



MAKING CONNECTIONS...Judy Minnium and Camila Martinez, both of Scotch Plains, learn to make gorditas in the Southwestern style. Twenty-three students from The Wardlaw+Hartridge (W+H) School in Edison attended the inaugural Border Immersion trip to El Paso and Las Cruces.

Wardlaw+Hartridge Students Attend Immersion Trip

AREA — Twenty-three students from The Wardlaw+Hartridge (W+H) School in Edison gained firsthand knowledge and deeper perspectives of the crisis at the border during the inaugural Border Immersion trip to El Paso and Las Cruces, a weeklong journey which allowed them to explore and experience the realities of life at the border.

The students were accompanied by W+H Director of Global Scholars Nicole Nolan of Bridgewater and Athletic Director Karl Miran of North Plainfield, along with other chaperones from the World Leadership School.

Local students who attended the trip included Clare Jeffery of Westfield, Nate Kolmodin of Mountainside, Judy Minnium of Scotch Plains, Alejandro Tobar of Westfield, Camila Martinez of Scotch Plains and Isabella Sena-Cash of Scotch Plains.

The students participated in activities and educational opportunities that broadened their perspectives about the many issues at the border. With a non-profit Border Service Corps' preparation they welcomed a group of 36 migrant refugees, who had just been released from government detention. These refugees were on their way to the homes of their sponsors ranging anywhere from Los Angeles to Houston, to Bound Brook, where they will await their immigration hearing. The students learned to cook some Hispanic foods, sorted donated

clothing and other supplies, and created a bedroom with 36 air mattresses, sheets and comforters. When the refugee families arrived, W+H students welcomed them, played with their children using coloring books and a soccer ball, and certainly brightened that part of their journey.

"The El Paso Border Immersion Service Trip was a rewarding and unforgettable experience that brought help and hope to not only refugees seeking asylum but also to our school by making us aware while creating a coherent group environment," Judy Minnium '20 said.

The W+H students and chaperones spent a day at the border in El Paso. They observed Federal District Court proceedings with 50-60 migrants, all in jumpsuits and chains, being arraigned, some for smuggling and others for immigration offenses. They spoke with a Federal magisterial judge, immigration lawyer, border patrol agents, women who are unable to leave Juarez to reach U.S. soil, and several migrants about their struggles to build a life on the American side of the border. All these experiences contributed to the group's understanding of the many dimensions of the immigration issue.

W+H students also met with a local writer and visited the historic town of Old Mesilla, the location of a trial where Billy the Kid was sentenced to death, as well as the home base at The Franciscan Holy Cross Retreat Center.

Mount Saint Mary Students Named Oncology Olympiads

AREA — This year, 11 students from Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung competed in the Rutgers Oncology Olympiad, an academic competition organized by the Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ and Rutgers School of Public Health where students showcase their interest in biomedical science.

Since October, these students who call themselves "Metastasisers" have completed Chemistry and Biology and have met after school with Dorothea Kominos, Science Department Chairperson. There, they have learned all aspects of oncology, including diagnostic techniques, mechanisms of cancer formation, pathology and treatments. They have demonstrated interest in pursuing careers in science, engineering and medicine.

The individual students took an online qualifying exam between January 10 and 13 and the top 10 percent of students in the state are invited to the team tournament at Rutgers University, New Brunswick on April 6.

Five Mount Saint Mary Academy scholars were selected to participate in the team tournament, based on their outstanding performance on the qualifying exam: junior Sophie Callahan of

Martinsville, senior Amanda DeParto of Watchung, senior Francesca Fazio of Somerset, senior Catherine Jennings of Westfield, and junior Cayla Siana of Middlesex.

"I am very proud of the students because of their dedication and desire to learn about science beyond what they learn in the classroom," said Ms. Kominos.

All of the students received commemorative pins and certificates of completion for their accomplishments on the qualifying examination.

SPFHS Chamber Choir Shines at Conference

SCOTCH PLAINS - On Thursday, February 21, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Chamber Choir, under the direction of Ms. Jan Allen, performed at the annual New Jersey Music Educator Association State Conference in East Brunswick. The Chamber Choir was selected from a very competitive application pool from the State of New Jersey. The choir world was buzzing about how great the Scotch Plains-Fanwood students performed.



OLYMPIADS...Eleven students from Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung competed in the Rutgers Oncology Olympiad, an academic competition organized by the Rutgers Cancer Institute of NJ and Rutgers School of Public Health where students showcase their interest in biomedical science.

Manya Trehan Receives Volunteer Service Award

AREA — Union Catholic's (UC) Manya Trehan has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

Manya received a certificate and a letter from the President of the United States Donald Trump for her achievement.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Union Catholic nominated Manya for national honors this past fall in recognition of her volunteer service.

Manya, a senior who founded the Girls Who Code Club at UC, instructed several Coding Classes over the summer at the Scotch Plains Library, has volunteered for the communications department of the American Red Cross, and is part of an organization called #BUILTBYGIRLS, a program that exposes students to the possibilities for a career in tech by connecting with the industry's best professionals.

Manya is currently preparing to instruct another workshop class at the fifth annual New Jersey Makers Day next month at the Scotch Plains Library, and as a member of Governor's STEM Scholar program, she's working on a data science research project with other students.

Manya was honored to receive such a prestigious award "It was so exciting to find out that I received this award," said Manya, who lives in Scotch Plains. "It was so unexpected."

Manya said she gets a lot of satisfaction out of volunteering and helping others learn. "It's very rewarding to see the students I'm teaching in the coding classes get so excited about what they are learning," said Manya. "I like the idea of passing on my knowledge and skills to other people. And helping to close the gender gap and getting women and girls more exposed to technology is very rewarding."

