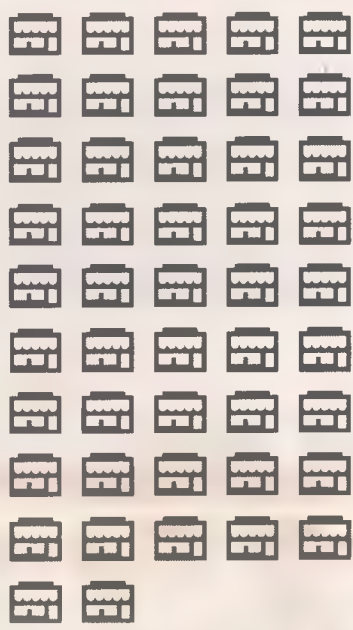




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Local man who lost family to drunk driver inspires Project: Forgive

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Forgiveness.

It is a word one man yearned for and another man knew right away he would grant.

And while it doesn't make sense to many, it makes perfect sense to Gary Weinstein.

Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, who owns Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, is the one who offered up forgiveness, and Thomas Wellinger was the man who needed it.

Tragedy brought these two men together in May 2005 when Wellinger got

PROJECT: FORGIVE

Hear Gary Weinstein's story and read about 'Project: Forgive' at www.projectforgive.com.

To donate to the project, visit the website before the April 23 deadline.

behind the wheel of his SUV drunk and crashed into the car containing Weinstein's wife Judy and two sons, Alex and Sam.

At the hospital, the doctor gave Weinstein the news they died, and he said in that moment he

realized he was alone.

But it was also in that moment that he realized he had an opportunity.

"When this happened and they were gone, in that instant I realized I was still here ... and there was no reason for me to disappear or run away," he said. "I had an opportunity in that moment to say I still am strong.

"Even right away for me, forgiveness was present."

Weinstein even told Wellinger — who was sentenced to 19-30 years for three counts of second-degree murder — as much the only time they

met at the Oakland County Jail. He even posed the question back, asking Wellinger if he could ever forgive himself.

"He was remorseful," Weinstein said.

When asked why he forgave him, Weinstein said there was "no power" in blaming him. He said he is a person who lives in the moment and doesn't hold on to things.

"My expression of love and care for them was complete," he said. "It can be a tough road for loss if it was not complete."

Now Weinstein hopes to help others on that road to forgiveness. And when talking about happiness, Weinstein said it has never been something he has searched out; he comes from it.

"Now I have an opportunity to be the poster child for this conversation," he said.

'Project: Forgive'

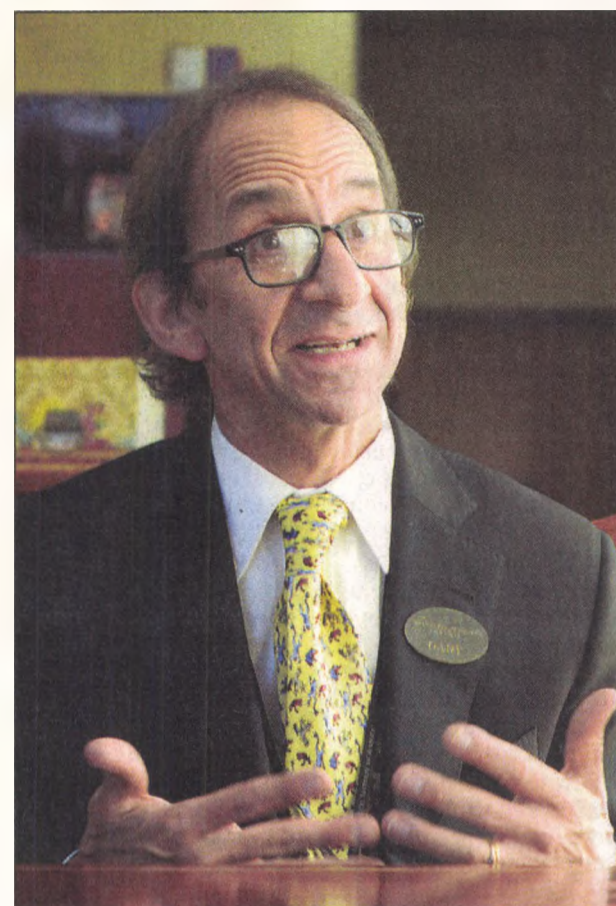
That is where filmmaker and Michigan resident Shawne Duperon comes in.

Duperon has a unique connection to the story as her children used to baby-sit Weinstein's children and Judy was her husband's business coach. On the other side of the equation, Wellinger was a close family friend.

