

Chatwood was recently promoted to the eighth-degree of Shinto Yoshin Ryu Ju-Jitsu, a martial arts style featuring blocking and striking.

“Only a handful of people in the country ever get to an eighth-degree, and very few become head of a system,” he says.

He senses more interest in the martial arts compared with 25 years ago.

“I think the martial arts have become much more accessible to people. It’s no longer a ‘beat a person into the ground art,’” Chatwood says.

Interest also is on the upswing locally.

“We are bursting at the seams with students,” says Chatwood, excited about the new expanded facility off Research Way.

Chi Duong of Chi Kwan Tae Kwon Do, off North Deer Run Road, says many who call about instruction follow the news.

“They are aware of their situations — self awareness. They want to be safe and not at risk in their minds,” he says.

This is different than 25 years ago, when he saw people learning martial arts or self defense for the art.

Duong handpicks his students.

“If they talk about using it for some violent things or revenge, I do not accept them.”

His students also must read books and write essays. “A lot of people, when they set their mind to violence, do not want to take time to read books or write an essay. I can stop those people before they even think about taking classes.”

*For more information contact Sierra Jujitsu and Karate 882-8821 or Chi Kwan Tae Kwon Do at 885-0547.*



▲ Flipped out} Gregg Berggren is about to hit the floor at the hands of master artist John Chatwood.