.

The first day of the fall 2019 semester is Aug. 19.

MCC is also hosting an information session Wednesday, July

24, 6 p.m., for two manufacturing automated systems career paths, maintenance technician and robotic programming. The sessions will introduce the fields, highlight the classes necessary to pursue these in-demand pathways and present how interested participants may qualify to attend the program at no cost.

"Today's manufacturing facilities depend on skilled employees to keep their advanced equipment operating in optimal condition," said Susan Corey, administrator, Workforce and Continuing Education, Macomb Community College. "These programs are perfect for the motivated person looking to enter this field or move up to a new position."

The information session will be held at Macomb's M-TEC facility at 7900 Tank Avenue, Warren. To register call 586-498-4100 or email hausera@macomb.edu.

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Boldly Go to Star Trek Show

Set a course for Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation to boldly go and experience “Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds,” a fully immersive, limited-engagement exhibition.

Attendees can navigate through more than 100 rare artifacts and props, including the original U.S.S. Enterprise navigation console. You can beam yourself into the action to recreate memorable scenes with the transporter simulator and the KHAAAN! scream booth.

The display will be at the museum until Sept. 2, said Henry Ford Museum exhibition manager Melissa Foster.

“This is a traveling exhibition put together by the Museum of Popular Culture in Seattle,” Foster said. “Before it came to us, it was at a children’s museum in Indianapolis. That’s important because this is an exhibition designed to be attractive to people of all ages. The displays are from all the TV shows, so it’s a real cross-generational thing families can do. They didn’t concentrate just on something from the 1960s or the 1980s or more recent shows.”

Star Trek’s themes of optimism, equality, heroism and examination of the human condition have inspired people worldwide to imagine, explore and cre-

ate for over 50 years, Foster said. People can check out 22nd- to 24th-century tricorders and phasers, a Borg cube, starship filming models and more. They can get up close to rare costumes, including the Spock tunic worn by Leonard Nimoy, Geordi La Forge’s visor and Seven of Nine’s unitard.

The exhibition explores how this pop culture powerhouse grew from a low-budget sci-fi television series to prosper as an iconic franchise, building stories around controversial issues such as war, racism and politics, Foster said. People can uncover the artifacts of a potential future that continue to impact our culture – from arts and technology to fashion and literature – and inspire generations to innovate and push boundaries to the final frontier and beyond.

Among the more than 100 props and artifacts from the six Star Trek television series and many of the films are an original series tricorder, communicator and phaser, a Borg cube, Klingon disruptor pistol, tribbles and more.

Rare costumes, including the Spock tunic worn by Leonard Nimoy, Lt. Uhura’s (Nichelle Nichols) dress, Khan garments past and present such as the open-chest tunic worn by Ricar-



The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn has a Star Trek exhibition that explores history of the TV franchise.

do Montalban and the costume worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the 2013 reboot, Captain Picard’s (Patrick Stewart) uniform, the alien Gorn and more.

A transporter simulator is featured in which visitors can create a film that shows them being beamed to another planet.

“This is more than just an exhibition that you look at,” Foster said. “There are interactive elements, including the KHAAAN! video booth where visitors can recreate the memorable scene

from ‘Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan.’ That one is a lot of fun.”

There are also spaceship filming models, including the U.S.S. Enterprise, Deep Space 9 space station and more, Foster said. People can also see original scripts, concept art, storyboards and production drawings.

“Attendance for the exhibition is right where we expected,” Foster said. “It’s a lot of fun and the comments we’ve received from people have been very positive. I urge anyone interested to visit.

And they can also see our other exhibitions at the museum. It’s a real bargain and it fits our museum mission – to explore American stories of innovation, ingenuity and resourcefulness.”

Admission to “Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds” is free for members. Non-member ticket prices include admission to the museum and are \$24 for adults (12-61), \$18 for youth (5-11), \$22 for seniors (62 and older) and children 4 and under are free. Get tickets at thehenryford.org.

China, World’s Largest Car Market, Sees Sales Drop

by JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) – China’s auto sales fell 7.8 percent in June amid a trade fight with Washington and slower economic growth, extending an unexpectedly painful downturn for automakers that are spending heavily to develop electric cars.

Drivers in the global industry’s biggest market bought 1.7 million SUVs, sedans and minivans, according to an industry group, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Total purchases in the first six months of 2019 fell 14 percent from a year earlier to 10.1 million vehicles, CAAM said. That was below industry forecasts of flat to slightly lower growth this year.

Sales growth turned negative last June as jittery consumers put off big purchases amid unease about China’s economic outlook and tensions with President Donald Trump over Beijing’s technology ambitions. Growth in the second-largest global economy held steady in the latest quarter but that was supported by government spending and higher bank lending.