"I knew in that moment something miraculous was going to come of this," she said.

Now nearly seven years later, that miracle is taking shape through the creation of a movie on forgiveness called "Project: Forgive."

Duperon said Weinstein



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi business owner Gary Weinstein tells why he got involved in filmmaker Shawne Duperon's 'Project: Forgive' effort. Weinstein's wife and two sons were killed by an alcohol-impaired driver in 2005.

was the catalyst for the film, which she said will explore and explain forgiveness on a variety of levels. Scott Rosenfelt, who executive produced *Home Alone*, has signed on to be the co-producer.

A trailer for the film can be found at www.projectforgive.com, and Duperon said they need to raise \$100,000 to fund the campaign. As of Friday, \$71,850 had been raised. Visit the website to donate, before the April 23 deadline.

The budget for the film

is \$1 million, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of the year with a release in the fall of 2013.

"It's my dream come true and my life mission," Duperon said.

For Weinstein, it's all about honoring Judy, Alex and Sam.

"What my family has given me, even in this horrific loss, is to have a voice and make a difference in this world," he said.

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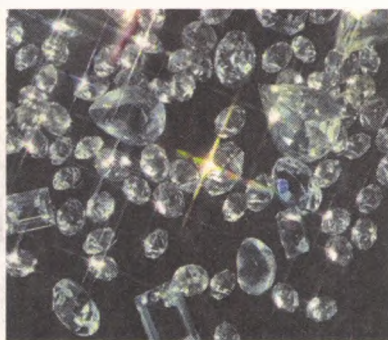
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and vaginal prolapse



Dr. Khandwala completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology and fellowship in female pelvic reconstructive surgery at Greater Baltimore Medical Center/

University of Maryland. He has clinical interest in prolapse management, laparoscopic surgery, hysteroscopic surgery and female sexual dysfunction. Visit oakwood.org/salil-khandwala-md to see and hear a variety of interviews with the doctor related to women's health topics.

DATE:

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On a mission

Local church members bring friendship, elbow grease to Haiti

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Paul DeNapoli helped build a restroom, painted a church, cemented bricks together and planted fruit trees during trips to the Caribbean the last two years.

The retired Livonia firefighter loved every minute of his adventures, which were spent mostly in manual labor, administering basic health checks to children and making friends with his Haitian hosts.

When he returns next year to the poor island nation, he hopes to take a contingent of members from Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church with him.

He said the congregation has been a part of the Haiti project in spirit the past two years as he and Aldersgate pastor Rev. Jeff Nelson, first participated in a mission trip and then led one.

"I told the congregation it's not a one-man show. It's we, not just me when we come back to show you what we did as a church to help these people in Hai-

ti and why it's important to continue this project," said DeNapoli. "We're following in the footsteps of Jesus and being leaders."

Joining a mission

Nelson was new to Redford Aldersgate when he attended a get-acquainted dinner at Paul and Debbie DeNapoli's Livonia home a few years ago. DeNapoli, aware that the new pastor had spent time in Africa on missions, suggested he go along on the minister's next trip abroad.

"He looked at me and said, okay, set it up. I said, where? He said, I don't care. Pick a spot," DeNapoli recalled the exchange. "I'm the kind of guy who doesn't reinvent the wheel. There was a group getting ready to go back to Haiti. We tag-teamed with them on the first trip."

DeNapoli, Nelson and fellow parishioner Dale Archambeau joined a team led by a Methodist church in Wyandotte last year. This year Nelson and DeNapoli solicited members from other local churches to accompany them on a return vis-



Paul DeNapoli of Livonia works on a safety wall in Haiti.

it to Gommiers, a small seaside Haitian village that is home to a Methodist Church and school. The goal was to partner with smaller churches and help them develop their own mission leadership.

"Now we have three churches with experience that can develop a core group of their own parishioners or get other churches to go with them," DeNapoli said.

Two members each from New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford, Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit and Calvary United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor joined mission team.

Landing in Haiti

"When we got off the plane the first time, last

year, and I saw the kids at the school, I looked at Pastor Jeff and said, I'm hooked. I've got to come back," DeNapoli said. "The next time I came back, I thought, I'm home. It looked familiar. I knew what to expect. There were workers I had made friends with last year who remembered me. They were glad to see us."

DeNapoli, who is married and the father of two grown children, doesn't consider the mission work a "calling" for himself. "It's just something I've wanted to do. I spent 27 years on the fire department, where I was always helping people."

