



Gwinnett Daily Post

75¢

THURSDAY August 28, 2008

www.gwinnettdaily.com

©2008 Triple Crown Media Vol. 38, No. 299

The stories behind the stadium, field tributes



NAME GAME

By BRANDON BRIGMAN
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If you're a longtime fan of Gwinnett County football then some of these names probably sound familiar to you.

Tom Riden, Tom Robinson, Red Barron and Cecil Morris.

Do they ring a bell? You've probably seen the names in big bold letters.

Give up? Tom Riden (Buford), Tom Robinson (North Gwinnett), Cecil Morris (Duluth) and Red Barron (Dacula) are men who have been honored by having a local football field or stadium named after them. But what is the story behind the names that will forever be linked to those stadiums and fields?

In Gwinnett County, the honorees range from former coaches and administrators to long standing members of the community to men who served in wars.

One thing they have in common is a love for their community. Many local schools honored them for their hard work the best way you can in the football rich South — at the top of a scoreboard or at the entrance of a stadium.

"It's probably one of the biggest honors you can ever get. It's something that people will always see," said Morris, who was head coach

ON THE WEB
Comments? Tell us what you think at www.gwinnettdaily.com.

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COMING FRIDAY

In Friday's paper, look for Friday Kickoff, the Daily Post's weekly special section dedicated to breaking down each Friday's high school football matchups in Gwinnett.

Student charged with arson

Brookwood senior admits to setting high school trailer fire

By ALEX P. JOYNER
STAFF WRITER
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SNELLVILLE — A Brookwood High senior has been arrested in connection with an arson fire that gutted a trailer and severely damaged another at the school earlier this month, authorities said.



Matthew Cooper

Matthew Cooper, 17, of Snellville, turned himself in to authorities Wednesday after admitting to setting the Aug. 16 blaze, according to Gwinnett Fire Department spokesman Capt. Thomas Rutledge.

Cooper is charged with one count of first-degree arson and one count of second-degree criminal damage to property, both felonies, Rutledge said.

As of Wednesday evening, he remained in the Gwinnett County Jail, records show.

Firefighters were called to the scene at 6:47 a.m., after a coach and several members of Brookwood's cross country team saw smoke coming from behind the school building, Rutledge said. The blaze engulfed one trailer and was quickly spreading to a second trailer when firefighters

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Man found shot outside Holiday Inn

Victim dies of injuries at hospital

By ALEX P. JOYNER
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STONE MOUNTAIN — Police suspect foul play in the death of a man found shot in a hotel parking lot Wednesday evening.

Robert Lee Lovelace, 50, was found by police shot in a Holiday Inn parking lot in the 1700 block of East Park Place Boulevard in Stone Mountain about 6 p.m. Wednesday, Gwinnett police spokesman Cpl. David Schiralli said.

Lovelace was transported to an area hospital where he died of his injuries. Police did not know where Lovelace's last known address was.

Little is known about the circumstances surrounding the shooting, Schiralli said.

"We don't have any suspects at this time," he said.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Gwinnett County Police at 770-513-5300.



UGA dedicates new Gwinnett campus facility on Sever Road

By ALEX P. JOYNER
STAFF WRITER
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LAWRENCEVILLE — The University of Georgia ushered in a new era of dominance Wednesday in Gwinnett County as school and state officials dedicated the university's new Gwinnett Campus facility.

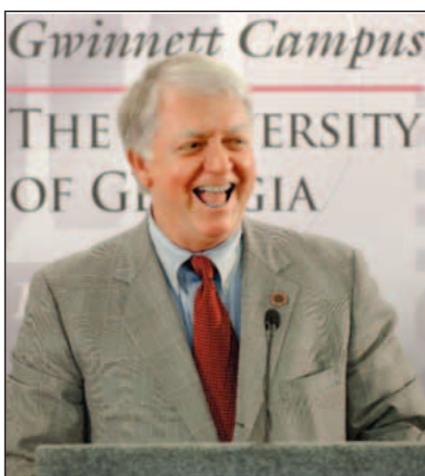
"In many ways this is an exciting day for UGA and Gwinnett County," UGA president Michael Adams said. Housed in more than 60,000 square feet in the Intellicenter office

building — located at 2530 Sever Road near the Old Peachtree Road exit off Interstate 85 — the University of Georgia Gwinnett Campus offers 14 graduate programs and several professional certification courses.

