

Cardinal Heights Flute Choir to play at NFA Convention in August

By Jeromey Hodsdon

jhodsdon@hngnews.com

The Cardinal Heights Flute Choir was one of the few high school level flute choirs selected to play at the 50th Anniversary National Flute Association (NFA) Convention in Chicago on Aug. 14 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The NFA Convention acts as a showcase that flute choirs have to be invited to perform in. They were chosen to play this year based on videos of submissions from prior years of the choir. The last time the flute choir attended the event was 25 years ago, when the event was also in Chicago. The students in the flute choir are between grades 8-10.

Julie Sundaram is organizing the trip to Chicago for the convention. Her daughter, Asha, is an incoming 10th grader in the flute choir who has plans to continue to pursue the flute beyond high school.

"One doesn't normally think of flutes as anything special, but they do have different sizes of flutes creating different voices, as in a vocal ensemble," Sundaram said.

The flute choir consists of a typical C flute that you would see in a concert band, along with a piccolo, an alto flute and a bass flute. The piccolos play the high soprano parts with the C flute providing the melody.

"The lower flutes may look funny to those not in band or orchestra, but they play an

important role in bringing the beautiful flute sound to the lower range/register," Sundaram said. "It is truly unique that the Sun Prairie music department even owns these expensive and rare flutes for our Middle/High school students to learn to play."

She noted that many schools don't have alto or bass flutes because they can cost tens of thousands of dollars just for one. Anna Rockman, a former member of the flute choir, told Sundaram that she was the only one among her flute music major colleagues to have experience with the alto and bass flutes.

The unique part about the flute choir is that each student rotates between instruments.

"The kids are trained to do

all of these flute voices," Sundaram said. "The kids rotate through them. Every kid gets an opportunity."

The flute choir has stood in the shadows of Sound of Sun Prairie and Jazz Band, but has been around for more than 20 years with Victoria Rockman as the instructor. Sundaram was finally able to get the flute choir in Band-O-Rama on April 4 with all the other Sun Prairie bands for the first time this past year.

The flute choir practiced in the mornings before school this past year, and now the students are also attending summer rehearsals until their Chicago trip.

The Cardinal Heights Flute Choir is hosting a send off concert on Aug. 10 from 6:30-7 p.m.

in the Sun Prairie Public Library's Community Room. It is a free concert and donations are welcome. The choir still has to raise almost \$3,000 to cover student hotel costs in Chicago. They have raised more than \$2,000 so far, selling t-shirts that said "Fear the Flutes," selling chocolate and selling old phones and computers.

The future of the choir will look different as the three middle schools will form a choir and the two high schools will form a Sun Prairie United Choir. The details of the new-look choirs are still being settled by those involved, but they are hopeful that the successful program will continue to have a bright future.



Jeromey Hodsdon

Sun Prairie police officers dancing with community members to celebrate 10 years of community schools in Sun Prairie.

Community Schools celebrate 10 year anniversary

By Jeromey Hodsdon

jhodsdon@hngnews.com

Sun Prairie Community Schools held a celebration for 10 years of community collaboration with schools and families on Thursday, July 28 at the Sun Prairie YMCA.

There were over a hundred people that came out to celebrate the success with all kinds of food, music and dancing. DJ Martinez White emceed the event and Luke Waldbillig served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Waldbillig flew in from Texas for the celebration, as he wanted to be present after being one of the leaders of the beginning efforts a decade ago when he was still in high school.

"Ten years ago, I was a sophomore at Sun Prairie High School in the fall of 2012 when we were finalizing plans for what community



Jeromey Hodsdon

Members of Sun Prairie Community Schools and Legacy Award winners shared stories of what makes community schools great.

schools would look like," Waldbillig said. "I was involved in every step along the way."

For him, it was the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that pushed him to get

involved even more.

"Sandy Hook made me realize this work is very important," Waldbillig said. "We're doing proactive

See **CELEBRATE**, Page A8

New Sun Prairie Schools host Grand Openings Aug. 28

The Sun Prairie School District is inviting the public to attend the grand opening events for the new Central Heights Middle School, Prairie Phoenix Academy and Sun Prairie West High School on Aug. 28.