Because he has paramedic training, he also worked in a Haitian clinic, taking blood pressures, temperatures and check-



This year's mission group included Rev. Jeff Nelson, (left) Dale Thomas, Paul DeNapoli, Carmen Ziegler, Wendy Roe, Rev. John Pajak, Dale Titus and Rev. Beth Titus. The sign at the Jeremie airport in Haiti says "Welcome to Jeremie, city of poets."

ing pulse rates.

"They have a lot of allergies due to the dust from the roads and smoke

because they cook with charcoal," he noted.

Please see MISSION, B6

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Donna Knight, (left) Deana Salhaney, Erin Dillenbeck, Sharon Lee Dillenbeck, Liz Gullikson, Marilyn Meredith and Vivian Hewitt showed their works at the Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition last year.

Women exhibit art at Canton studio

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck exhibit works by local female artists this month at her Canton art studio.

The 2nd Annual Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition will run April 28-May 31 at D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley. An artist's reception is set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 6.

Exhibiting artists include Dillenbeck, her daughters, Erin and Kritin, her sister, Donna Knight, and some of Dillenbeck's award winning students, Marilyn

Meredith, Vivian Hewitt, Elizabeth Gullikson, Rachel Bissonnette and Deana Salhaney. Most pieces will be for sale. The exhibit, open during store hours, will include original watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals, pastels and oil pastels.

For more information, call Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710 or e-mail her at dmartist1@aol.com. Order art supplies or register for classes online at www.dmartstudio.com.

Show benefits summer jazz fest

The spring fundraiser for the Michigan Jazz Festival will feature the Gary Schunk Trio Sunday, April 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The show, with Schunk on piano, Bill Higgins on drums and Jack Dryden on bass, is set for 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room in

the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Schunk was the house pianist at Baker's Keyboard Lounge during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Tickets are \$15 and available in advance. Make check payable to

Michigan Jazz Festival, 20457 Maplewood, Livonia, MI 48152-2022. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be mailed immediately or can be held at the door.

The Michigan Jazz Festival will be held July 15.

Road safety class key

Classroom and online courses for the AARP Driver Safety program are free to Michigan drivers during the month of May.

The course, which usually costs \$12, helps older drivers learn the new rules of the road and continue to drive safely and

remain independent for as long as possible. HearUSA is offering the classes in honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month. Participants do not have to be AARP members.

Drivers who complete the course may be eligible for auto insurance

discounts.

Local classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 16-17 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-8950 or (877) 390-8784 or visit www.aarp.org/drivesafe6 and enter promo code: MICHIGAN.

LUNCHEON RAISES CANCER AWARENESS

See fashions from Saks Fifth Avenue at Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Friends, Thursday, May 3, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital 6777 W. Maple, west of Drake.

The event, a fundraiser for the Francee & Benson Ford Jr. Breast Care & Wellness Center at the hospital, will run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a luncheon, bou-

tique shopping and the fashion show.

Over the past eight years, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Friends has raised more than \$1.6 million for the Henry Ford fund. The event will showcase amenities at the hospital, including the demonstration kitchen, Vita Wellness Center, the Live Well Shoppe and more. Event co-chairs are Flo-

rine Mark and her daughter Lisa Lis, both of Farmington Hills, and Francee Ford of Birmingham and her mother, Micki Kline of West Bloomfield.

Tickets for the luncheon begin at \$125. Seating is very limited.

To register or further information, visit www.henryford.com/mothersdaughters or call (313) 874-6138.

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subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won**. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

www.ssdfighter.com

American Cancer Society offers free summer camp

The American Cancer Society is accepting registration for summer camping programs aimed at children and teens.

"The American Cancer Society offers a camping program specifically geared toward accommodating the needs of children who are being treated for cancer, or who are in remission from cancer," stated Kathleen Wilson, program manager for the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division. "Our camping program provides the opportunity for these children to simply have fun and enjoy the experience of exercise, recreation and companionship through activities paced to meet the needs of a young cancer patient."

Cancer survivors between 4 and 15 years of age can sign up for one of two camping programs offered free of charge by the organization's Great Lakes Division.

Young Camper's Day is a one-day program for children, 4-6 years old, that is set for Sunday, June 17. Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is a week-long summer camping experience, held June 17-22, for children, ages 7-15. Both the Young Camper's Day and Camp Catch-A-Rainbow programs are held at the YMCA Storer Camps near Jackson, where children have access to activities such as swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more.

Health care professionals are available at the camp 24 hours a day, so most medical treatments,



Youngsters at Camp Catch-A-Rainbow show their camp spirit. The program is offered by the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPS

Here's a sampling of other camps for children with special medical needs:

- Camp Casey, a horseback riding program for children with cancer, is located in Royal Oak offers overnight mini-vacations at dude ranch resorts in Michigan; www.camp-casey.org.

