

GM in Top 100 Best Global Green Brands

Chevrolet made its debut on Interbrand's 2014 Top 100 Best Global Green Brands report, ranking No. 89.

The report, produced by the world's leading brand consultancy, Interbrand, measures market perception and actual environmental performance of a company and its products, said Chevy spokesperson Sharon Basel.

"What was most compelling about Chevrolet's data was the very small gap between public perception and environmental performance," said Jez Framp-ton, Interbrand's global CEO.

"The company is not only actively demonstrating its environmental commitment, it's communicating those efforts in an au-

thentic way that resonates with customers."

Interbrand cited Chevrolet's vehicles and how they are made, as well as governance, as stand-out items in its environmental performance.

The report stated that Chevrolet sets leadership for sustainability at the highest levels of the company and makes public commitments to reduce its carbon footprint.

Since launching the Cruze less than four years ago, Chevrolet's share of small, compact and mini car segments has tripled.

Nearly half of Chevy Spark, Sonic and Cruze buyers were new to Chevrolet, said Basel.

"People want to buy fuel-effi-

cient cars from companies that share their social and environmental values," said Alan Batey, General Motors senior vice president of Global Chevrolet.

"Chevrolet is engineering innovative technologies into all of our vehicles to improve fuel economy, and our customer-driven sustainability philosophy is driving many new customers to our dealerships."

Some of Chevrolet's fuel-efficient vehicles include:

- The Chevrolet Spark EV, an electric car sold in California and Oregon, featuring best-in-segment torque, Basel said. Priced at \$19,995 with full federal incentives, it is one of the most efficient and affordable electric



2014 Chevy Volt

vehicles available, she added.

- The Chevrolet Volt, the best-selling U.S. plug-in electric vehicle in 2012 and 2013, reduced the nation's gas consumption by 25

million gallons since its launch. Typically driving more than 970 miles between fill-ups, owners

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Kenneth Feinberg

Feinberg Has Final Say on Payouts to Victims of GM Crashes

By JOAN LOWY and TOM KRISHER

WASHINGTON (AP) – Kenneth Feinberg is prepared to pay out billions of General Motors' money to victims of crashes in GM small cars – provided they can prove the cars' ignition switches caused the crash.

GM links 13 deaths to a defective ignition switch in cars such as the Chevrolet Cobalt and Saturn Ion. But trial lawyers and lawmakers say claims of wrong-

ful death and injury could total in the hundreds.

Feinberg, one of the country's top compensation experts, said GM has placed no limit on the total amount he can pay to injured people or relatives of those killed. And he alone – not GM – will decide how much they each will get, even though he is being paid by the company and it didn't like some of the program's provisions.

Feinberg wouldn't estimate the ultimate cost for GM, saying he

has no idea how many death or injury claims he will get. Based on the methodology he plans to employ, a large amount of claims could mean a sum running into the hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions.

"GM has basically said whatever it costs to pay any eligible claims under the protocol they will pay it. There is no ceiling," Feinberg said at a June 30 news conference in Washington to announce details of the plan.

With the plan, GM is trying to

limit its legal liabilities, control the damage to its image and eventually move beyond the crisis caused by its failure to correct the ignition switch problem for more than a decade, even as it learned of fatal crashes. The company recalled 2.6 million older small cars earlier this year to replace the switches.

Only those hurt in crashes caused by the small-car ignition switches are eligible, so the pro-

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U.S. June Auto Sales Accelerate Forward With 1.2 Percent Jump Over Last Year

DETROIT (AP) – U.S. auto sales grew at the fastest pace in eight years in June, surprising the industry and setting it up for a strong second half of the year.

Sales rose 1.2 percent over last June to 1.4 million cars and trucks, according to Autodata Corp.

GM, Chrysler, Toyota, Hyundai and Nissan all saw increases over last June.

Honda sales were flat, while sales at Ford and Volkswagen were down.

June's annualized sales rate – which estimates annual sales if they stayed at the same pace every month – was 16.98 million.

That was the fastest pace since July 2006 and higher even than May, which also surprised the industry with its strength.

GM's sales were up 1 percent over last June despite a continuing parade of recalls.

Kelley Blue Book analyst Alec Gutierrez said GM is benefiting from its new lineup of SUVs, which hit the market at a time when buyers are gravitating toward bigger vehicles. Sales of the Chevrolet Tahoe large SUV nearly doubled to more than 11,000, while sales of the GMC Yukon more than doubled to 3,946. Cadillac Escalade sales were up 57 percent.

Chrysler's sales jumped 9 percent on strong de-

mand for the new Jeep Cherokee SUV and other models. It was the company's strongest June since 2007, with gains for Jeep, Ram, Dodge and Fiat.

Ford's sales dropped 6 percent as the company cut back on discounts for the F-Series pickup, which is the best-selling vehicle in the U.S.

Ford is trying to limit sales of the outgoing F-Series as it prepares to close its truck plants and change over to a new, aluminum-sided F-150 pickup, which will go on sale late this year. F-Series sales fell 11 percent in June to 60,560.

