Tech Center News

WARREN, MICHIGAN

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Latest COPA Camaro Offers Power and Style

Not every vehicle Chevy showed off at the recent 2019 SE-MA show in Las Vegas was a concept car. Those who attended the event got the first look at the 2020 Chevrolet COPO Camaro John Force Edition.

This car brought together the legacies of Chevrolet's factory race car and the 16-time NHRA champion driver in a distinctively styled, supercharged race car - and one that will deliver for charity, as well as low elapsed times on the drag strip, said Jim Campbell, GM U.S. vice president of Performance and Motorsports.

"John Force is one of the most legendary drag racers in history - and his legend started with Chevrolet," said Campbell. "We are proud to partner with him on this one-of-a-kind COPO Camaro and are excited to see what it will do on the auction block for charity.

Chevrolet will auction off the COPO Camaro John Force Edition at the 2020 Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale, Ariz., event in January, with the proceeds going to DonorsChoose.org, said GM spokeswoman Rita Kass-Kass-Shamoun.

It carries a unique "2020COPO-FORCE" identification plaque and is considered a unique build in the COPO Camaro range - not run of 69 COPO Camaro race cars.

Since 2012, Chevrolet has produced 552 COPO Camaros (only 69 a year), making them incredibly rare factory race cars. During that time, five COPO Camaros have crossed the auction block for charity, raising nearly \$2 million for a variety of important causes.

"This is a great-looking COPO Camaro, and I enjoyed helping design this car," said John Force. "The COPO Camaro is already a formidable car, and hard to beat on the track. But this one is even more special, as it will help support a cause I firmly believe in."

Additionally, a black-and-silver paint scheme inspired by the John Force Edition is an available option on 2020 COPO Camaros, Kass-Shamoun said.

In fact, there are more color choices than ever when it comes to ordering the factory-built race cars.

Along with the John Force color scheme and four production colors - Black, Summit White,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



part of the annual production The 2020 COPO Camaro edition was unveiled at the recent 2019 SEMA show in Las Vegas. GM's only making 69.

OnStar Vehicle Insights Provides Users With Helpful Data

smartphones. Now, thanks to On-Star, GM has made its cars a little smarter ... and this intelligence can help owners become better, more efficient drivers.

General Motors' new fleet telematics solution, OnStar Vehicle Insights, provides fleet managers and drivers the tools and data they need to make the most of their daily operations, said GM spokeswoman Katie Downey.

Available starting this month, OnStar Vehicle Insights relays real-time vehicle data like vehicle location, driver performance information and more to fleet employees.

'We listened to our fleet customers' feedback and have created a turnkey telematics solu-

Many folks in the U.S. have tion," said Ed Peper, U.S. vice president, General Motors Fleet. 'OnStar Vehicle Insights helps simplify the fleet management process, allowing our fleet customers, large and small, to save time and money.'

With OnStar Vehicle Insights, business owners and fleet managers can help maximize their fleet's operational efficiency through a number of features, like Vehicle Locator, which allows drivers and fleet managers to view the location of all fleet vehicles in real time, Downey said.

Then there is Vehicle Health, which allows drivers to view vehicle mileage, oil life and fuel



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 Users can get OnStar driver data sent directly to their tablets.

Acadia, Terrain **Move Up CR's Reliability List**

by Jim Stickford

Consumer Reports had some good news for the Dodge brand last week when the 2019 Reliability Report was issued.

CR announced that Dodge moved up 13 spots in the publication's Top 10 list for brand quality this year. The announcement came last week at a special event hosted by the Automotive Press Association in the Gem Theater in Detroit.

Jake Fisher, senior director of Automotive Testing for CR, said the reason for Dodge's jump was simple. Reliability is affected by how far a model is in the vehicle's life cycle. Brand new vehicles have more problems. But vehicles that are further down the production cycle have had time to work out the bugs.

Because Dodge's designs are relatively old, the brand has been able to work out its design problems, while continuing to update the technology in the vehicles.

Fisher said CR bases its overall reliability score on several different testing formats that include road-test performance, owner satisfaction, consumer survey results and crash tests.

