

Chess: In its second year, program is still gaining traction

Continued from Page 1A

For a few months, Rouse has held club meetings during lunch periods and after school on Mondays and Fridays. He hopes giving students different times to meet will spark more interest and increase participation.

The school administration supports the program. Even if only a handful of kids attend the club, Principal John McAndrews said, "It's important to provide an opportunity they're engaged in."

Gearhart's second year

Dan King is leading Gearhart Elementary School's chess club into its second year, but the program still is gaining traction.

King started a chess club at Seaside Heights Elementary School in 1980. The club lasted about 20 years and took part in the state chess tournament about a dozen of those years. King took a hiatus until about six years ago, when a former chess club member approached him at Costco and told him the impact the club had on him.

"At that point, I knew in my heart, even though I was burned out from going to state tournaments, I could still do chess club, so I started up again," he said.

He left Seaside Heights about a year and a half ago and went to Gearhart, where he reignited the chess club that had been there in the 1980s. The club started its second season in early November with Friday afternoon meetings. In addition to about 15 student participants, King has help from several parent volunteers, some of whom were on his team at Seaside Heights. The club is targeted toward fourth- and fifth-graders, but King is open to having younger students participate, as well.

Opportunity for advancement

At Seaside High School, senior Kris Booth tried to get a chess program started this year for his Pacifica Project, but he was not able to garner the attention and interest he needed, said Booth's mentor Eddie Park, Sage Park's grandfather.

"The inertia was just too great for him to overcome," he said. "But, we will try again next year."

The goal is to spread the word about chess in the community, give students the opportunity to play and, eventually, start a competition team. Another aspect of the club will be interacting with elementary and middle school students.

The players

Sometimes people underestimate the ability of children to grasp the technical nuances of chess, but even first-graders or younger students can start learning the game, King said.

He and David Rouse believe the benefits of playing are numerous: improved prob-



Broadway Middle School chess club leader David Rouse, left, and sixth-grader Sage Park wait to make their chess moves during a club meeting. The middle school is getting a new chess club program under instruction of Rouse, a student's grandfather and the former Lady Seagulls soccer team coach.



The Gearhart Elementary School chess club started its second year a few weeks ago, under the guidance of Dan King. The club, which is open to all students, has garnered the interest about 15 students and a few parent volunteers so far this year.



Fourth-grader Samuel Taylor makes a move in a chess game during a chess club meeting at Gearhart Elementary School. The club was started last year and has about 15 students this year.

lem-solving skills, strategic thinking, confidence, work ethic and creativity.

Despite what the activity has to offer, scholastic chess is not widely promoted in the school district; there is not a chess club at Seaside Heights Elementary School. The Knappa and Jewell school districts don't have chess

clubs, either.

If students had more opportunities to play during or after school, King believes their interest in the game would increase in turn. Instruction at home also can affect the activity's presence in the community.

Students probably are not as exposed to chess in their homes

as they used to be, he suggested.

"There were a lot more kids playing chess with their parents in the 1980s and 1990s than there are today," he said, adding that, in his experience, "the kids who were really successful were also playing at home."

For instance, Sage Park has been playing since she was 4 years old under her grandfather's guidance. Now she is one of only a few local students seeking out competitions to attend.

Crystal Rouse said she'd be interested in competing, as well, but she first wants to get "way more practice." Luckily for her, her father and grandfather are available to give her that practice.

In the future

Eddie Park hopes the clubs' long-term goal is to help students qualify for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation State Tournament in April. To attend, students must first com-

pete in two qualifying events and establish a Northwest Scholastic Rating System or United States Chess Federation rating.

Even though the state tournament is held in Seaside, Sage Park will be the first student from Clatsop County to participate when she attends the tournament this April.

Park also wants to make Seaside the site of qualifying tournaments in the future, which is a possibility, according to Jeff Dobbins, an Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation board member.

"The great thing about the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation is that we're very flexible," he said, adding a parent volunteer or teacher can put on a qualifying tournament. "The goal of the organization was to get more people to set up tournaments and run them on their own."

The state tournament is open for students ages 5 through 19, or kindergartners through high school seniors. It also offers a separate section, called the Friends and Family Section, for adults and other students who haven't qualified. The students in that section get to play four games and get a sense of the event, Dobbins said.