Other automakers said:

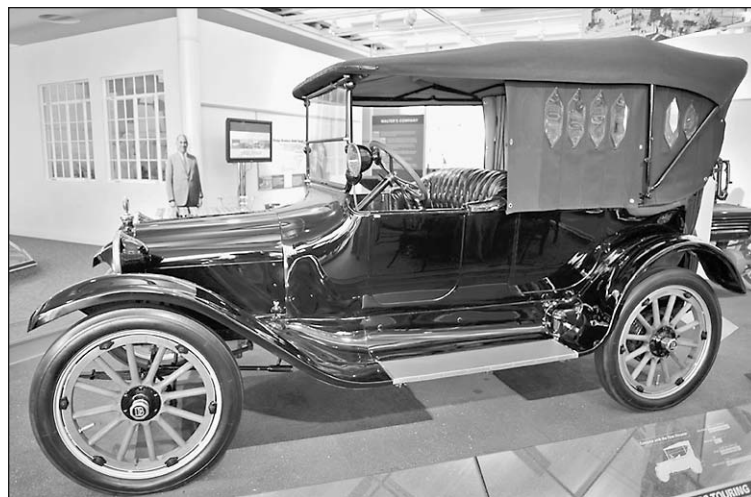
- Toyota's sales rose 3 percent as the Camry and Corolla sedans both posted double-digit gains. Sales of the new 4Runner SUV were up 42 percent.

- Honda's sales were flat. Sales of most models declined, including the Odyssey minivan and CR-V SUV, but sales of the Accord and Civic sedans were up.

- Nissan's sales were up 5 percent on strong sales of the new Rogue SUV as well as higher car sales. Sales of the Sentra were up 68 percent.

- Hyundai's sales rose 4 percent on the strength of the new Sonata sedan, which jumped 29.5 percent.

- Subaru's sales were up 5 percent on strong demand for the new Forester, up 30 percent.



1915 Dodge K

Dodge Marks 100 Years

by Jim Stickford

Dodge celebrated its 100th anniversary by going back to the beginning.

The Chrysler brand put on a display of 100 years of Dodge product at Meadowbrook Hall, the site where the first Dodge was built by Dodge brothers Horace and John.

Chrysler manager of Historical Services Brandt Rosenbusch said at the celebration on June 27 that the Dodge brothers, who made their fortune supplying bodies to Ford and parts to Oldsmobile, built the first Dodge prototype in the barn of the property, which would later be turned into Meadowbrook Hall by John's widow, Mathilda Dodge Wilson.

Dodge Brand CEO Tim Kuniskis spoke at the celebration, saying that the history of Dodge isn't the story of an automobile brand – it's really the history of two brothers.

"They died 95 years ago,"

Kuniskis said. "Yet the brand they created still reflects them and who they were. To celebrate Dodge's 100th anniversary, it's important that we tell that story."

Rosenbusch told the audience attending the Meadowbrook celebration that the Dodge brothers sent their first vehicle, the 1915 Dodge, off the production line of the famous Dodge Main facility in November of 1915. The company grew quickly as an automaker, but by 1920 Horace and John were dead, victims of the influenza outbreak of 1920.

The company was purchased by Chrysler in the 1920s and has been a vital part of Chrysler ever since.

Kuniskis said that Dodge's story isn't over yet.

"Dodge is the fastest-growing brand and we've lowered the average age of our buyers," Kuniskis said. "We've purified the brand and made Dodge the main-

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GM's June Sales Are Up 1 Percent

General Motors dealers delivered 267,461 vehicles in the United States in June. Total sales were up 1 percent compared with a year ago. Retail sales were up 1 percent and fleet sales were up 2 percent.

There were two fewer selling days in June compared with a year ago. On a selling-day adjusted basis, GM's total sales were up 9 percent. Retail deliveries were up 9 percent and fleet sales were up 10 percent.

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Chrysler Sales Rise 9 Percent

Chrysler last week reported U.S. sales of 171,086 units, a 9 percent increase compared with sales in June 2013 (156,686 units), and the group's best June sales since 2007.

The Jeep, Dodge, Ram Truck and Fiat brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in June compared with the same month a year ago, said Chrysler spokesperson Ralph Kisiel.

The Jeep brand's 28 percent increase was the largest sales

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Ford Sales Down; F-Series Gears Up

Ford Motor Company's June 2014 U.S. sales of 222,064 vehicles declined 6 percent from a year ago. Retail sales of 145,989 vehicles declined 5 percent, while fleet sales of 76,075 vehicles declined 7 percent.

"Both the Fusion and Transit Connect set records in June, continuing their sales momentum," said John Felice, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"F-Series again topped 60,000

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Nearly 700,000 Chrysler Vehicles Being Recalled For Ignition Key

Chrysler is expanding a previous safety recall to install a more robust WIN module detent ring in the ignition key.

The recall is being made "out of an abundance of caution," said Chrysler spokesman Nick Cappa.

A previous recall in 2010 included 196,000 Chrysler Town & Country, Dodge Grand Caravan and Dodge Journey vehicles built Aug. 2, 2009, through June 17, 2010.

The expansion includes an additional 695,957 vehicles manufactured Jan. 29, 2007, through Aug. 1, 2009.

Vehicles equipped with an FOB key may experience inadvertent ignition switch displacement from the "run" to "accessory" position while driving.

If the switch is not fully engaged in the "on" position of the detent ring inside the module, the spring-loaded switch may allow the key to spring past the "on" position and into the "accessory" position. This action will shut off the engine and passive restraint systems, including air bags.

Cappa said Chrysler is unaware of any injuries related to the expansion.

Chrysler dealers will, at no cost to customers, install the new WIN detent ring in affected vehicles.

Chrysler will contact affected customers and advise them when service is available.