"This year, there are 20 models with reliability ratings that improved enough to lift their overall scores to enable them to be 'CR Recommended,'" Fisher Overall, there was a lot said. of reshuffling among the brands in this latest survey, Fisher said. But he specifically noted that reliability for some key models

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ford EV Mustang Makes its LA Auto Show Debut

It's coming - Ford's new, allelectric SUV will don the iconic pony badge and the name Mustang Mach-E when reservations for the vehicle open after it was revealed on Nov. 18.

The all-electric Mustang Mach-E made its debut Nov. 17 at an event in Los Angeles that will be streamed on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Autohome (China). Special guest, actor Idris Elba, helped introduce the latest addition to the Mustang family. Immediately following the broadcast reservations will open for the Mustang Mach-E at Ford.com. Customers can reserve their spot in line for the Mustang Mach-E by making a \$500 refundable reservation deposit. Timing will be critical, especially for a limited First Edition, details of which were announced as part of the Nov. 17 event. Customers in the U.S. and Europe who wish to reserve a vehicle can select their desired specification of the Mustang Mach-E, create a Ford account, select their preferred Ford dealer, and enter their credit/debit card details and address.

In case you were wondering – yes, the 2020 Corvette Stingray is fast, it's very fast.

People were surprised when Chevrolet first announced the 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray coupe would accelerate 0 to 60 mph in less than three seconds with the available Z51 Performance Package.

On Nov. 6, the brand officially confirmed the sports car with the available Z51 Package can reach 60 mph in 2.9 seconds and cross the quarter-mile mark in 11.2 seconds at 121 mph, said GM spokesman Chris Bonelli.

Even without the available Z51 Package, a base Stingray, starting at \$59,995 (including destination charges, excluding tax, title, license, and dealer fees), can reach 60 mph in three seconds flat and cross the quarter-mile mark in 11.2 seconds at 123 mph,

according to GM figures, Bonnelli said. Performance numbers may vary, as different climates, tire conditions and road surfaces may affect results, he said.

"The performance of the 2020 Stingray has far exceeded our expectations," said Alex MacDonald, Chevrolet vehicle performance manager. "Moving more weight over the rear wheels helps us get off the line quicker, but it's the integration between the powertrain and chassis that really takes the performance to new levels."

The Stingray's groundbreaking performance is achieved through a formula of rear weight bias, tire technology, aerodynamics, chassis tuning and of course, the powertrain. The 6.2L LT2 Small Block V8 engine and eight-speed dual-clutch transmission are in many ways the stars of the show.

New 'Vette Stingray 6.2L LT2 Engine Packs Quite a Punch

The LT2 is the only naturally as- equipped with performance expirated V8 in the segment and is SAE-certified at 495 horsepower and 470 lb.-ft. of torque when



haust, making it the most-power-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The Stingray's new Small Block V8 engine gives it great acceleration.

Customers who reserve a vehicle will be able to finalize their configuration next year.

view this week's edition at TechCenterNews.com

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31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

586-939-6800

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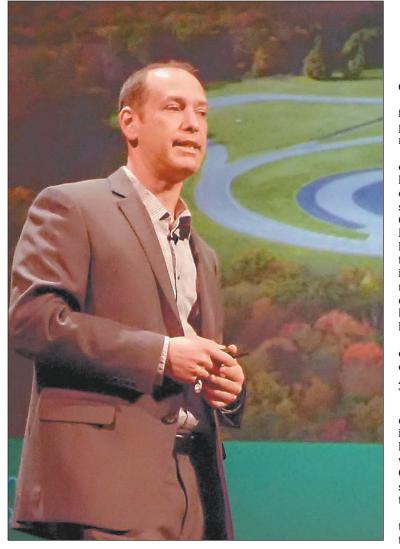
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Warren Symphony **Orchestra Kicks Off Season**

The Warren Symphony Orchestra will begin its 47th season with Through the Eyes of Dvorak: The New World Symphony at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts located at 44575 Garfield Rd. in Clinton Township.

Performing under the baton of music director/conductor Gina Provenzano, the Warren Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will perform "Symphony No. 9 "New World" and "Slavonic Dances" composed by Antonin Dvorak and "Overture No.1 op 23 in e minor" by female composer Louise Farrenc.

Tickets are \$23 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for college students, and K-12 are free. A discounted Season Package, tickets to all three season 47 concerts, is available to purchase until Nov. 23. To purchase tickets, please contact the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts box office at 586-286-2222 or MacombCenter.com.



Fisher said that older vehicle designs make more reliable cars.