By participating in tournaments, he said, competitors become "very aware of the consequences of their actions" in a controlled setting.

"You know, at the end of the game, how well you do and whether you win or lose is really up to you and the choices you made," he said.

They also have the opportunity to meet and play against people from all over the state who share a common interest.

The federation's state tournament is not a qualifying event for a national competition, but the winners of the high school and middle school divisions are nominated to represent the state at the national Denker Tournament of High School Champions and the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions tournaments, respectively. The top-rated girls also are nominated to play in national women-only events.

David Rouse said he is waiting to see if attending tournaments will be feasible for the club. For now, he wants to focus on instruction and practice, and he believes eventually the program will attract students who want to compete.

Gearhart Elementary School's program is strictly recreational at this point, King said, and he prefers to keep it that way. He said he wants "students to be proud that they know how to play chess, and to continue to play chess through their adult lives."

He has taught more than 1,000 people to play chess in his life, and some of his proudest moments are when those people tell him they still play the game.

"That's what will melt my heart," he said.

Corps: Audubon Society of Portland announced it will sue the Corps if the depredation permit is approved

Continued from Page 1A

Daniel Roby, unit leader-wildlife with the U.S. Geological Survey-Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at OSU, has been on and off the island for decades. In a letter he submitted during a public comment period on the Corps' plan, he said the Corps exaggerated the risks of using non-lethal management techniques — limiting nesting areas, hazing birds off the island, attracting them to other locations — and downplayed the risk and uncertainty of the lethal option.

Supporters of the plan have pointed to the need to protect salmon runs, and certainly the cormorants as well as the Caspian terns that nest on the island eat their fill of salmon; upwards of 20 million juvenile salmonids each year between the bird species, according to the Corps. But those numbers can vary greatly from year to year, Roby wrote.

"...the Corps funded our research team to investigate the factors that are responsible for the large inter-annual variation in cormorant predation rates on salmonid smolts," he said.

Depending on the year, the double-crested cormorants' diet could be as little as two percent salmonids or as much as 20 percent.

"The results of this Corps-funded study were ignored in setting or interpreting the specific management objective," Roby continues. "... instead one average per-cormorant smolt consumption rate was assumed for setting management objectives."

The management plan calls for the killing of 5,380 to 5,939 breeding pairs of double-crested cormorants that nest seasonally on East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River over the next four years, a move that could result in the potential loss of 72.5 percent of the nests in the first three years, according to the Corps.

In addition to shooting birds with shotguns, contractors would also prevent a number of eggs from hatching through a process called egg oiling.

OSU researchers will no longer be on the island. Monitoring will be done by other contractors — likely people with federal Wildlife Services — if a the lethal take is approved. The Corps estimates it will cost the agency approx-

imately \$685,000 to \$905,000 to monitor the colony during the nesting season.

It could take about 30 days to get a depredation permit approved for this year and there is still a chance it won't be approved. But if the Corps does land the permit, lawsuits are also on the horizon.

The Audubon Society of Portland announced it will sue the Corps if the permit is approved.

"We are deeply disappointed that despite more than 145,000 comments opposing this decision, the federal government has chosen to move forward with the wanton slaughter of thousands of protected birds," said Audubon Society of Portland conservation director Bob Sallinger in a statement. "Rather than addressing the primary cause of salmon decline, the manner in which the Corps operates the Columbia River Hydropower System, the Corps has instead decided to scapegoat wild birds and pursue a slaughter of historic proportions. Sadly this will do little or nothing to protect wild salmon but it will put Double-crested Cormorant

populations in real jeopardy."

"It's a complex issue," said Corps spokesperson Diana Fredlund.

There are salmon, cormorants, tribes, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, the hydropower system:

"We're trying to find, with the help of our partner agencies, the best ways of making that balance," Fredlund said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Baxter Family Medicine joins CMH Primary Clinic April 20, 2015

Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, are pleased to be joining the CMH Primary Care Clinic team. They will begin seeing patients at the clinic in Warrenton at 1639 SE Ensign Lane, Suite B103, on April 20.

This change allows Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, to focus on caring for their patients instead of running a business. Their patients will enjoy the same care and services that they have previously. For more information or to make an appointment, call 503-338-4500.