Here are some excerpts from the letter Manya received from President Trump:

"On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your service to your fellow Americans and those most in need. Over this past year, you have

served as a model of the American spirit. Your many hours of service have strengthened the bonds of cooperation and trust that bring people together, while helping to address some of the greatest challenges of our time. Thank you for your enduring commitment to serving your community and our Nation. I trust that you will continue to work for the betterment of others and an even stronger future for the American people."

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), recognizes middle level high school students across the country for outstanding volunteer service.

"Across the United States, young volunteers are doing remarkable things to contribute to the well-being of the people and communities around them," Prudential CEO Charles Lowrey wrote in a press release. "Prudential is honored to celebrate the contributions of these students, and we hope their stories inspire others to volunteer, too. Young volunteers like yourself are inspiring examples to all of us, and are one of our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow."

Heard of Westfield Volunteers in Jamaica

WESTFIELD — Kaelyn Heard of Westfield spent spring break serving others through James Madison University's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Program. Ms. Heard, who is studying Marketing, traveled to Treasure Beach, Jamaica to volunteer with Volunteer in Jamaica Opportunity Network.

The student-led ASB trips took place from March 4 through March 11. Each trip focused on a social issue, such as homelessness, resettlement, environmentalism or community wellness, in a specific region. Almost 175 students embarked on 19 spring break trips around the country and world. The students spent the week living simply, focused on service in their destination community but also on teamwork and reflection within their group.

Sarah Hoffman of Cranford Earns GS Gold Award

CRANFORD — Sarah Hoffman of Cranford, a senior at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison, wanted to create something meaningful and lasting for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. True to the Township of Cranford in which she has lived since birth, Sarah created a memorable and timeless tribute.

Sarah spent more than 100 hours creating a living history museum of significant people, places and things in Cranford's history. She conducted her own research and worked with the Cranford Historical Society, which provided archive images and information. Sarah highlighted 24 entries and wrote informative paragraphs describing each person, place or thing and provided QR codes with links to videos and more information.

"This project really made me more passionate about history," Sarah said. "I researched so much and I found it so fascinating. It makes me really proud to see how much impact my town has had, not just in New Jersey but also nationwide. I want this to have a lasting impact on the community. Teachers will be able to use this as a tool."

The process included the creation

Washington Univ. Dean's List Honors

AREA — The following area students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester at Washington University in St. Louis.

Allyson Bisgay of Fanwood is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. Yallen Bai of Westfield is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences. To qualify for the Dean's List in the College of Arts & Sciences, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 14 graded units.

Sara McCutcheon of Westfield is enrolled in the university's McKelvey School of Engineering. Julia Simpson of Westfield is enrolled in the university's McKelvey School of Engineering. To qualify for the Dean's List in the McKelvey School of Engineering, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and be enrolled in at least 12 graded units.

and assembly of tiles, building and painting boards and finally attaching the tiles. Subjects highlighted in Sarah's tribute to Cranford include the Crane-Philips House, Rahway River, Deborah Canon, Partridge Wolfe, Ph.D., Fannie Bates, Cranford River Carnivals of the 1920s and the Cranford Train Station.

"A lot of people don't know these people and places existed," Sarah said. "They don't realize how much history there is in Cranford."

Sarah's project was unveiled on December 11, 2018, at the Cranford Community Center, with her parents and project team members in attendance. Her tribute will be permanently on display in the center.

"That made me so proud," Sarah said. "It's been such a big part of my life and this really validated everything I've done and all the work I put into this project."

Gettysburg College Dean's List Told

AREA — Gettysburg College announced local students who have earned recent academic achievements.

Students whose semester averages were 3.6 or above were recently placed on the Dean's Honor List.

The following local students have been awarded this outstanding academic achievement in the Fall 2018 semester.

Alyssa Beyer of Garwood, Elizabeth Gately of Westfield, Carly Kalis of Westfield, Lucas Toglia of Westfield, and Samantha Anastasiou of Scotch Plains has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean's Honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the Fall 2018 semester.

SP Residents Earn Dean's List at BostonU.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Dhvanil Nanshah and Hailey L. Rachko, of Scotch Plains, have recently been named to the Dean's List at Boston University for the Fall semester.

Each school and college at Boston University has their own criterion for the Dean's List, but students generally must attain a 3.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), or be in the top 30 percent of their class, as well as a full course load as a full time student.



ART MATTERS...The Westfield Public Schools are celebrating the nationally acclaimed Youth Art Month with colorful and creative displays of students' artwork throughout the downtown area.

Youth Art Month Celebrated In Downtown Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Public Schools are celebrating the nationally acclaimed Youth Art Month with colorful and creative displays throughout the downtown area. Paintings, drawings, and sculpture designed by approximately 330 students from Westfield's 10 public schools are displayed by 39 downtown merchants, as well as The Westfield Memorial Library and RMC Studios in Garwood, who volunteered their window or display space for the month of March.

"Youth Art Month celebrates creativity and brings communities together through art," explained Thomas Weber, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts for the Westfield

Public Schools. "Every year, this event provides many of our creative and talented students in grades kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to have their artwork proudly displayed throughout our community. Each art piece was selected for various reasons and reflects different concepts and skills that are aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in the arts. I couldn't be more proud to work with such dedicated teachers, generous parent volunteers, and supportive community businesses who make this great event possible."

In coordination with Youth Art Month, RMC Studios in Garwood is hosting an Open House.



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL...The Wardlaw+Hartridge Concert Band plays at The Pines Manor for Edison's State of the Township Address. The Wardlaw+Hartridge School's Concert Choir and Concert Band showcased their musical talent and performance ability at Edison Township's 28th Annual State of the Township Address at the Pines Manor on February 21. The Concert Band, conducted by Rick Fontaine, played "America the Beautiful".

Westfield Pediatric Dental Group



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