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SEMINOLEVOICE.COM | FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 2013 | Published weekly | FREE

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Looking for some family fun on Friday night? Head over to Casselberry's Lake Concord Park for a special showing of "Spy Kids 4."
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Developer wins, gets go-ahead in rural area

Seminole County Commissioners vote to change rural boundary line

TIM FREED
TheVoice

For miles heading eastward through Winter Springs, bustling State Road 434 takes dead aim toward the forest in northeast Seminole County. But, like a game of chicken, it veers south at the last second, just as the tarmac seems destined to cut through a wall of trees.

Tiny DeLeon Street hides just beyond that curve, meandering northward into the swampy forest and patchwork of farms that helped give rise to Seminole County's motto "Florida's Natural Choice". The occasional roaring pickup passes by here, but the most activity comes from the wildlife rustling in the brush and trees along the roads.

For nearly a decade the precedent had been set to keep it that way. But on Aug. 27 the Seminole County Commission voted to change the rural boundary designation for only the second time in the county's history to bring a 4.5-acre piece of land into an incoming subdivision development - a decision that local residents fear will make way for more changes to the rural bound-

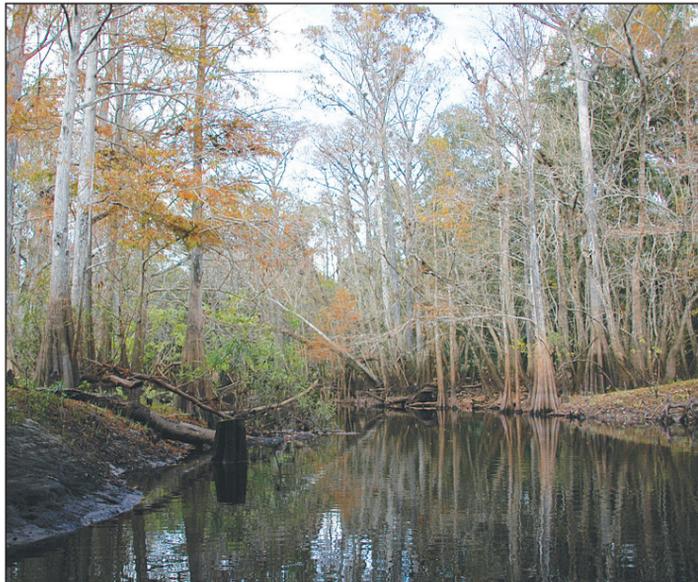


PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THEVOICE

Residents beyond the rural boundary fear that a new law change could set a precedent that allows developers to begin building in untouched areas.

ary and future development on rural land.

Commissioners removed the piece of land sitting at the corner of DeLeon Street and Florida Avenue from the rural area by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Carlton Henley and Lee Constantine voting against the item.

But before the vote, residents spoke out in defense of the rural boundary and the purpose it serves.

"I voted in 2004 with the majority for the rural boundary," said Black Hammock resident Angie Williams. "There was a purpose for that: to keep it rural. We are a diamond in the middle

of rural Seminole County. If everyone keeps chipping and chipping at that diamond, there's not going to be anything left. There's something very special about this place and we need to keep it special."

Since the 2004 vote that implemented it, the rural boundary line has been amended only once: a settlement in 2006 after Seminole County sued the city of Winter Springs for unlawfully approving the annexation of land in the rural boundary for a development.

The 4.5-acre parcel removed from the rural boundary last

■ Please see **BOUNDARY** on page 2

No one steps up to fight mayor

ISAAC BABCOCK
TheVoice

Oviedo once again had an unopposed election for its mayor and its longest-serving councilman Aug. 30, after election qualifying ended without a challenger.

For both Mayor Dominic Persampiere and Councilman Steve Henken this is the second straight election that they've run unopposed, automatically retaining their seats.

For Persampiere, this is the third time he's been unopposed in his 13 years as an elected official in Oviedo.

Councilman Keith Britton was also elected unopposed in 2012.

For Persampiere, who is the second-longest-serving elected official in Oviedo history, the uncertainty of another election is over.

"It's always nice to know," he said after qualifying ended. "I'm certainly humbled to be re-elected and serve as the mayor of Oviedo. It's a great honor to serve in that capacity and role for our city."

Henken, if he serves out his entire coming term, will tie former City Councilman Tom O'Hanlon as the longest serving councilman in the city's history.

"I'm very happy that Steve was also re-elected," Persampiere said. "We have a group of five who work very well together."