Central Heights Middle School, located at 220 Kroncke Drive, will have its ribbon cutting ceremony at 12:30 p.m., followed by self-guided tours until

2:30 p.m.

Central Heights was formerly Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School, serving grades 8-9. It will now join Patrick Marsh and Prairie View in serving grades 6-8.

Prairie Phoenix Academy, now also located at 220 Kroncke Drive, will have its ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m., followed by self-guided tours until 3:30 p.m.

Prairie Phoenix Academy is moving to a newly renovated space attached to the former Cardinal Heights building. This school serves as a learning academy for grades 10-12, serving as a third high school.

The new Sun Prairie East High School, located at 2850 Ironwood Drive, will have its ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 p.m., followed

by self-guided tours until 5:30 p.m.

Sun Prairie West is the district's new second comprehensive high school, serving grades 9-12.

On Sept. 19, Sun Prairie East High School will have self-guided tours from 5-7 p.m. to show off newly renovated learning spaces and collaborative learning environments.

SUN PRAIRIE



Jeromey Hodsdon

Brooke Bandli rolling a ball down the lane.

Bandli honored as Madison Area USBC 2022 Star of the Future

By Jeromey Hodsdon

jhodsdon@hngnews.com

Sun Prairie 2022 graduate Brooke Bandli was honored with the Madison Area United States Bowling Congress (USBC) 2022 Star of the Future award, earning \$1,000 in scholarship money.

This award recognizes a youth bowler in the Madison area for being involved and demonstrating a positive influence in their community.

According to Madison Area USBC's website, "While the Madison Area USBC Lowell Maves and Sandy Stanley Bowler of the Year Awards are based on key athletic bowling achievements, this award considers the character of the youth bowler."

Nominations aren't limited to just high schoolers, as youth bowlers of any age are eligible. All nominees have a 2.5 or higher GPA. Each youth program in the area gets to nominate one male and one female.

Her coaches John and Cher Breunig knew that she was an easy choice.

"She's just a class act," John Breunig said. "She's team oriented. She is driven to be the best she can be and she's a great student."

Cher Breunig was the one that notified Bandli of her nomination.

"I am honored that Cher nominated me," Bandli said. "I felt

blessed for the opportunity. I know so many amazing people in the Madison area through bowling."

This award, based on character and merit, means more to Bandli than any athletic accomplishment.

"In bowling, the biggest importance to me always was being a part of a team," Bandli said. "I've never been the star player or best bowler, but there's always more to bring to a team than just your scores."

She has had a positive impact on everyone she interacts with and makes them smile. In addition to bowling, she has been in 4H since she was young, as well as an active participant at the United Methodist Church in Sun Prairie. She also does theater, orchestra and choir.

She is continuing her education at UW-Eau Claire in the fall.

"I chose Eau Claire because there's a lot of opportunities to get involved," Bandli said. "I'm hoping to be involved as much as possible on campus."

She is going to school to pursue a degree in secondary education and social studies to become a teacher.

"I had some teachers that really inspired me," Bandli said. "I honestly think that's where I can make a difference,

See **BANDLI**, Page A8

Library announces August 2022 events

The Sun Prairie Public Library, located at 1350 Linneurud Drive, has a wide variety of activities planned for August, 2022, ranging from a ukulele concert to learning about native peoples of Wisconsin. This month's library events include:

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Summer

Reading Program

June 1 — Aug. 31, 2022

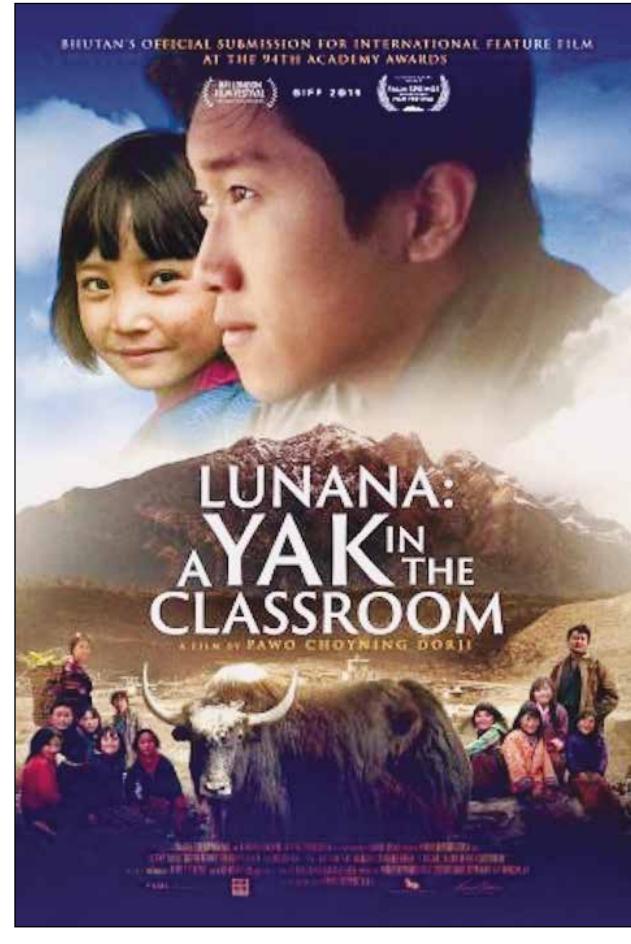
Log your reading time and complete activities to earn virtual badges. Every badge you receive earns you tickets to enter into prize drawings! Track your reading and other activities via Beanstack: <https://sunprairiepubliclibrary.beanstack.com/reader365>. As you log your reading and activities, you earn "badges" and enter to win prizes. Drawings for all prizes will be held at the end of the Summer Reading Program. Winners will be notified by telephone or email the week of September 5 and must pick up their prizes at the library.

Not able to participate online? Stop by the Information Desk for a paper reading & activity log.

Virtual Book Club With Author Lauren Fox

Wednesday, Aug. 10 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for the rare chance to attend book club with the author! Lauren Fox, author of this summer's Sun Prairie Community Read, will join



"Lunana: A Yak in the classroom" is being shown Monday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

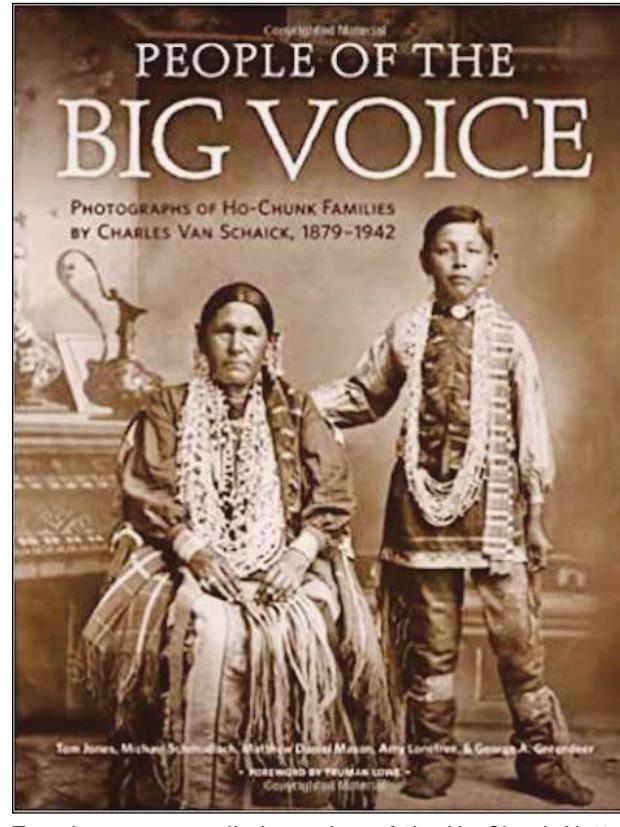
us via Zoom to co-facilitate an intimate discussion of her book, "Send for Me". This virtual discussion will be held via Zoom. To receive the Zoom login information, please register on our Events Calendar at <https://sunprairie.librarymarket.com>. Space is limited.

Door County Lighthouses

Tuesday, Aug. 16 6:30-7:30 p.m., Library Community Room

Door County Wisconsin boasts one of the highest

concentrations of lighthouses of any county in the United States. With its lengthy coastline, much of it rocky and treacherous, mariners of long ago relied heavily on these sentinels for safe travel. All of the county's 11 lighthouses will be explored, with special emphasis on Cana Island—Door County's most visited lighthouse. Archival and contemporary photography will be a highlight of the program. Presented by Barb and Ken Wardius, both of whom have researched extensively



Tom Jones, an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and co-author of "People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Schaick, 1879-1942" will present Native Peoples of Wisconsin on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

and written several books about Wisconsin's incredible lighthouse history.

