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RAV4 production may increase at TMMK

By **Mike Scogin**
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Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK) makes two of the best-selling vehicles in the U.S., and indications are production on at least one may be ramping up soon. The RAV4 has moved past the Ford F-150 as America's best-selling vehicle, according to some reports, while the Camry remains the best-selling sedan. This week Toyota announced

the RAV4 will be built as a hybrid or plug-in hybrid only. Because of its increasing popularity and tariffs, TMMK will likely increase its production of the SUV, according to some Toyota officials.

"It'll work its way out," said Mark Templin, chief operating officer of Toyota Motor North America told CNBC this week. "I think we'll build more RAV4s (at TMMK), which will help. But that's such a



Templin

big volume car, it was the No. 1 selling vehicle in the entire market, even beating out the F-150. Now we're bringing out one even better than that car. So, I think that we're going to need multiple plants to build that."

The remodeled 2026 RAV4 Hybrid was unveiled this week and will be available at dealers later this year.

Toyota is the world's largest automaker and has been offering hy-

brids since the Prius was unveiled in the 1990s. Many other automobile manufacturers are leaning towards all-electric vehicles, while Toyota has been an advocate for hybrid models. In 2024, Toyota's electrified vehicle sales, including hybrids, accounted for 43.1 percent of the company's total sales in the U.S. The new RAV4 joins the Camry, Prius, Sienna minivan and Sequoia SUV as Toyota vehicles now manufactured exclusively as hybrids.

RAV4 sales increased 9.3 percent last year to 475,000 units sold. About half the RAV4 units sold were hybrids. TMMK manufactured 77,282 RAV4 units last year, according to its website. "The hybrid is faster turning; it has more sales orders on it," Templin said. "The consumers and dealers are asking for it. It was pretty clear the consumer is voting for the hybrid."

Tariffs of 25 percent on vehicles imported into the US, imposed

by the Trump administration, have created a challenge for all auto manufacturers.

TMMK manufactures the RAV4, but most of the RAV4s sold in the U.S. come from a plant in Ontario, Canada, which made 368,577 in 2024, according to the plant's website. The plug-in hybrid models sold in the U.S. are imported from Japan.

To mitigate the tariffs, Toyota officials are looking at adjusting pro-

See **TMMK**, 12

Students sue state for better public education

By **McKenna Horsley**
Kentucky Lantern

FRANKFORT — Questions around the right of Kentucky students to sue for a better public education system were heard in court recently. It's one of the first steps in what could be a multi-year lawsuit against state officials that

physical" injury and lack standing to sue. Now, Shepherd must consider whether to accept the attorney general's motion to dismiss the case or allow the students' claim to proceed. He also must consider a motion to dismiss by House Speaker David Osborne and Senate President Robert Stivers, the top

In the know

The students filed their lawsuit against the state and General Assembly in **January**. They allege that the state government has **"failed to maintain the level of commitment to education required"** by Kentucky's Constitution and past court decisions and **"failed to meet their obligation to monitor the efficiency of the education system."**

Republi- cians in the General Assembly and defendants in the suit. The Kentucky Student Voice Team (KSVT), which has about 100 members across the state, is a nonprofit organization and began as a spinoff of the Prichard Committee, a statewide group that in the 1980s organized grassroots support for school reform in Kentucky. However, KSVT has been an independent organization for several years and is no longer affiliated with the Prichard Committee. KSVT's

some of whom are members of the Kentucky Student Voice Team, said the students are entitled to benefit from high-quality public education and have a right to pursue the case. Meanwhile, Republican Attorney General Russell Coleman's office argued that the students are making claims about a "meta-

See **SUE**, 12



Georgetown-Scott County planning director Holden Fleming talks to ECS students at Great Crossing High School on Monday, May 19.

Planners highlight walkability for ECS students

By **James Scogin**
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Georgetown-Scott County Planning Commission brought concepts of "walkability" to students at Elkhorn Crossing School (ECS) Monday as groups walked the campuses of ECS and Great Crossing High School.

Planning Director Holden Fleming, Senior Planner Elise Ketz and Planner Rhett Shirley took students from Amanda Sunda's Integrated Social Studies class around campus analyzing sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks, as

'I feel like, on a wider scale, not so much just on this campus, ways to walk to schools within the Scott County area would be very cool. There are some urban neighborhoods near the schools ... but there isn't always a safe way to walk.'

Daniel Robke
Student

well as placement of trashcans, benches and other features.

Walkability helps "establish feasibility and health" of a neighbor-

hood from a pedestrian level, Shirley said. It highlights access to services and amenities like food, groceries, movie theaters, parks,

and more. "It's a way to think about 'how can you move around that's not car-dependent,'" he said.

Providing this opportunity to students allows for planners to know the areas students notice most, Fleming said.

"These are the kids who are using this campus," Fleming said. "They're going to have better perspective on this issue than almost anybody else is going to have. ... It's a great opportunity to introduce the concepts of walkability."

Becoming aware of

See **ECS**, 12

Coming up:
Horsey Hundred
This weekend

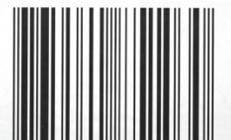


Area deaths

Sara Elizabeth Burnham Bell, 83
Donna McDaniel Chesser, 82

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