In the city an incumbent council member hasn't been unseated since 2006, when Britton defeated Councilwoman Regina Bereswill.

Crashes could double on S.R. 46

Seminole County Commissioners discuss how to make State Road 46 safer

TIM FREED
TheVoice

A traffic safety study presented at Tuesday's Seminole County Board of Commissioners meeting confirmed the fears of Geneva residents about the safety of drivers along State Road 46 - projecting that the number of car accidents along the road will double by 2020 if action isn't taken.

The Florida Department of Transportation called for the safety study last year after a State Road 46 widening project received push back from local residents, fearing the construction's effect on the rural character of the area and local businesses.



PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THEVOICE

A study shows that by 2020, State Road 46 in Geneva could see traffic crashes in the area more than double if preemptive safety measures aren't taken.

The safety study, conducted by transportation research company Kittelson and Associates Inc., focused on a section of State Road 46 going from the County Road 426 intersection to the other side

of the bridge at St. Johns River to the northwest.

Researchers found that the piece of road sees about 20 accidents each year, but that number is expected to more than double

to 44 crashes by 2020.

"We want to make sure that the road is safe and we want to make sure that we're spending the citizens' money most effectively," said Seminole County Commissioner Bob Dallari, who's spoken out in opposition of widening the road.

The study showed that there have been 104 reported crashes between 2007 and 2011 along the 7.4-mile strip of two-lane rural highway, with 31 of them causing injuries and three of them resulting in deaths.

Some of the most common areas for accidents include the strip between Richmond Avenue and the St. Johns River Bridge, along with the intersection of State Road 46 and County Road 426. Both locations have 25 reported crashes.

The researchers attributed these collisions to careless driv-

■ Please see **CRASHES** on page 2



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Publisher statement on page 5.

THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK IN WORLD HISTORY —SEPT. 7, 1776, During the Revolutionary War, the 8-foot-long American submersible craft *Turtle* attempts to attach a time bomb to the hull of British Admiral Richard Howe's flagship *Eagle* in New York Harbor. It was the first use of a submarine in warfare.

CRASHES | Widening 46 still an option

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
ing and speeding, something that nearby Geneva residents see all too often.

"I hear a lot of brakes locking up out here," said Liz Crowthers, president of Focal Point Landscape Nursery and Supplies, which sits at the State Road 46 and County Road 426 intersection. "At peak rush hour it does get kind of crazy right here at this intersection, because I don't think people are paying attention to who's turning and who's doing what."

Some of the improvements suggested by Kittelson and Associates Inc. include rumble strips along the outside of the road and more warnings signs and street lightning at the busy intersection.

But the study also suggested widening the road near the intersection, an option that locals con-

tinue to strongly oppose.

"It would affect us horribly; none of us could afford to lose any kind of business right now to construction," Crowthers said.

"A lot of us depend on the traffic coming down 46 when we don't have our regulars coming in the door."

Dallari opposed the idea of widening a section of the road, believing that it would cause bottlenecks and introduce more problems.

"To widen the road at this time I don't think makes sense from the information I've seen," Dallari said.

Dallari said the Commission will gather public input on the project at another meeting set for the first quarter of 2014.

"As long as people are coming down 46, something is going to have to be done," Crowthers said.



PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE VOICE
Shops along State Road 46 fear changes to the road will be bad for business.

BOUNDARY | Land will now house retention pond, playground

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
week will be developed into a retention pond and a playground, part of 95-home subdivision that incorporates land from both Winter Springs and Oviedo.

Dwight Saathoff, a representative of the subdivision's developers, American Land Investments of Central Florida, LLC, assured that the piece of land was small enough that it wouldn't impact the rural area or its residents.

"That parcel is not really remarkable," Saathoff said. "It's not adjacent to a homestead, so someone who lives in the rural area who's enjoying a rural lifestyle is not going to be directly impacted by this."

But like many residents who spoke at the meeting, Commissioner Henley expressed concern that changing the rural boundary line once more would set a precedent for other developers looking to develop in the rural area.

"It seems to me that if we approve this then we weaken our position, because the more you do something the easier it becomes," Henley said.

"I'm afraid we are all watching the beginning of the demise of the rural area, and I hope that's not true."

Both Commissioners and residents raised the question of why the land needed to be removed from the rural boundary to build



PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE VOICE
The Seminole County Commission's vote to redesignate a portion of the rural boundary is the first change to its parameters since a lawsuit in 2006.

a retention pond – a right equally available to land owners in the rural area.

