# 'We Are Coming Back' - Governor Snyder

Staff Reporter **Tech Center News** 

Governor Rick Snyder, as keynote speaker at Inforum's annual meeting at the Troy Marriott May 19, said Michigan's troubles were driven home to him at "Governor's School," a conference for new governors put on by the National Governors Association.

We each had a personalized folder for our state," said Snyder. The folders had a sticker in the corner with the state's employment ranking. Snyder's folder was emblazoned with a big number "50."

We were 50th," said Snyder. "Over the course of an hour, a number of governors came over to express sympathy."

Snyder said when he got his chance at the microphone, he said, "No one should express sympathy, because we are coming back."

It is not acceptable to get to 45th, 44th or 43rd place from 50th, said Snyder. "We really need to reinvent and become number one. We need to be in the top 10 in all aspects."

Snyder said his two goals CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 are that Michigan is home to more and better jobs and to

#### Home Prices Continue to Fall In U.S. Market

By DEREK KRAVITZ AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Home prices are falling in most major U.S. cities, and at least 10 major markets are at their lowest point since the housing bubble

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index shows price declines in 19 cities from February to January. The index fell for the seventh straight

High unemployment, stricter lending rules and fears that prices will fall further are among the reasons why few people are buying homes.

A record number of foreclosures are forcing down home prices in most metro areas, and prices are expected to keep falling through this year.

Detroit was the only market to show a monthly gain, although the Motor City is one of five cities where home prices are now below their January 2000 levels.

Prices in Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Las Vegas, Miami, New York, Phoenix, Portland, Ore., Seattle and Tampa are all at their lowest point since 2006 or 2007, at the height of the housing boom.

The housing sector is struggling even while much of the economy is recovering slowly but steadily.

Some of the worst declines in home prices are in cities hit hardest by unemployment and foreclosures.

Foreclosures are expected to rise to 1.2 million this year as many banks revisit thousands of foreclosure cases, spurred into action by federal regulators who have ordered top-tobottom reviews of how foreclosures were carried out over the past two years.

The Case-Shiller index measures sales of select homes in those cities compared to January 2000.

For each of the 20 metropolitan city areas it studies, the index provides an updated three-month moving average

By measuring the sales price of the same homes over time, the index attempts to gauge true market values.

DETROIT - U.S. Energy Sec-

retary Steven Chu recently an-

nounced that Tesla Motors

and the Electric Power Re-

in the state.

Everything – from the housing crisis to crime – comes back to jobs, said Snyder.

"The single best thing is to have jobs," said Snyder. "If they have a job, they can pay their mortgage. If they have a job, they are not out committing a crime."

It is not for government to create jobs, but to create an environment that is conducive to the creation of jobs, he said.

The key role of government is to create that environment," said Snyder. "The real role is with you,

the private sector to create jobs. We will do everything we can to create that environ-New industries are not for

government to choose, but to support with a businessfriendly atmosphere, said Snyder. Those industries may

keep the younger generation come from surprising places, he said, mentioning that China has raved about Michigan's tool and die capabilities. "Who would have thought of that?"

> Snyder talked about ways the government can support the private sector through business-friendly legislation. The Michigan business tax will be dead soon, said Snyder, and none too soon. "It was a job killer," said Snyder. "It's about time to put up the 'Open for Business' sign.'

Snyder defended his controversial budget tax reform as fiscally sound and responsible.

"We were not financially responsible," said Snyder. "We were creating an environment where we are dumping the problem on our children."

Snyder said the reform was written in a forward-looking way. "We need tough cuts now. but there are none in 2013," said Snyder. "We have to hit



Governor Rick Snyder was keynote speaker at Inforum's annual meeting.

bottom to come out of this."

The Governor wants to change Michigan culture, starting with Lansing. "The Lansing attitude of spending money is

### New Civil War Exhibit at Henry Ford Takes 'Deep Dive' Into U.S. History

Within these themes, visitors will discover the follow-

• The original Louisiana Ordinance of secession; • A "substitute book" listing

names of men who were paid \$300 to replace draftees; • How Lincoln stopped the

execution of a Confederate ma-

• Original pension records of Emma Seelye, from Michigan, who served in the Union Army as "Frank Thompson," a male soldier;

• A telegram from a southern governor rejecting Lincoln's call for troops;

• Film of the 75th reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg as filmed by the U.S. Army Signal Corps in 1938;

• An original Freedman's Bureau record documenting thousands of murders andoutrages committed against African Americans;

• Innovative wartime patents including a multi-purpose device that could serve as a tent, knapsack or blanket.

You get the general idea. Some documents are originals while others are facsimiles blown up to wall poster size.

It seems that Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth was found to have a "coded cipher" in his possession when he was killed by vengeful Union troops - to this day, the military has yet to figure out the message in the Booth cipher.

