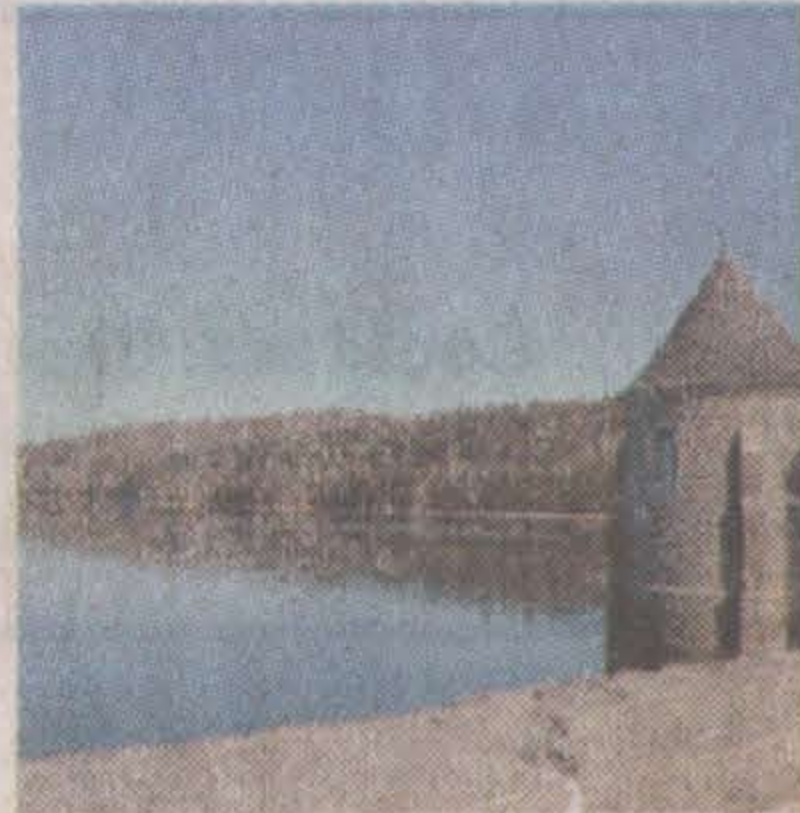




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**LOCAL NEWS**

THE REGISTER CITIZEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2013

**CHILDREN'S THEATRE**

## 'Sharing the Fire' with the Grumbling Gryphons

**By Kate Hartman**

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**LITCHFIELD »** The Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theatre will bring children and parents together in an exciting participatory performance called, "Trickster Coyote: How Coyote Brought Fire to the People of the Plains," Sunday, Jan. 27 at the Litchfield Community Center.

The performance is the second of three performances collectively titled, "Sharing the Fire!" the company is putting on this winter at the community center, 421 Bantam Road, Litchfield.

Leslie Elias, Grumbling

tell the story of Coyote's adventure to bring fire to the humans. She will play the Native American flute and drum as she invites children and their parents to take part in the story. Children can learn Native American songs, dances and play roles in the story. They will wear masks created by mask maker and artist, Ellen Moon, of Cornwall Bridge.

Coyote's tale was pulled out of a larger Grumbling Gryphons production called "Trickster Tales: Native American Animal Legends." That show was researched in collaboration with the Institute for American Indian Studies and debuted in 1982. Elias decided to take Coyote's

long production.

"Trickster Coyote: Shares the Fire!" continues Grumbling Gryphons' philosophy of using performances as both a vehicle for pleasure and for education.

"It's an art form I think I'm perfecting," said Elias. Elias aims to entertain the audience but also teach them about theater by getting them out of their seats and involved with the production.

Grumbling Gryphons was one of five Governor's Arts Award winners in 2003. The award recognizes artistic achievement and contributions to the arts in Connecticut.

Sunday's production will be another chance for chil-

atre. The Litchfield Community Center will host a bonfire complete with hot chocolate and cookies after the performance

"It's a chance to get people to have a good time and then go outside," said Elias.

The show will begin at 3 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. The third installment of these winter performances called, "Anansi- the Trickster Spider: A West African Folktale," will take place on Mar. 9. Special \$5 discount for adults if they buy tickets to Sunday's and March's performances.

Reach Kate Hartman at 860-489-3121, ext. 343.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
 Parents and children pose in costumes from the Trickster Coyote performance.