

Business

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Honda, Volvo tops at Detroit show

■ Chevy has 3 vehicles in top 10 short list

By Jeff Karoub
Associated Press

DETROIT — After a few years of Detroit domination, two foreign automakers nabbed 2016 North American Car and Truck/Utility of the Year honors. A panel of about 55 inde-

pendent automotive journalists selected the Honda Civic and Volvo XC90 on Monday.

The winners were unveiled at the start of press previews for the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Civic bested the Chevrolet Malibu and the Mazda MX-5 Miata, and the XC90 edged out the Nissan Titan XD and Honda Pilot.

Chevy was a particularly strong contender, with

two additional cars on the pre-finalist short list of 10.

It was the first time in the 23-year history of the awards program that a brand had three representatives on the short list, and General Motors Co. CEO Mary Barra was standing close by in case the big honor came her company's way.

Instead the Civic became a two-time winner.

“What a great competitive set to be in with Mal-

ibu and Miata — all great cars,” said John Mendel, executive vice president of Honda's U.S. operations.

The Civic also garnered the award in 2006. Still, he pointed out the victory lap will be brief, as the award is “added pressure” to the development team already working on the next-generation Civic.

Volvo's award should help the automaker as it

See AUTO SHOW, 2B



ASSOCIATED PRESS

John W. Mendel, executive vice president of American Honda Motor Co. Inc., poses with the Honda Civic, winner of the North American Car of the Year award, Monday in Detroit.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

DAILY NEWS STAFF

Accreditation

The International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education Board of Commissioners said Hodges University's Johnson School of Business received reaffirmation of accreditation of its business, accounting and management programs.

Good deeds

Scanlon Auto Group will support a number of charitable events during January: On Saturday, Scanlon will be a sponsor for the 2016 Cattle Barons' Ball, benefiting the American Cancer Society; on Jan. 28, the auto dealership will be a hole-in-one sponsor for the Fourth Annual Team Fox Swing for the Cure, benefiting Team Fox For Parkinson's Research; Scanlon is also a sponsor of Lee Lessack: An American Songbook Soiree, Live & Silent Auction on Jan. 30 for the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida; On Jan. 31 the company will be a hole-in-one sponsor for the 2016 Grandezza United Way Golf event, benefiting the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee counties.

Events

Your Home Watch Professionals will offer free informational seminars: 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Jan. 19; and 10 a.m. Saturday and Jan. 23 at Your Home Watch Professionals Training Center, 5405 Taylor Road, Suite 1. There will be a seminar at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at Denny Grimes and Company Gateway office at 11900 Fairway Lakes Drive in Fort Myers. Information: www.YourHWP.com

To submit your business news directly online, go to naplesnews.com/BIZwire or email news@naplesnews.com.

PAWS & PRINTS PET PHOTOGRAPHY



LOGAN NEWELL/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS (2)

Amy and Blake Owen get their pets attention as they are photographed by Michelle Wood of Paws & Prints Pet Photography. Michelle's assistant Robin holds the leashes Saturday at Koreshan State Park in Estero.

Passions lead to new venture

■ Naples woman leaves corporate world to launch her own business

By John Osborne
Daily News Correspondent; 239-435-3435

With a focus on family pets, a new Naples photography business is all about capturing “forever moments.”

When Michelle Wood received a Nikon DSLR camera as a gift from her husband a few years ago, she said, an addict was born.

“I found that the majority of my time was spent taking shots of my five rescue pets as my somewhat-willing muses,” said Wood, a Chicago native who moved to Southwest Florida in

1997 and has spent most of her adult life working in the corporate sector, including a lengthy stint as a paralegal.

After receiving her new camera, Wood said she threw herself into learning all she could about taking high-quality photos, practicing techniques every chance she got. Finally, she said, more than just the shutter clicked.

“And then my ‘aha’ moment came,” she said. “I knew I needed to combine my love of animals and passion for photography to create a truly rewarding career for myself.”



Wood started her business after receiving a digital SLR camera as a gift from her husband and learning all she could about the technology.

Wood fulfilled that dream in October, when she formally launched her Paws & Prints Pet Photography business. With it, Wood said she believes she has carved out a niche for herself in

the local photography industry.

“To the best of my knowledge, I have the only photography business dedicated solely to photographing pets,” she said. “I have always been very passionate about animals and photography, so I decided to marry my two passions to begin Paws & Prints Pet Photography.”