Of course, no Civil War exhibit would be complete without some Matthew Brady pho-

'Matthew Brady established himself as a photographer be-

New York and Washington, D.C. Throughout the war. Brady and a team of photographers followed the Union and Confederate armies and documented their activities - sometimes at risk to their own lives. "The National Archives holds

exhibit says, " with studios in

a treasured set of Matthew Brady's original glass plate neg-

For true fans of the Civil War, allow at least two hours - or fore the Civil War began," the more – to tour the big exhibit.



This Union Army parrott rifle served at the battles of Perryville, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga during the Civil War. It is part of the new Civil War exhibit that opened at The Henry Ford.

#### MCC Expo Allows Industry to Network Face-to-Face, Show Wares to Military

by Christine Snyder Staff Reporter Tech Center News

Macomb Community College's Sports and Expo Center was awash in camouflage May 18 and 19, as vendors – and potential vendors - showed off their wares to the military at the 2nd annual Michigan

Defense Industrial Base Expo. What we envisioned last year is bringing in the large defense expo in the backyard of the Detroit Arsenal for DOD (Department of Defense) employees who don't normally get to go to Washington and Florida for the big army shows," said Scott Rybicki, an advisor to the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Michigan chapter,

which puts on the expo. "This year we tripled in size," said Rybicki. "We hosted 1,200 attendees total from 9 (a.m.) today," he added in the early afternoon of May 18. "Tomorrow we expect a larger turnout with Detroit Arsenal

also gives vendors an opportunity to meet their customer face-to-face.

We have this personal hands-on demonstration for the Arsenal, NDIA and industry members, and they are here together networking,' said Rybicki. "What NDIA does is bring government and industry together."

Large defense contractors such as General Dynamics, Oshkosh and BAE Systems were present along with momand-pop precision machine shops, said Rybicki.

There were more than 150 exhibitors and most came from Michigan, with a few vendors from Massachusetts, Illinois and Wisconsin. Rybicki said the amount of out-ofstate exhibitors has tripled, as well as the space.

"We have everything from light manufacturers to communications systems. A little piece of everything," said Ry-

bicki. "Mostly ground tech-Rybicki said the event al- nologies because TACOM is lows vendors to network and primarily ground combat ve-

> cluded a Navistar police vehicle painted the Afghan police's holly green to distinguish it from the desert tan

> Rybicki said Navistar had

## **GSA Makes Fleet Buy** Of Plug-in Electric Cars

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Obama administration said last week that it is buying more than 100 Chevrolet Volts and other electric cars as it moves to improve fuel efficiency of the government's massive fleet of cars and

The plan by the General Services Administration to buy 116 plug-in electric cars marks the government's first purchase of road-ready electric vehicles, a GSA spokeswoman said.

The cars represent a tiny fraction of the 600,000 vehicles the GSA manages. Energy Secretary

Steven Chu and other officials said they were an important symbol of the administration's commitment to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign

The government also said it is installing 100 car-charging stations in five cities: Washington, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

President Barack Obama has called for a one-third reduction in oil imports by 2025 and wants to put 1 million plug-in electric vehicles on the road by 2015.

"Diversifying our transportation fleet with hybrids, electric vehicles and other alternative fuel vehicles is a critical element in President Obama's long-term plan to break our dependence on foreign oil and invest in America's growing clean energy economy," Chu said at a news conference last week at the

Energy Department.

The electric car purchases are expected to cut the government's gasoline usage by almost 29,000 gallons a year, saving taxpayers an estimated \$116,000 and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 253 tons, GSA administrator Martha Johnson said.

In addition to the extendedrange Volts, the GSA said it will buy 10 battery electric Nissan Leaf vehicles and five Think City EV models from Finish EV startup.

The U.S. government is the biggest shareholder of General Motors, maker of the Chevrolet Volt.

The GSA said the charging stations will cost a total of \$500,000 and be in place by early next year, when the electric cars are scheduled for delivery. Each city will have multiple

charging stations. The cars are to be divided among 20 agencies, including the Energy Department, Navy and Гreasury. In a related announcement,

the White House formalized a directive Obama issued in March ordering the government to purchase only fuel-efficient cars and trucks by 2015.

A memorandum issued Tuesday directs federal agencies to develop practices to move toward the 2015 goal and come up with a plan to determine the best size of their vehicle fleet.

Under a separate executive order. Obama has called on the government to reduce gasoline usage by federal vehicles 30 percent by 2020.

#### **Old GM Begins Selling Warrants in New GM**

DETROIT (AP) - The com- 2009. In March, a federal eral Motors Co.'s debts and bad assets will begin selling stock and warrants in the new GM, according to a regulatory filing last week.

