

GIVING: Bluegrass & Blue Jeans benefits Bright School, E2 PERSONALIZED WEDDINGS: Brides bring crafty nature to special day, E6

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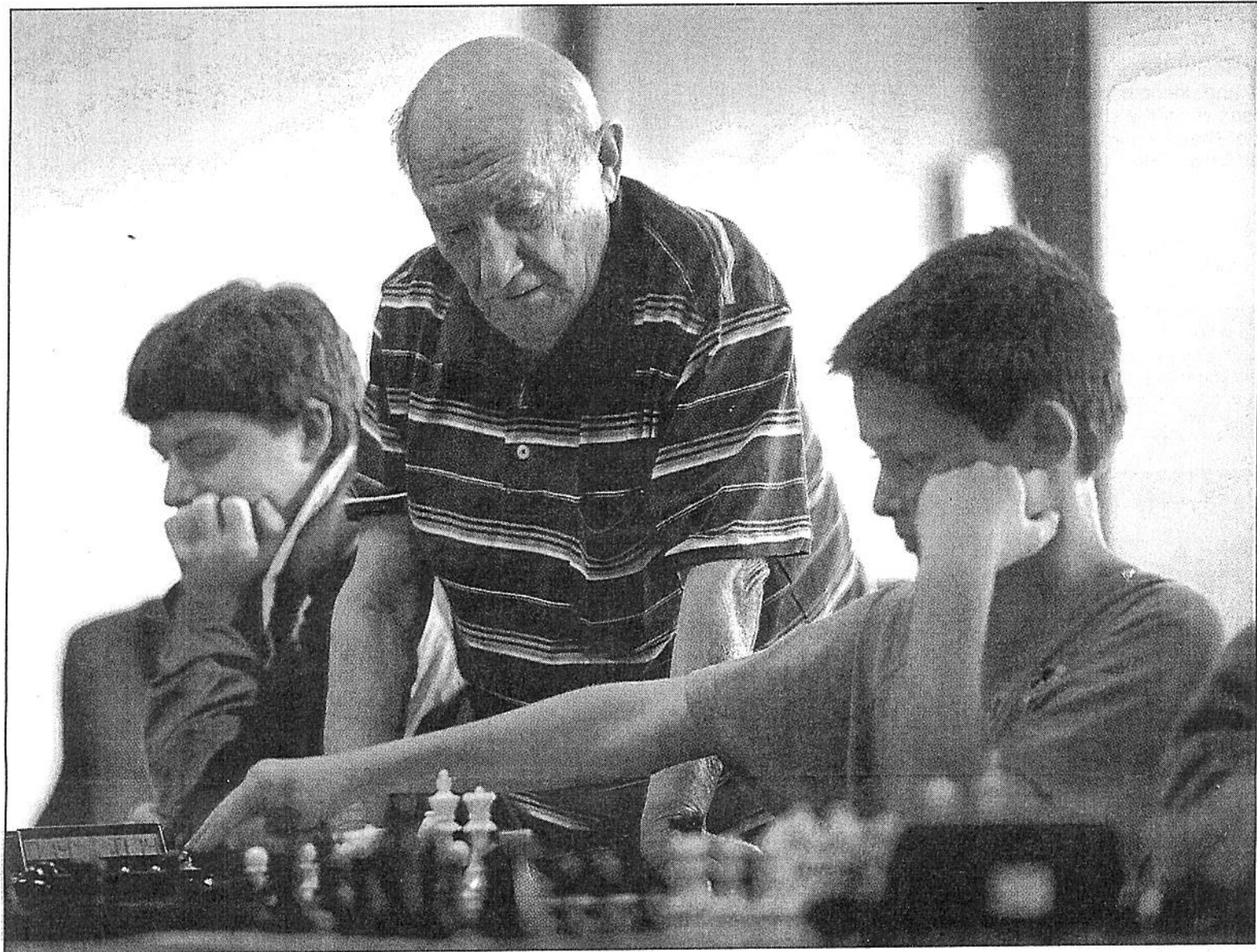
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STAFF PHOTOS BY JAKE DANIELS

Stephen Wills, left, and Jack Beaty, 11, play chess under the watchful eye of Sasha Lokshin, center. The Chattanooga Chess Club meets for a weekly playing session at the Downtown YMCA.