NHTSA Looking Into Dodge Ram Driveshaft Issues

DETROIT (AP) – The U.S. government's road safety agency is investigating complaints that the rear axles can lock up on some Dodge Ram pickup trucks, causing them to spin out of control.

The probe covers about 260,000 Ram 1500 trucks made in the 2005 model year.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has 15 complaints from drivers that the rear differential locked or the driveshaft separated with little or no warning, according to NHTSA.

Seven drivers reported the wheels locked up at speeds over 50 miles per hour. Two said the trucks went into a spin.

No crashes or injuries have been reported.

In one complaint from February 2013, a driver told NHTSA he was on an interstate highway when the driveshaft disconnected and the truck began to spin.

"It was five seconds of terror that I thought would surely end in disaster," the driver wrote. When the truck stopped it was blocking an entrance ramp, and the driver had to drag it to the shoulder in speeding traffic, the complaint said. "I was lucky that I wasn't killed," he said.

Feinberg Has Final Say on Payouts to Victims of GM Crashes

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gram excludes other GM safety problems. People filing claims will have to prove that the switches caused the crashes. Once their claim is settled, they give up their right to sue the company.

Claims can be filed from Aug. 1 to Dec. 31. Once the filing is completed, Feinberg promises payment in 90 to 180 days in most cases. People who previously settled lawsuits with GM are eligible to apply for more compensation.

Feinberg said he will not consider whether those injured in crashes contributed to the cause by drinking alcohol, speeding, not wearing seat belts or other behavior. But GM could use that as a defense if the cases go to trial, he said.

"We have no interest in evaluating any alleged contributory negligence on the part of the driver," he said.

In many cases, cars have been destroyed and it will be difficult to determine if the switches caused the crash, Feinberg said.

"Unlike the 911 fund or the BP oil spill fund, many of these accidents occurred years ago, decades ago," Feinberg said. He urged those seeking compensation to use police, hospital, insurance and auto repair records to buttress their claims. If the accident vehicle is still available, that's even better, he said.

Legal experts say GM has almost no defenses left in crash lawsuits because it conceded the switches are defective and that its employees were negligent in failing to recall the cars.

A GM-funded probe by an outside attorney blamed the delays on a dysfunctional corporate culture and misconduct by some employees. The company has dismissed 15 workers in the case.

Feinberg said he also won't consider whether a crash happened before GM left bankruptcy protection in July of 2009. Under its bankruptcy deal, "New GM" – the company that emerged from

court protection – is shielded from claims stemming from crashes that happened before the bankruptcy. Those claims go to "Old GM," the remnants of the company left behind in the bankruptcy, which has few assets.

Crashes that occurred after the bankruptcy could get big judgments in court, so it may take more money for Feinberg to settle them. Lawyers are challenging the bankruptcy shield, and if that fails, pre-bankruptcy claimants may have to settle with Feinberg.

The faulty ignition switches can slip from "run" to "accessory," unexpectedly shutting off the engines. That knocks out power steering and brakes and can cause drivers to lose control. In addition, the air bags won't inflate due to lack of power, so they won't protect people in a crash. Feinberg said if the air bags inflated, that negates a claim because that means the crash wasn't caused by the switch.

If air bag inflation is in doubt, the claims still will be considered, Feinberg said.

Drivers, passengers, pedestrians and occupants of cars hit by GM vehicles are eligible for payment, Feinberg said.

Laura Christian, the mother of an accident victim who attended the news conference, said she had evidence that 165 people have died in accidents caused by the ignition switch problem.

She also said there is evidence that in some cases the driver succeeded restarting the vehicle moments before the crash, leading to air bag deployment. She asked if Feinberg would consider such cases.

"I will be glad to consider anything you have," Feinberg said.

Feinberg will follow the same methodology he used when he handled a \$7 billion government fund for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He has detailed formulas setting payments based on a victim's age, earnings potential and severity of injuries.

Those injured can either follow the formula and get a quick pay-

ment, or try to justify a bigger payment through "an individual negotiation tied to the extraordinary circumstances of the claim," Feinberg said. Claimants still not satisfied after that can sue GM.

Under Feinberg's formula, for example, relatives of a deceased 25-year-old earning \$75,000 per year who is married with two children would get \$5.1 million. But the relatives could build a case to get more, he said. Severely injured people could get more money than some death cases, Feinberg said. For example, a 40-year-old earning \$70,000 per year who is married with no children and became a paraplegic in a crash would get \$6.6 million under the formula.

Feinberg will limit how much he'll pay people with less-serious injuries, based on how long they stayed in the hospital, similar to the way he compensated victims of the Boston Marathon bombings.

But there is no cap on potential payments to relatives of those killed and people with catastrophic injuries that caused brain damage, amputation, serious burns or paralysis. In addition, Feinberg said it won't matter whether drivers contributed to their crashes by drinking alcohol, texting or failing to wear seat belts.

"GM has agreed that it cannot challenge my ultimate determination," Feinberg said. "They have no right to appeal."

Those who want to punish GM should go to court rather than filing a claim, Feinberg said. He also said he will consider only injury claims, not those for property damage or a car's loss.

With the Sept. 11 fund, the average award to families of those killed was \$2.1 million through 2,880 claims. The fund also paid an average of about \$400,000 each for the 2,680 accepted claims of injuries stemming from the attacks.

Jury Blames Faulty Seat Belt For Paralysis After Rollover

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – A jury ordered Honda Motor Co. to pay \$55.3 million for a rollover accident that left a Pennsylvania man paralyzed, but the car company said June 27 it would appeal.

