

COBB CHATTERBOX

PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE
Heroin abuse symposium on Thursday

A symposium on heroin and opioid abuse will be Thursday at Marietta First United Methodist Church.

"Laws, Limits and Loopholes" will be hosted by the Davis Direction Foundation, which was founded by Michael and Missy Owen after their son, Davis Henry Owen, died of heroin overdose in March 2014.

There will be a panel discussion featuring Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens and four other state government officials.

Metro Atlanta Ambulance will simulate the use of overdose prevention drug Naloxone for attendees to see how it works. The Davis Direction Foundation will be giving away more than 100 Naloxone kits at the end of the symposium.

The symposium will be at 7 p.m. at the church, which is at the corner of Whitlock Avenue and Marietta Parkway.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
'Good for Cobb'



Adam Langley, Croy Engineering CFO; former Marietta Mayor Bill Dunaway; David Bottoms, senior vice president of The Bottoms Group; Tracy Rathbone, Town Center CID executive director; John Loud; attorney Justin O'Dell; Mitch Rhoden, president and CEO of Futren Corp.; Donna Shaw, associate broker at Re-Max of Atlanta; David Johnson, relationship manager with Community & Southern Bank; and Wade Stephens, MDJ advertising vice president.

Cobb County community leaders announced the launch of a new organization, 'Good for Cobb,' a grassroots organization formed to support a wide range of initiatives that ensure a bright future for Cobb County.

Pushing for progress in the areas of economic development, public safety, education, recreation and transportation were all mentioned as areas of focus for Good for Cobb. The organization's first action was a vote to declare the move of the Atlanta Braves to Cobb County as "Good for Cobb," indicating support for the proposal and a desire for continued involvement and promotion leading up to Opening Day 2017.

John Loud, President of LOUD Security, will serve as the group's chairman. Attorney Justin O'Dell is vice chairman and Donna Shaw, associate broker at Re-Max of Atlanta, is treasurer.

"Too often, projects, developments and initiatives in Cobb County fail to receive the grassroots support and input from the community that they truly deserve," O'Dell said. "Rather than allow a small, but very vocal minority to continue to attack each and every idea that is presented, it is time for the people in Cobb, around the county and across the state to know that the leaders and representatives in the community from education, business, social services and the non-profit sector support Cobb County and its future."

Other members of the Good for Cobb Steering Committee include: Angela Huff, chief of staff of the Cobb School District; Bob Prillaman, retired executive with Carusstar Industries; Dale Hughes, partner with Jeremiah Consulting; Cobb Chamber COO Sharon Mason; Dan Styf, SVP of operations with Piedmont-WellStar Health Plan; Bryan Crute, Destiny Metropolitan Church pastor; consultant Tracy Atwater; attorney Kevin Moore; RJ Patel, president of Prestigious Cleaning Team; Mike Linch, Northstar Church pastor; Jay Cunningham, Superior Plumbing owner; and Ray Tiyamiyu, past president of the South Cobb Kiwanis.

Stay up-to-date by following Good for Cobb on Facebook at www.FB.com/goodforcobb.

What's going on in your neighborhood? Email our Chief Chatterbox at kallen@mdjonline.com or tweet her @kallenMDJ with hot topics in your community.

MARIETTA | CRIME

2 arrested in shooting close to Marietta High

By Hilary Butschek
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Marietta police announced Tuesday they arrested two people in connection with a Sunday afternoon shooting on Westland Way near Marietta High School.

Police arrested Gregory Swan, 20, of Woodstock, and Rodney Brin Moody Jr., 17, of Marietta, on Monday in connection with the shooting, in which no



Gregory Swan and **Rodney Moody** were arrested in connection with a shooting on Westland Way near Marietta High School. Swan was injured, but homes, mailboxes, cars and a power box were damaged. The shooting, which was

an exchange of gunfire between someone in a white SUV driving on Westland Way and a group of pedestrians standing in the street, was in response to an armed robbery that happened earlier that day, Marietta police said Tuesday.

Moody was charged Monday with armed robbery, a felony, and remains in jail.

Swan was found by police Monday in

Woodstock with the white SUV described by witnesses at the shooting within hours of the 1 p.m. shooting Sunday, police said.

Swan was charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, aggravated assault, two counts of criminal trespass and three counts of striking an unattended vehicle, according to jail records.

SHOOTING, 2B

SMYRNA | HEALTH

Just one more



Children's Healthcare celebrates new sports medicine center

By Brittini Ray
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Student-athletes in Cobb who require specialized therapy and rehabilitation have a new location to receive treatment.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta had a ribbon-cutting Tuesday for its new sports medicine center in Smyrna.

The 2,800-square-foot building, which cost about \$600,000, opened last month on Cumberland Parkway near Atlanta Road.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the opening of this facility with Children's Healthcare," said Sharon Mason, chief operating officer of the Cobb County Chamber. "This wonderful facility will help improve the quality of life for Smyrna families and families in the county."

The Children's Healthcare Sports Medicine center offers patients between the ages of 8 and 21 a place to visit an athletic trainer and receive physical therapy. The center provides a variety of services for patients, including physical therapy, dance medicine, testing for concussions and physical assessments through video analysis software called Dartfish. The video analysis program allows patients to capture and evaluate their physical training and progress at the center.



Top: Marietta High School golfer Kyle Ponder and Tyreik Fitzpatrick, who plays football at South Cobb High School, work with Children's Hospital of Atlanta Sports Medicine Physical Therapist Colleen Crosby to try out some of the new equipment and techniques the facility offers children and teens being treated at the organization's new Sports Medicine Program Therapy Clinic at Ivy Walk in Smyrna. Above: Fitzpatrick and Ponder join John Polikandrotis, vice president of ambulatory operations, and athletes Andavea Alexander and Dajia Stevenson in cutting the official ribbon to open the new clinic. / Staff-Kelly J. Huff

CENTER, 2B

COBB | POLITICS

County lobbyists talk transportation

By Hilary Butschek
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MARIETTA — Attorney Chuck Clay, who is handling the county's lobbying needs in the Georgia Legislature this year, said transportation funding is the No. 1 issue for the year.

During a Tuesday meeting with the Cobb Board of Commissioners, Clay said the state is facing debt if

transportation funding of the federal Highway Trust Fund runs out at the end of March and nothing is there to replace the money flow.

"(The state of Georgia will have) about a \$1.5 billion shortfall every year in just maintaining what we have (in transportation infrastructure)," Clay said.

County Chairman Tim Lee said his top priority this year



Local lawmakers choose Carson as delegation chair

By Ricky Leroux
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ATLANTA — State lawmakers representing Cobb have a new leader: Rep. John Carson (R-northeast Cobb).

At its first meeting of the year Tuesday, the Cobb Legislative Delegation unanimously selected Carson as chairman. Carson takes over for Sen. Judson Hill (R-east Cobb).

Carson said he appreciated the support

LOBBY, 2B

CARSON, 2B