



WARDLAW-HARTRIDGE LENDS VOICE TO PATRIOTISM...Fanwood resident Brenda McCulley, lower and middle school choral teacher at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, explains to second graders the history and significance of the *Star Spangled Banner*. The Music Educators' National Conference coordinated efforts for the singing of the National Anthem throughout the country on Wednesday, September 14, at 9 a.m. in commemoration of Francis Scott Key's penning of the song.



TRINKETS FOR TREASURE...As the community of Westfield wrestles with ways to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina, three young children put their hearts and their hands together to do their part. Laura Streaman and siblings Catherine and Chris Sabatino created homemade necklaces, bracelets and rings. These resourceful children then sold these homemade trinkets to passersby in downtown Westfield. Through generous donations, the children collected over \$200, which was donated to the American Red Cross for the hurricane's victims. Pictured, left to right, are: Catherine Sabatino, Laura Streaman and Chris Sabatino.

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THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Student Seeks To Break Movie Typecasts of Teens

By ELENA TINFOW
Specially Written For The Westfield Leader and The Times

You're accidentally eavesdropping on a conversation that's going on behind you. A voice says, "Dad, I'm going to the party, and there's nothing you can do about it!" You figure you don't need to listen to the rest of the argument. It's obviously an inevitable clash between parent and teenager, right?

If I had never seen nor been an adolescent and had based my opinion solely on the representations in the media, I would think the exchange that I had heard to be a common occurrence in any household that contained teens.

Many teens are looking for some direction in their lives, and so they look for something or someone to follow. It is much easier to copy than to take the time to establish your own ideas, and these misled teens look to the media for guidance. To some, the media is more readily accessible than family.

The movie industry would have us believe that teenagers are loud, rude, angry people who smoke, drink, and engage in all sorts of reckless actions, and many magazines would have teens all looking and dressing exactly the same. Every teen would have their nose shaved and their deep fat sucked out so that the result was somewhat like a clone army. Television shows depict young adults as spoiled kids who don't want to do anything with

their lives but party. They are continually complaining, for example, about how their lives are ruined because they don't get a car on their sixteenth birthday.

Celebrities don't help much either. Though they may give money to charities and sometimes give a positive influence, their pictures are only reminders of our imperfections. Girls constantly see stick-thin celebrities being thought of as very beautiful even though they really look like dehydrated sugar-free lollipops.

Of course, a girl looking at that picture will want to imitate the effect to appear as pretty as the movie star is. In addition, young stars are out illegally drinking in nightclubs and smoking packs of cigarettes every day. Because these stars are considered infinitely attractive, it becomes appealing to similarly drink and smoke.

Unfortunately, some of these behaviors do apply to some teenagers who feel they need to fit in.

However, many teens are not like those shown in the media. These are young adults who know that they want to make a difference in the world, and they try their hardest to explore their interests in a way that can benefit the community. They are mature enough to understand the consequences of their actions and will readily accept any constructive criticism they are given. These young people are the future leaders of the world.



KINDERMUSIK...Calderone School of Music presents a Kindermusik class for children from birth to age seven learning to make music.

Two Westfield Students Enroll at Amherst Coll.

WESTFIELD - Jacqueline De La Fuente, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard De La Fuente, and David Reinhardt, the son of Elizabeth Reinhardt and William Reinhardt, both of Westfield, are enrolled as first-year students at Amherst College in Amherst, Mass.

Jacqueline and Richard are Westfield High School graduates.

MS Announces PTA Fall Festival October 8

MOUNTAINSIDE - On Saturday October 8, from noon until 4 p.m., MountainSide will hold its PTA Fall Festival rain or shine. Come join the fun and festivities at Deerfield School, 302 Central Avenue in MountainSide.

There will be activities and crafts for all ages. The festival will offer games, rides, amusements, food, music, pony rides, face painting, tricky tray raffle and much more. Vendors will be displaying and selling various home goods & fashion accessories. For more information, call Gina at (908) 654-3815 or Lisa at (908) 232-2994.



BACK TO SCHOOL... Students at Evergreen Elementary in Scotch Plains were excited to get the new school year underway. Children spent time seeing old friends and making new ones. Pictured, left to right, are: first graders, Grace Lama, Nicole Dencker and Gia Pares.

Calderone School Presents Kindermusik Group Classes

AREA - The Calderone School of Music in East Hanover and Springfield, a Maestro level Kindermusik School, will begin Kindermusik classes on September 19. Kindermusik classes offer children group-music classes ages birth to seven. Kindermusik group classes are fun-filled enriching musical experiences and learning for children. All Kindermusik teachers are early childhood development specialists, certified Kindermusik teachers and degree professional musicians. Visit www.calderoneschoolofmusic.com or call for a free trial class.

Calderone School of Music is a professional music school providing private instruction on all instruments and voice for students of all ages and ability levels. The school offers a Professional Development Division and College Preparatory Division. In addition to music lessons, students have the opportunity to participate in ensembles, audi-

tions, competitions, evaluations and annual recitals. For information regarding music lessons, contact Professor Kathleen Calderone at (973) 428-0405 in the East Hanover School or Professor Anna Hernandez at (973) 467-4688 in the Springfield School.

Woman's Club Hosts College Breakfast, Talk

WESTFIELD - The College Woman's Club of Westfield presents "What Color is Your Pennant: Choosing and Getting Chosen by Your Ideal College," a breakfast and talk featuring Jacques Steinberg, *New York Times* reporter and author of "The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College," and Scott White, Montclair High School guidance counselor and former assistant director of admissions at Bard College.

The event will take place Saturday, October 1, between 9:30 a.m. and noon at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available at The Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad Street, Westfield. All proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund of the College Woman's Club.

Public Schools Receive Parents Choice Award

SCOTCH PLAINS - SchoolMatch of Columbus, Ohio, the nation's largest school selection consulting firm, recently announced that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public schools have received the organization's 2005 What Parents Want Award.

This marks several years that the SP-F public schools have received this award, which is presented to only 16 percent of the nation's 15,573 public school districts and recognizes those districts that best meet the needs of families choosing schools for their children. All honored school systems are highlighted on the SchoolMatch web directory that is accessed by more than 250,000 relocating families each month.

The service assists corporate employee families when relocating and assists corporations with site selection studies.

ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi & Hewit, P.C. is pleased to announce that **Mario C. Gurrieri**, chair of its Family Law Department, **Richard A. Outhwaite** and **April L. Katz**, will present to the public a Free Seminar entitled "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" in Summit, New Jersey on Thursday, October 20, 2005 and Saturday, October 22, 2005. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for thirty-two years, Mr. Outhwaite, for fifteen years and Ms. Katz, for twelve years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, division of assets and post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support as well as the law governing Domestic Partnerships.

Information will also be provided on Divorce Mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties, contemplating divorce, or simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post-divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

DATES:

Thursday, October 20, 2005 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 22, 2005 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Please call for location
Convenient to both downtown Summit and Route 24

Reservations required
(No names needed)
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