

# 5 reasons

U.S. golfers might win the Ryder Cup. (Hint: Think Tiger.) **In Sports**



**Also in Sports:**  
The Falcons' Keith Brookings

**FIRST EDITION**

THE SUNDAY PAPER, ON SALE SATURDAY

### WEEKEND WEATHER

Enjoy it while it lasts

Who says summer is over anyway? Get out and enjoy the sunshine before the cool of fall breezes in.

**SATURDAY'S HIGH**  
85  
**SUNDAY'S HIGH**  
86

### DON'T MISS

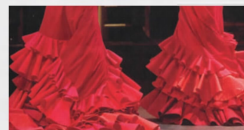
#### Sharpsburg Fall Festival

Music, clogging, food, a birds of prey show, more than 100 antiques and arts and crafts dealers, and rides, games and crafts for children.

- **When:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 16-17
- **Cost:** Free admission
- **Where:** Old Town Sharpsburg, Ga. 16 at Ga. 54, Sharpsburg
- **Information:** 770-251-4513. [www.myspace.com/nanapapa1](http://www.myspace.com/nanapapa1)



### AROUND TOWN



#### "Flamenco Motion e Mocion"

Dance performance with Antonio Vargas and Atlanta dancers Rina Menosky and Julie Baggenstoss. Presented by Jaleole.

- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday
- **Cost:** \$55
- **Where:** Langford Sound & Stage, 633 Holcomb Bridge Road, Roswell
- **Information:** 404-457-3775. [www.jaleole.com](http://www.jaleole.com)

### EXPANDED INDEX, A2



Vol. 58 No. 260  
300 pages, 19 sections  
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# The Atlanta Journal-Constitution SUNDAY

## Patent leather shines for fall

In Style



### Gotta see it!

Fall's new shows make must-watch TV more than an advertising slogan. **In Arts & Books**



JOEY IVANSCO/Staff

## Stories emerge from century-old tragedy

In September 1906, race riots started in downtown Atlanta, spread to the suburbs and ended with at least 25 dead, including George Wilder, a 70-year-old former slave and Civil War pensioner. His is one of the few stories genealogists have been able to tell as they mark the 100th anniversary of the bloody riots. **Article, A3**  
► Press coverage of the riots fueled more violence. **In @Issue**

# A father's grief, visible



RICH ADDICKS / Staff

Robert Stokely brought the black-rimmed round clock for \$4.98 and placed it on the shelf in his son's room. He set it eight hours ahead to keep track of the time in Iraq, where Michael was fighting with the Georgia Army National Guard. But the clock has not ticked

for more than a year. The time is frozen at 2:20 a.m. Robert later scribbled a date, Aug. 16, 2005, on the clock's face. That was when Sgt. Michael Stokely's war ended — abruptly, with the blast of a makeshift bomb. **Article, A4**



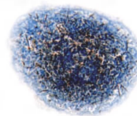
BRANT SANDERLIN / Staff

## Gear deals raise money, concern

Agreements with apparel companies like Nike ensure college athletes at UGA, Georgia Tech and elsewhere have the latest gear. But critics say the deals — which also give money to coaches and athletics departments — raise ethical questions. **Article, A8**

## Political science: Stem cells key issue

A Senate race in Missouri provides a view into how deeply divided the Republican Party is on embryonic stem cell research. It's among several battleground issues The Atlanta Journal-Constitution will cover leading up to Election Day. **Article, A10**



## R.I.P. where?

On-the-move Americans confront where — and whether — to be buried. **In Sunday Living**

## Dogs, Jackets roll to easy victories



COLLEGE FOOTBALL COVERAGE, C1

# The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

## SUNDAY



Georgians advised to avoid spinach  
INSIDE, A3

Female inmates fight fires  
IN METRO, D1

## A century later, a city remembers

By JIM JAUCHMUTEY  
jauchmutey@ajc.com

On a cloudy Monday night a century ago this month, a dozen white lawmen and armed civilians marched into Brownsville, a black neighborhood on the southern edge of Atlanta, and started arresting anyone with a weapon.

It was the third day of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, the worst outbreak of racial violence in the city's his-

tory. Whites had done almost all of the bloodletting so far, and authorities feared blacks were plotting reprisals.