The past year is “a sobering lesson for anyone who believed that growth in autos could happen in straight lines,” Bernstein analysts Robin Zhu and Luke Hong said in a report this week. “As it turned out, autos is cyclical, even in China.”

That is squeezing global and Chinese automakers that are racing to meet government sales targets for electric cars.

Last year’s auto sales suffered their first decline in nearly three decades, falling 4.1 percent from 2017 to 23.7 million.

In June, total vehicle purchases, including trucks buses, declined 9.6 percent from a year earlier to 2 million.

June sales by Chinese brands declined 12.2 percent to 664,000. Their market share lost 3.9 percentage points to 39.5 percent.

Purchases of pure-electric and

gasoline-electric hybrid SUVs, sedans and minivans rose 80 percent to 152,000.

Beijing has promoted electrics with billions of dollars in research grants and buyer subsidies. But subsidies are due to end next year and regulators are shifting the burden to automakers by imposing mandatory sales targets for electrics.

That requires automakers to pour money into developing electrics that can compete with gasoline-powered vehicles on price, performance and style.

One of China’s most ambitious domestic brands, Geely Auto, reported this week its June sales were down 29 percent. It warned its first-half profit would fall by 40 percent.

VW said June sales of cars by the company and its Chinese partners rose 14.2 percent to 261,100. First-half sales were off 3.6 percent at 1.4 million.

Computer Glitch Causes Mazda Vehicle Recall

DETROIT (AP) – Mazda is recalling more than 262,000 SUVs and cars in the United States to fix a software problem that could cause the engines to stall unexpectedly.

The recall covers certain Mazda6 midsize sedans and CX-5 SUVs from the 2018 and 2019 model years. Also included are Mazda3 small cars from 2019.

Mazda traced the problem to a software error in the computer that controls the valves as part of the vehicles’ fuel-saving cylinder deactivation technology.

The company says in government documents posted July 10 that drivers won’t get any warning before the engine stalls.

Mazda says no crashes or injuries have been reported because of the problem.

Dealers will reprogram the software problems at no cost to owners.

The recall is expected to start before Aug. 26.

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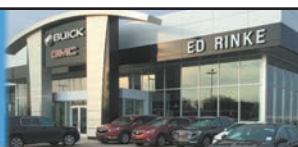
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Ford, VW Form Alliance to Develop Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dedicated electric vehicle architecture and Modular Electric Toolkit – or MEB – to deliver a high-volume zero-emission vehicle in Europe starting in 2023.

Ford expects to deliver more than 600,000 European vehicles using the MEB architecture over six years, with a second new Ford model for European customers under discussion, Flake said. This supports Ford’s European strategy, which involves continuing to play on its strengths – including commercial vehicles, compelling crossovers and imported iconic vehicles such as Mustang and Explorer.

Volkswagen started developing its MEB architecture in 2016, investing approximately \$7 billion in this platform. The car-maker is planning to use this platform to build approximately 15 million cars for the Volkswagen Group alone in the next decade.

For Ford, using VW’s MEB architecture is part of its more than \$11.5 billion investment in electric vehicles worldwide – and supports Ford’s commitment to offer its European customers a broad range of electric vehicles while meeting its sustainability commitments.

“Looking ahead, even more customers and the environment will benefit from Volkswagen’s industry-leading EV architecture. Our global alliance is beginning to demonstrate even greater promise, and we are continuing to look at other areas on which we might collaborate,” Diess said. “Scaling our MEB drives down development costs for zero-emissions vehicles, allowing for a broader and faster global adoption of electric vehicles. This improves the positions of both companies through greater capital efficiency, further growth and improved competitiveness.”

The alliance, which covers collaborations outside of Volkswagen and Ford’s joint investments in Argo AI, does not entail cross-ownership between the two companies and is independent from the investment into Argo AI, Flake said. The alliance is governed by a joint committee, which is led by Hackett and Diess and includes senior executives from both companies.

The companies also are on track to deliver medium pickup trucks for global customers, aiming to start in 2022, followed by commercial vans.

“Unlocking the synergies across a range of areas allows us to showcase the power of our global alliance in this era of smart vehicles for a smart world”

– Jim Hackett, Ford CEO

VW will invest \$2.6 billion in Argo AI by committing \$1 billion in funding and contributing its \$1.6 billion Autonomous Intelligent Driving (AID) company, which includes more than 200 employees – most of whom have been developing AV technology for the Volkswagen Group.

As part of the transaction, VW also will purchase Argo AI shares from Ford for \$500 million over three years. Ford will invest the remaining \$600 million of its pre-

viously announced \$1 billion cash commitment in Argo AI.

