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1,131 people in one week

Nation — Page B7

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112th year, No. 153

◆ PUBLISHED IN THE APPLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD AND THE BUCKLE OF THE POWER BELT OF THE GREAT NORTH

THE SUNDAY WORLD

A concentrated effort *Tournament honors chess-loving family*



A player makes a move in the 11th annual Waypoint Foundation Scholastic Chess Tournament in Ephrata Saturday.

BY DON SEABROOK

World photo editor

EPHRATA — When the Pugh brothers grew up in Lynden, chess tournaments were a big part of their lives. Now some 40 years later and part of the Ephrata community, they share their love of the game with many others.

After one of their brothers, Ryan, was killed in a car accident in 2001 at 34 years old, Troy and Roger Pugh decided to set up a chess tournament in his honor. They created the Waypoint Foundation and then the Waypoint Foundation Chess Tournament.

Saturday was the 11th year for the tournament, held this year at Parkway Elementary School in Ephrata. Prize money funded through the foundation included \$500 for the first-place winner, down to \$5 to \$10 for those who come away without a win. The foundation has provided about \$50,000 in prize money at the tournament over the past 11 years.

Columbia Basin students, kindergarten through high school, are eligible to enter. The tournament lasts five rounds. Each timed round can last up to an hour. There were 70 youths entered in this year's tournament.

The tournament is available to beginners and experienced chess players. The foundation offers a couple of classes to prepare players to compete.

The tournament is held in the school's cafeteria on the long tables normally holding students' lunch trays. Instead, rows of chess mats and pieces and a timer separate the competitors sitting across from each other. The youths are quiet as they contemplate their strategy in the game.

One of the brothers, Roger Pugh, sees the game of chess as valuable for children. "Like life," he says, "You need to think a few moves ahead."

For more information on the tournament and the foundation, visit the website: www.waypointfoundation.org.

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World photos/Don Seabrook

Ben McLain, 8, looks for his next move at a chess tournament Saturday in Ephrata. He and about 70 other youth took part in the 11th annual Waypoint Foundation Scholastic Chess Tournament at Parkway Elementary School. Every participant came away with a money prize, with first place awarded \$500. Ben took this match with Max Tran, 12, to the end, coming away with a draw.