As they headed back for the jail with their prisoners, the posse noticed figures lurking in the shadows. An officer ordered them to put up their hands. Someone pulled a trigger. Guns crackled and flashed for five minutes. A white cop and at least two black residents fell dead.

► Please see RACE RIOTS, A14

## 1906 ATLANTA RACE RIOT



► Several local newspapers covered the riots and fueled more violence. In @Issue, C1

► A look at riot-inspired art exhibits. In Arts & Books, K1

# Science slighted in CDC awards

Cash bonuses at troubled health agency frequently go to bureaucrats instead of researchers.

By ALISON YOUNG / ayoung@ajc.com

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention employees receiving the most frequent large cash awards and performance bonuses are not scientists, but mostly budget analysts, accountants, computer experts and other administrative managers, according to an analysis of the awards by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

As the CDC faces morale problems and the loss of key scientific leaders, the distribution of awards provides evidence, critics say, that the Atlanta-based agency is becoming more focused on management and bureaucracy and less on its public health mission.

The 72 CDC employees who received five or more awards of at least \$2,500 from 2000 through July 21, primarily work in non-science jobs. Some got \$30,000, \$50,000 and in one case more than \$140,000 in cumulative bonus cash beyond their salaries, according to the CDC's awards data, obtained by the Journal-Constitution under the Freedom of Information Act.

The CDC has about 9,000 employees, and 4,200 of them are considered scientific staffers. The highest individual annual performance bonus paid so far this year was \$27,000 to a manager of a scientific division, the data show.

CDC Director Julie Gerberding was unavailable for comment Friday and Saturday. Other CDC officials said the agency is examining its system of awarding employees for fairness, appropriateness and transparency.

"We want to make sure that the system we have in place is equitable and that it rewards everyone, if in fact they are eligible for the award and if in fact they're deserving of it," said spokesman Tom Skinner. "We are looking at the system and anything we can do to make it better."

► Please see CDC, A19

## ON AJC.COM

► Go online to read CDC Director Julie Gerberding's e-mail to employees Friday about cash awards.

► Plus: Read about problems with CDC employee morale and retention.

# A father's grief, visible



RICH ADDICKS / Staff

Robert Stokely knows two things about time: It is fleeting, and it is without end.

His days with his son were cut short when Michael died in Iraq at 23.

Every day since that moment has been filled with a longing that will not go away.

By MONI BASU  
mbasu@ajc.com

Robert Stokely bought the black-rimmed round clock for \$4.98 and placed it on a shelf in his son's room. He set it eight hours ahead to keep track of the time in Iraq, where Michael was fighting with the Georgia Army National Guard.

But the clock has not ticked in over a year.

The time is frozen at 2:20 a.m. Robert took a black marker and scribbled a date on the clock's face: August 16, 2005.

That was when Sgt. Michael Stokely's war ended — abruptly, with the blast of a makeshift bomb hidden on a dusty road that sliced through the rural area south of Baghdad known as the Triangle of Death.

That month, that day, that hour, were filled with lasts. The time since has been a series of unwanted firsts for Robert, a

father consumed by grief.

He knows Mike would not want him to shortchange life. "So, I got killed. What's the big deal?" he would say. Life goes on.

There are days that are difficult in the most obvious ways — Mike's birthday, the last day he was home, the anniversary of his death. Between those milestones are all the ordinary days punctuated with memories of Mike.

► Please see STOKELY, A16

## INSIDE

### Stem cells key issue

A Senate race in Missouri provides a view into how deeply divided the Republican Party is on embryonic stem cell research. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution will cover such battleground issues until Election Day. **Story, A12**

### Corbin's quick turnaround

A friend's admission that he'd given Barton Corbin a gun ultimately led to two guilty pleas.



**Story, D1**

## No shoestring budget:

\$13 million from Nike pays for UGA sports gear and some of Rich's compensation.

By CARTER STRICKLAND  
cstrickland@ajc.com

Athens — Being new to Bulldog Nation, Matthew Stafford wasn't braced for the reaction when he sauntered onto the University of Georgia practice fields a few weeks ago dressed in an of-

fensive T-shirt.

Go Gators? I Love Spurrier? Nope, it was even worse.

"He's got on Reebok." Mark Richt yelled to the other Georgia football coaches. He sent the star freshman — who made his first start Saturday — back to the locker room for a change of clothes.