The campus, UGA's largest satellite offering, previously shared space with Georgia Gwinnett College up until May.

UGA has offered graduate degree programs in Gwinnett since the

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Staff Photo: Josh D. Weiss

University of Georgia President Michael Adams shares a laugh with the crowd at the dedication of the new Gwinnett Campus.

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State says Bill Heard used deceptive practices

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A state watchdog agency is claiming that Bill Heard Enterprises, one of the leading sellers of Chevrolet vehicles in the country, has participated in deceptive and misleading business practices.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the company denied the allegations made

by the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs in a court filing Friday in Fulton County.

Bill Heard had filed a lawsuit against the Office of Consumer Affairs in May 2007 under the Georgia Open Records Act to obtain the names of people and dealerships who had filed complaints against the company. The state filed a countersuit in July 2007 saying

the company had used misleading advertising that looked like a vehicle recall notice. The state said that advertisement violated the Georgia Fair Business Practices Act of 1975.

The Columbus-based company has five dealerships in Georgia and nine dealerships in six other states — Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Tennessee and Texas.

The filing Friday came as the company is dealing with significant financial problems. GMAC Financial Services has discontinued credit for new inventory for some of the company's 14 dealerships.

The Office of Consumer Affairs suit is not related to the company's financial problems.

Consumer Affairs Director of Administration and Exter-

nal Affairs William D. Cloud told the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer newspaper Wednesday that attorneys in the office believed last week they were close to reaching a settlement with Bill Heard that would have included penalties, fines and an injunction barring questionable business practices in the future.

"Two years ago, we had an agreement and they walked

away from it," Cloud told the newspaper. "We had another agreement and they walked away in the last few days."

The Office of Consumer Affairs has been investigating Bill Heard Enterprises since 2003, Cloud said. From July 1, 2005, through April 5, 2007, there were 113 complaints against Bill Heard and a total of 10 against five other dealerships, he said.

UGA: College of Education now offering doctoral program at campus

•From Page 1A

mid-80s, but has increased the number and scope of programs in recent years, officials say. Current offerings include master's degrees from several UGA schools and colleges, including the Terry College of Business, the School of Public and International Affairs, the School of Social Work and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science.

The College of Education offers both master's and specialist degrees and is now offering a doctoral program in counseling and student personnel services. The first class started course work this summer.

Additionally, the facility offers continuing education programs provided by the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, which offers customized training for businesses and organizations.

"We now have more space to accommodate our growing academic and continuing education programs in Gwinnett," said Bob Boehmer, head of UGA's satellite campuses in Gwinnett, Griffin and Tifton.

Hazel McMullin, the Deputy Director of Human Resources with Gwinnett, said pursuing a master's in



Staff Photo: Josh D. Weiss

Richard Tucker, chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Georgia system, speaks briefly about the impact of the new Gwinnett Campus.

public administration at the Gwinnett Campus has been ideal while juggling work and family. While enrolled, she has been promoted and has benefited from tuition reimbursement.

"Like they say these days, that's crazy good," she said.

Gwinnett and neighboring Cobb County are big business for UGA as both counties comprise most of the university's student body. Of the top 50 high schools that feed the university's growing student body, 11 are Gwinnett-based, Adams said.

Roadwork to cause delays

BY CAMIE YOUNG
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ON THE WEB

Comments? Tell us what you think at www.gwinnettdaily.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE — This Labor Day weekend won't be a holiday for road construction.

The Georgia Department of Transportation usually calls a halt to any big lane closures on holiday weekends, but this time, a huge construction project has been scheduled, despite the expected traffic to get to the beach or the mountains for an end-of-summer trip.

According to DOT spokeswoman Crystal Paulk-Buchanan, the work this three-day weekend is actually expected to cause the least impact to drivers than spreading out the work over the next six weekends. While less drivers are typi-

cally out on Labor Day weekend than a regular traffic weekend.

But Paulk-Buchanan is still predicting a bottleneck with delays of up to two hours. She is encouraging drivers to take Interstate 285 to avoid the mess or use other options such as MARTA.

"The biggest message is to plan ahead," she said. "There are numerous other ways to get around."

