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THINGS TO DO
Full calendar, Page 15

CHILD'S PLAY

Liz Thomas will talk about the life of a Bushman child at the Mariposa Museum on Friday as part of a new exhibit on childhood the world over. Page 17

COFFEE ANYONE?

The Common Grounds Coffeehouse is bringing the Sonic Boomers to the Rindge Meetinghouse Friday night for some Key West-style music. Page 16

AND, ACTION

The Mariposa Museum and Andy's Summer Playhouse are calling actors for auditions for upcoming shows; youth and adults are being sought. Page 16

SHOWING OFF

Graduating seniors at Franklin Pierce roll out "An Introduction," an exhibit in honor of their forthcoming rite of passage into the working world at the Thoreau Gallery. Page 18

'ALADDIN' DANCE

On a break from hip-hop, ConVal Dance Team takes the stage Saturday in a show of jazz and modern moves inspired by Disney's "Aladdin." Page 13



MONADNOCK

Ledger-Transcript

Peterborough, N.H.

Thursday, March 8, 2012

50¢

The Latest

News

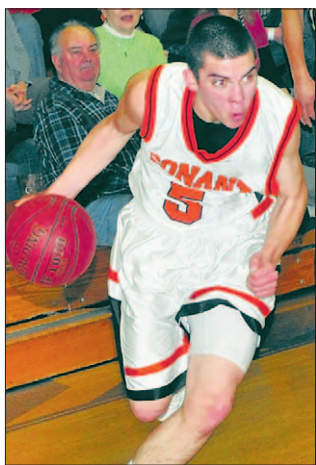
Nursery school is closing

Founder looks back on 42 years, as Sand Box Nursery School in Jaffrey prepares to close at the end of the school year. Page 2

Coll's Farm to serve alcohol

The Jaffrey deli is seeking approval to offer beer and wine with meals; Zoning Board gave its OK Tuesday night. Page 3

Sports



End of the line for Orioles

The Conant boys basketball team hits the wall with a Division III loss to Prospect Mountain, 43-34, that ends the season for them. Page 19

Coming Tuesday

Local Realtors assess housing market in 2012

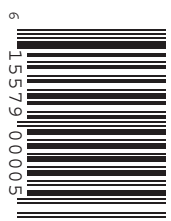
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OPENING IMAGINATIONS: Writer-in-residence at Pierce School encourages students to see beauty in the banal



STAFF PHOTO BY ASHLEY SAARI

Kathy Brodsky, writer-in-residence at Pierce Elementary School in Bennington, assists fourth graders Paul Marchand and Ella Rousseau, of Bennington, create lists of characters and story ideas to write about. Each grade school student at Pierce School will write a story to be compiled into books that will be made available in the school library.

What's it like to be a ceiling?

By ASHLEY SAARI
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

BENNINGTON — "Think about what it must be like to be a ceiling," suggests Kathy Brodsky to a class of fourth graders. "No one ever pays much attention to it, but it can see everything."

Instantly, at least half of the heads in the class crane back to look up at the classroom ceiling, viewing it with new eyes, looking for a potential story in something they've never spent much attention on before.

Brodsky, author of seven children's books and a book of poetry, arrived at the Pierce School in Bennington on Tuesday to spend three days there as a writer-in-residence. She has been leading classes and readings all grade levels, encouraging students to ply their imagination and become better storytellers.

Brodsky, who lives in Manchester, is a clinical social worker and psychoanalyst. She didn't consider herself a writer until she wrote a poem to put in with an invitation

Turn to WRITING.....Page 6



Brodsky talks to Sandra Aborn's fourth grade class about drawing inspiration for writing from even the mundane things around them.

“It's important for children to know that people in their community are authors or illustrators. They feel like they can do it, too.”