As far as pricing, Wood said she offers standard and deluxe packages. The standard package costs \$275 and includes a 90-minute photo session at one location for up to two pets, a private proofing gallery, professional editing and healthy treats. The deluxe package

See PETS, 2B

Report: Kohl's directors considering taking store private

■ Cash flow makes firm attractive

By Rick Romell and Paul Gores
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — Directors of Kohl's Corp., which has been struggling to regain at least some of the growth that once made the company a retailing star, are weighing the possibility of going private, The Wall Street Journal

reported Monday.

Citing a person familiar with the situation, the paper said directors are debating whether to hire an investment bank to explore alternatives that could include sale to a private equity firm.

The discussions are preliminary and may not lead to such action, the paper reported.

But New York-based retail consultant Howard Davidowitz said the considerable cash flow Kohl's generates makes it attractive to potential buyers.

“Kohl's is a target,” he said. “They will be a target, and I think the board is trying to figure out should they be proactive or reactive.”

A Kohl's representative said the suburban Milwaukee company, which reports earnings next month, is in a quiet period and cannot comment.

The report of discussions by the board comes as Kohl's stock has plunged from a briefly held peak, and as the firm tries to lift its long-sluggish performance with an initia-

tive it calls its “Greatness Agenda.”

Launched in the fall of 2014, the effort has a goal of raising annual sales by \$2 billion, to \$21 billion in 2017. Results to date have been uneven, but CEO Kevin Mansell has maintained that the company is on the right path.

The \$2 billion increase presumes gains in comparable-store sales — a key retail indicator — of 2 percent to 3 percent per year, far above Kohl's performance of the last few years.

Kohl's roared out of the gate with a 3.7 percent same-store sales increase in last year's fourth quarter, with Mansell telling analysts that the results indicated the momentum created by the Greatness Agenda.

The company's share price, meanwhile, soared to heights it hadn't reached since early 2007.

But the stock gave up everything it gained, and more, as same-store sales increases quickly retreated, to 1.4 percent for the first quarter of the year,

and 0.1 percent for the second.

The third quarter, which ended Oct. 31, was better than expected. Still, the 1 percent increase in same-store sales fell short of the overall pace Kohl's needs to hit its self-defined target.

The company isn't scheduled to report the critical fourth-quarter results until next month, but the signs elsewhere in retailing aren't encouraging.

See KOHL'S, 2B

Detroit | North American International Auto Show

With SUV look, tech, Chrysler aims to revive minivan

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

DETROIT — Thirty-three years ago, Chrysler invented the minivan. Now it’s reinventing it — with styling reminiscent of an SUV, high-tech features and a first-ever hybrid version that Chrysler hopes will make minivans popular again.

The 2017 Chrysler Pacifica was unveiled Monday morning at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

It’s the latest incarnation of the family hauler that took the suburbs by storm. Lee Iacocca, Chrysler Corp.’s former chairman, drove the company’s first minivan off the assembly line in 1983.

Baby boomers loved its sliding doors and roomy interior, and the minivan quickly replaced station wagons as the vehicle of choice for shuttling around kids. By the early 1990s, Chrysler was selling more than 500,000 per year. U.S. minivan sales peaked at 1.37 million in 2000.

But minivans took a hit when car companies started making crossovers



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivan is unveiled at the North American International Auto Show on Monday in Detroit, Mich. Chrysler claims this hybrid model will get 80 miles per gallon.

— small SUVs that had as much space as minivans but handled more like cars and had better fuel economy. Minivans suddenly looked clunky and undesirable. General Motors and Ford stopped making them altogether. Last year Fiat Chrysler Automobiles — Chrysler’s current owner — sold less than 200,000 minivans in the U.S.

FCA aims to reverse that slide with the Pacifica, which goes on sale

this spring. It replaces both the Chrysler Town and Country and Dodge Grand Caravan, although FCA’s car chief Tim Kuniskis says the company will keep making the current model of the Grand Caravan for as long as there is buyer demand. Sales of the Grand Caravan fell 28 percent last year.

There’s hardly anything the company didn’t change with the Pacifica — members of some focus groups

didn’t realize it was a minivan, the company says. Kuniskis says a vehicle so different deserved a new name; the company settled on “Pacifica,” the name of a small SUV Chrysler sold a decade ago.

