



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District is hosting a six-week Pickleball series on Saturdays through Feb. 20 at the Camp Rilea Training Center gymnasium. Alice Lane (left), of Seaside, is coaching.

Seaside recreation district offers pickleball program

Saturday sessions held at Camp Rilea, open to the public

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Pickleball — a sport that is gaining popularity for its accessibility to athletes of all levels — doesn't have a lot, or really anything, to do with pickles. It's a simple volley game, similar to a slow-moving version of tennis that uses shorter paddles, a light perforated plastic ball and a badminton-sized court.

Community members on the North Coast can learn more about the game, thanks to a new program being offered through a partnership of the United States of America Pickleball Association and the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District.

The program, held at the Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center gymnasium, started Jan. 16 with demonstrations and instructions. It's not too late to get in on the fun, though. The group is meeting every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Feb. 20.

Seaside's Alice Lane provides coaching on behalf of the USAPA. She started playing pickleball about 12 years ago while visiting Palm Springs, California. She was introduced to the sport there, then bought rackets and balls for herself and has kept playing ever since.

Lane said the sport is easy to learn, "so much easier than tennis."

Lauren and Paul Fisher, of Seaside, who play tennis recreationally, agreed after playing for the first time Jan. 23.

"I thought it was great," Lauren Fisher said. "I think anybody could come in and have fun."

Pickleball provides a faster learning curve. Unlike tennis, where a person must play a lot before it becomes enjoyable, "you can have fun very quickly," she said.

Pickleball also is designed to be a social game, Lane said. With three courts, the Camp Rilea gymnasium is a good facility for a community program, she added. She also was given storage space in the building for the duration of the program.

What's in a name

Pickleball originated in the Seattle area in the 1960s. Joel Pritchard, a congressman at the time, and his friend Bill Bell wanted to play badminton with their two families, but they could not find enough adequate equipment. They improvised, replacing the badminton rackets with wooden ping-pong paddles and using perforated plastic balls. With the help of



Lauren Fisher, of Seaside, got her first taste of pickleball for during a session Jan. 23 at the Camp Rilea gymnasium in Warrenton.



Alice Lane, of Seaside, provides pickleball instruction on behalf of the United States of America Pickleball Association during the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation's program. The public is welcome to play for a drop-in rate of \$5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Feb. 20.



Lauren Fisher during a pickleball game Jan. 23. The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District is sponsoring a pickleball program that goes through Feb. 20.

Barney McCallum, the trio of friends created rules for their game.

There are two theories regarding the name's origin, and it is possible both are true. McCallum claimed the Pritchard family chose to name their newly invented game pickleball, because their cocker spaniel, Pickles, often ran off with the ball. Pritchard's wife, Joan, claimed she started "calling the game pickleball because 'the combination of different sports reminded me of the pickle boat in crew, where oarsmen were chosen from the leftovers of other boats,'" the website states.

The sport caught on in the community, among neighbors and friends. In 1972, a corporation was formed to protect the new sport, the website states. The United States of America Pickleball Association, organized in 1984, is now the official promoter and governing body for the game, which has experienced a tremendous increase in popularity over the past few years.

In pickleball, the ball is served underhand, without bouncing it from the court, and diagonally to the oppo-

nent's service zone.

Points are scored by the serving side only and occur when the opponent fails to return the ball or hits the ball out of bounds, also known as faults. The server continues to serve, altering service courts, until the server faults.

A game is won by the first side to reach 11 points but will continue until won by a two-point margin.

Pickleball on the North Coast

The Seaside recreation district covers liability insurance for the program and Lane pays rent for the facility. In the summer of 2015, the district offered a few sessions of pickleball on Wednesday mornings for about a month at Seaside Heights Elementary School for people of all ages.

The district is always looking for ways to "engage the community more," especially during the winter months when outdoor activities are more difficult to provide, Fitness and Special Events Manager Grace Smith said. They decided to hold it on Saturdays for the winter program to make it more accessible to those

who work during the week.

The district wanted to sponsor the pickleball program because it is a good recreational activity for participants of many ages and something fairly new to the area, Smith said. Only one site in Seaside is listed on the USAPA website as a place to play, and that is at Thousand Trails' Seaside RV Resort.

Lane said she believes offering pickleball programs and courts — which have the same dimensions as doubles badminton courts — in the local communities will make this region even more of a destination area.

"The Oregon coast already is a destination point and this will be another attraction," she said.

In order to increase the sport's presence in the area, "we would need people to come out and try it for the first time," Smith said. After people try it once, they are likely to play again, she added.

Balls and paddles are provided. The cost is \$5 per person for three hours of play; only cash is accepted. Camp Rilea is located at 333168 Patriot Way in Warrenton.

Little Free Library auction to benefit reading outreach

The Little Free Library auction to benefit reading outreach takes place Thursday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Seaside Convention Center.

The Astoria, Seaside, and Warrenton libraries will hold an auction of the Little Free Libraries and a fundraiser to support Rural Outreach in Clatsop County. For the past two months, folks on the North Coast have been building Little Free Libraries that can be set up in neighborhoods as community book exchanges. The Little Free Libraries will be auctioned off, and all proceeds will go to

R.O.C.C.

There will also be a silent auction of items donated by local businesses and artists. R.O.C.C. provides free library cards for kids in Clatsop County who are not served by a city library. The R.O.C.C. program also runs a countywide summer reading program and courier services between Clatsop County schools and public libraries. For more information call the Astoria Public Library at 503-325-7323, the Seaside Public Library at 503-738-6742, or the Warrenton Public Library at 503-861-3919.

DINING on the NORTH COAST

Great Restaurants in:
**GEARHART
SEASIDE
CANNON BEACH**



PIG 'N PANCAKE

Excellence in family dining found from a family that has been serving the North Coast for the past 52 years

Great Breakfast, but that's not all...
Great lunch and dinner menu, too!
Great pasta, steaks & seafood!
Homemade Clam Chowder, Salads!

Seaside • 323 Broadway • 738-7234 (Open 7 Days)
Cannon Beach • 223 S. Hemlock 436-2851 (7am-3pm Daily)
Astoria • 146 W. Bond • 325-3144

Discover Patty's Wicker Cafe

on the Beautiful Necanicum River

BREAKFAST & LUNCH
MONDAY thru FRIDAY
6AM to 2PM

Great Atmosphere • Great Food • Great Prices

600 Broadway Suite 7 & 8 • 503.717.1272

WANNA KNOW WHERE THE LOCALS GO?

RILEY'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Lighter appetite menu
- Junior menu

Something for Everyone

BEST BREAKFAST IN TOWN! Fish 'n Chips • Burgers • Seafood & Steak
Friday & Saturday - Prime Rib
Lounge Open Daily 9-Midnight
All Oregon Lottery products available

1104 S Holladay • 503-738-9701 • Open Daily at 8am

MAZATLAN
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Phone 503-738-9678
1445 S. Roosevelt Drive • Seaside

NATIONALLY FAMOUS CLAM CHOWDER • FRESH OREGON SEAFOOD

Mo's RESTAURANTS

CANNON BEACH
503-436-1111
Ocean Front at Tolovana Park

www.moschowder.com