

# Tennis teams wrap up league play

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

Sisters' tennis teams finished up league play with a final match against Madras on Monday, April 29. Sisters boys played on the road and the girls played at home.

The boys were on the road and dropped their match 5-3 to the White Buffs. Three of the matches went three sets, and the No. 2 doubles match was a tight two-set win for Madras.

Jed Kizziar and Isaiah Chapen faced Tony Giron and Esteban Gomez in the match of the day at the No. 1 doubles spot. Kizziar and Chapen won 7-5 in a tight first set, but then let the match slip away. They led 3-0 in the second, but the White Buffs had an epic comeback and won six straight games to take the second set, and then edged out Jed and Isaiah 6-4 in the third for the win.

Coach Carl Click said, "Both teams made errors, but Jed and Isaiah just made a few more, and at key points in the match. They also struggled getting first serves in play in a gusty wind. The Madras pair had a much better first-serve percentage."

Giron and Gomez are expected to earn the top seed in the District Tournament that begins Thursday, May 9.

Eli Gurney and Brogan Petterson (No. 2 doubles) fell 4-6, 6-7, to Roberto Garcia and Kobey Jorgenson. Eli and Brogan held a lead in both sets, but couldn't hold on for the win.

"Eli and Brogan are playing really good tennis and competing with strong doubles opponents," said Click. "They have the ability to knock off some good teams at District if they can just get over the hump. They're tired of playing

well, yet losing close matches to good teams."

Sisters rolled through the first two singles matches with easy victories. Nate Weber (No. 1 singles) lost the first game to Coty Simmons, but then strung together 12 straight games to win 6-1, 6-0, and post his 10th win of the season.

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— Coach Click.

"Nate has only given up three games in his last three matches," said Click. "That's 36-3 in games. We're confident he will be the No. 3 seed in the District singles draw."

Keaton Green easily beat Killian Smith 6-1, 6-2, and recorded his ninth singles win of the season at No. 2 singles.

George Bates and Drew Collins-Burke came from behind to win their match against Angel Ramos and Sebastian Norato. The combo fell 4-6 in the opening set, but fought back to win the next two with scores of 6-3, 7-5.

Click said, "We call them the twin towers. George is 6 feet 4 inches and Drew is 6 feet 3 inches, and they have quietly put together an impressive 8-4 record at the lower doubles positions.

The girls also fell 5-3. They got their three wins at the No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 singles spots.

Holly Werts (No. 2) defeated Azucena Ruiz 6-3, 6-2, Ellie Rush (No. 3) defeated Alexa LaPier 6-0, 6-1, and Hannah Ezell beat Madysin Johnson 6-1, 6-2.

# Permanent ballot box installed

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Sisters has joined all the other significant cities in Deschutes County with the permanent installation of an outdoor walk-up ballot box.

Up until last week, unless voters mailed in their ballots or took them to a drop box in another city, they could only drop off their ballots at Sisters City Hall during normal business hours Monday through Friday. With the installation of the permanent box, ballots can be dropped in the box out in front of City Hall from the day ballots are mailed out by the county clerk's office, until 8 p.m. on the official election day, at any hour of night or day.

This year, ballots are due by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21. A Deschutes County Sheriff's Office deputy will be at City Hall to monitor the box at 8 p.m. that evening. Anyone in line by 8 p.m. will be allowed to deposit their ballot, but arrivals after 8 p.m. will be too late.

The box is mounted on a concrete pad at the left side of City Hall's entrance, under the roof overhang, the only box in the county under cover. A new ADA ramp was recently installed nearby to assist disabled voters to access the box. It does not have drive-up access. City employees are not allowed to take a ballot from a driver and deposit it in the box for them. During the voting period, a red, white, and blue banner will fly to denote the box is available.

The extended hours for delivery of ballots to City Hall will be of assistance particularly to residents living outside the City in Camp Sherman, Black Butte Ranch, and other areas surrounding Sisters, as well as in-town residents.



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

A new, permanent ballot box has been installed at Sisters City Hall in time for the May 21 election.

County Clerk Nancy Blankenship came to Sisters last Tuesday to bring supplies for collecting the ballots including the box the ballots go into for transfer to Bend and a bright orange vest for approved City employees to wear when collecting the ballots.

City Recorder Kerry Prosser and Finance Administrative Assistant Julie Pieper were on hand to receive instructions from Blankenship. Public Works Director Paul Bertagna stopped by to check on the installation of the box.

Blankenship stressed the importance of people voting. "In a small town like Sisters, you and your friends and neighbors can make a local difference in your life and your world by getting together and voting."

She said she anticipates a 35 percent voter turnout

countywide for this May's special election. In May 2020, she predicted a 45-55 percent turnout in the May primary with mid-80s in November 2020 for the presidential election.

Prosser and Pieper related some stories highlighting the "comedy" of voting, when people have come to City Hall after hours and tried to slide their ballot under the front door, or stick it in the crack between the two front doors, or put it in the slot meant for utility payments. They are hopeful the new ballot drop box will eliminate those attempts.

The box can hold 1,500 ballots, but will be emptied on a regular basis before May 21. Voters are able to go online a few days after dropping off their ballot to see if it has been received in the county clerk's office.

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