



SWAMP THINGS...Hazel England, left, director of education and outreach for the Great Swamp Watershed Association, listens as Gene Harrison, right, describes his dream house to participants in a Project WILD workshop offered at Trailside Nature and Science Center in 2006.

## Trailside Teacher-Training Workshops Begin Jan. 31

MOUNTAINSIDE - Trailside Nature and Science Center will offer three teacher-training workshops at the newly renovated Mountainside museum as part of the winter 2007 adult program series.

Certified instructors teach each workshop. Participants are eligible for six New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) professional development credits.

The curriculum guides, included in the registration fees, are correlated to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and highlight educational tools which can be used effectively in the classroom to challenge and teach students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Each of the three workshops runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes morning refreshments. Doors open 15 minutes prior to the program. Pre-registration is required for each workshop because space is limited.

The first workshop, "Project Learning Tree" or "PLT," offered on Wednesday, January 31, for a fee of \$10 per person, is a guide that provides educators with tools for increasing student environmental awareness.

PLT activities will engage students in interdisciplinary, hands-on experiences that develop skills in problem solving, evaluation and research. Participants will receive the PLT guide with more than 100 lessons included.

"Healthy Water, Healthy People," offered for the first time on Thursday,

### WF's Regenstreich Makes Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Westfield's Alex Regenstreich made the Dean's List at Syracuse University with a cumulative 3.5 GPA in his junior year.

He is presently completing a one-year study abroad in Madrid, Spain.

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## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

### WF Youths Should Attend Local Musical Events

By Vince FitzPatrick  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Music has always been an enormous part of the lives of teenagers. Taste in music is a factor in friend choice, clothing and social activities, and many teens consider music one of the most important segments of their life, right after (if not before) family, school and friends.

That is why it is no surprise that 11 local acts performed at Westfield High School's Battle of the Bands this past Friday. The bands, with names like "Southern Fried Funk" and "Wolf It Out," competed to win a \$100 American Express gift card, a dinner at Hershey's deli and the respect of their fellow students.

The bands represented a wide spectrum of rock variations, from folk and indie rock to heavy metal and the cheesy mixture of punk and reggae referred to as ska.

They also varied widely in appearance and demeanor. One bassist wore a spandex jumpsuit. Two guitarists dressed as a pokémon and a banana. The winning group, The Dinosaurs, threw plastic dinosaur toys into the crowd.

The show, hosted by the WHS student council, had a relatively good turnout for a school event. But those who attended were the usual crowd, who either are friends with a band or are in a band themselves.

This defeats one of the purposes of these events - to expose the public to up-and-coming musicians in our community. When everyone there has already heard the music, there is not much progress left to be made.

Young people in Westfield should not feel uncomfortable going to these events. Folio coffeehouses, battles of the bands, variety shows and small venue shows happen at least once a month at the high school or elsewhere. The shows are cheap and friendly, and it is likely that there will be someone there you know. And yes,

there will probably be food. Just like with school sports, an activity with dozens of Westfield students playing in front of a crowd deserves some support. Anyone who takes hours out of their week to practice original songs with a band that is likely to go nowhere needs some kind of motivation.

Large crowds provide this. Of course, people will starve if you do not turn out for their Friday night concert, but they will definitely be thankful for more company.

The most important reason that Westfield teens should turn out for a rock show is simply because they might like it.

Sure, the musicians are not all great at playing their instruments. The singing voices may sometimes be awkward or way off key. And, of course, there will be some acts that make your brain feel like it is splitting in half (depending on your taste in music).

But it would be near impossible for a dozen bands' worth of music freaks to avoid producing at least one catchy song. Once it hits, that one infectious melody will be well worth the wait.

Finally, there is an off chance that one of Westfield's own aspiring rock stars will someday hit it big. There have been any number of rockers to emerge from the Garden State (Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, George Clinton, My Chemical Romance), and they all got their start playing local shows.

