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# Tech Center News - Online

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**JUNE 15, 2020** 

## 2021 Pacifica Helps Drivers Get Through All Conditions

the Chrysler Pacifica minivan, said Tim Kuniskis.

The newly redesigned 2021 Chrysler Pacifica will deliver allwheel-drive (AWD) capability, combined with a fresh new look and feel and the most standard safety features of any vehicle in the industry, when it hits dealerships later this year, but AWD is arriving early for those who just can't wait, said Kuniskis, global head of Alfa Romeo and head of Passenger Cars - Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA - North America.

Dealers can now order the 2020 Chrysler Pacifica AWD Launch Edition, making the allweather-capable, seamless and fully automatic AWD system available for the current modelyear Pacifica.

"Reaction was overwhelming-

There's good news for fans of ly positive when we announced that the new 2021 Chrysler Pacifica will offer AWD capability," said Kuniskis. "We know there is demand for AWD capability along with Stow 'n Go seating, and the 2020 Chrysler Pacifica AWD Launch Edition allows us to get our customers the allweather capability they want even sooner.

"The Pacifica offers families solutions and with the 2020 Pacifica AWD Launch Edition, we're delivering the most advanced system in its class, and one that engages without any driver input, to help owners get where they want to go in any type of weather."

The 2020 Chrysler Pacifica AWD Launch Edition, exclusively available on the Touring L

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The 2021 Chrysler Pacifica has smart system that gives drivers for the first time a minivan with AWD.

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### **GM Supports NAACP Fund**

General Motors has designated \$10 million to support organizations that promote inclusion and racial justice.

An initial \$1 million will go to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDEF), said GM spokesman Pat Morrissey.

Recipients of additional funding will be determined with input from GM's Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and the recently announced GM Inclusion Adviso-Board (IAB).

GM's IAB will consist of leaders from inside and outside the company, with the goal of making GM the most inclusive company in the world. GM Chairman and CEO Mary Barra will chair the IAB, Morrissey said.

As part of the \$10 million, the GM program includes the opportunity for employees to give to organizations and a corporate matching of those employee contributions. Program details will be distributed to employees when finalized.

Through today's donations, GM is taking action in helping root out intolerance - and that means racism, bigotry, discrimination and any other form of hatred," said Barra. "We want to be part of meaningful, deliberate change and we will not allow ourselves the passivity of urging others to act. We are taking action.'

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## 2020 Plug-in Hybrid Escape EV Provides Plenty of Range

Ford's efforts to provide the public with electric vehicles are producing results.

The new Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid now has a best-in-class EPA-estimated economy rating of 100 MPGe combined and an EPAestimated 37 miles of all-electric driving range, said Has Thai-Tang, Ford chief product development and purchasing officer.

MPGe, or miles per gallon of gasoline equivalent, is an Environmental Protection Agency metric to compare the amount of energy consumed by alternative fuel vehicles - including those partially powered by electricity, like the Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid - to what traditional gaspowered vehicles consume.

"The original Ford Escape was the world's first hybrid SUV and the all-new Ford Escape Plug-in Hybrid represents how far we've come in technology and efficiency," said Thai-Tang. "The all-new Escape plug-in has more power and more passenger space than the Fusion Energi plug-in, as well as up to four times the cargo volume behind its second-row

Hybrids can serve as a hedge against rising gas prices. The Escape Plug-In Hybrid is available as gas prices are expected to rise, according to AAA, following the easing of stay-at-home mandates across the country. As consumers begin returning to work and taking weekend trips, demand for gasoline is expected to spike from the decades-low prices of the past two months.



 $\textit{The 2020 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid takes care of range anxiery by offering 37 miles of pure \textit{EV driving}}.$ 

Whether gas is \$1.87 a gallon like today or \$2.87 a gallon like this time last year, Escape Plug-In Hybrid is suited for both, with an EPA-estimated all-electric range of 37 miles and an EPA-estimated rating of 41 miles per gallon combined when running strictly on gasoline.

"The economic and environmental impacts of this virus have created a roller coaster for consumers looking to balance

value, need and efficiency going forward," Thai-Tang said. "Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid is that ideal balance our customers want."

In addition to potential savings at the pump, Escape Plug-In Hybrid starts under \$35,000

The Escape Plug-In Hybrid is part of Ford's investment of more than \$11.5 billion in electrified vehicles. This Escape features Ford's innovative fourth-

generation hybrid propulsion system, which includes an allnew 2.5-liter Atkinson cycle hybrid engine and electronic continuously variable transmission. The plug-in hybrid system is available on every Escape trim level except S and SE Sport.