Cop Convicted in Abandoned Vehicle Racket

DETROIT (AP) – A Detroit police officer has been found guilty in connection with a scheme where bribes were given by collision shop owners in exchange for referrals of stolen and abandoned vehicles found in the city.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit says 47-year-old Deonne Dotson was convicted Nov. 7 by a federal jury on six charges of extortion.

Five other officers have pleaded guilty to committing similar crimes while employed by the Detroit Police Department. They were accused of using their positions to get cash for steering cars to certain shops.

Owners of the vehicles were unaware of the scheme when they agreed to have their vehicles repaired at the shops. Dotson will be sentenced in March.

CR Reliability List Shows Acadia, Terrain Improve

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Detroit have risen over the past year, allowing CR to recommend them.

"Those vehicles include some carry-over models such as the Buick Enclave, the Dodge Charger, the Chrysler 300, the Ford Fusion, the Ford Mustang, the Jeep Grand Cherokee and the Lincoln MKZ," Fisher said. "Brands from FCA had the most upward mobility of all domestics in CR's ratings. Dodge vaulted 13 spots to number eight out of 30 brands due to the 'Above Average' reliability rating of the Dodge Challenger and the Grand Caravan."

GMC moved up two spots to 22 due to the average or above average reliability scores for the Acadia, Yukon, Terrain and Yukon XL, Fisher said.

On the other hand, Buick dropped out of the top 10 ranking list, Fisher said. But the Buick Regal was the only model that was rated below average. Chevrolet dropped a couple of spots down the list due, in part, to the redesigned 2019 Silverado.

Cadillac was on the bottom of the list, Fisher said, pointing out that there were a couple of reasons. One, he said, was the brand has come out with a lot of new vehicles, and they all have the latest tech. The more things you put in a car, the more things can go wrong, he said.

Ford's ranking, at 16, stayed the same, Fisher said. The company introduced the Ranger midsize pickup back to the American market this year, but Ford had that truck in other markets before bringing it back here.

Fisher said that CR weights problems differently. A transmission problem is more serious that an infotainment problem, for example. But enough small problems can add up.

He noted that BMW, VW and Audi all saw their rankings drop. BMW fell seven spots to 17th place.

CR does take consumer complaints into account when rating vehicles, Fisher said. One BMW customer wrote in and said the company logo fell off the back of his new BMW. He glued it back on rather than take the vehicle to the dealership, but that kind of thing does not build long-term confidence in a vehicle.

He also said things like infotainment software taking 30 seconds to boot up when a car is started is very annoying. People can't use their rear cameras or adjust their climate controls. Instead, they have to sit in a car and wait for the infotainment system to start working. That doesn't win a car fans, he said.

Fisher said that now that cars more resemble smartphones, automatic updates to software can be a two-edged sword. When the updates go through without a hitch, great. But he said Jeep recently updated the infotainment systems on new Wranglers. There was a bug and it took a few days to fix the problem. That's bad, he said.

"I know of no phone maker or car maker that allows you to go back to the old system if there's a problem with a new update," Fisher said. "We really should be able to go back to a system that worked for us."

It's only a matter of time until an update really goes wrong with a car, Fisher said. When that happens, consumers will really get mad, because cars depend so much these days on technology.



2020 GMC TERRAIN SLE



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Dennis Thacker



Tech Center News

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

GM Names New Executive Leaders

Two new executive leadership appointments, effective Nov. 15, 2019, have been made at General Motors.

Brian Sweeney, U.S. vice president of Chevrolet Sales. Service and Marketing, moves to a newly created position as vice president, Dealer Operations and Innovation.

In this role, he will lead retail innovation and work closely with Chevrolet, Buick and GMC dealers to deliver a world-class customer experience and a robust dealer business model, said GM spokesman Jim Cain.

Sweeney will report to Barry Engle, executive vice president and president, GM North America. He will also report to Travis Hester, vice president of Global Customer Experience, a new team formed in September.

In another move, Steve Hill, vice president of U.S. Sales, Service and Marketing, will directly lead Chevrolet, in addition to his current role, to maintain continuity and sales momentum. He continues to report to Engle, Cain said.



Brian Sweeney

tomers and Brian and Steve have played a major role in building that foundation," said Engle.

