

Barium school gets new president

The Board of Regents at Barium Springs Home for Children has appointed a new president, John Koppelmeyer, to direct the 110-year-old home for children. He begins his new post on Aug. 6.

"We're delighted to have a person of John's caliber to lead Barium Springs Home for Children," said Michelle Rokes, chairman of the school's board of regents. "Under John's leadership, I am confident that Barium Springs will continue with its exceptional programming to meet the evolving needs of North Carolina's children and families."

Koppelmeyer comes to Barium Springs from Anderson Youth Association (AYA) in Anderson, S.C., where he has served as Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer since 1987. AYA is a non-profit agency that cares for 542 children and families through residential, school, and community services.

"I'm looking forward to being connected with the tradition and history of Barium Springs Home for Children, especially the tradition of quality service to children and families," Koppelmeyer said. He will be the tenth director of Barium Springs Home for Children since it opened in 1891.

A native of Wisconsin, Koppelmeyer earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/History from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse. He earned his Master in Social Work from the University of South Carolina, and is currently a South Carolina Licensed Independent Social Worker.

His wife, Deborah, also holds a Master in Social Work and licensure as a South Carolina Licensed Independent Social Worker. The Koppelmeyers have two children. As a father actively involved in the congregation of North Anderson Community Church (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.), Koppelmeyer has been a Sunday school teacher and coordinator of the Adopt A Highway program. He has also been a coach of YMCA basketball and baseball teams.

"I look forward to meeting staff and the families involved in the Home's programs, community leaders, board members, and state agency personnel serving children and families in North Carolina," he said.

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Section B

Sports

Involvement differs from participation

There's a fine line between parental involvement and parental participation when it comes to their children's sporting events. We here in Mooresville have, for the most part, been blessed with the fact that ours is more of an involvement matter than a participating one.

Let me explain.

The way I see it, parental involvement is just that, being involved.

Parents, be it the mother or father or both, tote their aspiring athletic offspring to and from respective events. This also includes staying around to watch them play, which for those with two, three or

more engaging in contests spread throughout the area becomes increasingly difficult. However, most of them find a way to accomplish it.

Particularly within our recreation level programs that relies so heavily on the volunteerism of parents to serve as coaches, there is a deep tie between these helpful servants and their players. It's one that we continue to be proud of.

Then, there's the parent participation factor. This is when those moms and dads who make it a point to catch their kids' games when their schedule allows take that following just a tad too far. They constantly gripe at every situation that seems, at least in their tunnel-vision eyes, to work against their charges. Never mind that they simply dropped them off at scheduled practice times and arrived back at the end of the time for the ride back home, never inquiring as to what took place in between. At times, these challenges become all too real.

According to a national survey released over the past weekend, as short as just five years ago, perhaps as few as five percent of those attending youth league games stepped over the line to voice concern during athletic events. Even then, that number was considered high. Today, those in the know reveal the number to be closer to the 15 percent range. This involves more than just the expected raising of voices to question certain calls, a part of the game that has come to be expected. These numbers take into effect matters that extend into physical altercations.

Our immediate area is to be commended for not allowing these emotions to flow completely overboard. Others across the country aren't so lucky. Stories have been released detailing attacks by a pee wee flag football coach who punched a 16-year-old referee during a game, and a fan who threatened a soccer official with a gun. These are real situations, folks, with real outcomes. And all of it over a simple game.

Naturally, when such overheated emotions are involved, some matters get completely out of hand. One father rammed his son's youth baseball coach with a car for taking the latter out of a game after three innings so others could play. Another sharpened his son's football helmet so he could slash opposing players. A police officer was convicted of paying a youth pitcher to hit an opposing team member. And, to extremes, a parent was beaten to death while supervising his son's pickup hockey game.

To help counteract matters, some league have conducted contests under strict requirements that parents and others attending keep all comments and actions to themselves or risk being escorted from the premises. Other area are conducting programs for parents directing them on how to act during contest. There are reports that these programs could spread nationwide.

Currently, Mooresville thankfully needs no such mouth-taping and hands-tying of its dedicated followers. There is an epidemic of such goings on that are bound to find their ways to our venues in the not too distant future. Hopefully, we can fight of that urge and keep our view as an involving one instead of one advances into the participation state.

SPORT SIDE



with Larry Sullivan

Proud Parnell beams over all-star players

You just might notice an even brighter and broader smile on the face of Mooresville's Todd Parnell these days.

The vice-president and general manager of the Kannapolis Intimidators single-A minor league baseball team has even more reason to shine.

With his first-year Chicago White Sox affiliate fielding the best record in minor league baseball and one of the top records in all of organized ball, Parnell has an added reason to be proud after the team's manager and a South

Atlantic League-high six players have been selected to the 42nd All-Star Game to be played later this month.

Intimidators first-year manager Razor Shines will accompany a half dozen players, three pitchers and a trio of position players, just down the road to engage in all-star game festivities this year taking place in Hickory on the homefield of the Pittsburgh Pirate affiliated Crawdads.