The Escape Plug-In Hybrid has plenty of room for passengers and cargo, said Thai-Tang,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# AWD Pacifica is Coming to Dealership Near You

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

model, is equipped with the same AWD system that will be offered on the redesigned 2021 Chrysler Pacifica, Kuniskis said. Pacifica is the only vehicle in the segment, he said, capable of transferring all available engine torque to the rear wheels, or whichever wheels have more available traction.

The Pacifica AWD system is also able to sense and stop the drive shaft from spinning when AWD is not required, a class-exclusive feature in the segment that improves efficiency, said Kuniskis.

The AWD Launch Edition also will include 235/60-R18 Michelin Premier self-sealing tires.

The 2020 Chrysler Pacifica AWD Launch Edition is available now for ordering at Chrysler dealerships in the United States and Canada, said Kuniskis.

The U.S. manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$40,240, excluding destination fees, includes the AWD Launch Edition package MSRP of \$3,095. The 2020 Chrysler Pacifica AWD Launch Edition is scheduled to arrive in dealerships in the third quarter of 2020.

The Chrysler brand continues to work to make things financially easier for all families with available Chrysler Pacifica Family Pricing, Kuniskis said.

Consumers also now have the option to shop and purchase new vehicles from the comfort of their own homes through the Online Retailing Experience (ORE). ORE has been implemented by more than 90 percent of the FCA U.S. dealer network, using web-based tools to sell cars and trucks via the internet.

Chrysler Pacifica is the most awarded minivan over the last four years with more than 135 honors and industry accolades, said Kuniskis.

The Chrysler brand heard the call from its customers for AWD and answered with a new system that helps Pacifica owners haul people and things through all types of weather – be it rain or snow," he said.

seating, he said, the available the addition of a rear sway bar system delivers enhanced traction in a wide range of driving and road conditions - from dry pavement to snow-covered roads to non-paved surfaces and engages seamlessly at any speed without the need of driver activation.

"Chrysler Pacifica is the most awarded minivan over the last four years with more than 135 honors and industry accolades"

> - Tim Kuniskis Head of FCA Passenger Cars

The Chrysler Pacifica's AWD system - the first available in a Chrysler minivan since 2004 uses mechanical and electronic technology proven durable and capable on FCA vehicles, said Kuniskis. In addition, he said, the system was put through its paces, with more than 1 million customer-driven-equivalent miles of testing prior to introduction.

Key mechanical components of the Chrysler Pacifica AWD system include a Power Transfer Unit (PTU), which splits torque from the nine-speed automatic transmission and routes it to the rear-drive module.

Also, he said, the three-piece Drive Shaft connects the PTU and the rear-drive module. Even with the additional driveline components, the Chrysler Pacifica AWD retains its second-row Stow 'n Go seating storage.

The rear-drive module houses an electronically controlled wet clutch that manages torque to rear wheels and a second-generation one-speed drive module optimized for weight and lowspeed drag torque reduction.

Other mechanical changes re-America's only minivan to of- sulting in improved driving dyfer AWD along with Stow 'n Go namics, said Kuniskis, include

and revised tuning for the front and rear suspension. Ride height is increased 0.78 inches (20 millimeters).

Pacifica's fully automatic AWD system is the only one in the segment, Kuniskis said, capable of transferring 100 percent of the available engine torque to the rear wheels, or whichever wheels have more available trac-

The Pacifica AWD system, the most capable AWD in the class, is also able to sense and stop the drive shaft from spinning when AWD is not required, a class-exclusive feature in the segment that improves efficiency, Kuniskis said.

The AWD system also employs a brake-lock differential system to help enhance traction, with fully automatic torque distribution between each wheel. If one wheel on an axle loses traction, the system applies the brake to the low-traction wheel, redirecting torque through the differential to the wheel with more trac-

The 18-inch brake package for AWD features larger vented front and solid rear rotors and calipers with more capacity.

The AWD system engages automatically, based on a variety of sensor inputs that signal when enhanced traction is beneficial. For best traction performance, AWD is engaged when the Chrysler Pacifica begins to accelerate from a standing stop. Other inputs that signal AWD engagement include cold exterior temperature, use of windshield wipers, slip detected at the front wheels, heavy acceleration at certain vehicle speeds (such as overtaking during passing), electronic stability control activation, abrupt steering or sudden throttle inputs and rough road conditions/grades.