UGA is a Nike school. The Beaverton, Ore.-based athletic apparel giant gives the university about \$900,000 worth of gear a year for the right to be the official outfitter of the Bulldogs, under a 10-year, \$13 million contract

► Please see NIKE, A9

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**EXPANDED INDEX, A2**

Vol. 58 No. 369  
320 pages, 19 sections  
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BRANT SANDERLIN / Staff

## 1906 ATLANTA RACE RIOT

## Famed Atlantans remember the riot

## Margaret Mitchell

The future author of "Gone With the Wind" was 5 years old and living in a house near downtown Atlanta. When she overheard a neighbor warn her father about possible retaliation by blacks, she imagined another Civil War was starting and fetched an ornamental sword for him to defend the family.



## W.E.B. Du Bois

The Atlanta University professor was in Alabama when the riot began. He rushed back to town and stood guard with a shotgun on the steps of South Hall. Du Bois wrote a poem about the riot, "A Litany of Atlanta," in the form of an anguished plea to God: "Red was the midnight; clang, crack, and cry of death and fury filled the air and trembled underneath the stars while church spires pointed silently to Thee."



## Joel Chandler Harris

The newspaperman who had become famous for his "Uncle Remus" tales was at home in West End when a gunshot crashed through one of his front windows at 5 a.m. A citizens' patrol had sighted a "disreputable looking Negro" in the words of one newspaper, and chased him, discharging a Winchester rifle. During the riot, Harris sheltered several blacks in his outbuildings.



## Walter White

On the night the riot erupted, the future NAACP leader was a teenager riding in a wagon with his postmaster father as he made his rounds through downtown. They witnessed some of the first bloodshed as the rabble beat a lame barbershop bootblack to death in the street. White told the story in his memoirs.



## Race riots: Four days of remembrance to begin on Thursday

Continued from A1

At the Fulton County Courthouse the next morning, one of the policemen, John Oliver, gave an account of the battle to a gathering that included a reporter for The Atlanta Evening News. After the shooting started, he told them, he spotted a man with a gun coming toward him and fired.

"I found him this morning. I had shot him in the stomach. He was an old negro and had a muzzle-loading musket."

The "old negro" was probably George Wilder, a disabled veteran who lived with his wife on nearby Moury Avenue. At 70, he was a former slave who had fought with the Union Army at the end of the Civil War. Thought to be the oldest Atlantan to die in the riot, he lies under a broken tombstone barely a mile from where he was shot to death.

Wilder's grave has become a focal point for a group of Atlantans who plan to commemorate the riot centennial this week. The Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot — representing an array of local colleges, governments, and cultural and faith groups — is staging a four-day remembrance that will be part symposium and part town hall meeting.

The observance will begin Thursday with a memorial service at old Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the names of dozens of people caught up in the violence will be read aloud. Then a funeral procession will leave for South-View, Atlanta's oldest black cemetery, where an African libation — a blessing and ceremonial pouring of water — will be held at the Wilder plot.

"It's the only victim's grave we've been able to find," says historian Clarissa Myrick-Harris, a coalition organizer.

## A result of white rage

Unlike the urban disturbances of the 1960s, when black ghettos exploded in frustration, the riots of a century ago were usually the result of white rage. In an era of lynchings, white hysteria over black sex crimes — real and more often imagined — occasionally boiled over in mass retaliation that resembled the pogroms against Jews in Russia.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, white marauders attacked black communities in Wilmington, N.C.; Springfield, Ill.; Tulsa, Okla.; and a dozen other cities.

Atlanta's descent into a near race war began on Sept. 22, 1906. It was Saturday night, and the newspapers were hawking extras with wildly exaggerated reports of rapes by blacks. Whipped into a frenzy, a crowd of 5,000 downtown started assaulting blacks at random. By the time the violence ended four days later, between 25 and 50 people were dead, and the city's reputation for New South moderation had been badly bruised.

For months, the coalition has been trying to find descendants of people who were affected by the riot for its centennial remembrance. Last winter, the local chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society volunteered to research some of the names. Ten genealogists spent hours poring over archives, squinting at newspaper microfilm and mining Web sites until way past their bedtimes.

"It became personal for me," says one of the researchers, Rhonda Barrow of Lithonia. "No one has told these people's stories."