- The American Diabetes Association runs a camp for youngsters, age 8-16, with diabetes, June 17-29 in Fenton; www.diabetes.org

- The Lions Club Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer offers a camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, July 8-14 and a weekend family camp for families with deaf or hard-of-hearing youth, June 29-July 1. A session for first-time campers who are blind and visually impaired will run July 15-21. Camp for lifers is a two-week experience, July 15-28 for blind and visually impaired youth. Camp Dakota, sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter will run July 29-Aug. 3; www.bearlakecamp.org.

- The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers Camp Discovery for children and teens with epilepsy, June 24-28 at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta; www.epilepsymichigan.org.

with the exception of radiation therapy, can be done at the camp or at a nearby cancer center.

Registration applications for young cancer patients and survivors with a physician's approval, are accepted through May 28 for both camps. Get a camper application

form by calling the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345 or by visiting www.cancer.org/camp-rainbow.

The camps also need medical and non-medical volunteers, especially male volunteers, to assist onsite. For more information or to get a camp vol-

unteer application, call the Society or visit online.

Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is accredited by the American Camping Association and is licensed through the state of Michigan. The American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, serving Indiana and Michigan, funds both camps.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

April

AUTISM TATTOO

Get an autism-related tattoo this month at American Pride Tattoos and the store will donate \$20 or 20 percent of the cost of the tattoo — whichever is greater — to Autism Speaks. All of the companies stores are participating in the campaign to raise awareness and support those with autism spectrum disorder. Stores are located at 155 E. Commerce in Milford and 27815 Woodward Ave., in Berkley, in addition to Waterford, Clarkston, and Pontiac.

CANCER SCREENING

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R, south of Warren, north of Mack, in Detroit, will conduct free oral, head and neck cancer screenings, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, April 27. A simple 15-minute screening exam can help determine if further follow-up is needed to help detect oral, head and neck cancers in their earliest stages. Space is limited to the first 100 who register. Some of the warning signs of oral cancers include a sore in your mouth that doesn't heal or increases in size; lumps or white, red or dark patches in your mouth; persistent pain in your mouth; a lump in your neck or thickening of your cheek; difficulty chewing or swallowing, moving your jaw or tongue, swelling or pain in your jaw; soreness in your throat or feeling that something is caught in your throat; pain around your teeth or loosening of your teeth; numbness in your mouth; changes in your voice or bad breath. Pre-register by 5 p.m. April 26 for screening and complimentary valet parking. Call (800) 527-6266. Onsite registration will be permitted if space is available.

NUTRITION

Annie House, registered dietitian and certified

diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital, will lead the discussion and will provide helpful nutrition tips at the Walk with a Doc free wellness event, noon, Thursday, April 19, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information or to register, call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1.

SINUS RELIEF

Dr. Warren L. Brandes, D.O., will present a free community lecture on breakthrough technology that helps those suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at Botsford Hospital's Administration & Education Center Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The presentation will include information on balloon sinuplasty. Call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1 for more information or to register for the event.

ST. MARY MERCY

• First-time parents can get the basics of breastfeeding and baby care 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. A St. Mary Mercy Hospital pediatrician will discuss infant illness and child immunization. Parents will learn breastfeeding techniques including positioning, pumping, storage and breast care. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. Fee is \$50 per couple. Register by calling St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

• A blood drive for the American Red Cross will run 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 27 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. Schedule an appointment at (800) GIVE-LIFE or redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins will be accepted but appointments are preferred. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

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Car Report

Advertising Feature

VOLT GETS OFF THE MAT IN MARCH, PREPARES FOR LONG HAUL

By Dale Buss

Sales of Chevrolet Volt surged in March to a single-month record for General Motors' high-profile extended-range hybrid, as a handful of savvy Chevy dealers - including Serra Chevrolet in Flint -- became increasingly proficient at peddling the car.

And GM appears poised to add one more week to Volt output over the next few months than it had scheduled.