If stardom ever does strike one of the many colorful lead singers or ingenious guitarists which populate this town, people will be clamoring to tell the media how they saw that same superstar when they were just a high school student in a no-name band. Go to the show and make friends with them now, and maybe that yearbook signature will be worth something someday.

Vince is a junior at Westfield High School.



SUGAR RUSH...On Wednesday, December 20, Prek 4 student Judy Minium of Scotch Plains collaborated with her classmates on decorating ideas for a sugary and colorful gingerbread house. The project, which lasted over one week, culminated in an enthusiastic decorating session, complete with gooey icing, gumdrops, candy canes and nonpareil cookies.



EXPLAINING BOND...At a recent meeting held in the Westfield Community Center, Superintendent of Schools William Foley addressed pre-school parents about the need to free up space in the elementary schools by offering a centralized kindergarten program at Lincoln School.

## Opportunity

Wardlaw-Hartridge is a leading independent, co-ed, pre-K3 to 12 college prep school.

Admission Information Session  
Saturday, January 20  
9:30 a.m.  
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### Editor's Note: WESTFIELD SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

On Tuesday, January 23, 2007:  
A vote of YES approves the proposal and borrowing of the money.  
A vote of NO rejects the proposal and borrowing of the money.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF WESTFIELD

A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 23, 2007 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 9:00 P.M. THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD WILL BE VOTING FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL AND AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW:

#### BOND PROPOSAL

The Board of Education of the Town of Westfield in the County of Union, New Jersey is authorized (a) to provide for renovations and alterations at Lincoln School, additions renovations and alterations at Roosevelt Intermediate School and replacement of windows at Thomas Edison Intermediate School; (b) to appropriate therefor \$9,396,145; and (c) to issue bonds of the school district to finance the project in the principal amount of \$9,396,145.

The final eligible costs of the project approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$8,464,993, with \$5,998,125 allocated to Lincoln School, \$2,266,868 allocated to Roosevelt Intermediate School and \$200,000 allocated to Thomas Edison Intermediate School. This project includes \$0 for school facility construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). **The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the project.**

Westfield Polling Places			
Ward	District	Name of Polling place	Address
001	001	ROOSEVELT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	301 CLARK STREET- GYMNASIUM
001	002	ROOSEVELT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	301 CLARK STREET- GYMNASIUM
001	003	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL	NEWTON PLACE- AUDITORIUM
001	004	LIBRARY	550 EAST BROAD STREET- PROGRAM ROOM
001	005	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL	NEWTON PLACE- AUDITORIUM
001	006	LIBRARY	550 EAST BROAD STREET- PROGRAM ROOM
001	007	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL	NEWTON PLACE- AUDITORIUM
002	001	UNION COUNTY ANNEX- VENERI BUILDING	300 EAST NORTH AVENUE
002	002	WASHINGTON SCHOOL	ST. MARKS AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
002	003	WASHINGTON SCHOOL	ST. MARKS AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
002	004	WILSON SCHOOL	LINDEN AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
002	005	WILSON SCHOOL	LINDEN AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
002	006	WASHINGTON SCHOOL	ST. MARKS AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
003	001	WESTFIELD RESCUE SQUAD	335 WATTERSON STREET
003	002	EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	RAHWAY AVE-ENTRANCE FROM PARKING LOT
003	003	EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	RAHWAY AVE-ENTRANCE FROM PARKING LOT
003	004	EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL	RAHWAY AVE-ENTRANCE FROM PARKING LOT
003	005	JEFFERSON SCHOOL	BOULEVARD- AUDITORIUM
003	006	JEFFERSON SCHOOL	BOULEVARD- AUDITORIUM
003	007	JEFFERSON SCHOOL	BOULEVARD- AUDITORIUM
004	001	MCKINLEY SCHOOL	OSBORN AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
004	002	MCKINLEY SCHOOL	OSBORN AVENUE- AUDITORIUM
004	003	WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	DORIAN ROAD- LOBBY
004	004	WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	DORIAN ROAD- LOBBY
004	005	JEFFERSON SCHOOL	BOULEVARD- AUDITORIUM