Over the last several years, GM's U.S. dealers have consistently scored at or near the top of third-party surveys of customer satisfaction with dealer sales and service, and customer lovalty, even as the automotive industry changes rapidly, Engle said

"Competition is intensifying, "Our dealers already do an ex- customer expectations are rising, cellent job taking care of our cus- and technology is transforming



Steve Hill

vehicles, dealership operations and the way we engage with customers," Engle said.

We will meet these changes head on and we are putting some of our most experienced and accomplished leaders in charge of embracing change and driving innovation.

"Our goals are ambitious but attainable: make our dealers the most successful in the industry, make our brands even more valuable and drive even higher levels of customer loyalty."

New OnStar System Gives Drivers More Useful Data

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

efficiency, as well as receive preventative service prompts and maintenance notifications.

The Driver Performance feature shows driver behaviors and trips taken, and receive safety alerts around specific events, like exceeding a specified speed limit.

The Business Insights feature shows a simplified performance dashboard that aggregates data and presents trends that are helpful for business operation.

OnStar Vehicle Insights can also help maximize fleet productivity by offering fleet drivers a range of tools they can use to help save time, stay organized and more, such as the Remote Commands feature lets the driver lock, unlock and remote start a vehicle from the OnStar Vehicle Insights website instead of waiting on a locksmith while the Trip Summaries feature maintains and references trip history in an organized manner.

The Driving Performance feature lets drivers view their driving behaviors, like hard-braking events, as well as their driver performance score, so they are aware of any behaviors that need improvement.

OnStar Vehicle Insights is compatible with most 2015 model year and newer Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles, Downey said. At launch, OnStar Vehicle Insights will be \$15.99 per vehicle, per month. Signing up is simple, fast and scalable for any size business, with no longterm contract required.

"This is just the beginning for OnStar Vehicle Insights," said Michelle Calloway, head of On-Star Vehicle Insights, GM Global Innovation.





Stingray Small Block V8 Engine Powerful

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ul entry Corvette car ever.

"The LT2 is one of our best efforts yet in Corvette's history of naturally aspirated high-performance Small Block V8 engines,' said Jordan Lee, GM's global Chief Engineer of Small Block engines. "This engine is incredibly powerful and responsive. Power is readily available when the driver needs it."

The standard engine-mounted dry sump oil system boasts three scavenge pumps, which help make this the most track-capable Stingray in history. The LT2's lubrication system keeps oil in the dry sump tank and out of the engine's crankcase. It provides exceptional engine performance even at lateral acceleration levels exceeding 1g in all directions.

The low profile oil pan is highpressure die-casted – similar to some of Corvette's large body structure parts - to reduce mass and is only 3.5 mm thick. The LT2's pan-mounted oil filter and cooler assembly has cored oil and coolant passages, allowing for a 25 percent increase in cooling capacity over the LT1.

diameter to allow for the lower engine position.

Chevy's first eight-speed dualclutch transmission was developed with Tremec to provide uninterrupted torque delivery whether setting a new lap record or heading out on a road trip.

The goal from the beginning was to design a transmission worthy of an exotic supercar that is fun to drive everyday," said Terri Schulke, GM global chief engineer of transmissions. "We achieved that goal by combining the best attributes of the LT2 and the DCT, and I think the impressive performance numbers speak for themselves."

Engineering decided to use a dual-clutch design because it better supports the Stingray's new mid-engine architecture and desired performance, Schulke said. The DCT aids vehicle performance with a very low center of gravity, enables desired weight distribution and offers maximum traction under acceleration. It is a highly integrated system, as it houses the differential, final drive, controls system, sensors, lubrication and cooling hardware.

The heart of the DCT uses dual concentric wet clutches that are opened by springs and closed by hydraulic pressure. The two clutches work in tandem for uninterrupted torque delivery as

they toggle between gears. A separate lube circuit is used for on-demand clutch cooling to reduce parasitic losses. Holes in the outer housing allow for the wet clutches to operate moist instead of submerged. Gear ratios were engineered to be incredibly low-end biased for maximum acceleration.

First gear takes advantage of the additional traction to get off the line quickly and reach 60 mph in 2.9 seconds with the Z51 Performance Package.

The Z51's 11.2-second quartermile acceleration is achieved by lightning-fast upshifts and excellent low-end torque. The gear ratios are First gear 2.91; Second gear1.76; Third gear 1.22; Fourth gear 0.88; Fifth gear 0.65; Sixth gear 0.51; Seventh gear 0.40; Eighth gear 0.33; Reverse 2.63.