The SAL All-Star Game will be held June 19.

The six Intimidators are the

most from any team in the SAL to be so recognized.

Shines is in charge of a team that holds the best record in minor league ball. It comes courtesy of the top fielding percentage and the second-best hitting and pitching stats in all of the SAL.

In addition to Shines, starting pitchers Jim Sweeney and Dennis Uliaca, combining for a 12-1 record when selections were made, along with relief Joe Valentine account for the most pitchers picked off one staff to help comprise the 12-man rotation for the SAL's

Northern Division entry.

Sweeney has the fifth best ERA in the league and is holding opponents to a .210 average, while Uliaca is eighth in ERA and limits batters to a .204 average while ringing up an average of just over one strikeout per inning pitched.

Valentine has already been named the SAL's Relief Pitcher of the Month once this season, tied when all-star hurlers were selected for appearances and sharing third overall with 11 saves. He is holding

See PARNELL, page 2B

Feet fancy

Mini camp provides push

There was nothing miniature about last week's Mooresville High School's mini football camp.

Coaches saw to that. Players realized it.

Three days of intense drills conducted by Blue Devils varsity and junior varsity coaching staff members were designed to provide the participants, all attending on a strictly volunteer basis, with a major push of requirements needed when real, required practice sessions take place in less than two months.

The camp, conducted in the Mooresville Stadium that serves as the game site for all varsity and jayvee home games, also served to bring a football-filled

See FOOTBALL CAMP, page 3B



Airborne theft draws attention by pair of fellow intended targets



As players, in background, run through offensive plays, some helmets wait patiently to be filled

MJGO camps tee off golf month

And they're off!

And this time, perhaps more often than not, not so much into the wild blue yonder as the thick tall rough.

With beginners, it's like that. But, as they say, you have to start somewhere.

And for a full boat of 72 youth golfers, 36 each in a pair of near two-hour morning sessions, they are being spread out all over the host Mooresville Municipal Golf Course this week and all month

long as participants in the fast-growing Mooresville Junior Golf Organization.

Coinciding with what is being recognized as Golf Month at MMGC, this week opens the first of three two-stage youth golf camps being held at the 18-hole public facility with the complete professional staff on hand serving as instructors.

This week's five-day clinic, like the one also taking place the final week of the month, is designed

See MJGO, page 2B



Roberts, left, fellow contestants keep close eye on challenger's effort during chipping challenge

Teammates fill leader's rear window

The eventual winner of last weekend's NASCAR Winston Cup MBNA Platinum 400 at Dover Downs International Speedway -- himself with former direct Mooresville ties -- couldn't afford to spend too much time looking to see who might be gaining on him.

Those he saw might have caught him.

As it turned out, Mooresville-based Dale Earnhardt Inc. stable mates Steve Park and Dale Earnhardt Jr. fashioned second and third place finishes, respectively, to fill the rear view mirror of winner Jeff Gordon to beyond capacity at Sunday afternoon's finish line.

It served to cap a dominating performance by the winner, who ran at point in all but 19 of the race's 400 laps. Three area based entries were among those able to steal the race-leading thunder at least once during the course of the 400-mile affair.

In addition to Earnhardt Jr., with his fifth top-10 showing in the last seven races, local-based Penske South Racing's Rusty Wallace and Chip Ganassi Racing's Sterling Marlin were also among the eight drivers to engage in a total of 16 lead changes.

It was Park, a ninth-place starter, who provided the race's final challenge of the day, taking advantage of a restart with just over 20 laps left to close the eventual gap to .826 seconds and account for the overall second-place finish. Park was able to combine that performance to steady himself in seventh-place in the updated drivers championship points standings.

Earnhardt Jr. kept his current string of top-five finishes intact, following an 11th-place qualifying spot by finishing third. Gathering in bonus points as a race leader, the son of the late seven-time champion now stands ninth in points.

While the two DEI teammates account for the area's lone top-five efforts, two others crafted second-five finishes.

Ganassi's Marlin remained steady once again, qualifying seventh and finishing one position better in sixth to sit behind the wheel of the day's top-finishing Dodge entry. Marlin used points leader bonus points to hold strengthen his stand as fifth-place in points.

Also in the second five, Robert Yates Racing's Ricky Rudd fashioned a 10th-place showing, dropping from a fifth-place start in the process. Rudd maintained his sixth-place points status in the process.

Among the field's next 10, Ganassi's Jason Leffler placed 13th following a thorough-the-field improvement after starting back in the 38th position, while Mooresville's John Andretti finished 19th, offsetting a 31st-place starting assignment.

Also, Penske's Wallace wound up 21st, making the fall from a third-place start, still gobbling up the bonus points that served to steady his third place standing in the points. Jasper Motorsports' Robert Pressley took 22nd, after starting 20th, and Earl River Racing's Kenny Wallace 27th and 43rd, respectively.

Unable to finish the race

See DEI, page 3B