



HOLDING THEIR CALAVERAS...The fourth graders at Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains enjoyed learning about Día De Los Muertos, a popular Mexican holiday that commemorates the dead. Señora Bronna Lipton's students are shown here with their decorated calaveras, or sugar skulls, which were provided by Tinga Restaurant in Westfield. The skulls will be on display at the restaurant until November 11.

Public Can Learn Photo Basics at Trailside, Nov. 8

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Trailside Nature and Science Center will offer a workshop for adults, ages 18 and older, on basic photography for digital and film camera enthusiasts on Saturday, November 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Trailside.

Those who attend will learn the basics of landscape and nature photography with internationally respected photographer Nancy Ori, who was affiliated for many years with the Ansel Adams Workshop in California.

Ms. Ori will discuss the art of composition, close-up photography, lighting, white balance, metering techniques, printing and editing in this interesting and educational workshop. Participants will practice their new-

found skills with hands-on activities outdoors.

This workshop will be held rain or shine at the Trailside Nature and Science Center Visitor Center. Attendees should plan to bring a lunch, some of their photographs, a camera, tripod, camera accessories, instruction book and a laptop computer if they own such items.

Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. The fee for this workshop is \$30 per person for residents of Union County and \$35 for out-of-county participants.

For additional information about this event or other upcoming programs, call (908) 789-3670 or visit ucnj.org/trailside. Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

Club to Host Art Show To Benefit Rescue Squad

WESTFIELD – The Woman's Club of Westfield will host an art show and silent auction as part of its fall fundraiser to benefit the Westfield Rescue Squad on Tuesday, November 11, at Westfield High School, located at 550 Dorian Road. The show is free and open to the public.

"With all the wonderful talent in this community, this is a great way for any local artist to exhibit their work, meet fellow artists and art enthusiasts and



MUSEUM TOUR...Westfield High School students rehearse for *Museum*, a comedy to be presented from November 13 to 15. Pictured are actors of the 26-member ensemble cast, including Garrett Verdone, Mallory Boesch, Dara Silverman and Michael Tarnofsky (standing, from left to right) and Catalina Gaglioti and Jane Cederroth (kneeling). See article on page 18.

TV 36 Airs Special Election Edition

WESTFIELD – "Blue Devil News," the one-hour TV segment produced by Broadcast Journalism and TV Production students at Westfield High School, is featuring a special election edition on WHS-TV 36 (Comcast Cable and FiOS) that is appearing: Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 10 p.m., and Sunday, 1 p.m.

The program, which is written, commented and filmed by Westfield High School students, can be seen now through most of November.

Bridge-Building Contest Takes Place in Cranford

CRANFORD – The annual Bridge-Building Competition will take place on Thursday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Victor M. Richel Student Commons on Union County College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Avenue.

Teams from 14 high schools are expected to participate, with a total of more than 50 teams building models at the novice or advanced level. This is the 13th time the competition has been held.

The following high schools will have teams participating in this year's competition: Chatham High School, Cranford High School, Elizabeth High School, Governor Livingston High School, Hillside High School, Linden High School, Union County Magnet High School, New Providence High School, Ocean Township High School, Rahway High School, Union County Academy for Information Technology, Union County Vo-Tech High School, Union High School and Warren County High School.

All teams are to build a Through Truss bridge using only wooden tongue depressors, wooden dowels, plastic wire ties, string and glue. Bridges built by the novice teams are 47-and-a-quarter inches long, while those built by advanced teams are 73-and-a-half inches long.

The teams are given six weeks to design and build the bridges. The length of the bridge is varied each year, allowing students to compete again.

On the day of the competition, the bridges are first weighed on a scale and then are supported between tables and then weighed down with 1 1/4 pound free weights (standard barbells weights) hung from paper clips.

All bridges continue to receive weights until they collapse. Bridges are rated for strength and efficiency, encouraging teams to use the minimum materials possible. Each team

is required to provide a list of all the materials used. Finally, a formula is used to factor the final breaking load of each bridge with the amount of material used, to determine the winner.

Teams competing at the novice level consist of two to six members, and none of the members have participated in a previous year's competition. Advanced-level teams consist of two to six members; on such teams, at least two members have participated in a previous competition.

Library Invites Public

For Cookie Exchange

GARWOOD – The Garwood Public Library is holding a cookie recipe exchange through Friday, November 14. Individuals are invited to bring in their favorite cookie recipe and the library staff will make a copy and add it to a binder at the circulation desk.

Participants may browse through the binder, pick someone else's recipe that they might like to try, and the staff will make a copy of it free of charge.

On Saturday, November 15, at 11 a.m., individuals are invited to bring in some samples of the cookies they have made for sharing and exchanging with other bakers. Those bringing samples are asked to also provide the recipe. Coffee and tea will be available.

The library, located at 411 Third Avenue at the corner of Walnut Street, will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, for Veterans Day.

Thrift Shop Sets Dates

For Toy and Doll Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS – Beginning this Saturday, November 8, at 10 a.m. and continuing through Saturday, November 15, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop will conduct its annual Toy and Doll Sale. The shop is located at 1730 East Second Street in Scotch Plains.

New and gently used toys and dolls, including many brand names, will be among the items for children from infants through elementary school age.

Porcelain collector dolls, baby dolls, Barbie dolls and clothing, teddy bears, stuffed animals, Cabbage Patch dolls and a renovated and furnished mini McMansion dollhouse will be available.