The final drive and differential are integrated for the first time and make for an incredibly efficient package, said Schulke.

Much of the LT2's additional power can be attributed to how much better it breathes, Lee said. The intake system is a low restriction design and incorporates identical 210mm-length intake runners and an 87mm throttle body. The performance header exhaust manifolds are also low restriction and feature a stylized four-into-one design with twisted runners to allow for thermal expansion.

The camshaft now has 14mm gross lift on the intake and exhaust with an increased duration for both profiles, which helps the combustion system take advantage of the extra flow capacity. The LT2 retains variable valve timing, with 62 crank degrees of cam phasing authority.

The LT2 has a very low-profile oil pan. This allows the engine to be mounted low in the vehicle for a low center of gravity and improves handling and track performance. The DCT's flywheel dampener was even reduced in



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Marcel using a 3D Illusion Access Aisle at FCA Auburn Hills HQ.

2020 COPO Camaro Offers Style, Power

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Satin Steel Gray and Red - there are seven heritage colors from the 1969 Camaro color palette: Hugger Orange, Butternut Yellow, Frost Green Poly, Olympic Gold Poly, Garnet Red, Fathom Green Poly and Azure Turquoise Poly, Kass-Shamoun said.

The 2020 COPO Camaro's available engine lineup includes a revised version of the supercharged, LSX-based 350 engine, featuring a 2.65L Magnuson supercharger and new LSX-SC cylinder heads, as well as an LSXbased naturally aspirated 427 engine.

Also available is the Racer's

Package, which includes a carbon-fiber air inlet, dual batteries, weight box, parachute and a quick-change coupling (with the supercharged engine).

Kass-Shamoun said Customers can register for a chance to purchase a 2020 COPO Camaro at chevrolet.com/performance/cop o-camaro.

The 2020 COPO Camaro John Force Edition was the centerpiece of Chevrolet's performance- and personalization-focused display, which also features the new, mid-engine 2020 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray, the new Camaro LT1, concept and production versions of the Silverado and Colorado, new crate en-

gine systems, Kass-Shamoun said.

Highlights include new Corvette Stingray coupe and convertible models, each showcasing Chevrolet accessories that help personalize the first-ever mid-engine production Corvette - and the first-ever convertible model with a retractable hardtop

Initially released in 1969 as the ZL-1 COPO Camaro, the automobile was part of Chevy's specialorder system, a method used by dealers during the sixties that allowed them to create high-performance vehicles that were not available elsewhere, Kass-Shamoun said.

FCA Works to Keep Spaces Available for Handicapped

for employees with mobility challenges.

PAGE 4

Except when they aren't, said Betty Carrier Newman, with the FCA Communications Digital Media Team.

Businesses offer these well-defined spots that include access aisles - the striped area directly next to the accessible parking space. This area is designed to allow room for a wheelchair-accessible vehicle to deploy a ramp so that wheelchair users can enter and exit their vehicle safely.

"It should be a no-brainer that, unless you are a wheelchair user, you should not park in these spaces or access aisles," Newman said.

wheelchair "Unfortunately, users are frequently unable to deploy their ramp due to cars parked in the access aisle."

October was National Disabili-Employment Awareness tv Month. Newman said. Among FCA products that help in mobility is the Chrysler Pacifica minivan converted by BraunAbility.

It is able to offer those who need help with wheelchairs the largest interior space and widest door opening and side-entry ramp in the industry, Newman said.

"We're joining forces with BraunAbility to help boost access and inclusion for employees with mobility challenges by rolling out 3D illusion access aisles at FCA headquarters in Auburn Hills," Newman said. "The concept is meant to help people stop and think before parking in the access aisles, preventing employees and guests with wheelchairs from getting in and out of their vehicles.'

BraunAbility is the world's leading manufacturer of mobility transportation solutions, Newman said.

The company has worked to successfully develop the 3D access aisles as part of its 'Drive have children with disabilities or for Inclusion,' program, a move-

Accessible parking spaces are ment to ensure the voices of people with mobility disabilities and their caregivers are included in the design of the world around them. Newman said.

A 2018 BraunAbility survey found 74 percent of people have witnessed abuse of accessible parking.

Newman said that FCA believes inclusion depends on access and access depends on building awareness of mobility challenges and the day-to-day issues this community faces.