Between them, the coalition and the genealogists have located the great-great-nephew of a white mob leader, the grandson of a postmaster who was jailed in the riot and the granddaughters of a man who was convicted of killing the white police officer in Brownsville.



The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., helped find the only marked grave of a 1906 race riot victim. Members (from left) Kenny Burton, Monica A. Hackney and Rhonda Barrow pose as the known names of victims from the Atlanta race riots are projected onto a backdrop.

## 1906 Riot Centennial Events

The remembrance begins at 9 a.m. Thursday with the opening of "Red Was the Midnight," an exhibition in the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site visitors gallery.

► At 1 p.m., there will be a memorial service at old Ebenezer Baptist Church, followed by a procession to South-View Cemetery and a graveside service.

► At 7 p.m., the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials will lead a candlelight vigil

through the Old Fourth Ward, where some of the violence occurred, starting at the King gravesites on Auburn Avenue.

► The remembrance continues Friday, Saturday and Sunday with panel discussions, book signings and artistic interpretations at Georgia State University and the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library.

For a listing of events: 770-423-6069, www.1906atlantaraceriot.org.

## ABOUT THIS STORY

The riot narrative was drawn from contemporary newspaper and magazine accounts, academic studies and four books published in recent years: "The Atlanta Riot" by Gregory Mixon, "Negrophobia" by Mark Bauerlein, "Rage in the Gate City" by Rebecca Burns and "Veiled Visions" by David Fort Godshalk.

"He might have shot him," says one of the granddaughters, Patricia Bearden, a retired schoolteacher in Chicago who is planning to come to the centennial. She remembers her grandfather, Alex Walker, as a thin man in overalls who chewed tobacco and walked with an uneven gait. He was released from a Georgia prison after serving only four years and fled the state, ending up in Chicago.

"Grandpa was a proud man," she says. "He bragged about his part in the riot, but he might have been exaggerating. He liked to drink."

For all their efforts, the genealogists have been unable so far to find a descendant of a person who was killed in the riot.

Most of the known victims were young and had not had a chance to start families. Judging from death certificates, at least eight of them are buried at South-View. Several lie in unmarked pauper graves.

Only Wilder's is marked. His tombstone, a sliver of agemottled granite, is broken off at the top. The remnant bears an inscription that's so weathered it's almost impossible to read.

## Few records left

Most of what's known about Wilder comes from his military and pension records, 182 pages stored at the National Archives in Washington.

The file contains sketchy records of his service in the Union Army, medical documents relating to his application for a disability pension, and a collection of affidavits given by relatives and friends after his wife filed for widow's benefits. The Bureau of Pensions questioned whether George and Isabella actually had been married and conducted an inquiry. Satisfied by their 1875 marriage license, the bureaucrats granted her \$12 a month.

The picture of Wilder that emerges from the file is that of a hard-working man with a plague of aches and pains who was, in the words of a federal examiner, "respected by both white and colored acquaintances."

Like many folk then, he could not write his name. He marked his statements with an "X."

Some of the information in the file is contradictory. Wilder's birthplace is given as Bibb County, Ga., or Perry County, Ala. Census records have led

the genealogists to believe he might have been born in Clarendon County, S.C.

When the Civil War began, his widow said, George was a slave and belonged to a Wilder family in Macon.

By the end of the war, he was in Alabama. On April 8, 1865 — the day before Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox — Wilder enlisted in Selma and became part of the 137th U.S. Colored Troops, a regiment of former slaves from across Alabama and Georgia. In his disability statements, he says he was shot, bayoneted and suffered a gunpowder burn to an eye. He mentions skirmishes near Columbus, Ga., and Mobile, Ala.

Wilder was so proud of his service that he apparently adopted "Union" as a middle name. A piece of his tombstone lying in the grass reads: "George Union W." ... the last four letters were on a lost fragment.

In January 1865, Wilder moved out of the Army in Macon. He eventually moved to a plantation outside Albany and lived with a woman named Lou who bore him a daughter. After Lou died, he married a younger woman, Isabella. They stayed together for the rest of his life and never had children.

In the early 1890s, they migrated to Atlanta, where Wilder guarded leased convict labor at the Chattahoochee Brick Co. At other times, he listed his

## GEOGRAPHY OF RAGE

The 1906 race riot erupted the night of Sept. 22 when mobs started attacking black people on the streets of downtown Atlanta (1). Two days later, another bloody confrontation occurred in Brownsville (2), a neighborhood that no longer goes by that name.



called it an ambush. But one of the nation's best-known muckraking journalists, Ray Stannard Baker, interviewed residents for a magazine series and concluded that the cops had started it.