County Attorney Bryant Applegate reasoned that the developers would build a retention pond on their land either way, and that removing the rural boundary designation would be the preferable option because it would keep the development from diluting the rural area.

"It was determined that the best way to protect the integrity of the rural area was to assure that this development was considered as a whole, and not pieced out," Applegate said. "I think it's a credible agreement to protect the rural area."

Commissioners Bob Dallari, John Horan and Brenda Carey voted in favor of the ordinance to change the rural boundary on those grounds.

Moments before the Commission called for a vote, Henley foresaw that many developers would be back with hopes to develop beyond the invisible line that Commissioners designated almost a decade ago.

"Regardless of what happens today, this is not the end of it," Henley said.

Annexation of the 4.5-acre parcel into the city of Winter Springs will go before the City Commission for a second public hearing later this month.



ART UNDER the STARS

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Photo Jay Malone, Casselberry

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INTERESTS

THIS WEEK IN WORLD HISTORY — SEPT. 6, 1915. A prototype tank nicknamed Little Willie rolls off an England assembly line. It weighed 14 tons, got stuck in trenches and crawled around at 2 mph. The vehicles were shipped in crates labeled "tank," and the name stuck.

BETA offers young mothers internship experiences

ALLISON OLCSVAY
Voice staff

For most, 4 a.m. is an unfamiliar hour, a time still spent slumbered between sheets encompassed by the darkness of closed eyelids. For Desiree Funchess, it's a whirlwind hour of quick showers, breakfast cereal and changing buses.

While the rest of the world sleeps, young mothers like Funchess, rise early to prepare themselves and their children for the day ahead. For Funchess that may mean a quick shower and breakfast, then at least two buses to catch to get her 7-month-old son

Desmond to daycare and herself to work.

If she wants to go school to better her chances at a good job, she has to somehow coordinate that into her already exhausting schedule.

"Every day is a challenge, just trying to get everything done," Funchess said.

And that's just for transportation. Factor in healthcare, financial or family issues or any number of other life stressors, and she says the tasks can sometimes seem insurmountable.

But this summer, Funchess found help through local organi-

zations coming together to help young single mothers from Orlando succeed.

Orlando's pregnancy and parenthood resource hub, BETA Center, teamed up with Workforce Central Florida's Project CoNEXTions, which offers a youth internship program for 16- to 21-year-olds experiencing challenges entering the workforce.

At BETA, young women are

able to complete their high school education, get counseling and job search support and access to quality childcare. The CoNEXTions program provides the girls with job skills training and the opportunity to put those skills to practice in a seven-week internship.

Funchess and two other women from BETA completed the program this summer, interning at BETA Center doing clerical work,

customer service and learning to be responsible employees.

"We expected them to act as any employee, clocking in, calling in if necessary and taking responsibility for their actions," said Residence Case Manager Aja Smith, who supervised the interns.

In many cases, Smith said the remaining challenge that stands between these young mothers and

■ Please see **BETA** on page 4



PHOTOS BY **TERRY ROEN** — WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA
BETA Center intern Amandah Rivers learned valuable work skills in her time at the center.

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BETA | Interns learn real world skills to help get full-time jobs

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

independence is their inability to find and keep a good job. This program taught them the basics of being a good employee, while providing free childcare and allowing the women to earn hourly part-time paychecks for their work.

Smith met bi-weekly with the interns to evaluate their progress and offer suggestions or praise as needed.

"They learned a lot about their

strengths and weaknesses and that is a huge help when going out into the workforce," she said.

Funchess said she saw the internship as an opportunity to build skills and network for the future.

"I learned the proper way to provide great customer service and I worked on taking initiative, which I know is really important on the job," Funchess said.

Funchess plans to start classes in January at Valencia College,

and is currently looking for a job where she can use her new skills.

"Desiree was an outstanding intern," Smith said. "She took responsibility like a pro."

"She tackled every task to make herself more employable and really grew in both confidence and skills."

Funchess said after her experiences in both BETA's residential program and the internship over the summer, she feels ready to take on life's challenges in the real world.

"I'm really thankful to have BETA in my life," Funchess said. "It's been a blessing, it's like another family."

Smith said the greatest thing she hopes girls will get from the program is the gift of independence.

"No one ever takes the time to recognize the challenges for these girls," Smith said. "If we can help them make it just that much easier to get there, we have achieved our goal."