When the Chrysler Pacifica's drivetrain detects that AWD is not needed, it disconnects the PTU and rear-drive module automatically to stop the drive shaft from spinning, reducing driveline drag and improving efficiency, said Kuniskis.

### China's Automobile Sales See Big Rise in Month of May

by ZEN SOO AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) - China's auto sales surged 14.5 percent in May, a second straight month of growth as the global industry's biggest market gradually recovers from the coronavirus pan-

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) said June 11 that sales of passenger cars jumped 7 percent from a year earlier to 1.67 million, an improvement over April's 2.6 percent contraction.

Growth in passenger vehicles was primarily driven by sales of SUVs and minivans, which jumped nearly 20 percent and 47 percent respectively from the same period the year before, according to CAAM figures.

Passenger vehicle sales tumbled 27.4 percent from a year earlier to 6.1 million in January-May, the CAAM said.

The industry has been ham-

mered by the coronavirus pandemic and worries over the slowing economy and a possible revival of trade tensions with the

Sales plunged 81.7 percent in February at the height of the coronavirus outbreak, as dealerships and other businesses were shut down to contain outbreaks of the virus that have since largely subsided.

Prolonged weakness in a once sizzling market has hamstrung global automakers looking to China to drive revenue growth. Sales fell 9.6 percent last year, their second straight annual de-

China's government started reopening factories, restaurants and stores in March after declaring victory over the COVID-19 outbreak.

But rising job losses and fears of a second wave of coronavirus infections have left consumers wary of making big purchases of things like automobiles.

The downturn is squeezing brands that are investing billions of dollars to develop electric vehicles under pressure to meet government sales targets.

May sales of battery-powered and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles fell 23.5 percent from a year ago in May to 82,000.

For the first five months of the year, sales slumped 38.7 percent

Demand for electric vehicles weakened last year after Beijing reduced subsidies that helped to make China their biggest market, accounting for half of global sales.

The government said in April it will extend subsidies through 2020 to shore up sales.

Following the announcement, Volkswagen said last month that it would spend 2 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) to expand its presence in China's electric car industry, by buying control of its electric car venture in China and investing in a battery producer.

## Range Anxiety? Don't Worry With the Escape EV Plug-In

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

thanks to the smart placement of its liquid-cooled, 14.4-kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery below the second-row seats, rather than occupying a significant portion of the cargo area.

Level 1/Level 2 AC charging port. Using a 110-volt Level 1 charger, the estimated time to fully charge the battery is 10 to 11 hours. Using a 240-volt Level 2 charger, charge time drops to roughly 3.5 hours.

modes that allow customers to select the setting most suitable for their individual needs. This means in Auto EV mode, the vehicle decides whether to run on gas or electric power.

In EV Now mode, drivers can operate on all-electric power, whereas in EV Later mode, drivers can switch to full gas-hybrid driving to conserve electric miles for later.

In the new EV Charge mode, drivers can continue to charge Escape Plug-In Hybrid has a the battery while driving and generate electric-only miles to

Escape comes standard with Ford Co-Pilot360 and offers available Ford Co-Pilot360 Assist+ features such as Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go Hybrid models feature four and Lane-Centering, Evasive Steering Assist, and a voiceactivated navigation system with SiriusXM Traffic and Travel Link. Also available is the class-exclusive Active Park As-

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### **GM Supports NAACP Fund**

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The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund is America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice, Morrissey said. Through litigation, advocacy and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Ameri-

LDEF also defends the gains and protections won over the past 75 years of civil rights struggle, and works to improve the quality and diversity of judicial and executive appointments.

Barra was also recently named to the Business Roundtable's (BRT) Special Committee for Racial Equality and Justice.

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**DETROIT AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES** 



Chevrolet's Corvette Academy, the online learning center for the first mid-engine Corvette, has added 23 new videos to show owners how to get the most out of their cars.

### **Corvette Offers New Online Video Classes**

the Chevy Corvette is one thing. Being able to drive the car so that you can enjoy its capabilities to the utmost is quite another thing.

That's how GM spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki explains why Chevrolet has added 23 videos to its Corvette Academy curriculum. The videos are designed to help owners in getting the most out of their 2020 Corvette Stingrays, she said.

Chevrolet's Corvette Academy, the online learning center for the first mid-engine Corvette, has added 23 new videos to show owners how to get the most out of their cars. The latest videos are designed to help educate consumers on various Corvette features, tips and howtos from the engineers and experts that brought the Corvette

The additional video series includes topics such as:

- Vehicle break-in schedule.
- Maintenance.
- Track preparation. • Driver modes.
- Memory settings.
- Many more how-tos for the ultimate vehicle experience.