The Pacifica has a sleeker, sweptback look than the current boxy models, which were last redesigned in 2008. It sits lower to the ground and has bigger wheels, giving it a more substantial feel.

It looks more luxurious, with bright chrome strips outlining the windows and LED-accented headlights and taillights.

But FCA knows looks alone aren’t enough to fend off rivals like the Honda Odyssey and the Toyota Sienna, which have been eating away at Chrysler’s market share for years.

So it’s debuting several segment firsts. The Pacifica will be the only minivan with a plug-in hybrid version. The hybrid will go up to 30 miles on electric power alone before its gas engine kicks in, thanks to a lithium-ion battery tucked under the second-row seats.

Gas-powered models have a 3.6-liter V-6 engine with 287 horsepower. Chrysler promises the new minivan, 200 pounds lighter than its predecessors, will have the best fuel economy in the segment.

And Chrysler is changing the minivan’s hallmark feature, the sliding doors: They’ll be aluminum and hands-free, opening automatically if the driver waves a foot under them. The vehicle also can automatically perform parallel and perpendicular

parking, and the rear-seat entertainment system has two 10-inch touchscreens that let passengers play games, watch movies or surf the Internet.

There is no all-wheel-drive version for now. Kuniskis said all-wheel-drive sales make up a tiny percentage of the minivan market, so FCA didn’t think there was enough demand.

Pricing hasn’t been announced. The current Chrysler Town and Country — the fancier of the company’s models — starts at \$30,000.

The minivan will be made in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Kuniskis said a few will be sold overseas, but 95 percent will be sold in North America.

Kelley Blue Book analyst Mark Williams says minivans face an uphill battle. This fall, small SUVs became the biggest segment of the U.S. new-vehicle market, at 14 percent. Small vans make up only about 3 percent of that market, according to Ward’s Auto-InfoBank.

Still, Williams thinks the Pacifica is a minivan the owner can be proud to drive.

PETS
from 1B

goes for \$450 and includes a two- to three-hour photo session at up to two locations for up to three pets, to go along with the private proofing gallery, editing and treats. Each additional pet above the limit carries a \$50 surcharge, and the pets must belong to the same family.

Wood said clients then typically spend \$500 to \$2,500 on custom artwork for their homes, which she believes is a small price to pay for the return on investment.

“I strongly believe in investing in professional pet photography because, sadly, one day your loyal friend won’t be right there at your side,” she said. “But you will be able to take comfort in having your pet right there with you through timeless, stunning artwork. And that is absolutely priceless.”

In addition to her professional endeavors, Wood said she has gone feet-first into charitable efforts around town.

“Shortly after I formally launched my business, I was asked by Humane Society Naples to photograph their ‘Strut Your Mutt’ event the weekend before Halloween, which was a great event,” she said. “It was so much fun photographing all of the cute



LOGAN NEWELL/SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS (2)

Millie and Roxy, from left, get their photo taken by Michelle Wood at Koreshan State Park on Saturday in Estero.



Michelle Wood, of Paws & Prints Pet Photography, poses for a picture at Koreshan State Park.

dogs in their costumes. They were clearly having so much fun.”

From the recent Humane Society Naples ‘Home for the Holidays’ event on Fifth Avenue South, for which Wood

also volunteered, humane society fundraising director Christy Saunders said she would recommend Wood’s services to anyone.

“She’s definitely a pleasure to work with,” Saunders said. “She has a great attitude and always goes above and beyond to capture the perfect shot.”

“She’s funny, upbeat and quick on her feet with a camera,” Humane society marketing coordinator Rachael Johnston said of Wood. “When it comes to photographing dogs, she’s one of the top photographers I’ve dealt with since I started working for the humane society five years ago. We couldn’t be any happier with her.”

For more information, call 239-370-8499, follow Paws & Prints Pet Photography on Facebook or see www.pawsandprintsphotography.com.

Macy’s Inc., which, like Kohl’s, formerly had been a stellar performer, has said November and December sales at its Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s stores fell 4.7 percent.

Online competitor Amazon, meanwhile, has posted enormous growth numbers.

Earlier this month, analyst Oliver Chen, of Cowen and Company, reduced

his quarterly estimate for Kohl’s. He cited the impact of warm weather on outerwear sales, Kohl’s aggressive price promotions, satellite imagery showing traffic weakness, and some concern that the “Star Wars” licensed products the retailer is featuring won’t match the interest generated last year by the “Frozen” line. Kohl’s stock has indeed

a very competitive environment outside.”

