

**Little from 1B**

ended and, with the U.S. Open tennis championships in August, we can just watch as the world's greatest battle for first. Few people reach the level of excellence needed to win at this level.

There are now thousands more older dreamers playing pickle ball and winning tournaments throughout the United States.

In the early 90s, my friend Terry Bunner and I would drive to 35th street to play tennis. Terry even attached a video camera to the fence for reviewing disputed line calls. This may have even been pre-Mac-cam used in tennis today.

The chasing of missed balls

and balls hit into the net required time and energy to our games. We did not have the luxury of ball boys and girls you see on television. All the pros do is hit the ball and if a miss occurs another ball is automatically given to them.

I took my youngest girls to the courts to be our ball retrievers. They insisted on swinging rackets of their own on the adjacent court. Terry and I then not only had to retrieve our errant shots but also those that came onto our court from my daughters.

Pickle ball reduces the time and distance needed to retrieve missed hits. It is similar to tennis. There is a wood racket instead of a stringed one. The ball is a plastic whiffle ball. The court is less than half a tennis

court and the net is close to the same height.

Playing pickle ball in Florence needs to be inside most of the time. There was a recent pickle ball tournament at the 35th street tennis courts. Four courts were taped in (one court on each half of each tennis court).

I'm positive this tournament took place in the morning, because any later and the wind would have rendered the games unplayable.

As the interest in playing pickle ball has increased, Coastal Fitness offers pickle ball on Fridays and Saturdays.

My high school friend and his wife invited me to watch a pickle ball tournament in Salem a couple years ago. They were entered in the senior di-

vision of a national pickle ball association. They drove from here from Las Vegas, their home town, to play.

My friend Jim said he and his wife play all classifications; singles, double and mixed doubles. They travel away from Las Vegas in the summer to play due to high heat. Jim invited me to play as his partner but my mobility is limited so I had to decline.

In the late 70s and early 80s, the Siuslaw High School gym was filled with pickle ball fever. Each Sunday night, four nets were strung across the basketball court. The players competing for bragging rights included: Coach Lutero, Coach Scanlan, Coach Galbraith, myself, Coach Byrd, and several others including Lanny Nivens,

Bob Hylton and Coach Grey

The games were intense and the gym loud. Playing, winner stays rule, the hot player of the night could play for almost two hours.

Two hours is nothing when compared to one semi-final at Wimbledon.

A semi-final that lasted over six hours before a winner was determined. And not once did they chase a missed ball.

When you compare their efforts of at least 300 serves with an arm motion similar to a major-league pitcher, it is a wonder they do not have shoulder trouble. Most MLB pitchers are limited to around 100 pitches and are pampered in comparison to tennis players.

The variation of sports will continue in future articles.

New sports with ties to common sports but are changed for many reasons. These include: horseshoes/cornhole, golf/Frisbee golf and football/ultimate Frisbee.

Anytime games and activities are changed to add participants it is a good thing. Active and away from the electronic inside action to outside physical movements are important to the health of individuals.

Whatever your interest in sports may be, there is a game ready for you to play. Just call up some friends and get moving.

One caution is stay away from outside pickleball in the afternoon; chasing the plastic whiffle balls in the wind will probably equal the distance of the missed tennis balls.

**Cool from 1B**

funds for the Rotary International's End Polio Now Campaign and many

other Florence community projects. The tournament, being held at Ocean Dunes Golf Links, starts at 10 a.m.

Tournament sponsors include: Allstate Agency Owner, Bob Garcia,

2018 grand "hole-in-one" sponsor. Oregon Pacific Bank, Peach Health, Banner Bank, Coldwell Banker/Coast Real Estate and Dr. Brian Holmes and Dr. Justin Linton round up the 2018

Platinum Sponsors.

The ninth annual "Cool at the Coast" tournament will start with the traditional World War II biplane fly-over by Aero Legends.

There is still time to register by calling 541-997-3232 or visit [www.theforencerotary.org](http://www.theforencerotary.org). Registration forms are also available at Ocean Dunes Golf Links, 3345 Munsel Lake Rd.



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