During the 72-hour weekend, Interstate 85 will be down from five lanes to two and Interstate 75 will be down to one lane just before the Brookwood split if weather permits. As part of the \$88.5 million reconstruc-

tion project at 14th Street, crews will work on the connector southbound to make safety and sight distance improvements as well as shift lanes to make way for a new 10th Street exit ramp.

In addition to holiday travel, officials are anticipating 70,000 people will attend the Alabama vs. Clemson football game at the Georgia Dome on Saturday and another 60,000 attendees at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Marching Band Hall of Fame at the Dome on Monday.

Paulk-Buchanan said 22 police officers will be at key intersections to help with the traffic flow, and extra HERO units will be available, while message boards will alert drivers to the traffic situation. Drivers can also call 511 for updated information.

Arson: Fire damaged two trailers

•From Page 1A

arrived. Crews worked to extinguish the flames and

protect the main school building. The fire caused "significant" damage to the second trailer, Rutledge

said. School was not in session at the time of the blaze and no injuries were reported.

Police shoot man in downtown Atlanta

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — A man fleeing Atlanta police was shot in the torso outside the Fulton County Courthouse. Atlanta Police Detective Anthony Gentile said officers were chasing a

white Toyota that screamed to a halt in front of the courthouse Wednesday afternoon.

The man driving the car then took off on foot, Gentile said. After a short pursuit, police fired two shots and hit the man in the lower torso.

obituaries

IN LOVING MEMORY

EDWARD J. ALLEN

Age 94, of Duluth, GA, passed away on August 7, 2008. Survived by his wife of 68 years, and four children. Three grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. Preceded in death by one son. Services were held in Ocala, FL on August 9, 2008. He will be greatly missed by his family.

GAINESVILLE

MITCHELL, JERRY

Mr. Jerry W. Mitchell, age 65, of Gainesville, GA passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2008. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Harris Mitchell. He is survived by his wife: Mrs. Ann Lee Mitchell, Gainesville, GA, sons: Daniel Mitchell, Buford, GA, Brian Mitchell, Rhode Island, and Jerry Allen Mitchell, Braselton, GA, granddaughter: Emily Mitchell, Monroe, GA, sisters: Ruby Mitchell and Karen Mitchell, brother: Tommy Mitchell, Flowery Branch, GA, several step children, nieces and nephews. Mr. Mitchell was born June 11, 1943 in Norfolk, VA. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He was a retired carpenter. He was of the Baptist Faith. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Rev. Brian Evans officiating. Interment will be in Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville, FL. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Thursday from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Arrangements by: Junior E. Flanigan of Flani-

gan Funeral Home and Crematory, Buford, GA 770-932-1133 www.flaniganfuneralhome.com

JEFFERSON

STURKIE, KAY

Mrs. Kay V. Sturkie, age 57, of Jefferson, GA, passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2008. Arrangements by Evans Funeral Home, Jefferson 706-367-5467*

LAWRENCEVILLE

ALFORD, JOHN

Mr. John S. Alford, age 37, of Lawrenceville, GA, passed away on Monday, August 25, 2008. He is survived by his: wife of 14 years: Mrs. Melissa D. Cook Alford, Lawrenceville, GA daughters: Jessica Alford, age 17, of Lawrenceville, GA, Madisen Alford, age 10, Lawrenceville, GA and Shawna Alford, age 4, Lawrenceville, GA, mother: Mary Donnelly Alford, New Orleans, LA, sisters: Jo Ann Barron, Frances Alford and Trudy Alford, brothers: William Alford and James Alford, mother-in-law and father-in-law: Virginia and Wayne Cook, Lawrenceville, GA. Mr. Alford was born February 15, 1971. He was employed with Progress Containers in Winder, GA. He was a member of the Dacula First United Methodist Church in Dacula, GA. Memorial services will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Rev. Greg Burgner officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Arrangements by: Junior E. Flanigan of Flani-

gan Funeral Home and Crematory, Buford, GA 770-932-1133 www.flaniganfuneralhome.com

TINDULA, WILLIAM "BILLY"

William Paul "Billy" Tindula, age 47, of Gates Mill Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia, died at Gwinnett Medical Center, Lawrenceville, Georgia on Friday, July 4, 2008, following a lengthy illness. He was born March 13, 1961 in Allentown, Pennsylvania to the late William S. and Jennie T. (Basile) Tindula. He attended William Allen High School in the Life Skills program. He moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia in November, 2002, where he resided with his sister, Margaret, and her husband, John Plasman. He attended Annandale of Suwanee Day Program and was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic

Church. Billy is also survived by his sister, Carol, and her husband, Andrew Prokop, of Downingtown, Pennsylvania and by his nieces and nephews Jessica Engram, Jennifer Holloway, Nicholas Prokop, Amy Plasman and Matthew Prokop. Billy's generosity, sense of humor and kind heart were an inspiration to his family and friends. He lived his life with joy and bravery and is sadly missed. A memorial service for Billy will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 3 at St.

Lawrence Catholic Church, 319 Grayson Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30045, followed by a reception at the social hall. Billy is interred at Highland Park Cemetery in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Institute for the Study of Disadvantage and Disability (ISDD), Adult Down Syndrome Program, in care of Dr. Leslie Rubin, 776 Windsor Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30342. The family expresses its heartfelt thanks to Billy's friends

for their extraordinary support throughout his illness and during his life, to the doctors of Gwinnett Pulmonary Group and to the nursing staff of Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville. Wages & Sons Gwinnett Chapel, Lawrenceville, GA 770-277-4550

Send flowers, gifts, and charitable contributions.

Sign an online guest book on gwinnettdaily.com powered by legacy.com



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Name: 'It's very humbling to be honored in that way'

•From Page 1A

at Duluth for 21 years. "I had a whole lot of honors, but that had to be one of the biggest."

Morris compiled a 150-82-7 record at Duluth, where he coached future Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers. He led the Wildcats to 12 playoff appearances from 1970-90 and Duluth was a perennial top 10 team from 1971-86.

After two decades as head coach at Duluth, the school named the field in Morris' honor in 1991 after he retired. "It's very humbling to be honored in that way," said Morris, who now lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

At Duluth, the stadium also has a namesake — Tim Maxwell. He is a former Duluth student who died in World War II.

Maxwell isn't the only war veteran to be honored. Central Gwinnett's stadium is named after John R. Cooper, who died while fighting in Vietnam. Central's field is named for longtime football coach Tally Johnson.

David Lrenus Barron, better known as Red Barron, started the football program at Dacula in the early '60s. But his is not the typical coaching story.

Prior to coaching at Dacula, Barron was an All-American at Georgia Tech in the early '20s and coached at Monroe A&M, a vocational prep school in Walton County, in the late '20s through 1940.

In 1952, Barron was convicted of the murder of his wife and sentenced to three to five years in prison. Barron served his time as a coach at a boys' reformatory in Alto and was paroled after 20 months and pardoned in 1955. Four years later, Barron was inducted into Georgia Tech's Hall of Fame.

In 1963, Barron started football at Dacula High by forming a junior varsity

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Here's a look at the 11 Gwinnett County High School stadiums and fields that are named in someone's honor:

Buford Tom Riden Stadium

 Tom Riden was Buford's first head football coach and held the position from 1946-60. He also served as the school's principal and was head basketball and baseball coach. The stadium was named in his honor in 1990.

Central Gwinnett John R. Cooper Memorial Stadium/Tally Johnson Field

 The Coopers are longtime residents of the Lawrenceville community. John R. Cooper was a 1962 graduate of Central Gwinnett High School, where he played football and baseball. Cooper died in 1968 in Vietnam while serving in the Army, one of the first Central grads to die in the war. The stadium was named in his honor later that year. Tally Johnson was Central Gwinnett's head football coach for 28 years from 1974-2001. He compiled a 185-111 record during that time, including 14 playoff appearances. The field was named for Johnson in 2003.

Collins Hill Fahring Field

 Named after school's first head coach, Alan Fahring, who was instrumental in the building of the stadium. In his eight years as the Eagles' coach, Fahring quickly established Collins Hill as a playoff team. The Eagles made four playoff appearances under Fahring, including a trip to the Class AAAAA semifinals in 2001.