PHOTOS BY TERRY ROEN — WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA
During their time at BETA, Jacqueline Ramirez, left, and Desiree Funchess, above, learned skills they need to get foothold in the working world, while still receiving child care.



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FAMILY CALENDAR

SEPT. 6

Looking for something to do with your family on Friday nights? Come on out to Lake Concord Park located behind City Hall at 95 Triplet Lake Drive for Family Fun Nights - **Movie in the Park**. The kid's won't want to miss "Spy Kids 4" on Friday, Sept. 6.

SEPT. 8

Inspired by Travis' visit to Rescue Team One in New York City before his final deployment to Iraq, the **Travis Manion Foundation** holds a 5K run (and 1 mile family fun run) each September. Orlando's second annual

race will be held at Central Winds Park in Winter Springs on Sept. 8 at 7:30 a.m. For more information, go to travismanion.org/911-heroes-run

The Casselberry Farmers Market is open every Sunday at Lake Concord Park, 95 Triplet Lake Drive. Beginning in September the Farmers Market will change to fall hours from noon to 4 p.m. More than 25 vendors trade fresh produce, home and garden supplies, baked goods, health and wellness products, and a variety of other goods and services. Yoga classes are also offered for \$5 at 11 a.m.

Calendar

SEPT. 11

P.A.W: Performing Artists at Work, a fine arts based community service organization from Oviedo High School, will hold a **Back to School Bash** at the Midway Safe Harbor Center in Sanford. During the Bash, P.A.W. members will be performing call-and-response songs and playing games with the kids as well as donating school supplies. The items they are collecting are: paper, pencils, markers, crayons, spiral notebooks, rulers, and glue sticks. Anyone interested in donating should drop off items to the front office of Oviedo High School, 601 King St., Oviedo.

SEPT. 14

St. Luke's Lutheran Church's concert series returns with Brass Band of Central Florida's "Out of This

World!" with performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. It's a program that will carry you to the outer reaches of brass virtuosity with memorable arrangements of sounds from space and famous sci-fi movies. Visit stlukes-oviedo.org

If you like walking or running and great live music, than this is an event you don't want to miss! The City of Casselberry is proud to host the **Track Shack Autumn Rock 'n' Run 5K** presented by Florida Hospital on Saturday, Sept. 14. The 5K will feature high energy, live music along a 3.1-mile flat route that starts and finishes at Casselberry's Lake Concord Park, 95 Triplet Lake Dr., beneath the shade of 100-year-old oak trees. For more information or to register for the race, visit trackshack.com

Notes

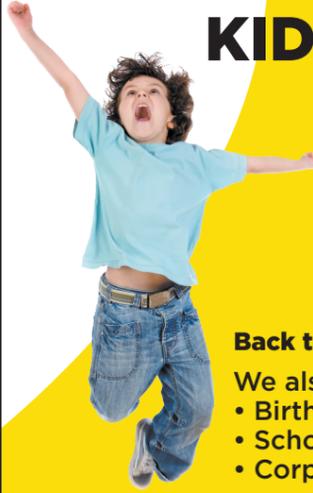
New board

Our Whole Community announces its new leadership team. The executive board of directors through June 2015 is president Lavon Williams; vice-president Cris Parson; treasurer Jeff George; and secretary Cathy Semyck. Elected to serve on the board of directors for terms ending June 2014 are: Rosemary George, Betsy McKeeby, Gigi Erwin, Michelle Hodge, Stephanie Spies, Tom Hackim,

Regina Buchanan, Denise Schmalze, Teona Morris, Kimberly Hicks, and Tonja Williams.

New donor wrangler

Heart of Florida United Way appointed Danielle Orchard as its new Senior Director of Donor Relations. Her responsibilities include the planning and implementation of comprehensive major gifts, donor relations and the Alexis de Tocqueville Society.



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Seminole Voice

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

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The Winter Park playhouse

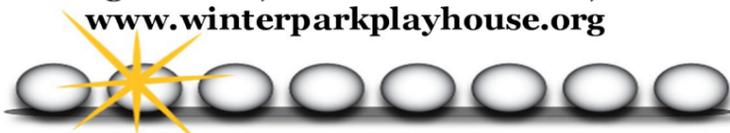


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ATHLETICS

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY — SEPT. 10, 1960, At the Olympic Games in Rome, Italy, Abebe Bikila becomes the first sub-Saharan African to win a gold medal. He won his first medal in the Olympic marathon running in bare feet, and returned to Ethiopia a national hero.