Awareness of accessible parking abuse is a big step toward ensuring access for all to the workplace.

"We have created 3D handicapaccessible aisles and built our visitor and employee parking structures to help raise awareness for those with disabilities who need a wheelchair accessible vehicle to be able to properly exit their vehicle when they deploy a ramp," said Amy Baker, senior manager for FCA Fleet Parking.

"Unfortunately, many people don't understand that the lines on a handicapped parking space are meant for those who needs a ramp to be deployed.

Jeff Marcel, manager at Field-Conncet FCA, said that he's gone to movies and been unable to access his vehicle for two hours because someone parked too close to his vehicle, denying him access.

"Hopefully, the extra colors and the way they stand out will deter people from parking too close," Marcel said.

"FCA also moved the needle on awareness forward this year by adding a Diverse Abilities Network to the company's Business Resource Groups," Newman said.

The Diverse Abilities Network marks a very exciting evolution for the company by focusing on providing support to employees with disabilities, employees as caregivers, and employees who special needs.

STIHL

Tesla's New Plant to be Built Near Berlin

BERLIN (AP) - Germany on Nov. 13 hailed Tesla's decision to build its first European factory in the country, days after the government said it would boost subsidies for buyers of electric cars.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said during an awards ceremony in the German capital Nov. 12 that "we've decided to put the Tesla Gigafactory Europe in the Berlin area."

The company will also set up an engineering and design center in Berlin, Musk said. He wrote on Twitter that the new plant "will build batteries, powertrains & vehicles, starting with Model Y."

The Model Y is a small SUV scheduled to go on sale in the fall of 2020. It will start at \$39,000 (35,400 euros) with a range of 230miles (370 kilometers) per charge.

German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier called the announcement a "glorious success" for the country's attractiveness to the auto industry, especially in the race to develop and produce electric cars and batteries.

Altmaier said there had been competition for the plant among European countries in recent months, but denied that the government had offered any financial support to Tesla.

"So far, subsidies haven't been discussed," he told reporters in Berlin. "It's clear that Tesla will be treated the same way as all other automobile companies if it invests in Germany and creates jobs here.'

In an interview with British publication Auto Express, Musk said uncertainty over Britain's planned exit from the European Union - and thereby the world's biggest trading bloc - had been a factor in not building the new plant there.

"Brexit made it too risky to put a Gigafactory in the UK," Musk was quoted as saying.

Tesla did not respond to requests to elaborate on how Brexit helped swing it for Berlin, but German government spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters that "we see in it proof of trust in

Germany as a location for innovation.'

Tesla's announcement comes just a week after German officials and auto industry leaders agreed to increase by half the existing government incentives for electric vehicles with a list price of up to 40,000 euros (\$44,500) - an incentive Tesla can expect to profit from indirectly.

The subsidy will also be extended from the end of 2020 currently to the end of 2025, and the government and industry agreed to aim for 50,000 publicly accessible charging stations nationwide by 2022.

Musk said that the plan is for the factory to be built near Berlin's new airport, which is located just outside the city limits in neighboring Brandenburg state and currently slated to open next year after years of delays.

"We definitely need to move faster than the airport, that's for sure," Musk said.





