

# Performance Press



Volume 29, Number 33

Bowling Green Assembly Plant

September 7, 2007

## NEWS TO YOU

**UAW Membership Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 11  
Union Hall

**Diversity Meeting**  
Wednesday, September 12  
5:30 a.m.  
Personnel Conference Room

**Quarterly Suggestion Drawing**  
Wednesday, September 12  
8:54 a.m.  
Cafeteria



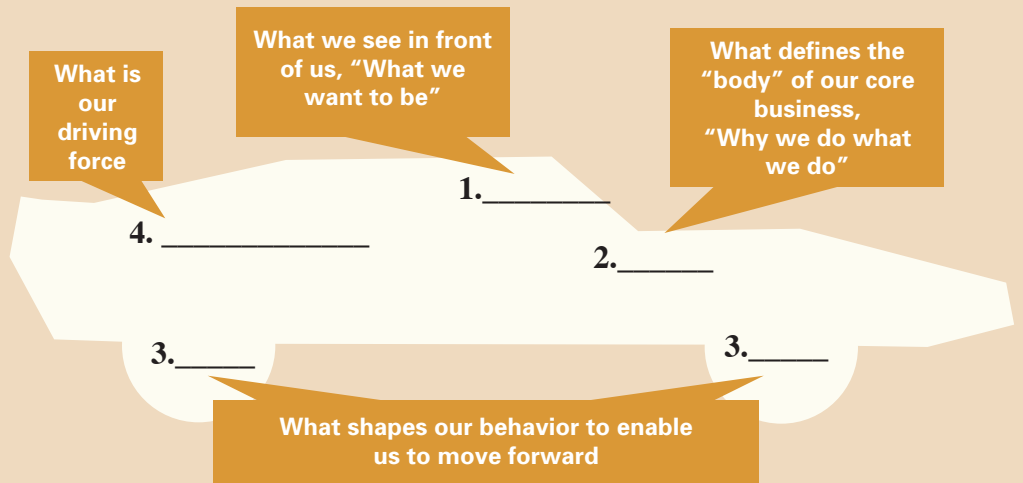
**Service Award Presentation**  
Thursday, September 13  
8:54 a.m.  
Cafeteria

The plant's U.S. flag is at half-staff in honor of Staff Sgt. Delmar White, 37, of Lexington. White was killed on Sunday, Sept. 2, by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. White was assigned to Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, based in Carlisle. White deployed with his unit in August of this year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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## Where Does it All Fit?



## Test Your Memory

We've been talking about our vision, mission, core values, and cultural priorities a lot these days. Now, can you tell us where these pieces fit? Look at the clues below. Then, fill in the blanks above with the correct word(s) and drop your completed puzzle in the black box outside Andrea Hales' office by next Wednesday, September 12 for a chance to win a prize!

- #1: To be the world leader in transportation products and related services. We will earn our customer's enthusiasm through continuous improvement driven by the integrity, teamwork and innovation of GM people.
- #2: To competitively produce the highest quality vehicles in our market segment by using our greatest resource, **Our People Working Together**.
- #3: Customer enthusiasm, integrity, teamwork, innovation, individual respect & responsibility, continuous improvement.
- #4: Act as one company, embrace stretch targets, move with a sense of urgency, enhance product and customer focus.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2007 ISO 14001 Environmental Information

### Environmental Policy



Continually Improve  
Avoid & Prevent Pollution  
Reduce Waste  
Yes! Obey The Law

### Significant Aspects

- Electricity Usage
- Treated Process Waste Water
- Hazardous Waste
- Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions

### Objectives & Targets

- 5% electricity usage reduction
- 5% water usage reduction
- 3% non-recycled waste reduction
- Zero increase in volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions

## Five Ways to Reduce Stress

Between traffic, bills, and demands on our time, we all experience stress. Add in the changes in our jobs, and you might feel overwhelmed. Not to fear, help is near! Not far from the main 9 aisle is the UAW/GM library that has several resources which direct you in new and insightful ways to relieve stress. Here are five ways that stand out:

1. **REFLEXOLOGY:** In *Keys to Reflexology*, techniques are shown that are sure to help you relax and improve circulation. This proven skill has been approved by many physicians to improve blood pressure, concentration and sleep habits. By just taking a few minutes with this book and you can feel like a new person.
2. **LAUGHTER:** Laughter reduces stress. Share a good joke and improve your circulation, increase oxygen flow, and improve your memory. All these ha, ha, has and hee, hee, hees can prolong your life. Authors that can help you find your chuckle are Alan Alda, George Lopez as well as Gary Trudeau. All have offerings in the UAW/GM library.
3. **FINDING GUIDANCE:** Maybe you need a book to help guide you through the stress of marriage or parenthood. You can find help with such authors as Dr. Phil, Zig Ziglar, or Jimmy Carter. These contributions and other inspirational stories tell you how other individuals have been through similar situations. The experiences of others can often help us see different options in our own lives.
4. **CHANGE IN ATTITUDE:** Authored by Dr. Stephen Lunding, Harry Paul and John Christensen, the book entitled *FISH* tells that we can change morale just by changing the attitude in which we enter the workplace. They suggest you make a routine task into a game or see how many times you can make a co-worker smile. These authors insist that "attitude is everything."
5. **READ:** If just escaping into a novel will ease the turmoil of life, come in Tuesday afternoon or Friday morning to your UAW/GM library. You are sure to find a mystery, love story, western, or educational book that will perk your interest. Then, after a long workday, you will be able to pull up a chair and pour a glass of tea and join the millions of Americans that enjoy a good book to relieve stress. After practicing these activities for a few days, you are sure to feel the tension melt away just like those old Calgon commercials used to say, "Take me Away."