Lawyers for Carlos Martinez, 57, of York, argued during a nine-day trial that a faulty seat belt design in his Acura Integra caused the permanent injuries he suffered in 2010.

Martinez was driving to work in suburban Baltimore when a tire blew out and he lost control of the car, said his attorney, Stewart Eisenberg. The seat belt failed to prevent Martinez's head from hitting the roof of the car as it rolled over, the lawyer said.

Acura is a division of Honda. A spokesman for the company denied any problems with the "proven restraint system used by virtually every manufacturer."

"The evidence here clearly established that there is no vehicle-based defect that caused Mr. Martinez's injuries," Honda spokesman Chris Martin said.

Eisenberg contended Honda knew such an injury was possible based on seat belt testing it conducted in 1992.

Damages awarded by the Philadelphia jury on June 26 include money for pain and suffering, future medical expenses, loss of consortium and loss of earnings. Martinez, a married father of four, worked in construction as a glazier but is now paralyzed from the chest down.

"All of a sudden, their life is destroyed by this accident," said Eisenberg.

Martinez's nephew, a passenger in the car, was wearing his seatbelt but was not injured, Eisenberg said.

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2015 Sierra Denali Offers 'Refined Ride'

Magnetic ride control is an all-new, exclusive feature on the 2015 GMC Sierra Denali.

It's the first time the advanced, electronically controlled damping system has been offered on a full-size truck, said GM spokesman Brian Goebel.

Magnetic ride control provides more precise body motion control that correlates with a more refined ride while maintaining payload and trailering capability, Goebel said.

The feature is standard on all Sierra Denali half-ton models, whether equipped with the standard 5.3L V8 (355 hp) or the available 6.2L V8 (420 hp) – the segment's most powerful engine.

"With magnetic ride control, the 2015 Sierra Denali delivers a smoother, more confident driving experience without sacrificing the capabilities customers expect from a GMC truck," said Jeff Luke, executive chief engineer.

"The responsiveness of the system makes this full-size truck feel and drive like a luxury vehicle – and one that's more comfortable on long trips, especially when trailering."

The 2015 Sierra Denali's maximum payload is 1,940 pounds (4WD with 5.3L and 5'8" box) and the max trailering capacity is 9,400 pounds (2WD with 5.3L or 6.2L and 5'8" box).

The third-generation magnetic ride control's sensors "read" the road every millisecond, triggering damping changes in as little as five milliseconds in electronically controlled shock absorbers that replace conventional mechanical-valve shocks, Luke said.

They're filled with a magnetorheological fluid containing minute iron particles, and under the presence of a magnetic charge, the iron particles align to provide damping resistance. Changes in the magnetic charge alter the damping rate of the shocks almost instantly.

Magnetic ride control complements chassis and suspension enhancements introduced across the Sierra 1500 range for 2014:

- A stronger, fully boxed frame with the main rails and major cross members formed from high-strength steel, providing a rigid base for maximum hauling capability, great noise and vibration isolation and excellent crashworthiness, according to the promotional materials.

The stiff chassis, says the company in its information package, enables more precise tuning of the front and rear suspensions, for a more responsive feel with smoother performance and less vibration and shake, particularly on harsh terrain.

- A wider rear track and half-inch wider wheels improve that stability and ride smoothness. The geometry also contributes to flatter, more confident-feeling cornering, particularly when hauling heavy cargo or towing.

- An electric variable-assist power steering system enhances handling and reduces steering effort at low speeds. The variable assistance enhances overall handling with reduced steering effort in parking lots and a higher rate on the highway that provides a more solid, direct and on-center feel.

The Sierra Denali is backed by GMC Pro Grade Protection, with two years of scheduled maintenance, a three-year/36,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty and a five-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, Goebel said.

"As GMC's ultimate expression of its professional grade philosophy and the best of its capabilities, the Denali nameplate has become synonymous with performance, refinement and technology," Goebel said.

"It represents more than 20 percent of all GMC retail sales and is offered on Terrain, Acadia, Yukon and Sierra models."

"Denali has earned a reputation for uncompromising refinement with capability after more than 15 years of premium vehicles that take truck and SUV ownership experiences to higher levels," said Duncan Aldred, vice president of GMC Sales and Marketing.

"It's a symbol that embodies the finest of GMC's engineering, technology and attention to detail."

More than 675,000 Denali models have been sold since the introduction of the 1999 Yukon Denali.

In fact, Denali models alone outsell the entire product lines of some premium auto brands such



2015 Sierra Denali with magnetic ride control

as Land Rover, Jaguar and Porsche.

The light-duty Sierra Denali is made in GM's facility in Silao, Mexico. The heavy-duty version is made in Flint.

"The Denali really represents the best thinking at GMC," Goebel said. "We're excited to bring magnetic ride control to the vehicle. We already have it on the Yukon Denali."

Chevy in Top 100 Best Global Green Brands

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miles between fill-ups, owners save \$1,450 in annual fuel costs, and that's with no change in daily driving habits, said Basel.

- The Chevrolet Cruze, the brand's best-selling passenger car around the world, features an Eco model that achieves an EPA-estimated 42 mpg highway.

The Chevy Cruze's diesel mod-

el achieves the best highway fuel economy of any non-hybrid vehicle – with an EPA-estimated 46 mpg highway – and segment-leading 151 horsepower, Basel said.

Chevrolet's most aggressive product transformation in its history resulted in record global sales in 2013, as the brand sold nearly 5 million units, Basel said.