North Gwinnett Tom Robinson Memorial Stadium

 Tom Robinson's sons, Butell and E.E., donated the land where the stadium sits in the late 1950s and the county named the stadium in their father's honor.

team. The team went undefeated that first year, but the following year — Dacula's first varsity season — the Falcons posted a 1-9 record. It was the only season Barron was head coach of the Fal-

Dacula Dacula Stadium at Barron Field

 Named after Dacula's first head coach, Red Barron, who started football at Dacula in 1963. The Falcons' junior varsity team went undefeated that year and the following season Dacula played its first varsity season, going 1-9. Field was named in his honor in 1965. Barron was also an All-American at Georgia Tech and is a member of the school's Hall of Fame.

Duluth Cecil Morris Field at Tim Maxwell Stadium

 Cecil Morris was Duluth's head football coach for 21 years from 1970-90. Morris was 150-82-7 record at Duluth, and he coached Heisman Trophy winner George Rogers. The field was named in his honor in 1991.

The Maxwells lived in Duluth for years and donated the land where the stadium is located. The stadium is named for Tim Maxwell, a former student who died in World War II.

Grayson Britt-Moody Field

 Named after Grayson alum and longtime coach and educator Jack Britt and the school's first principal, Mike Moody. The field was dedicated in their honor Oct. 5, 2007.

South Gwinnett Bobby Bridges Field at Richard Snell Community Stadium

 Bobby Bridges was an assistant principal at South from 1983-90 and retired due to illness. The field was named after Bridges, who also coached at Berkmar and North Gwinnett, in 1990.

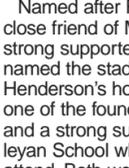
cons, but the following year the football field was named in his honor. The Robinson family has long been a big part of the North Gwinnett community. Tom Robinson owned much

Parkview Karl Bostick Field

 Karl Bostick wore many hats in 27 years at Parkview. He was the school's athletic director 24 years, boys soccer coach from 1981-2004 and boys cross country coach from 1981-98. The field was named in his honor in the spring of 2008.

Shiloh Charlie Jordan Field

 Field was named in Charlie Jordan's honor in 2003 after the former head coach, who was instrumental in the building of the stadium in 1996. Jordan was Shiloh's head coach for 10 seasons.

Wesleyan Henderson Stadium at Robinson Field

 Named after Russ Henderson, a close friend of Malcolm Powell, a strong supporter of Wesleyan who named the stadium posthumously in Henderson's honor. Glen Robinson is one of the founders of Scientific Atlanta and a strong supporter of the Wesleyan School where his grandchildren attend. Both were dedicated in 1998.

E.E. also has a park named in his honor just a few miles down the road in Sugar Hill. Not long after the land was donated, the stadium was named Tom Robinson Memorial Stadium in their

father's honor.

"It's nice for him to be remembered that way," said Tim Robinson, the great-grandson of Tom Robinson. "It's always been special."

Tom Riden did just about everything at Buford High School. He was the school's first football head coach in 1946, leading the team to an 11-0 record, and he compiled a 92-46-5 record, including a trip to the state finals in 1954.

Riden was also the school's principal, head basketball coach and head baseball coach. Buford's basketball teams went to the state tournament in 13 of the 14 seasons Riden coached.

In recent years, the number of Gwinnett high school stadiums and fields honoring a former coach or administrator has grown. Of the 18 high schools with football stadiums, 11 have their stadium or field named after someone. At Brookwood, the Dave Hunter Complex encompasses the school's athletic complex and honors the Broncos' longtime football coach and athletic director.

In the last 10 years, seven schools have named their field or stadium after someone, most recently Grayson and Parkview during the 2007-08 school year.

Grayson Community Stadium features Britt-Moody Field and the field at The Big Orange Jungle at Parkview is named for Karl Bostick. Jack Britt is a Grayson alum and longtime coach and educator, while Mike Moody was the school's first principal. Bostick was a longtime athletic director at Parkview, winning 10 state titles as a boys soccer and cross country coach.

"It means a whole lot to me and to my family," said Britt, who has two grandsons in the Grayson football program. "I don't know if there's any greater honor than that."

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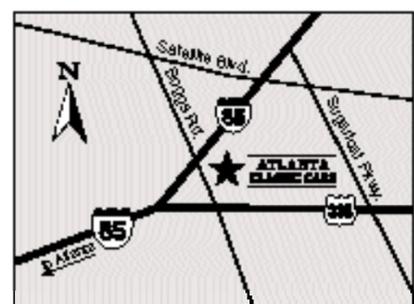
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