## BG Named One of 50 Best Places to Live and Play

*National Geographic Adventure Magazine* has named Bowling Green one of the 50 Best Places to Live and Play in the United States. The September 2007 issue includes Bowling Green as one of eleven cities in the "Top Small Town" category. Bowling Green was the only Kentucky city to make the Top 50 list compiled by contributing editor Dan Koeppel, who spent months tracking down and compiling the list of top adventure towns.

In determining the top cities, Koeppel sought "an ideal mix of terrain, activity, and opportunity (that) could inspire a complete and total life change." The magazine's first ever guide divided cities into the best mountain, urban, coastal, wilderness, and small town categories. Las Vegas was named the overall #1 U. S. Adventure Town.

Bowling Green (population of 52,272 / median home price of \$104,200) was recognized for its proximity to Nashville (which made the top urban city list), Louisville and Mammoth Cave; the hilly terrain; pick-it-yourself farms; the restored L&N Depot; local parks and road-bike loops; and the National Corvette Museum and GM Corvette plant (a source of town pride).

The article can also be found at the magazine's website, at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/relocating/best-places-to-live-2007/index.html>

### Top Small Towns

- Spearfish, SD
- Bloomington, IN
- Iowa City, Iowa
- Northampton, MA
- Lynchburg, VA
- Marietta, OH
- Fayetteville, WV
- Bowling Green, KY**
- Chatsworth, NJ
- Hot Spring, AR
- Smyrna, DE

## Corvette Club Belgium Celebrates 10 Years

Corvette Club Belgium decided to celebrate their 10th anniversary in what they referred to as the "Homeland of Corvette". The club presented Body Systems Area Manager **Jeff Webb** with a banner and flag last Friday after their tour.



## It's a Miracle

Many people will say, "It's a miracle I made it to retirement." Usually they are referring to the state of the business or the wild lifestyle they have lived. In the case of UAW member **Johnny Burnett**, it is a very true statement. In the last few



Paint employees congratulate fellow worker and September retiree Johnny Burnett.

years, he has faced significant health problems including heart surgery to replace a malfunctioning valve. For Johnny, the 30 year mark was a stretch target that he feels fortunate to hit. He credits his faith in God and family support for helping him through some very tough times.

As GA Area Manager **Tony Alferio** said, "So many of us say we are going to retire when we get 30 years, but many including me find reasons why we should stay. The three retirees this

month all stood their ground and achieved that 30-and-out goal."

Congratulations to paint employee Johnny Burnett and pre-retirement employees **Wanda Lovely** and **Jerrell Sosbe** for making 30-and-out a reality!



UAW President **Eldon Renaud** (left) and GA Manager **Tony Alferio** (right) congratulate UAW member **Johnny Burnett**.

## Here SWE Go!

This week the Simulated Work Environment (SWE) training has moved to second shift. All SWE training is slated to be completed by September 7. Now, the real test comes. Can lessons learned be put into practice? Several areas in the plant are seeing real implementation. Keep your eyes and mind open to see where the SWE training can improve your area.



SWE Trainer **Sondra Brown** leads a second shift group through some key points of a GMS activity.

## GM BRIEFS

### Car And Driver Names Saturn Astra One Of Top 10 Safe Vehicles For Under \$25,000...

Car and Driver's website has selected its Top 10 Safe Vehicles for Under \$25,000 and the upcoming Saturn Astra is on the list.



Even though the Astra won't be on sale in this country until later this year, Car and Driver based its ruling on testing already done on the Opel Astra by the European safety regulators.

The writers were impressed by the safety technology in the Saturn Astra. CarandDriver.com said, "The stability control system even features 'Understeer Control Logic,' which knows to increase brake pressure on the inner rear wheel. Neat."

### GM Quality Leader Says Consumer Perceptions Are Catching Up With Reality...

The 2007 American Customer Satisfaction Index results announced by the University of Michigan recently showed consumers are seeing the benefits of GM's work to improve product quality and service. According to GM Vice President of Quality **Jamie Hresko**, this is confirmation the company is moving in the right direction.