Beyond reducing the environ-

mental impact of its manufacturing facilities through increased renewable energy or landfill-free initiatives, the brand is impacting communities across the U.S. with its voluntary carbon-reduction initiative.

"Chevrolet has supported many projects such as enabling colleges to reinvest in clean-energy technologies to helping truckers avoid idling their engines at rest stops," Batey said.

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Dodges Threw Curve to Other 1915 OEMs

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stream performance brand for Chrysler.”

Ultimately, Kuniskis said, the story of Dodge’s anniversary isn’t about being 100 years old, it’s about the cars that Dodge has produced during that century.

One of the benefits of celebrating the history of an auto brand is that it’s a living history. The cars that made Dodge are still around. So guests invited to the Meadowbrook got to enjoy that living history by driving and getting rides in a variety of Dodge cars going back to the original 1915 Dodge.

Joe Dehner, head of Dodge and Ram Design, was at the celebration. He said the thing that really made the 1915 Dodge stand out was the curved design of the dash.

Before the 1915 model, cars were made using right angles. But the 1915 had a design that used a curve to connect the hood to the windshield.

Dehner said his favorite car is the 1971 Challenger.

“I’d say that even if I didn’t work for Dodge,” Dehner said. “That particular model was the beginning of the fuselage body, which was really popular at the beginning of the 1970s.”

If one looks at car designs during the 1950s and 1960s, Dehner said, that person would see something that kind of resembled “a greenhouse plopped on body.”

That greenhouse, Dehner said, was basically above the belt line of the cars of the 1960s and 1950s.

The father of a high school buddy owned the ’71 Challenger, Dehner said. And he’s loved that car ever since. Unfortunately for him, it wasn’t one of the classic Dodges that were at the Meadowbrook celebration.

What made the original 1915 Dodge work, Dehner said, was that it was simple and reliable, while at the same time adding a little style to automobiles.

Todd Fisher, who works at the Chrysler museum, said the 1915 Dodge was also produced in mass numbers. During its first year, they made 45,000, which he said was excellent for the time.

“It’s interesting to see these old cars in action,” Fisher said. “The 1915 was made before there were ignition keys. To start the car, you pressed an electric starter button that was on the floor next to the gas pedal and the brake pedals.”

For Erica Tackett, an intern at Dodge, the chance to attend the Meadowbrook celebration was a dream come true. Her mother owned a 1970 Challenger, and ever since then Tackett has been a Dodge fan.

Rosenbusch said getting all the cars together for the Meadowbrook event took about four months. They had to find a good representation of Dodge’s vehicles spread out over a century.

“And we had to make sure that all the nuts and bolts were tightened,” Rosenbusch said. “All these vehicles are good vehicles, but we had to make sure that they are all safe and everything worked.”

As to his favorite car, Rosenbusch said he loves the 1970s Superbee.

“It was basically the SRT of its time,” Rosenbusch said. “Back in the day, if you bought a Superbee, you were basically buying a factory-made race car.”

Rosenbusch said they brought 26 different Dodges for guests to ride in and drive. Only museum staffers could drive vehicles like the 1915 Dodge or the 1919 four-door sedan.

The vehicles, he said, repre-

sented a cross-section of the brand’s history. While some of the vehicles were classics, and others muscle cars from the golden age of muscle, others were vehicles that were just good vehicles.

The folks at Dodge also brought out some of the brand’s concept cars to show off how great ideas are developed and make it from the drawing board to production.

Rosenbusch said some cars like the 1989 Viper made it to the streets. Others like the Copperhead concept didn’t, but ideas used in the Copperhead later made it to vehicles that did make it to production.

“You only get to celebrate 100 years of being a brand once,” said Dodge spokesperson Rick Deneau. “I am so glad to be here. There are a lot of car brands out there, like Pontiac and Plymouth, that didn’t make it to 100 years, so I know just how special it is for Dodge to be able to celebrate its centennial.”

Ford Sales Down; F-Series Gears Up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sales and is tracking to our inventory plan with the lowest incentives among the major players in the segment.”

Ford sales analyst Erich Merkle says the sales number decline came as no surprise to the company.

“It didn’t come as a surprise, simply because when you start taking a look at what we’re having to do with F-Series, we’re having to manage our inventory today, so we have to maximize our production output and grow our inventory volume, so we’re pulling back on some of our F-Series spending, which creates a

lower number,” Merkle said.

“F-Series was down about 11 percent, but that is by design so that we can allow our inventories to actually increase between now and the fall as we go into the changeover and we take down our plants for the changeover to the all-new F-150.”

Fusion sales totaled 27,064 vehicles last month – a best-ever June performance. Fusion retail sales are up 22 percent and 14 percent overall. Fusion continues to outperform in the West, with retail sales up 24 percent in that region.

“Fusion continues to really perform in the West,” Merkle said. “In the Western region of the country Fusion was up 24 percent. And we are having record retail sales results for the first half of this year coming out of the Western region of the country.”

Transit Connect posted a best-ever sales month, following record sales in May. Transit Connect sales totaled 4,573 vehicles – a 29 percent gain over 2013. Retail sales increased 55 percent, with strong sales coming from Transit Connect Wagon.

Deliveries of Ford’s new Transit van began at the end of June, with total sales of 490 vehicles.

Merkle said as Ford goes forward in 2014, the company will continue to manage F-Series inventories.