One of the first shots struck Fulton County policeman James Heard in the head and killed him instantly. One of his comrades took cover behind his corpse and returned fire.

When the battle ended, the police retreated to a white neighborhood and put their prisoners on a stretcher bound for downtown. The car was stopped by a white mob, and two black men bolted. The rabble caught up with them and shot them "to pieces," in the words of one witness. The sight shocked a pregnant white woman who was watching from a nearby porch, and she dropped dead of a heart attack, according to newspaper accounts.

At dawn on Tuesday morning, three companies of state militia invaded Brownsville and rounded up 257 men. One of the soldiers hit the seminary president over the head with a rifle butt.

Wilder's body was found that morning and sent to an undertaker downtown. The coroner listed the cause of death as "gunshot."

Isabella Wilder was more specific when she applied for her widow's pension 12 days later. On the night her husband died, a friend said, she had been away at work, probably as a servant in a private home. But she had seen his corpse. She gave the cause of death as "cuts by knives and gun and pistol shots ... in the hands of a mob."

## Unanswered questions

Was Wilder an innocent bystander caught in the crossfire? Did he haul out his Civil War musket and try to defend his home? Did he take a shot at a cop and find himself the target of instant retribution?

No one knows. Wilder's death resulted in no charges. The Constitution named him as a riot fatality in a five-line brief, but none of Atlanta's newspapers bothered with an obituary.

His widow, however, did leave a testament. It's at his grave in South-View. The inscription on the broken tombstone, unreadable to the naked eye, can be discerned with a careful chisel. Underneath his name, age and affiliation with the Old Fellows fraternal organization, there are three lines of lightly engraved script:

*a soldier of the Civil War  
was killed in the riot  
of Atlanta Sept. 26, 1906*

The date is probably wrong — Wilder is thought to have died on Sept. 24 — but the sentiment is unmistakable.

"She wants the world to know how he died," says Georgia State University historian Cliff Kuhn, a coalition organizer. "This guy fought for his country and died at a time when people were trying to strip away the rights he had won. She wants people to know. At some level, it's like Emmet Till's mother insisting on an open casket after her son was lynched."

At South-View recently, employees of the National Park Service's Martin Luther King Jr. historic site visited Wilder's grave to make a tombstone etching for an exhibition about the riot. It will open this week on Auburn Avenue, in the same visitors center gallery that four years ago housed a memorable exhibition of lynching photos.

As one of the Park Service employees stretched a carbon paper tight across the old granite, another rubbed a tennis ball over the surface. Forgotten words began to appear like an image on a film negative.

"We're going to tell your story," one of them almost whispered into the stone.

Even if it's 100 years too late, said the other.

occupation as farmer, servant and cook.

Wilder applied for an "invalid pension" in 1890, complaining of rheumatism, heart disease and blinding pain behind the eye that had been burned by gunpowder in the war.

Even so, he was still working. Eugenia Stovall, who employed him as a servant at her West Peachtree Street home, vouched for Wilder in a 1900 affidavit: "He is a good faithful man who does all he can, with an energy and spirit that is commendable."

## One of best black areas

By 1906, the Wilders were living in a house off Jonesboro Road in Brownsville, just beyond the city limits near the new federal penitentiary. It was one of the area's best black neighborhoods, a mixture of blue-collar and middle-class homes clustered around Clark College and Gammon Theological Seminary, two schools that would later move to the Atlanta University complex in West End.

When the riot began that Saturday night, rumors of a massacre downtown quickly spread to Brownsville. Over the next two days, residents huddled for safety in the seminary chapel, where the school's president pleaded by phone with city officials to send police protection.

The law arrived at sundown on Monday night. According to an anonymous tip, Brownsville was arming itself to retaliate against white Atlantans.

"The people in Brownsville thought those men were coming to kill them," says historian David Fort Godshalk of Shippenburg University in Pennsylvania.

Godshalk investigated the Brownsville shootout for his 2005 book on the riot, "Veiled Visions," and couldn't tell who shot first. The newspapers fell in line behind the police and