Videos can be found on many of Chevrolet's channels, including Chevrolet.com, YouTube and the MyChevy app.

Wysocki said the total list of videos available on YouTube cover a variety of topics, including Vehicle Break-in schedules.

Having a great sports car like Viewers learn about the importance of the 200-mile, 500-mile and 1,500-mile markers when breaking in a car.

The videos also include one on driving behaviors people should avoid when breaking in a Corvette, and a series of Vehicle Maintenance Schedule videos covering maintenance requirements and recommendations as well as how fluid life may vary.

Other videos cover how to use the Corvette's five different driving modes and how to activate the Z-mode.

The Available Driver Assistance Features videos cover the car's driver assistance features and the assistance systems for driving, backing up and parking.

The Roof Panel and Convertible Operations videos cover the removing and reinstalling of the coupe roof panel and the convertible top operation.

The Available Front Lift video informs drivers how to activate the system with the push of a button, as well as how to store locations with the four-way pad.

The How to Check Fluids video provides owners with oil, coolant and wiper fluid tips and the differences between coupe and convertible layouts.

The Dual-Clutch Transmission Operation video shows drivers how to use the Manual Paddle-Shift System, as well as how to activate double-padding declutching.

The Available Performance Date Reorder videos show drivers how to use the system, as well as how to save recordings on an SD card.

The Track Prep and Track Maintenace videos provide maintenace tips and procedures, as well as available Z51 Package requirements for track and competitive driving.

The Configuring Memory Settings videos demonstrate how to recall seat, steering wheel and mirror settings, as well as explain how modern key fobs recognize drivers.

Walk-Around videos show the interior and exterior of the Corvette, where people can locate important features and provide additional ownership tips.

Other videos show drivers how to use the controls for convertible features and how to use the Corvette's hardtop operations, as well as how to use the standard removable roof panel and how to store it in the cargo

Videos that explain the digitial instrument display and what the available camera views that the driver will see also are available.

And, videos that explain how the Corvette's memory seats work, and how people can use bluetooth features and the vehicle's driver comfort systems.

Finally, demonstrating how to use the Corvette's infotainment system and driver controls can be found on video.



While the COVID-19 crisis has delayed GMC's unveiling of the electric Hummer, the brand has released photos showing its open-air design to eager fans awaiting a good look at the vehicle.

### Ex-UAW Official Agrees to a Guilty Plea in Federal Case

by ED WHITE Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) - A former president of the United Auto Workers pleaded guilty June 3 to conspiring with others to embezzle dues to pay for golf trips, expensive meals and stays at California villas - the most significant conviction vet in a scandal that has roiled the union.

Gary Jones, who appeared by video in federal court in Detroit, acknowledged that he falsified expenses from 2012 to 2017 when he was a regional UAW director in St. Louis. He was promoted to president in 2018 but quit after 17 months as the federal investigation intensified.

Ten union officials and a late official's spouse have pleaded guilty since 2017, although not all the crimes were connected. The first wave of convictions, which included some Fiat Chrysler employees, involved money from a Fiat Chrysler-UAW training center in Detroit.

Jones, 63, pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy in the use of more than \$1 million.

"I apologize to my UAW family for the betrayal of their trust and pray they'll forgive me," Jones said in court, quoting the Bible as he also apologized to his personal

Guidelines call for a sentence of 46 to 57 months in prison. But Assistant U.S. Attorney David

Gardey said the government could ask for a lighter punishment on Oct. 6 if Jones provides "substantial assistance," a signal that investigators aren't finished.

The UAW, based in Detroit, has about 400,000 members and is best known for representing workers at Fiat Chrysler, General Motors and Ford Motor.

Jones and other officials set up accounts that were supposed to be used for legitimate union conference expenses in California. Instead, according to the government, they used the money to pay for "private villas, high-end liquor and meal expenses, golfing apparel, golf clubs and green fees.

The UAW vigorously defended Jones, even criticizing the government when agents searched his Detroit-area home last August. But the support eventually faded.

Jones "and others abused their high-ranking positions and violated the trust of our members. Their actions were selfish, immoral, and against everything we stand for as a union," Rory Gamble, the current president, said June 3.

U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider said he's shifting his focus to "reforming the UAW" and wants to meet with Gamble as soon as possible. Separately, he told The Detroit News that he's talked to the U.S. Justice Department about a lawsuit that could lead to the government taking control of union operations.



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