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# The Detroit News

Friday, March 14, 2025

**SERVING MICHIGAN SINCE 1873** 

'Black Bag' a fine-tuned thriller. 8C



Izzo, May face Big Ten tourney tip-off. 1C

### **States** split on **C**hina linkups

Such auto projects promise jobs, funds, face security fears

> BY BREANA NOBLE The Detroit News

States are divided in their willingness to welcome a project from a Chinese automaker because the allure of such a billion-dollar investment and its promise of thousands of jobs also could raise serious national security concerns and fuel popular pushback.

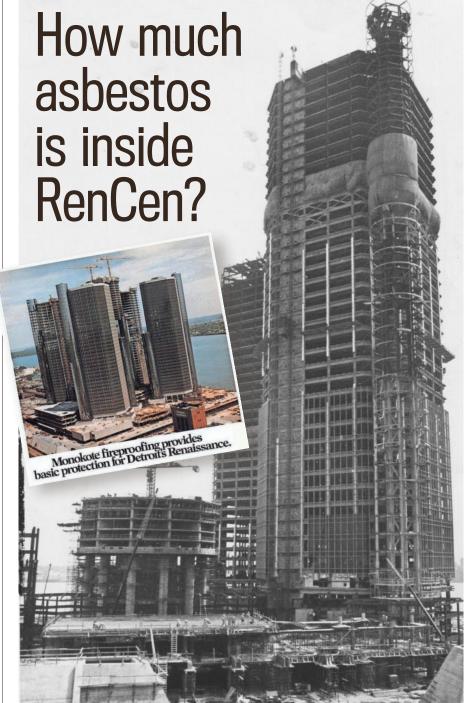
Still, some industry analysts predict a China-based automaker - beyond Chinese-owned Volvo and Polestar - will be manufacturing in the United States in the coming years. As tariffs and regulations on Chinese vehicles and their technology grow amid fears they'll outcompete domestic producers, experts point to past decades when similar policies induced Japanese and South Korean competitors to build vehicles within U.S. borders, draining market share from the likes of General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co.

"It's very high in the next two or three to five years," Colin Langan, analyst at Wells Fargo Securities, said last month before the Society of Automotive Analysts about the likelihood of a Chinese automaker assembling in the United States. "If you're a governor of a state, as much as you might be anti-China, are you going to allow 5,000

 $Please\ see\ China,\ Page\ 8A$ 



Volvo opened its plant in Ridgeville, S.C., in 2018.



Detroit News archives / Journal of the American Institute of Architects

The Renaissance Center, seen under construction in 1975, used a fireproofing chemical called Monokote, which was touted in the 1977 ad seen above, to protect its internal steel beams. Monokote in previous forms has been linked to cancer-causing asbestos fibers.

#### Demolition to reckon with harmful substance

BY CAROL THOMPSON AND CHAD LIVENGOOD The Detroit News

Four months after Tower 100 at the Renaissance Center opened in July 1976, the maker of a fireproofing chemical called Monokote said its product would sheath the internal steel beams of Detroit's new skyscrapers "with a permanent, durable, protective coating" to prevent a disaster.

"The farsighted men behind this spectacular urban complex recognized that, no matter what combination of sprinklers, smoke detectors and other devices are used, there can be no trade-off in basic structural protection," read a December 1976 advertisement from W.R. Grace & Co. in an architectural industry magazine.

The advertisement showed a photo of the half-built RenCen under construction and boasted that its Monokote fireproofing application is "fast and economical."

Whether removing Monokote - a substance that in previous forms has been linked to cancer-causing asbestos fibers is fast and economical in the proposed demolition of two of the RenCen's four office towers is an unanswered question surrounding the \$1.6 billion redevelopment of the aging and underused office, hotel and retail complex.

RenCen owner General Motors Co.

Please see RenCen, Page 7A

### Hoekstra, Trump sing different tunes on Canada

President contradicts ambassador pick's comments at Senate hearing

BY GRANT SCHWAB AND MELISSA NANN BURKE The Detroit News

Washington — Former Michigan U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, who is President Donald Trump's pick to be U.S. ambassador to Canada, affirmed his support for Canada's sovereignty while testifying Thursday before a Senate committee, but was later undercut by comments Trump made at the White House.

Hoekstra noted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that he EU, Trump could not control the president's public remarks that Canada should become America's 51st state.

trade tariff threats on

Hoekstra

"Canada is a sovereign state, yes," he said. "How the president and the relationship becharacteristics and nature of that relationship - I

Please see Canada, Page 2A

## Schumer signals support for GOP spending bill

BY LIZ GOODWIN, THEODORIC MEYER AND MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR Washington Post

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-New York, said Thursday that he plans to support the GOP funding bill, lowering the odds of a government shut-

"For sure the Republican bill is a terrible option," Schumer said on the Senate floor. "But I believe allowing Donald Trump to take ... much more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option."

Schumer has privately told senators there are enough Democratic votes to avert a shutdown, according to three people with knowledge of the interactions who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid dis-

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