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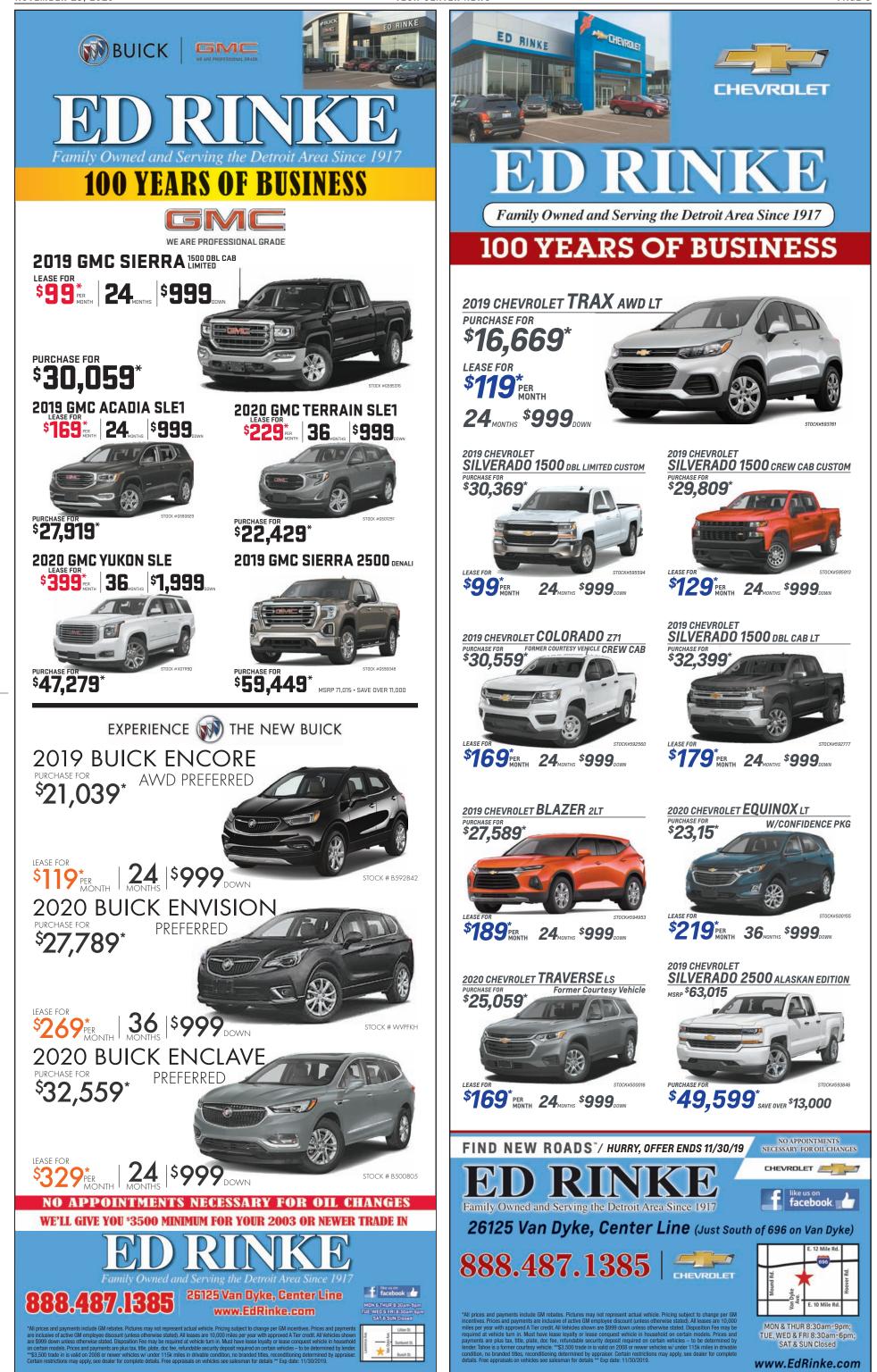


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TECH CENTER NEWS



Auto Insurance Rates Drop

gan drivers who want unlimited medical coverage for crash injuries will pay \$100 per vehicle starting in July, which will be 55 percent less than the record-high \$220 annual fee they currently pay.

The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, a state-created nonprofit entity that reimburses auto insurers for health care claims surpassing \$580,000, announced the cut Nov. 13. The move came roughly five months after the passage of a law making the mandatory fee optional beginning next summer, as part of a plan to lower rates in a state with the country's most expensive average premiums.

Motorists who forego personal protection benefits entirely they can do so if they have Medicare or separate health insurance that covers car crash-related injuries – and those who choose less coverage will avoid the assessment altogether, said MCCA executive director Kevin Clinton.

The \$100 fee will be the lowest in 17 years. The portion of the fee that covers a fund deficit, \$43, will fall to \$0 because the deficit has been eliminated, he said. The total fee was \$100.20 in 2003-04.

"Today's reduction by the MC-CA demonstrates that our historic bipartisan legislation will provide real savings to Michigan drivers," Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in a written statement.

Lawmakers and the insurance industry, whose members sit on the MCCA board, also said the steep fee decrease is proof that the changes signed into law will work.

The announcement "is just the first in what we hope is a series of cost savings for Michigan driv-

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – Michi- ers," said Tricia Kinley, executive director of the Insurance Alliance of Michigan. "By next summer, drivers will finally be able to choose the level of medical coverage that works best for them, which should further decrease costs. The combination of new choices for consumers and the enactment of a fee schedule to stop medical providers from charging three and four times more for auto accident injuries should allow drivers to see savings on their premium.'