"The gap is narrowing," said Hresko. "Great product designs combined with consistent quality performance year-to-year, study-to-study is what we need to change customer perception."

The index, produced by the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business in partnership with the American Society for Quality (ASQ), showed Buick and Cadillac rising to the top of the class. The study, which asks car owners to rate their overall vehicle satisfaction on a 100-point scale, showed Cadillac and Buick both scoring 86 - just one point below Lexus (87). According to the index, all GM brands improved year-to-year except GMC, which was unchanged. Saab and HUMMER were not included in the study.

Asian makes, Toyota, Honda and Nissan, deteriorated year-to-year. Overall customer satisfaction with automobiles in general improved 1.2 % to a new high of 82%. The gains within the industry were attributed to quality improvements versus price incentives.

## August Sales On the Rise

GM dealers in the U.S. delivered 388,168 vehicles in August, up more than 5 percent compared with year-ago monthly sales. This was a strong performance that resulted in an anticipated highest-of-the-year market share of nearly 26 percent. Brisk sales of full-size pickups and crossovers led the increase.

"Bucking the trend in the industry, we were able to post healthy sales results in August. When combining retail sales with our growing commercial business, our sales were up when compared with last August. Importantly, last month was our third-best retail month of the year," said Mark LaNeve, GMNA vice president, Vehicle Sales, Service and Marketing. "With the double-digit decline in daily rental sales so far this year, and an overall market that remains challenging and competitive, we continue to stabilize our retail share and pricing in the market."

Overall incentive spending was flat compared with a year ago. August inventories were down about 34,000 vehicles to approximately 945,000 vehicles.

The GMC Acadia, Saturn OUTLOOK and Buick Enclave together had retail sales of more than 10,400 vehicles, pushing the significant retail increase in GM's mid-crossover segment.

## Reminder: Orange Crush Vests Required

Throughout General Motors it is mandatory for all individuals entering an Orange Crush Zone to wear an orange vest. This is to improve visibility of pedestrians in these areas where heavy machinery and material are constantly moving. Keep safety a priority at all times.

This rule applies to all personnel entering an Orange Crush Zone!



### Planned Maintenance Corner

## DID YOU KNOW??

Planned Maintenance is the total system of activities in which all employees work to improve safety, quality, throughput, and reduce total plant costs through the continuous improvement of equipment operation.

The **Performance Press** is published weekly for and about Bowling Green Assembly Plant employees. Story ideas and suggestions are welcome at any time. Please write or call:

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## Medical Center 10K Classic Oct. 12-13, 2007

Join the Bowling Green Assembly Corporate team:

All runners and walkers are needed to participate in the Medical Center's 10K Corporate Challenge this year, and with your participation, we can win!

Getting in your registration by SEPTEMBER 13 will save you \$5 off your registration fee (this also applies to your friends and family as long as you turn in their application here). You can pick up an application in Andrea Hales' or Linda Green's office and turn it in, along with check payment, to Linda Green. Corporate registration is only \$20 per person or \$55 for the entire family (mother, father, and all children under 18 living in the same household). Entry gets you a Pasta party, long-sleeved t-shirt, race day refreshments, and a chance in the \$10,000 cash drawing. Corporate challenge participants are also eligible for the \$1,000 Early Bird drawing.

Here's a look at the day's fun.

\* Notice, you don't have to run to participate; there are some races you can walk:

- 5K Run/Walk, 7:30 a.m.
- 1.5 Mile Fun Walk, 7:50 a.m.
- 10K Wheelchair Race, 8:25 a.m.
- 10K Run, 8:30 a.m.

For more information, visit:

[www.themedicalcenter10Kclassic.com](http://www.themedicalcenter10Kclassic.com) or call Special Events Committee members **Randy Saunders** @ 799-6608 or **Andrea Hales** @ ext. 486.

## Balloons, Tunes & BBQ

The U.S. Bank Balloons, Tunes & BBQ will be held at the Warren County Regional Airport September 7 - 9.

Come and enjoy delicious food and concerts, and see dozens of hot air balloons fill the sky. Bowling Green Assembly will have a booth at the event Friday and Saturday, so stop by for light refreshments and visit with co-workers!

### PARKING IS PER CAR LOAD

- \$15.00 for Friday (3 p.m. until close)
- \$5.00 for Saturday (10 a.m. until 3 p.m.)
- \$20 for Saturday night (3 p.m. until close)

## Volunteers Needed

The Diversity Committee will have an information booth at the Bowling Green International Festival on September 29, 2007. Volunteers are needed to help run the booth in two-hour shifts. The event will take place in Fountain Square Park. If you would like to volunteer, please call **Frankie Lovings** @ ext. 198. Here are more details:

- Information booth opens @ 7:30 a.m.
- Vending begins @ 9:00 a.m.
- Opening ceremony and awards ceremony begin @ 9:45 a.m.
- Performances begin @ 10:15 a.m.
- Festival closes @ 7:00 p.m.