The award for the XC 90, he said, validates Volvo’s newly designed architectures and environmental engines and transmissions. “As we are using in the future the same platforms, the same drivetrains for all the other cars to follow, this shows that were absolutely on the right track,” Kerssemakers said.

The Detroit automakers came away with double-barreled wins in 2013 and 2014 and took top truck honors last year with the Ford

F-150.

The last year both awards went to foreign manufacturers was 2012, when the Hyundai Elantra and Land Rover Evoque won.

A vehicle must be all new or substantially changed for eligibility.

The awards program launched in 1993 and patterned itself after the European Car of the Year.

Organizers accept no advertising, though carmakers try to capitalize on the marketing value of the honors.

dropped more than 40 percent from its high of \$79.07 last April 2. But that peak capped a relatively short run of only about six months, sparked largely by the company’s strong performance during the 2014 holiday quarter.

For most of the last five years, Kohl’s shares generally have bounced between \$45 and \$55 — territory to which they have returned.

Hundreds
of suits were
consolidated

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A jury was selected Monday for a Manhattan civil trial aimed at testing the legal boundaries of hundreds of claims remaining against General Motors over faulty ignition switches.

Opening statements were scheduled for Tuesday in the first of six trials scheduled over the next year to narrow legal issues in lawsuits affecting over 1,000 people.

Hundreds of lawsuits were consolidated in Manhattan Federal Court, where Judge Jesse M. Furman questioned prospective jurors for several hours in a search for people who could be fair and impartial.

A section of a tarp-covered car rested in the courtroom where the claims of a Tulsa, Oklahoma, man were to be aired before a dozen jurors.

The trial focuses on an Oklahoma crash that



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A section of a General Motors car is shown in a courtroom in New York where jury selection began Monday for a trial meant to narrow legal issues for hundreds of civil lawsuits brought against General Motors over faulty ignition switches.

injured Robert Scheuer.

His lawyers will argue that a faulty ignition switch prevented the air bags in his 2003 Saturn Ion from deploying when he was run off an Oklahoma highway on May 28, 2014, by another vehicle and crashed into trees, Furman told prospective jurors.

General Motors plans to counter that the ignition switch was not the cause of the crash, that air bags were not designed to expand in the kind of crash that

Scheuer experienced, and that they would have made no difference if they had, the judge said.

A decade after learning of the ignition switch defect, the auto company revealed in 2014 that the flaw in Chevy Cobalts and other small cars necessitated an unprecedented recall.

The switches can slip out of the “on” position, causing the cars to stall, knocking out power steering and turning off air bags.

Southern Wine & Spirits, Glazer’s to merge

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Dallas-based Glazer’s Inc. and Miami-based Southern Wine & Spirits of America are merging, the two family-owned companies said Monday. Both families will own the new company.

The combined companies create the largest

North American wine and spirits distributor, with operations in 41 states. The new company, Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits LLC, will be headquartered in Miami.

But all of Glazer’s operations will stay in Texas and there will be no staff cuts, said Sheldon Stein, Glazer’s CEO.

KOHL’S
from 1B

Brick and mortar merchants continue to struggle amid the onslaught of online competition and what some analysts say is a consumer trend to spend less on apparel — a staple of department stores — and more on electronics and experiences.

AUTO SHOW
from 1B

tries to re-establish itself in the U.S. market after being sold in 2010 by Ford Motor Co. to Chinese investors.

The company intends to use the award in its marketing, especially as it rolls out other new models, said Lex Kerssemakers, president and CEO for the Americas. “It’s a very well-known award, and I think people look at it,” he said. “Customers need references. It’s

Park Shore Capital Real Estate Fund LLC
Invest directly in Southwest Florida
residential & commercial real estate.

When: Thursdays, Jan. 28 or Thursday, Feb. 11

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Where: TBD, Naples, FL

Contact **Jim Forry** today at (239) 776-8200 to RSVP
or to schedule a complimentary private consultation.

Park Shore Capital Registered Investment Advisor
2590 Golden Gate Pkwy #104, Naples, FL 34105

Principal serving Southwest Florida full time for over 20 years.
www.parkshorecapital.com