Motors Liquidation Co. said in the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that the stock and warrants being sold starting last week are worth a total of \$5.7 million. Motors Liquidation was split from the new GM by a bankruptcy judge in 2009.

The company says it will sell 87,000 shares of GM worth \$2.7 million.

It also will sell 158,000 warrants to buy GM stock.

Half the warrants allow people to buy new GM stock for \$10 per share and the other half for \$18.33 per share. The company says the warrants are worth \$3 million.

Motors Liquidation owns about 10 percent of GM's common stock, or 1.56 billion shares. as well as warrants to buy 273 million more shares.

Shares of GM rose 6 cents to \$ 31.02 in pre-market trad-

GM was split into two companies when it emerged from

pany that got stuck with Gen- bankruptcy judge approved a plan to sell off and clean up GM's old assets, including 89 industrial sites in 14 states.

> The plan created four trusts to handle the work. An environmental trust will provide \$536 million to clean up old sites.

The money will come from the sale of property and equipment at those sites.

A separate trust will distribute GM stock to some creditors. More than \$275 billion in claims have been filed against GM since its bankruptcy, but most have been resolved.

Other trusts will handle asbestos claims and litigationrelated claims

Meanwhile, Motors Liquidation said that it has sold or se cured sale agreements for 14 properties, including a Wilmington, Delawre, assembly plant that was sold to Fisker Automotive Inc. to produce hybrid vehicles, a Pontiac, Michigan, plant that will become a movie studio, and a Strasbourg, France, plant that was sold back to GM.

GM spent six weeks in bankruptcy protection in the summer of 2009 and emerged bankruptcy protection in as General Motors Company.

### GM Donates \$1M to U.S. Army Museum

tors Foundation is pledging \$1 million so visitors to the National Museum of the United States Army can learn about the World War II M4 Sherman Tank, the first tank to break into the besieged town of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Patton's Army came to the rescue of the biesieged soldiers defending the garrison of Bastogne.

The gift, in honor of former General Motors director Kent Kresa, continues the company's longstanding history of supporting the U.S. Army.

The tank, nicknamed Cobra King, was assembled at GM's Fisher Tank Arsenal and is expected to be a major attraction in the museum's Saving Democracy: Global Gallery, where the story of the Army's role in global conflict and how the retooling of American industry changed

DETROIT - The General Mo- zations and to disaster relief standing of and appreciation Foundation focuses on supporting Education, Health and Human Services, Environment and Energy and Community Development initiatives. mainly in the communities where GM operates.

> The Army Historical Foundation establishes, assists, and promotes programs and projects that preserve the history of the American soldier and promote public under-

efforts worldwide. The GM for the contributions by all components of the U.S. Army and its members.

The Foundation serves as the Army's official fundraising entity for the Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army.

The Museum will be constructed at Fort Belvoir, Va., to honor the service and sacrifice of all American Soldiers who have served since the Army's inception in 1775.



it was the first to break through to the besieged garrison town of Bastogne, Belgium, in 1944 during World War II. Hoo-rah, soldier.

coPhillips, ExxonMobil Corp., Shell Oil Proudcts U.S. and the course of the war and de-Dow added, "Tesla Motors Southern California Edison. feated the enemies of democ-Meanwhile, DTE Energy has been at the forefront of trans-Since its inception in 1976, portation and home energy the GM Foundation has donat-GM Fisher Body produced this tank, nicknamed Cobra King, and research, positioning itself for ed hundreds of millions of the green wave that's impactdollars to deserving American charities, educational organiing all of society.

#### search Institute (EPRI) have joined U.S. DRIVE, a voluntary geat," he said. government-industry partner-"DTE Energy has a long hisship focused on research and development of electric vehicles and related infrastructure technology.

Chu also announced that the research consortium was being re-named from the FreedomCAR and Fuel Partnership to U.S. DRIVE, which stands for Driving Research and Innovation for Vehicle efficiency and Energy sustain-Vince Dow, DTE Energy vice

president, distribution opera-

and EPRI to U.S. DRIVE. The addition of these two

**DTE Welcomes Partners in U.S. DRIVE** 

new partners will shfit our research efforts into higher

tory of partnering with EPRI on research into technologies that have increased the safety and reliability of the electric system infrastructure and have reduced the environmental impact of utility opera-

is producing some of the most exciting vehicles hitting the road today. Tesla's willingness to push beyond the boundaries of what's expected will be a key asset to the

tions, welcomed Tesla Motors U.S. DRIVE partnership." DTE Engery has been a

member of the electric vehicle research consortium since Other partners include the

United States Council for Automotive Research LLC, the collaborative research company for Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company and General Motors; BP America, Chevron Corp.,

hicles. One of those vehicles in-

Army vehicles.

22 vehicles displayed indoors and out. "They are actually a new kid to the game within the last two years," said Rybicki. "They are giving back to the community that got them