“We have to make sure that we have higher levels of inventory as we go into the changeover,” Merkle said. “So F-Series, along with a pull-back in our daily rental volumes, is going to place a little bit of weight on our sales as we go through the remainder of this year.”

Lincoln sales were down 3 percent, with 7,271 vehicles sold in June, as the new MKC begins to arrive in showrooms. Lincoln sales are up 16 percent year-to-date through June, a trend that is expected to accelerate as the MKC launch ramps up during the next few months.

“Right now we’re getting the new MKC out there into dealer lots. They’re still in very short supply, but when we get them out there, it takes on average about 10 days to move an MKC off dealer lots,” Merkle said. “As the MKC arrive on lots, they’re being picked up very quickly.”

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BorgWarner Offers \$150K To Support SAE Foundation

BorgWarner has pledged \$150,000 in continued support of the SAE Foundation and STEM Education through 2016, said SAE spokesperson Shawn Adreassi.

The support and monies provided by BorgWarner Inc. will expand A World In Motion's student reach in Seneca, S.C., and will be used to help promote the continued awareness, funding and distribution of SAE International's education programs.

Such unrestricted funding allows the SAE Foundation to take advantage of emerging opportunities, ideas and innovations related to its mission, said Adreassi.

"We are very pleased that BorgWarner will continue their support of the SAE Foundation and SAE's STEM education programs," Lori Gatmaitan, director, SAE Foundation said.

"SAE is a recognized leader for innovative programs supporting the advancement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and that can only be done through the support of our generous partners."

"BorgWarner serves as an excellent example of that, and we very much appreciate their support."

As a leader in powertrain innovation, said Scott D. Gallett, BorgWarner's marketing vice president, BorgWarner recognizes the importance of investing in technical education for the next generation of engineers who will transform the auto industry.

He added that BorgWarner believes that encouraging achievement in science and mathematics, as well as providing opportunities to apply these skills through engineering, is critical for creating the environmentally friendly, efficient, powerful and sustainable vehicles of the future.

"BorgWarner is proud to be a long-term supporter of the SAE Foundation," said Gallett. "Continuing to provide financial and in-kind support is an easy decision considering the STEM education issues facing our industry and the entire country."

"There are many different organizations working on STEM education solutions, but the SAE Foundation's programs have proven to be effective and provide tangible results."

Japanese Exec Agrees to Fine, Jail for Conspiracy to Fix Prices on Car Parts

An executive of Japan-based Denso Corp. has agreed to plead guilty and to serve one year and one day in a U.S. prison in connection with the Antitrust Division's investigation into a conspiracy to fix the prices of instrument panel clusters, also known as meters, installed in cars sold in the United States and elsewhere, the Department of Justice announced.

A one-count felony charge was filed on June 27, 2014, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit against Satoru Horisaki, a group leader in Denso's Utsunomiya Branch Office.

According to the charge, Horisaki, a Japanese national, participated in the conspiracy from in or about 2009 to in or about February 2010, by agreeing upon bids and prices for, and allocating the supply of, automotive instrument panel clusters sold to Honda of America Manufacturing Co. Inc., in the United States and elsewhere.

In addition to the prison sentence, Horisaki has agreed to pay a \$20,000 criminal fine and to cooperate with the department's ongoing investigation. The plea agreement will be subject to court approval.

"This charge is the latest effort by the Antitrust Division to hold executives accountable for engaging in anti-competitive conspiracies that do real harm to the U.S. economy," said Brent Snyder, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division's criminal enforcement program.

"The conspirators undermined a competitive bidding process by meeting to discuss and agree on price quotations."

Instrument panel clusters are the mounted array of instruments and gauges housed in front of the driver of an automobile.

In March 2012, Denso pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a \$78 million criminal fine for its role in conspiracies to fix the prices of heater control panels and electronic control units used by automobile manufacturers.

Horisaki is the sixth Denso executive to be convicted in the Antitrust Division's investigation into the automotive parts industry.

To date, 36 individuals, including Horisaki, have been charged in the department's ongoing investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the auto parts industry.

Additionally, 27 companies have pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty and as a result of these pleas, have agreed to pay a total of more than \$2.3 billion in fines to the federal government.

Horisaki is charged with price fixing in violation of the Sherman Act, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million criminal fine for individuals.

According to federal law, the maximum fine for an individual may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine.



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GM Sales Up 1 Percent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(vs. 2013, except as noted):

- Buick had its best June since 2006. Deliveries were up 18 percent, driven by an 82 percent increase in Encore deliveries, a 33 percent increase for LaCrosse, a 26 percent increase for Regal and a 5 percent increase for Enclave.
- GMC also had its best June since 2006. Deliveries were up 11 percent driven by strong demand for the redesigned Yukon, up 120 percent, as well as the Yukon XL, up 70 percent; the Terrain, up 8 percent; and the Savana, up 129 percent.
- Deliveries of the Chevrolet Spark and Sonic were up 19 and 36 percent, respectively.
- Deliveries of the Chevrolet Tahoe were up 93 percent and Suburban sales were up 73 percent. Traverse was up 3 percent and Silverado was up 1 percent.
- Cadillac sales were up, with Escalade up 57 percent and SRX up 19 percent. It was Cadillac's best June since 2008, and 57 percent of customers did not trade in a Cadillac.

GM spokesman Jim Cain said GM's average transaction prices (ATPs) were in line with April and May, with higher pickup, SUV and Cadillac ATPs offsetting declines among cars and crossovers, according to mid-month J.D. Power PIN estimates.

