

# School board to consider stadium naming rights deal

■ Football players could take to Grogan's Towne Field in the fall if the \$240,000 agreement is approved.

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The field at Bedford Community Stadium will be changing its name after an agreement has been reached between several parties.

The football field will be called Grogan's Towne Field at Bedford Community Stadium. The Toledo car dealership Grogan's Towne Chrysler has agreed to pay \$240,000 for the name of the field in order to help the Bedford Alumni Association and Bedford Public Schools pay off the debt.

Dr. Ted Magrum, superintendent of the district, said the car dealership will pay \$2,000 a month for 10 years. The debt on the stadium is about \$264,000. The rest of the money will be paid through fundraising efforts by the alumni association, Dr. Magrum said.

"The payments are \$30,000 a year and the alumni association has committed to raising the rest of the money needed to make the payments," Dr. Magrum said.

Chuck Faller, president of the Bedford Alumni Association, said the group has paid more than \$1 million on the loan. "Grogan's pledge will make our job certainly easier, no doubt," he said. "We have been paying money on this all along."

The group has sold bricks

for the stadium, sought pledges from individuals and business members and has hosted fundraisers including casino trips.

"We've been talking with some of our past owners to try and get them to re-up pledges," Mr. Faller said.

The group is renewing its efforts in the coming weeks, seeking individuals and businesses to pledge money to help pay off the stadium. For example, Mr. Faller said someone can buy the naming rights press box over the course of, say, 10 years.

"The idea that offering people an opportunity to advertise at the stadium is nothing new," Mr. Faller said. "We were in the process of doing these things when Grogan's approached Mark German (district athletic director)."

Bedford Community Stadium was built through a combination of loans, donations and in-kind donations, Mr. Faller said.

"If it weren't for the Bedford people, the stadium would not be there," he said.

Dr. Magrum said the proposal with Grogan's will have to be presented at three regular board meetings. During the June meeting, the agreement could be approved.

Once approved, Dr. Magrum said the district and members of the dealership hope to host an unveiling event closer to the start of football season to show off the name of the new field.

The history of Bedford Community Stadium can be found online at [www.bedfordyes.com/BedCommunityStadium.htm](http://www.bedfordyes.com/BedCommunityStadium.htm).