# Joining the club

## Veteran chess players hope to attract a new generation to the checkered board

BY CASEY PHILLIPS  
STAFF WRITER

**W**hile the late game is where a match is decided, experienced chess players know that victory is often built on a solid opening.

Sponsors of area scholastic chess programs said they hope the debut this fall of two citywide tournaments will be the first step in attracting more young people to the game.

"That's something that needs to be done if we want to build a long-standing, solid base for chess in this area," said Larry Grohn, 64, who has sponsored many area chess programs. "Players will now focus on these tournaments and will start to prepare and practice."

The individual and team citywide competitions will be hosted at McCallie School on Oct. 6 and Nov. 10, respectively.

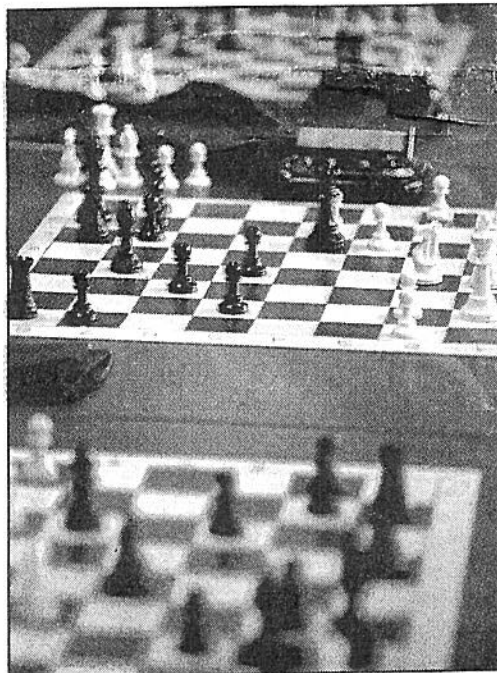
Malcolm Estrada, 62, is the president of both the Chattanooga Chess Club and the Tennessee Chess Association. He has worked in coordination with Grohn and other area chess enthusiasts to organize the citywide events.

Estrada said the fall tournaments will not only serve students who already play but should help tap a vast potential audience.

"I think the students are there, the young people are there, and they're amenable to it, if they're introduced to the game," he said.

### LIFELONG LEARNING

Playing chess has many positive side effects that last long after the pieces have



Chess games in progress are lined up along a table at the Downtown YMCA.

been packed away, according to a summary of research conducted from the 1970s to the 1990s prepared by Dr. Robert Ferguson Jr., executive director of the American Chess School.

A study in Zaire in 1972-73 found that mandatory participation in a scholastic chess program improved teenagers' verbal and mathematical performance on aptitude

tests. A Belgian study from the same period concluded that preteens who studied chess developed more mature, analytical thought earlier than their peers.

Other projects Ferguson evaluated found links between playing and studying chess and improvements in students' memory and creative and critical thinking.

Those benefits come as no surprise to Grohn, who took up the game at age 9.

"[Chess] develops young minds so quickly," he said. "Chess makes you critically think about the situation you're in, and the great thing for students is that it makes you think about the consequences of your actions."

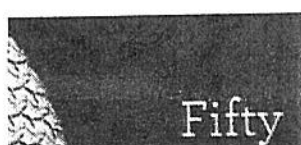
### THE NEXT PLAYERS

When he started a second career at age 42 as a teacher, Grohn began sponsoring scholastic chess programs wherever he settled. After he retired four years ago and moved to Chattanooga from Denver, he started a one-man organization, Hamilton County Scholastic Chess, to serve as a resource for those who wanted to found new chess programs.

Through HCSC, Grohn has donated used sets to schools in Chattanooga, Ooltewah, Cleveland, Tenn., and Chatsworth, Ga., among other places. He also sponsors the weekly chess club at West Side Elementary School in Rossville.

Building a network of new programs is crucial to providing entry points for young

See CHESS, Page E6



# Men are fans, too, of 'Fifty Shades of Grey'

By [Name]

old Kurt Vonnegut and Star Wars fan, just hullabaloo was about."