For the second quarter, ATPs were up about \$800 per unit versus the first quarter. Calendar year-to-date, ATPs are up about \$2,700 compared with a year ago.

Incentive spending as a percentage of ATP was 10.9 percent, up 0.2 points from a year ago, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates. The industry average for June was 9.7 percent, also up 0.2 points from a year ago.

Here are June sales highlights

Chrysler Sales Up 9 Percent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gain of any Chrysler brand during June and its best ever sales in the month of June. Chrysler extended its streak of year-over-year sales gains to 51 consecutive months in June.

The Jeep Compass, Patriot, and Wrangler each recorded their best ever sales in the month of June, led by the 5 percent increase in Compass sales. This trio of Jeep brand SUVs has posted a sales record in every month this year, Kiesel said.

"In spite of two fewer selling days in June versus a year ago, we were able to increase our sales 9 percent and post our strongest June sales in seven years," said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. Sales.

"Month-over-month sales of our all-new Chrysler 200 increased from a few hundred units in May to more than 5,000 in June as inventory of the mid-size sedan continues to build. In addition, sales of the Jeep brand increased 28 percent and our Ram Truck brand 14 percent, helping to lead Chrysler Group to its 51st consecutive month of year-over-year sales growth."

The 2015 Chrysler 200 mid-size sedan is off to a strong start as inventory continues to build at Chrysler dealerships, Bigland said. It is taking dealers on average only 12 days to turn the new 200. Sales of the new 200 topped 5,000 units in June, up from 595 in its first sale month in May.

Six Chrysler vehicles, including three Jeep brand models - Jeep Patriot, Compass, and Wrangler - set sales records for the month of June, each posting its best sales ever in the month of June.

In addition, the Fiat 500L, Dodge Journey crossover and Dodge Dart compact car each logged its best June sales ever. Ram pickup truck sales were up 12 percent, the pickup's best June sales in 10 years.

Sales of the Dart were up 12 percent, the small car's best-ever sales in the month of June.

Sales of the Journey were up 24 percent, its best sales in the month of June and the largest percentage sales gain of any Dodge brand vehicle during the month.

The Dodge Durango full-size SUV recorded its best June sales since 2011. Durango sales were up 9 percent in June, extending its run of year-over-year sales gains to 20 consecutive months. The Dodge Grand Caravan had its best June sales since 2008.

Chrysler Town & Country sales were up 24 percent in June compared with the same month a year ago. It was the minivan's best June sales since 2006, its 11th consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains, and its best sales month so far this year.

Chrysler finished the month of June with a 72 days supply of inventory (509,714 units). U.S. industry sales figures for June are internally projected at an estimated 17 million units Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR).

Automakers Seek Bridge Financing

DETROIT (AP) - A number of automakers and union leaders are asking President Barack Obama to help move along plans for a new bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.

The Economic Alliance for Michigan says representatives of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, along with the UAW and the Michigan AFL-CIO sent a joint letter June 27 to the White House asking for funding for a roughly \$250 million U.S. Customs inspection plaza.

Gov. Rick Snyder and Canada are trying to build the bridge over the Detroit River that would compete with the Ambassador Bridge. Property on both sides of the border must be secured.

Buick Sets Up Challenge for Fitness Runners

Even car owners like to run, and Buick has done something for that demographic.

Last year, users of MapMyFitness apps ran more than 500 million miles in the United States. In a recent survey, 71 percent of those users said they drove to a specific location to start their workouts, which means Americans are constantly looking for new, challenging and more scenic routes.

Now, Buick is partnering with MapMyFitness, an Under Armour company, for the nationwide "Runs Worth the Drive Challenge" to help runners find, record and share their favorite routes, while also learning how vehicles like the Buick Verano fit into an active lifestyle, said GM spokesperson Katie Bjoerk.

Buick is the first automaker to partner with MapMyFitness to create a challenge.

"We know personal lifestyle activities play an important role in the decision process when consumers are shopping for a new vehicle," said Sandra Moore, Buick marketing director.

"This challenge provides a fun opportunity for us to help MapMyFitness members share their passion with the community and at the same time see how the Verano is ideally suited for them."

Robin Thurston, president at MapMyFitness, said, "Based on a recent survey within our MapMyFitness community, 87 percent of members choose and purchase vehicles to fit their active lifestyles.

"The interests of our users and



Runners use Buick's MapMyFitness apps in "Runs Worth the Drive."

the Buick Verano attributes make the 'Runs Worth the Drive Challenge' an ideal avenue to reach and motivate fitness audiences for both companies."

The Buick Verano Turbo is ideal for runners living in urban areas, Moore said, adding that it's compact, making it easy to park in smaller spaces, and the interior has been tested for resistance against the effects of sweat, sun, sunscreen and bug sprays.

The sedan is equipped with a 250-horsepower, 2.0-liter turbocharged engine, making it more powerful and faster than many of its competitors, including the Lexus IS250, Acura ILX and Audi A3, said Moore.

"The Verano ensures a comfortable, yet quick drive to and from the trail," she said.

Beginning June 26, "Runs Worth the Drive Challenge" par-

ticipants must log five miles of running per week, for six weeks, Bjoerk said.

The competition will be tracked on a virtual leaderboard on MapMyFitness.com, where progress will be measured in real-time and weekly prizes will be awarded.

Runs of at least five minutes will be logged automatically into a participant's profile and count toward the ultimate goal of running 30 miles in six weeks.