Akron down, FIU awaits

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

The UCF Knights football team walked away with a big 38-7 win against Akron on Aug. 29, but not without early stumbles that left the game in question before the half.

Most of quarterback Blake Bortles' passes hit his receivers square in the numbers Thursday night, but that didn't translate into consistent catches early.

Many of the Knights first downs in the second quarter came on Akron penalties rather than offensive successes. But the Knights' rusty offense eventually smoothed things out and started working. Once receivers started consistently catching Bortles' passes, the Knights started to walk away with the game.

Shawn Moffitt iced the second quarter with a 32-yard field goal to send the Knights off the field

well ahead. By halftime Bortles had nearly 250 yards in the air and the Knights were sitting on a 24-0 cushion.

In the second half, the Knights turned up the pressure again, with running backs Storm Johnson and Rannell Hall helping move the ball down the field while versatile receiver J.J. Worton used tricky footwork to make defenders miss.

Meanwhile an untested UCF

defensive crew dominated the Zips, forcing punt after punt after stalling drives, most of which ended before the Zips crossed midfield.

Breshad Perriman ended up the most prolific receiver of the night with 113 yards on just three receptions, though he likely would have had more had he caught every ball that hit him between the numbers.

The Knights head to FIU for a showdown at 8 p.m. on Sept. 6. The last time the Knights played

the Panthers a year ago they won 33-20. In that game Bortles threw for 261 yards, most of them coming in an explosive first half. But much of the Knights defense was far more experienced last season.



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE VOICE
The Knights dominated in their 2013 debut, thrashing Akron in front of a near-capacity crowd at Bright House Networks Stadium on Aug. 29. This weekend, they face FIU away.

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Are you a young executive age 40 or younger who is looking for new networking opportunities? Join the Chamber's newest networking group at Spill Wine and Beer in Winter Springs for great networking on the second Monday of every month!

September 11th - OBN Luncheon

11:30am-1:00pm, Tusawilla Country Club

Join the ladies of Oviedo Businesswomen's Network at their monthly luncheon. This month will be Speed Networking! Make sure to bring a friend and plenty of business cards.

September 25th- Bagels & Business

8:00am-9:30am, Oviedo Mall Community Room

Join the Chamber at their monthly morning meeting for great networking and a presentation by Jason Edwards from Edwards Financial on 2014's Financial Outlook. This event is Free to attend and open to everyone! Breakfast provided by Costco Wholesale.

September 26th- Google Initiative Lunch & Learn

11:30am-1:00pm, 815 Eyrie Dr. Suite 4, Oviedo FL 32765

Join the Chamber for their monthly Lunch & Learn at Oviedo Meeting Rooms. This month Stefan Perry from On Target Web Solutions will present the Google Initiative!

Connect with local businesses!

For more info and to register for events go to: www.OviedoWinterSprings.org

My Chamber App

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October 19th and 20th

Presented by



October 19th and 20th 10am -5pm
Winter Springs Town Center
www.WSFOTA.org

BECOME A PATRON OF THE ARTS!

Benefits:

- \$225 in art dollars to use at Festival
- Artist of your choice to receive a recognition ribbon
- Tickets to Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center
- Membership to Seminole Cultural Arts Council
- Free admission to the Improv Comedy Club
- Invitation to "Meet the Artists" party
- Two V.I.P. passes to art festival
- Festival Poster
- Listing as Patron
- And More! Get Information at

www.WSFOTA.com/patrons

Produced by **Oviedo ~ Winter Springs**
Regional Chamber of Commerce



THIS WEEK IN WORLD HISTORY — SEPT. 11, 2001, Members of the terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four American passenger airplanes, crashing them into the World Trade Center, Pentagon., and in Shanksville, Penn. The attack killed 2,996, making it the most deadly ever on U.S. soil.

Keeping critters out with technology

As I toil at this tome on Labor Day, the work-saving devices of my garden come to mind. In a previous life as an IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) Local 606 electrician, most of my experience centered on automation centered on automation controls and monitoring. From the fire alarm and theater system in the penthouse of Cinderella's Castle to leak detectors in the Lucent computer chip plant, technology helped create and manage these productive processes. Applying some retail-scaled labor-saving devices can also help us better grow our gardens.



Tom Carey
From my garden to yours

Many of us already have home irrigation systems for our lawn sprinklers. A timer box, usually in the garage, controls the zones with solenoids and valves. A rain detector on the eaves of the roof shuts the system off when enough precipitation warrants saving municipal water. To designate a zone exclusively for the garden would require some digging and pipe work, not beyond the scope of any suburban homesteader. Some type of initial monitoring of irrigation volume can easily be measured with a rain gauge to time the quantity of sprinkler volume. Still keep the water hose handy.