Judith Parsons, Pierce School teacher

CONVAL SCHOOLS

District gears up for voting

Bond for gym and facilities, budget, SRO on warrant

By DAVE ANDERSON
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

ConVal School District voters will head to the polls Tuesday to decide whether to renovate and expand the ConVal High School gymnasium wing, bringing the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by providing accessibility through an enclosed ramp.

They'll also vote on a \$44.3 million gross operating budget, up less than one percent from the previous year's budget, decide whether to fund \$67,500 for a school resource officer at the high school, and weigh in on a petition article that would recommend moving all fifth-graders into local elementary schools and closing one of the district's two middle schools.

ELECTION INSIDE

What you need to know before you go to the polls.

Pages 4, 9, 10, 11
Profiles of candidates seeking your votes.

Pages 7, 8
Letters and opinion pieces pertaining to elections.

Pick up next Thursday's paper for election results

Bond proposal

The gymnasium wing project calls for access into the gym through an enclosed ramp

Turn to VOTE.....Page 5

PETERBOROUGH

No impact to MCH from court ruling

By DAVE ANDERSON
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

A ruling by a federal judge last week could be a first step leading to changes in the amounts some hospitals are reimbursed for Medicaid procedures by the state of New Hampshire. But it's unclear just how much impact the decision will have, since it only requires the Department of Health and Human Services to give 15 days notice and then allow a 30-day period for public comment if it intends to continue to use the lower rates that are currently in effect.

Turn to MEDICAID.....Page 5

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Opening the imagination for storytelling

WRITING(from page 1)

to her mother's birthday party 11 years ago. Encouragement from friends had her writing more, until she eventually took a course on how to publish a book at Concord Community Education, and produced a book of poetry, "Moments in Our Lives: A Woman's Eye View," with poems detailing everything from infancy through old age.

"I thought I was done," she said in an interview on Tuesday. "I never expected to write a children's book."

Until one day she was walking and saw a crooked pine tree, and a few lines of poetry popped into her head. They just had to be written out, she recalled, which led to a full poem.

"When it was finished, I looked at it and said, 'oh, my God, it's a book.'" She found a local illustrator, Cameron Bennett, to put pictures to her words, and the result was her first children's book, "My Bent Tree," a story with a green message. She said she had no idea there would be six more to follow.

This week, she has been helping the students get their creative juices flowing by looking for inspiration in everyday things.

Judith Parsons, a Title I teacher at Pierce School, wrote a grant and chose Brodsky for the writer-in-residence program. She said that every year, she applies for a grant through the Children's Literacy Foundation, or CLiF, which matches schools with qualified authors, poets and illustrators from New Hampshire and Vermont.

"It's important for children to know that people in their community are authors or illustrators," said Parsons. "They feel like they can do it, too."

To prove that a story can be inspired by anything, she brought a bag around to each classroom with a random collection of objects, such as a book, some yarn, and an box of Girl Scout Cookies and asked the children what each thing reminded them of, encouraging them to stretch their imaginations as far as possible.

"You can write about anything," said Brodsky. "You can get ideas from anywhere, and you can make something out of it. I wanted the kids to see that they can make it fun and use their descriptions to paint pictures with their words."

Brodsky spent Tuesday brainstorming ideas with the kids, and getting them to think outside the box when it came to their inspirations. Each grade school student wrote a story and worked in



STAFF PHOTO BY ASHLEY SAARI
Brodsky, a local author from Manchester, discusses the process of coming up with ideas for stories with a fourth grade class at the Pierce School on Tuesday.

groups to edit it before presenting it to their class. All the students' stories will eventually be made into a book, which will be put into the school's library. Parsons said that the best of them would also be sent to CLiF for publication.

Brodsky has gone to several schools as a reader or presenter before, but she said she's never had as much time to interact with kids as she has through her experience as a writer-in-residence. "It's a lot of fun," she said. "It's great to see the ideas the kids come up with. It's a really nice school. The kids are terrific and you can tell the teachers love working here."

Parsons said the students have been geared up about the writing process. "They're very excited about what they're writing about right now. They feel like the sky's the limit."