The law requires insurers for eight years to reduce on average the PIP portion of policies by 10 percent (unlimited benefit), 20 percent (\$50,000 of coverage for those on Medicaid), 35 percent (\$250,000), 45 percent (\$500,000) or entirely.

The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault, a group of health providers, plaintiffs' lawyers and patient advocates who oppose the new law, remained critical.

"The auto insurance industrycontrolled MCCA is looking for a public relations win by reducing your assessment while increasing your bill in other areas, and they still refuse to make their rate-making data public" said president John Cornack, who leads the Eisenhower Center, a brain injury-rehabilitation facility in Ann Arbor that has warned it is at risk of going out of business because of the law. "It's all a shell game, one the auto insurance companies will continue to win until Michigan gets serious about increasing oversight and requiring transparency."

Cornack said the group is hearing anecdotal reports of insurers "jacking up" premiums at renewal, to keep profits high before they must offer PIP savings. The Associated Press could not immediately determine if there is evidence to support the claim.



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*See dealer for details. Photos may not represent actual sale vehicle. All rebates and incentives, including GM loyalty & Conquest incentives have been deducted from the price and are included in the lease payments, and are subject to change by the manufacturer without notice. Leases are through GM Financial and are based on A1 approval. There is a \$395 disposition fee, if you do not release or purchase thru GM Financial at lease termination. GM Employee discount is required unless otherwise noted. All leases are for 10 k miles per year. GM Lease Loyalty requires a buick, GMC or Chevrolet lease in the household. Silverado or Sierra loyalty requires a 2014 Silverado or Sierra lease in the household. Those leases do not have to terminate. 1st payment, tax, title, plate fee and \$24 CVR fee are due at signing. All prices are plus tax, title and plate fee, and \$24 CVR fee. See dealer for complete details on all incentives and offers. All deals are only good while supplies last. Deals good thru 11/30/2019





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Michigan Woman Gets Honor From DOE

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) last week recongized Denise Gray, president of LG Chem Michigan Inc. Tech Center, as the winner of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award for the U.S. Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E) Initiative.

Gray has overall responsibility at LG Chem Michigan Inc. Tech Center for strategic direction, engineering, and business development, said LG Chem spokeswoman Ellie Millerschin.

Throughout her career, she has been instrumental in accelerating the development and deployment of advanced battery systems for transportation. The majority of her more than 30 year professional career was spent at General Motors, where she spearheaded efforts in vehicle electrical and powertrain systems controls and software. Ms. Gray has also been a proponent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) outreach and career development, frequently participating in STEM events.

Gray also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2019 U.S. C3E Initiative, which recognizes individuals who have significant accomplishments, leadership qualities, and have made a lasting and compelling impact in their field of clean energy.

C3E Awards are given in eight additional categories: advocacy, business, education, entrepreneurship, government, international, law & finance, and research.

"Women have a critical leading role to play in developing clean energy technology for a prosperous future," said Secretary of Energy Rick Perry. "Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 U.S. C3E awards for the recognition of your dedication and rising leadership in this sector. May your work pave the way for more women to pursue careers in clean energy innovation."

"It is an honor to recognize these accomplished women for their gifts of innovation to the United States," said Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette. "There is nothing we cannot accomplish when we have great minds like these women working on our toughest energy and scientific challenges."

The U.S. C3E Initiative is led by DOE in collaboration with the Texas A&M Energy Institute, MIT Energy Initiative, and Stanford Energy. DOE has spearheaded this initiative since 2012 with the goal of closing the gender gap in clean energy careers.



Will Fund Clean Projects

Dow Chemical

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) – Dow Chemical Co. has agreed to spend \$77 million on environmental restoration projects to compensate for pollution by its plant in Midland, Michigan.

Federal and state officials announced a settlement with Dow on Nov. 8.

The Dow plant released dioxins and other hazardous substances into rivers and their watersheds for decades after opening in 1897.

The contaminants harmed fish, invertebrates, birds and mammals. They prompted warnings about touching soil and eating wild game and fish in some areas.

Under the deal, Dow will fund fish spawning and habitat improvements; restoration of thousands of acres of wetlands and other wildlife living spaces; and creation of public nature areas.