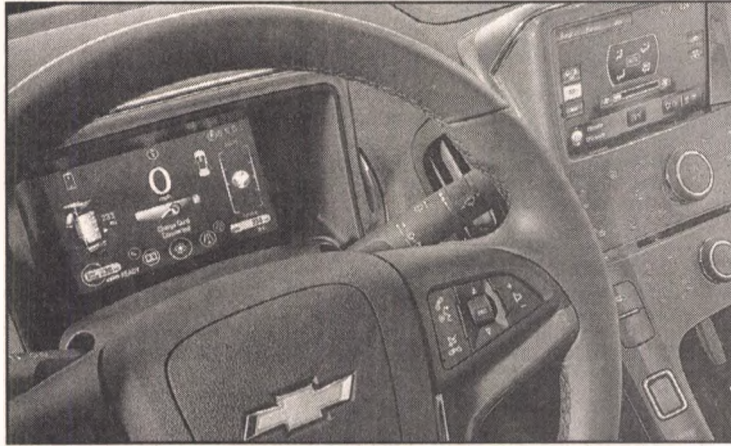
But Volt will remain on a bumpy path for the foreseeable future.

In fact, April is likely to bring a fall-back in sales of Volt at U.S. Chevy dealers from the one-month-record level of 2,289

sales in March, Alan Batey, vice president of sales for Chevrolet, told me. But in a bit of a welcome turn of events, he said, the sales hiccup during this month will be more a reflection of a balky supply chain unable to keep up with demand for awhile, rather than a persistent lack of buyer enthusiasm.

"You'll see [Volt sales] moderate somewhat this month, and as the supply builds again, you'll see it take off again," Batey said. "It's difficult to gauge exactly, but if we were to hit that [2,289] number again in April, it'd be an unbelievable achievement based on how many are [available] in the market."

Even after a sales dip in the wake of the government's crash-fire investigation of Volt, and after GM's decision last month to suspend output until later this month, GM executives could see a spark of life in Volt's prospects.



A favorite feature of Volt owners is the IP gauge that helps them closely track fuel efficiency.

It was threatened but apparently not snuffed by the political controversy that has surrounded the car's strong connection to President Obama's green-energy initiatives.

Demand in March was beginning to build among dealers and consumers in California for a lower-emissions version of Volt that GM just started manufacturing, so that it could be eligible for single-occupancy access in carpool lanes and up to \$1,500 in state rebates.

Other states also have been adding incentives for Volt purchase. Colorado, for example, recently announced that Volt customers would become eligible for a state tax credit of up to \$6,000 - on top of the federal tax credit of \$7,500.

Batey also credited a new suite of TV commercials for Volt that feature testimonials of actual Volt owners and help to

humanize, and demystify, the car's technology.

Meanwhile, a cadre of Chevrolet dealers around the country, and their salespeople, have emerged as effective advocates for a car that is difficult for many consumers to get their arms around. "We've got some really good dealers in the West" and elsewhere "who have gotten after selling Volt and have created momentum," Batey explained. "Some dealers have really become specialized in it and get passionate for it, and they become the places to go for people to buy Volt."

What's more, overall Volt volumes are still low enough that these few among Chevy's 3,000 dealers can create a significant positive direction for relative sales even though most showrooms still treat Volt as an afterthought, a sideshow, or simply as a lure to get customers to look at gas-powered Chevrolet

Cruze and Sonic small cars.

"March was stronger than we'd thought; we were thinking it'd be closer to 1,500 units," Batey said. "But we kept hearing all month that business was good and that it was real demand."

Only 160 of the March sales total of 2,289 were fleet orders. Much has been made lately of how GM might be able to gild underlying Volt demand by playing around with the booking and reporting of fleet orders, but that certainly didn't appear to be the case in March.

In fact, Batey made the case that Volt may be at the beginning of a sustained, long-term retail groundswell that easily will support the resumption of production later this month. There have been reports in the last 24 hours that GM even plans to add a week of production back to its recently revised factory schedule for Volt, either this month or next to a planned July vacation shutdown.

For April, the supply of new Volts, particularly for the suddenly thirsty California market, won't be enough to sustain sales in the neighborhood of the March number, Batey said. But every month will bring the two sides of the equation more into sync.

"We're 150 percent behind this, and so are our dealers," Batey said. "Right now it's not about pushing a particular number of vehicles but about getting supply and demand in balance."



Dale Buss



The Chevrolet Volt built some sales momentum in March. But how much?

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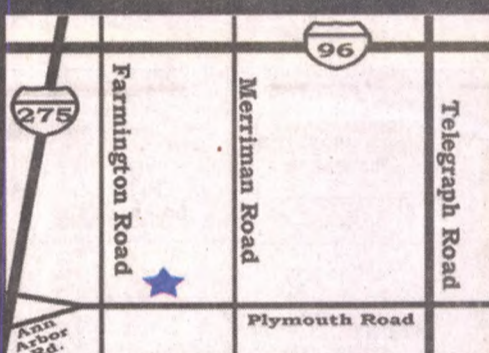


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