Keeping track of what mammalian pests are interloping the garden space is serendipitously tracked with a motion activated wildlife camera. Available from sporting goods stores for less than three figures and mounted in a discrete location,

viewing the photos on a home computer is also a very engaging way to enjoy the garden during our slumbering hours. Once the thief is identified, proper control methods can be employed.

Varmints marauding through our crops can be kept at bay with electric fencing. The technology is affordable and easily constructed. A system comprising a photovoltaic or plug-in charger, ground rod, insulators and electric strands will shock the intruders to the effect of a doggy training collar. A timer or photocell can turn the system off during daylight hours. Once the neighborhood's critters are zapped just one time, the system does not need to be operated on routine schedule; only when pest pressures surface. Deer, raccoons, rabbits, possums, foxes, cats and dogs avoid my garden like the plague.

Whole homestead automation can be achieved with an X-10 or similar electrical control system. Hooked into the breaker panel and various circuits by a professional, lights and power can be controlled and monitored from remote locations. The bells and whistles of any of these futuristic technologies often sound easier than in practice; so keep common sense in mind before assuming all your problems will be turn-key surmounted with these Buck Rogers toys.

Tom Carey is the owner of Sundew Gardens, a you-pick gardening business in Oviedo. Visit the Sundew Gardens Facebook page and email him at sundewgardens@gmail.com

WHO IS CAREY

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Sports can cause students undue stress

i9 SPORTS
Guest columnist

This back-to-school season, it's not just supply shopping and children's grades that have local moms stressed out. A new survey reveals moms are buckling in the bleachers under the grueling pressures of their children's sports, jeopardizing their jobs, relationships, self-esteem and sanity. Moms simply want youth sports to be much less demanding and much more fun.

A recently survey of more than 400 moms with children in organized youth sports reveals the current "practice and play 'til you drop" and "win at all costs" culture of youth sports not only puts unhealthy pressure on children but creates significant stress for mom - both at home and at the office. The startling statistics show:

At Home Stress

- 68 percent of moms polled say their children's involvement in youth sports causes stress in their lives.
- 51 percent say it causes stress for the entire family.

- 24 percent say it causes conflict with their significant other. Arguments over time, money, driving and harsh reactions to children who didn't play well were cited.

- 24 percent say they've resented their children because sports take up too much time.

- 76 percent say they're happy when their children's sports season is over.

Work Stress

Of moms who work:

- 65 percent say their children's sports interfere with their jobs.

- 43 percent say they're less productive at work - some because they have to leave early for practices or games, others because they answer youth sports emails and calls during work, and others because they get distracted and worry if their child didn't play well.

- 16 percent of moms who say youth sports interfere with their jobs say they feel they've lost out on raises or promotions because of their commitment to their children's sports.

The survey was commissioned by i9 Sports, a nationwide youth sports league franchise. i9 Sports is changing the culture of youth sports with a format that is more fun for kids and less stressful for parents.

"This survey clearly shows we need to change youth sports to put less pressure on children and their families," said Brian Sanders, President and COO of i9 Sports.

America's moms are desperate to change youth sports for two reasons:

1) Pressure on Children to Perform

- 79 percent say they wish there was an alternative to youth sports' win-at-all-costs culture, and most of these moms want more focus on fun and less emphasis on winning.

- 54 percent say the competitive culture of youth sports hurts children. Many worry children's self esteem suffers when they don't play well.

- 23 percent say they or their children have been excluded socially because their children weren't as good as the other players.

2) Time/Money Commitment

Of those who said youth sports stressed out the family:

- 87 percent blame sports schedule conflicts for all the stress (More than one quarter of the moms polled have children in sports five nights a week, and 40 percent are driving more than four hours a week for sports).

- 62 percent say cost is an issue.

- 53 percent say youth sports have robbed them of time for holidays, week-ends and free time.

"Our goal is to bring families together with youth sports, not tear them apart," Sanders said. "Our one day per week commitment allows the family to enjoy the benefits of participation without the stress. Practices are conveniently held prior to the game, and parents are able to simply relax and enjoy watching their children have fun. And because we typically offer multiple sports at our playing locations, families have options that do not require driving across town or splitting up to attend each child's games."

For more information visit i9sports.com

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



