

Sisters swimmer sets school record in Madras

By **Charlie Kanzig**
Correspondent

A record-breaking performance by senior Lydia Bartlett highlighted results for the Sisters Outlaws in their first meet of 2020 held at the Madras Swim Center on Saturday, January 11.

The Madras Invitational was missing some teams this year due to snowy weather, but seven squads, mostly from the 5A and 6A ranks, competed in the meet.

Bartlett's school record came in the 100-yard butterfly; she dominated the field, winning by over six seconds in 1:03.24. Bartlett holds school records in a number of other events, according to Coach Bryn Singleton.

"Lydia was part of all three relays' records and also holds the 100 free, 50 free and 500 free records," said Singleton. "It's an amazingly impressive feat that her name is now on nearly every event on the record board."

Bartlett also captured first place in the 100-yard breaststroke, winning by a full seven seconds, in a time of 1:12.13.

Bartlett joined Cambria Leaver, Iris Diez, and Lizzie McCrystal in the 200-yard medley relay in which they took third place in a time of 2:23.95.

Leaver, Diez, Bartlett and Laura Clem placed fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 2:03.32.

Clem (3:00.56) and Leaver (3:02.31) placed fourth and fifth respectively in the 200-yard individual medley.

All of the girls are progressing, and Singleton exuded joy over how much the swimmers, particularly the newcomers, improve from week to week.

"It's such a joy to watch the new swimmers improve and how hard they work. Lizzie McCrystal, Makenzie French, Ryan Ilmberger and Tanner Clem are really rising to the challenge of learning a tough new sport," she said. "Team members are continually asking for advice and working to translate it into the pool, which is all a coach can ask for."

As a team the girls placed fourth with 140 points. Pendleton won the meet with 338 points, followed by The Dalles (278), and Ridgeview (227). Redmond placed fifth (88) and Madras sixth with 77.

For the boys, Singleton says that the relay teams are the best that Sisters has had in some time. Sam Mayes,

Osmond Bates, Austen Heuberger and Clayton Heuberger finished fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay (4:03.74) with Mayes at the anchor achieving the fastest split among the four in 57.27. The quartet placed fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay in a time of 1:46.67.

Other notable performances for the boys team included Osmond Bates' fourth-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke (1:15.94), Austen Heuberger's fifth-place in the 200-yard freestyle (2:18.67), and Sam Mayes' sixth-place in a tightly packed 50-yard freestyle (25.32).

Redmond won the team title with 302 points, followed by Pendleton (237), The Dalles (194), Ridgeview (135), Madras (119), Sisters (104) and Cove (50).

Sisters singer signs Nashville deal

By **Ceili Cornelius**
Correspondent

Sisters singer and songwriter Rhonda Funk has been signed to the Pure Music record label for a two-year deal effective January 1. Funk, who moved from Sisters to Nashville in 2018, has been awaiting a deal for many years during her musical journey.

Pure Music's managing partner, John L. Heithaus, met Funk at a singing-in-the-round event in Nashville. Earlier in the year, Funk had been touring around the South. During her travels she was involved in a car accident, putting all of her music industry work on hold. She returned to Nashville to work and pay off her bills. She began playing gigs around Nashville, which is where she met Heithaus.

"Initially, I thought I was

going in for a job interview to get back into the industry. I was completely surprised when they told me they wanted to offer me a record deal," said Funk.

They worked on the details of the deal for five weeks before she officially signed the two-year deal.

"It isn't a huge label that will guarantee me radio play around the nation. It's all very much a grassroots effort for all of us," said Funk.

The album she will be working on with the record company will be her next EP with 5 original songs and one cover. Funk is currently working with a group of more than 40 writers.

"I am really excited to be working and learning from these people. I am limited in what I know," she said. "I came to Nashville with 200 original songs, and this is what

I came here to do is record them and make music," she said.

Funk has been playing and loving music since she was a young girl. She played piano by ear from three years of age.

"I felt like it was the place where I could get away and get lost in the music," she said.

In her teens, she found out that her grandma was in the music world as well; in the Big Band era of the 1940s and '50s, her grandma sang in a band.

"Learning that told me that the talent runs deep and it is in the genetics," she said.

Both of her kids, Ryan and Rylee Funk, were involved in the Americana Project at Sisters High School, and were shining stars.

Funk's passion for music took her on a journey that she

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