The full transaction represents a valuation for Argo AI that totals more than \$7 billion, Flake said.

Both automakers see significant potential, including profitable growth by tapping new business areas tied to autonomous technology.

Argo AI plans to work closely with Ford and VW to provide the autonomous vehicle technology the automakers need to deliver fully integrated self-driving vehicles that can be manufactured at scale for safe, reliable and durable deployment in ride sharing and goods delivery services.

Based in Munich, Germany, AID will become Argo AI’s new European HQ and will be led by AID’s current CEO Karlheinz Wurm. Argo AI will grow from 500 to over 700 employees globally.

Ford plans to design an all-new, MEB-platform-based EV model, which starts arriving in 2023, in Köln-Merchenich, Germany, Flake said. VW will supply MEB parts and components as part of the collaboration.

Both companies also will continue to target additional areas where they can work together on electric vehicles – a key strategic priority for both companies as they drive to accelerate the transition to sustainable and affordable mobility, Flake said.

The agreement with Ford is a cornerstone in VW’s electric strategy, supporting the growth of the e-mobility industry and facilitating global efforts to reach the Paris 2050 Agreement.

Ford and VW remain on track in their previously announced plan to improve their respective strengths in commercial vans and medium pickups in key global markets. The work on these vehicle lines will create efficiencies for each company.

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VW Stops Making Beetles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the way the Ford Model T had in the U.S.

Aspects of the car bore similarities to the Tatra T97, made in Czechoslovakia in 1937, and to sketches by Hungarian engineer Bela Barenyi published in 1934. Mass production of what was called the KdF-Wagen, based on the acronym of the Nazi labor organization under whose auspices it was to be sold, was cancelled due to World War II. Instead, the massive new plant in what was then countryside east of Hanover turned out military vehicles, using forced laborers from all over Europe under miserable conditions.

Re-launched as a civilian car-maker under supervision of the British occupation authorities, the Volkswagen factory was transferred in 1949 to the German government and the state of Lower Saxony, which still owns part of the company. By 1955, the millionth Beetle – officially called the Type 1 – had rolled off the assembly line in what was now the town of Wolfsburg.

The United States became Volkswagen’s most important foreign market, peaking at 563,522 cars in 1968, or 40 percent of production. Unconventional, sometimes humorous advertising from agency Doyle Dane Bernbach urged car buyers to “Think small.”

“Unlike in West Germany, where its low price, quality and durability stood for a new post-war normality, in the United States the Beetle’s characteristics lent it a profoundly unconventional air in a car culture dominated by size and showmanship,” wrote Bernhard Rieger in his 2013 history, “The People’s Car.”

Production at Wolfsburg ended in 1978 as newer front drive models like the Golf took over. But the Beetle wasn’t dead yet. Production went on in Mexico from 1967 until 2003 – longer than the car had been made in Germany. Nicknamed the “vochito,” the car made itself at home as a rugged, Mexican-made “carro del pueblo.”

The New Beetle – a completely retro version build on a modified Golf platform – resurrected some of the old Beetle’s cute, unconventional aura in 1998 under CEO Ferdinand Piech, Ferdinand Porsche’s grandson. In 2012, the Beetle’s design was made a bit sleeker.

The end of the Beetle comes at a turning point for Volkswagen as it rebounds from a scandal over cars rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests. The company is gearing up for mass production of the battery-driven compact ID.3, a car that the company predicts will have an impact like that of the Beetle and the Golf by bringing electric mobility to a mass market.

The last of 5,961 Final Edition versions of the Beetle is headed for a museum after ceremonies in Puebla were held on July 10 to mark the end of production.

SAE Detroit Has July Golf Event

The Detroit chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) is holding a breakfast and golf outing on Friday, July 26 at the Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth. Money raised at the event will help fund SAE STEM programs and scholarships.

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*All payments & retail prices are plus TAX, TITLE, PLATE DOC FEE, & are calculated with the GM Employee Discount unless otherwise noted. All payments/Prices include GM Lease Loyalty or Chevrolet Lease Loyalty/Competitive Lease Incentive and are based on qualification and have been deducted from the Sale Prices & Payments. Lease Payments do not require a Security Deposit and require a disposition fee at lease end. You must be approved at A1 Credit Tier through GM Financial. To use the Chevrolet Lease Loyalty, you must terminate your current lease at the time of new vehicle purchase. All Vehicle pictures do not represent the actual vehicle. Lease payments are based on 10,000 miles or for CTP units, the remainder of 10,000 miles per year, Must take retail delivery by Saturday July 20th, 2019.