There also will be children's books up to preteen, cars, trucks, puzzles, Dora the Explorer toys, blocks and some small riding vehicles.

A free Turkey Dinner Drawing will be held. Participants are asked to write their name and telephone number on a slip of paper and drop it in the entry bag. The drawing will take place on Thursday, November 20. Individuals need not be present to win.

The thrift shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or directions, call the store during business hours at (908) 322-5420.

Kean Alumni to Host Mortgage Seminar

UNION – Beyond Subprime: Individuals and Small Businesses in the New Economy, a free career networking workshop hosted by the Kean University Alumni Association and the Alumni Relations Office, will take place on Tuesday, November 11, in Kean Hall, Room 127, at 6:30 p.m. on the main campus of Kean University, located at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union.

Distinguished faculty and alumni will discuss the next financial crisis, and what people can do to prepare themselves.

All attendees will be invited to ask questions and actively participate in the discussion. Topics include option-adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs); bank and business consolidation; impact of the presidential election, and financial preparation for the future.

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@kean.edu, or call (888) 737-2586.



MERITORIOUS...Six Westfield High School current seniors have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Assistant Principal Lynn Muir, above, far left, congratulated Alan Workman, Samantha Ritter, Alice Li, Moira Smith, Devin Cline and William Perry on their achievements.



FUTURE LEADERS...Edison Intermediate School (EIS) mock-debate candidates Daniel Dougherty as John McCain, left, and Joseph Obajulu as Barack Obama discuss the major campaign issues of the fall election. The EIS students voted Monday. Of the 85 percent of the EIS student body that "registered," a total of 302 supported Senator Obama, while 208 picked Senator McCain, a 60-40 split.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Student Body Cheers on Candidates in Mock Debate

By MATT ENSLIN

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Editor's Note: The piece was written before Election Night.

WESTFIELD – On Thursday, October 30, at Edison Intermediate School, I had the opportunity to watch Matthew Varhley's eighth grade U.S. History class conduct a mock presidential debate, in which two students represented the presidential candidates.

The debate was intended to help students understand the candidates' beliefs in time for the mock election that the school will hold on Monday, November 3.

Daniel Dougherty portrayed Republican candidate John McCain, and Class President Joseph Obajulu portrayed Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

Daniel's advisors were Matthew Daniel and Patrick Terry. Joseph's advisors were Charlotte Dreizan and Robert Cassie. These advisors did a great job helping their candidates prepare for the debate.

The auditorium was packed, and I was lucky enough to sit in the front row. They debated about several issues that our country faces, including foreign policy, taxes, the economy and the Iraq War.

With regard to the economy, Joseph [Obama] said, "We need to worry less about Wall Street and more about Main Street. We must start worrying about the average person who is struggling with taxes, the child who is getting bad grades and the teenager whose dreams of college have now been destroyed. We must worry about Main Street!"

I found both speakers to be exceptionally articulate, and they projected their voices throughout the auditorium very well. They got into intense arguments, specifically over the issues of foreign policy and the war in Iraq.

Daniel [McCain] stated, on the issue of foreign policy, "I agree with Senator Obama that we must use diplomacy. But we cannot just schedule peace meetings with nations that want to destroy us!"

Their viewpoints on the issues and personalities were nearly identical to those of Senators Obama and McCain.

Joseph even announced like his 47-year old Senatorial counterpart. Daniel's expressions also mimicked those of the 72-year old senator from Arizona. He even referred to the audience as "my friends," McCain's trademark phrase.

At times, when the crowd members were allowed to speak, they be-

gan chanting, "Joe-bama!" and "John McDan!" as they intermingled the students' names with their corresponding senator.

There was no winner, but the students were going crazy for Joseph. Due to the negative public opinion of George W. Bush, many young voters and students have become convinced that all Republicans are just like the President, and thus they are supporting Barack Obama.

This debate gave students the opportunity to judge the candidates for themselves, rather than what they hear at home. Overall, I thought that Mr. Varhley did a wonderful job in organizing the debate, which was very entertaining.

Congratulations to Daniel and Joseph for a job well done.

Matt is a student at Edison Intermediate School.

WHS Schedules

Annual College Night

WESTFIELD – On Thursday evening, November 13, at 7:15 p.m., Westfield High School will host approximately 200 colleges and universities at its annual College Night. This event gives students and their parents an opportunity to gather information about colleges and universities nationwide.

Hosted for many years by the high school's Counseling Services Department, "Westfield's College Night offers a forum for students and parents to talk one-on-one with representatives from a host of colleges and universities who also come prepared with an array of literature describing their schools," said Scott White, director of Counseling Services.

"The Guidance Department works diligently to give students access to an array of post-secondary options," he added, "and we aim to provide our students and their parents with a broad overview of schools for their consideration."

Holy Trinity to Host Open House in WF

WESTFIELD – Holy Trinity Interparochial School, located at 336 First Street in Westfield, will host an open house on Friday, November 21, from 9 to 11 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call (908) 233-0484 or visit htsnj.com. Holy Trinity offers a competitive curriculum from early childhood through eighth grade.

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November 15, 2008 9:30 a.m. to noon
December 10, 2008 9 to 11 a.m.

For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.whschool.org or call (908) 754-1882, Ext. 155

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