Ukulele Concert & Sing-Along

Wednesday, Aug. 24 6:30-7:30 p.m., Library Community Room

The Madison Area Ukulele Initiative (MAUI) returns at long last to bring cheer and jaunty tunes to our community as the summer starts to wind down. Their music makes for a fantastic family fun night and all ages are encouraged to attend! This evening is funded by

the Friends of Sun Prairie Public Library.

Native Peoples of Wisconsin

Thursday, Aug. 25 6:30-7:30 p.m., Library Community Room

Tom Jones, an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation and co-author of "People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Schaick, 1879-1942" as well as the co-curator for the exhibition and contributing author to the book, "For a Love of His People: The Photography of Horace Poolaw" for the National Museum of the American Indian, will join us to present Native Peoples of Wisconsin. A professor of photography at the UW-Madison, Jones'

photographs can be found in the collections of the National Museum of the American Indian, the Chazen Museum of Art, the Norman Museum, Polaroid Corporation, Sprint Corporation, and Microsoft.

Foreign Film Night: Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom

Monday, Aug. 29 6:30-8:30 p.m., Library Community Room

A disillusioned schoolteacher is transferred to the most remote school in the world, cut off from modern life deep in the Himalayan glaciers. In a classroom with no electricity or even a blackboard, he finds himself with only a yak and a song that echoes through the mountains. This film is not rated and has a run time of approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Dream Bus Bookmobile

Join the Dream Bus bookmobile on Friday afternoons at The Element on Main apartments, Rolling Prairie apartments, and Vandenburg Heights Park, in collaboration with Sun Prairie Community Schools. Sign up for a library card, check out free books, music, and movies, access free Wi-Fi and resources, and more!

Fridays:

The Element on Main Apartments — 102 Park Circle

11 - 11:45 a.m.

Rolling Prairie Apartments — 415 S. Bird Street
12 - 12:45 p.m.
Vandenburg Heights Park — 1020 Vandenburg Street

1- 1:45 p.m.



COLLEGE NOTE

Kaltenberg named to Madison College Dean's List

Kyle Kaltenberg of Sun Prairie was named to the spring 2022 dean's list at Madison College.

Kaltenberg received honors (3.50 – 3.74 GPA).

Madison College

provides top, hands-on training in 150+ degree and certificate programs at 9 local campuses with online, accelerated and part-time options.



Jeromey Hodson

Brooke Bandli poses for senior photo at Prairie Lanes with her bowling balls.

Bandli

Continued from Page A6
teaching young adults how we can be better people."

She already has friends on the club bowling team at Eau Claire, and plans to continue her bowling career as well as her singing.

Eau Claire's bowling team is Co-ed and Bandli is excited for that as she's only competed on girl's teams throughout her youth bowling career.

"It will be exciting," she said. "I think I'll learn a lot from that experience."

The Madison area USBC Awards Committee had this to say about

Brooke:

"Brooke is lauded as a leader and an ambassador to the sport of bowling. Her bowling credentials are outstanding, as she has been part of a winning team at both the state and national high school bowling tournaments. Brooke is also an excellent student.

"She is a four year high honors student and a National Honors Society member. Brooke has done many volunteer hours with multiple organizations.

"Her integrity, positivity, and humility have helped her get to where she is today. On and off the lanes she is described to be a fun person to be around and makes you smile being around her."

Celebrate

Continued from Page A6

work to prevent these situations and offer continued support."

He continues to support and be a part of community schools because of the love he has for the Sun Prairie community.

"I can speak for everyone when I say our motivation was love for this community," he said.

Mayor Paul Esser said that the relationship between the city and the schools is very positive. He mentioned how community schools are the dominant partner in the relationship.

"The first thing I heard about community schools is that it was reaching beyond the students, to families in the community," Esser said. "When I heard that I was all in. "The school's mission is to educate children and the city's is to provide services to make life easier. Community schools bring these together."