Each of Brodsky's children's books are designed with a specific message or theme in mind, with questions and activities in the back for kids to work on with teachers or parents. Whether it's a story about a spoiled cat having to come to terms with the intrusion of a new puppy, or a pig that likes to go to the gym and keep active, each story comes with a social message.

"Each book is more than a cute story," said Brodsky. "They're there to help develop a conversation. This could be used with a family or in school. I'm a therapist first, so there are a lot of different messages in each story."

The school was thrilled to get Brodsky, said Parsons. "She was our first choice, because of her books and their messages."

Pamela Campbell, the principal for the school, said that Parsons has been responsible for writing grants and bringing authors to the school every year.

"It's great to have some amazing authors here," she said. "And Kathy Brodsky deals with social issues in her stories, which always abound in public school."

On March 25, Brodsky will be at a reading and book signing at the Keene Toadstool at 2 p.m. Brodsky will also be attending Pierce School's Literacy Night on April 18, where she will present to parents and have her books on sale.

Ashley Saari can be reached at 924-7172 ext. 235 or asaari@ledgertranscript.com. She's on Twitter at @AshleySaari.

“You can write about anything. You can get ideas from anywhere, and you can make something out of it. I wanted the kids to see that they can make it fun and use their descriptions to paint pictures with their words.”

Kathy Brodsky
Writer-in-residence, Pierce School

Getting literary across the region

BY ASHLEY SAARI
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

With the National Education Association's Read Across America Day on Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, Pierce School in Bennington isn't the only grade school in the area getting literary this month. Several area schools are organizing motivational reading events and also having readers from the community come by to read their favorites.

Pam Griffin, the librarian at Florence Rideout Elementary School said the school arranged to have several local figures, including the Police Chief, a Select Board member, and the High School principal and vice-principal stop by to select a favorite book to read to the students, as well as several other events during the week where students could earn coupons to get first pick at a free book at the end of the week.

Other schools motivated their students by assigning motivational rewards to doing extra reading. Lyndeborough Central School put up a large map of the United States and assigned a mile value to the amount of pages read by the entire school in an attempt to literally "read across America."

Students at Temple Elementary School must do at least some reading every night as part of their normal requirements, according to Principal Niki McGettigan, but through the month of March, they will be offered an incentive to put in some extra effort.

Each year during March, students find someone who will sponsor their recreational reading at the price of a penny a

page, called Pennies for Projects. Last year they raised enough for a new piece of playground equipment. This year, they're raising money for science projects.

"For this month, it revs up the amount of time they're reading at home. It picks up the pace and gets them putting in more than their required 30 minutes," said McGettigan.

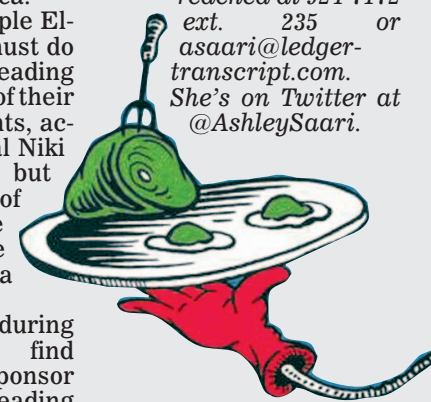
Temple is also arranging for the students to talk to a different author over Skype every week through March.

Rindge Memorial School decided to celebrate through the month of February instead of March, according to Assistant Librarian Susan Kintz. Students and faculty made videos of themselves talking about their favorite book, which were then compiled into videos grouped by age range and shown to the students.

"The kids enjoyed seeing their friend's book talks, and it helped them to choose new books to read," said Kintz.

Rindge Memorial also had an appearance by the Cat in the Hat to sing Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss, complete with a piece of cake for each of the students.

Ashley Saari can be reached at 924-7172 ext. 235 or asaari@ledgertranscript.com. She's on Twitter at @AshleySaari.



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