Participants who accomplish that goal will be entered into the grand prize drawing for an all-expense-paid trip to the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon & Half-Marathon in Phoenix, Ariz., Bjoerk said.

To learn more about and join the Buick "Runs Worth the Drive Challenge," visit <http://www.mapmyfitness.com/challenges/buick>.

Vets Can Check Self-Employment Potential

DETROIT – The U.S. Small Business Administration's Michigan District Office is pleased to announce that "Boots to Business – Reboot" will be offered Aug. 13-14 at the VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, in Livonia.

The two-day event is being offered at no charge to transitioning troops, all veterans and their spouses, said Small Business Administration (SBA) spokesperson Cathy Gase.

"Boots to Business: Reboot" is an entrepreneurial education program being offered to veterans by the SBA in partnership with the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

The program will help veterans explore self-employment opportunities by leading them through the key steps for evaluating business concepts and developing a business plan.

SBA resources and how veterans may gain access to capital will also be among the topics that will be discussed at the event.

Detroit is among 12 U.S. cities

that has been chosen to serve as a host community for the program this summer.

"This is a great opportunity for veterans and their spouses to fully explore their entrepreneurial potential," said SBA Michigan District Director Gerald Moore.

"All of SBA's resource partners support the program and stand ready to assist participants in starting a business, including VetBizCentral – an SBA Veteran Business Outreach Center, the Michigan Small Business Development Center, SCORE, and Women's Business Centers."

Participants can elect to fur-

ther their study through an instructor-guided eight-week on-line course led by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

The Small Business Administration offers the existing Boots to Business program as an elective track within the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program for separating military personnel, Gase said.

In order to qualify, participants must have left the military under honorable conditions.

For more information on this event and to register, visit www.boots2businessreboot.org.

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4 Chevys Earn Vehicle Satisfaction Awards

Lincoln and GMC were named winners of the AutoPacific 2014 Vehicle Satisfaction Awards.

Additionally, four Chevrolet vehicles earned top honors in the program, which measures customer satisfaction in 50 categories.

The four awards are the most won by any single manufacturer this year, said AutoPacific President George Peterson.

Award-winning Chevrolets and their segments are:

- Impala – Large Car;
- Sonic – Economy car;
- Corvette – Sports car;
- Camaro – Sporty car.

The wins move Chevrolet up five spaces in relative ranking among other manufacturers compared with last year, said GM spokesperson Randy Fox.

"Today's Chevrolet car lineup is the best in the brand's history with the design, performance, technology and safety that consumers want and expect," said Brian Sweeney, Chevrolet's U.S. vice president.

"Everything we do at Chevrolet is focused on offering the best possible experience for the consumer. These four AutoPacific Vehicle Satisfaction Awards prove we are delivering on that promise."

Chevy wasn't the only GM brand to do well in AutoPacific's rankings. The 2014 GMC Sierra finished tops in the Light Duty Truck category, and the GMC Acadia won the Large Crossover SUV category.

The Cadillac SRX was number one in the Luxury Crossover SUV segment.

Chrysler and Ford weren't left off AutoPacific's list. In fact, said Peterson, Lincoln moved from sixth position to first position, Ford moved from 25th to 19th.

The Lincoln MKS finished first in the Executive Luxury Car category, and the Lincoln MKZ was tops in the Luxury Mid-Size Car segment. The Hybrid Car/EV category was won by the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid.

Ford's strength in the truck segment was shown with the F-150 winning the Heavy Duty Truck segment. Chrysler's Jeep Grand Cherokee finished first in the Luxury/Large SUV category.

Peterson said that Chevrolet moved from 21st to 16th. Overall, Lincoln achieved the highest ratings, brand-wise, in the premium brand category, GMC

in the popular brand segment. "Brands with the largest drop in position were Volkswagen moving from 16th to 28th position and Jaguar dropping from 7th to 17th," Peterson said.

with their new car or light truck. It reflects the opinions of more than 92,000 vehicle owners nationwide.

AutoPacific measures owner satisfaction related to a vehicle's operation, comfort, safety and overall purchase/lease experience.

AutoPacific is an automotive market research and consulting firm that annually publishes a variety of studies on the industry.

"With the launch of each new car and truck, carmakers try to improve the product and increase the satisfaction of their buyers," said Peterson.

"By surveying a substantial number of owners who have purchased a new 2014 model year vehicle, AutoPacific's VSA provides an objective measurement of how well the makers are doing.

"Today's lineup is the best in the brand's history..."

**– Brian Sweeney
Chevrolet's U.S. VP**

The Vehicle Satisfaction Awards – in their eighth year – are based on AutoPacific's measurement of customer satisfaction

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Educators Offered GM Discounts

A GM program that began July 1 and runs through Jan. 2, 2015, makes current employees of a public or private school, university or college eligible to participate in the GM Educator Discount program.

It will allow these educational professionals to receive a significant discount on the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2014 Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle, said GM spokesperson Lisa Gill.

"GM values the work our educators and support staff are doing across the county to create a strong, responsible workforce for the future," said Linda Stouffer, manager, Vehicle Purchase Programs.

"The GM Educator Discount is our way of showing our support and appreciation for everyone in the education community."

All 2015 and 2014 Chevrolet, Buick and GMC models are eligible except the 2014 Chevrolet Camaro Z/28 and Spark EV.

GM is currently supporting the National Education Association's 2014 NEA Expo that took place last week at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

For more information about the GM Educator Discount, visit www.gmeducatordiscount.com.

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