Sun Prairie School District Superintendent Brad Saron also had positive words to say about community schools. "Over the last eight years, a lot has happened," Saron said. "I'm not prouder of any other initiative than I am of the expansion of community schools. I want to thank the community for all the help and support."

Community Schools Director Jamie Racine spoke to what Sun Prairie Community Schools' goals are and how they have accomplished them over a decade. These goals include making sure that not only students thrive, but their families as well. She cited that just in the last year, they served



Jeromey Hodson

Community Schools Patrick Marsh site coordinator Brian McKenzie and District 1 Alder Steve Stocker doing the "superman" dance.

almost 1,000 people at their school-based food pantries and clothing closets, as well as over 2,300 families with weekend meal baskets.

Northside Elementary Site Coordinator Stacy Dudley provided more reasoning as to why community schools provide these resources.

"One unique component is that we support family's needs so that they can focus more on their student's education and less on making ends meet," Dudley said. "All the success begins with building relationships with parents and partnering with community organizations."

Racine added that they also provide additional learning opportunities that the school district doesn't offer, like weekend and after school programs.

One example of this is from C.H. Bird Elementary Site Coordinator

Shenika Moss, who led the first ever Black Student Union (BSU) in the school.

"My vision for BSU is to not focus on the stigma, but to give them a voice and an outlet," Moss said.

Her motto that she shares with the kids is "I am the future. I will bring ideas and solutions to the world."

The BSU students are already becoming authors, as they are soon to be publishing a book, titled "See Our Reality."

Racine said that Sun Prairie Community Schools has expanded their early-learning childhood programs and adult learning programs. The goals of the adult programs is to help learn English and reduce homelessness.

Prairie Phoenix Academy (PPA) Site Coordinator Rea Solomon shared how grateful students were at PPA when community schools provided

them with a commercial cooking space.

"Students created, branded and sold their own hot sauce," Solomon said.

Brian McKenzie, site coordinator at Patrick Marsh Middle School, shared memories of his first big event last year.

"It was a social justice ignite fair for 75 6th-graders," he said. "We had a total of 220 people there. We collected over 120 pounds of food and clothing donations for St. Viny's."

Westside Elementary Site Coordinator Stacy Darga was instrumental in the decade-long success, as the first site coordinator when community schools began.

"I'm thrilled to do what I do everyday," she said. "We started with two partners, YMCA and literacy network. Now we have over 55 partners."

She spoke about Westside being one of the top 10 international finalists for a community collaboration award. She expressed gratitude to everyone involved in helping along the way and said being an international finalist wouldn't be possible without all of the hard work and dedication from everyone in Sun Prairie.

"We would not be here without you," she said to the crowd that came out to celebrate.

There were nine legacy award winners that were nominated by their peers and community members for their work in helping community schools

The Legacy & Tennyson
of DeForest RETIREMENT LIVING

INDEPENDENT, ASSISTED LIVING & CLOSER CARE

The Legacy of DeForest & Tennyson offer safety and comfort for the most important people in your life.

Our staff provides the exceptional Care and Compassion your loved ones deserve.

CALL FOR A TOUR

The Legacy of DeForest
Independent, Assisted Living & Memory Care
(608) 807-2888
6639 Pederson Crossing Blvd
DeForest, WI 53532
LegacyofDeForest.com

Tennyson Retirement Living
Assisted Living, Closer Care & Memory Care
(608) 286-1410
1936 Tennyson Ln
Madison, WI 53704
TennysonRetirementLiving.com

Whistling Ridge Apartment Homes

Don't miss out, only 2 one bd/ dens left!

Whistling Ridge Apartment Homes, located in Marshall WI just a short drive to Sun Prairie, Madison, and access to I90/94

Whistling Ridge is a 55+ Independent Senior apartment community. Amenities include underground parking, elevator access, a community room, fitness center and more.

110 Whistle St. Marshall, WI • 608.886.0498 • whistlingridgeapartments.com

Professionally built by Little Creek Construction. Managed by LC Investment Group.

DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK!

SP
SunPrairie Utilities
sunprairieutilities.com
(608) 837-5500

SIGN UP NOW FOR OUTAGE ALERTS

You don't have to feel powerless during a power outage. Sign up for outage alerts and receive a text or email in the event of a power outage at your home or business.

Visit sunprairieutilities.com and click on "Alerts" to get started.