



Diversions

Arts, Entertainment & More

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'Lions in Illyria' a family production with charming costumes

Four more performances > Last shows are 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

BY IRENE ZAUGG
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Mistaken identities, Renaissance music, dancing, and sword fights—all of the glamour of Shakespeare, plus tails and feathers make up the new production by the Los Alamos Little Theater.

"Lions in Illyria," based on Shakespeare's comedy, is a charming little family piece styled after "Twelfth

Night," a beloved love triangle classic. This time, however, the twins at the center of the story are lions, the duke Orsino is a preening peacock, and the beset upon servant (or knight, in this case) is a dancing dodo.

Adding to the charm is a wonderful quartet playing era-appropriate music before and throughout the play. Even the beautiful costumes are worthy of a Shakespearian stage, with additions appropriate to

all of the animal attire. Even the stagehands, in their usual black, wear raccoon ears and tails.

The play opens with a fast-paced introduction by all four of the performers, introducing the audience to the same Illyria from "Twelfth Night," except that in this version, animals walk upright and have their own cares and concerns. As in the

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After all the high jinks, sword fights and deceptions, everything is sorted out in this fun, family production. Courtesy

Public invited to Fuller Lodge art show event

MONITOR STAFF REPORT

The public is invited to attend the opening reception from 5-7 p.m. March 11 for "What's Past is Prologue," a thematic group exhibit at Fuller Lodge Art Center, that includes the work of 29 different artists from northern New Mexico.

Artists will be on hand during the reception to talk about their interpretation of the theme. Light refreshments will be served.

The phrase "what's past is prologue" appears in William Shakespeare's "The Tempest." Antonio suggests that the past has set the stage for their next act, murder, as a prologue does in a play.

Artists were challenged to consider how their current art has been shaped by their personal histories, or to look to the future and consider how today may be shaping tomorrow. "What's Past is Prologue" will be on display March 11 to April 16.

In the Portal Gallery, Los Alamos artist Jeanne Hope Gibson shares her personal journey through recovery from a traumatic brain injury, which initially left her with aphasia, limited vision and PTSD. She had to relearn how to do art and how to accept color, which has be-

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Book series fills void for young readers

Familiar settings > Los Alamos native, author Phil Rink gives readers simple, easy-to-read stories

BY GINA VELASQUEZ
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In the age of technology, Kindle and social media, the traditional book has started to fall by the waste side. Scholastic book fairs and other programs to draw in younger readers have also dwindled over the years, but there is still hope.

Los Alamos native Phil Rink is fighting to keep school-age children reading—especially boys.

"Some kids are bored with some of the books they are given to read," Rink said. "Boys will read if you give them something to read." Rink is a 1978 graduate of Los Alamos High School.

Rink has written a collection of short books surrounding the lives of two boys—Jimi and Isaac. Jimi and Isaac Books use a new approach to storytelling, but the books will feel familiar to older readers.

"Our books are full of short sentences, short pages, short chapters and really big ideas," Rink said. "These were once called 'Boy's Books,' but the industry is now allergic to that category."

The main characters are Jimi, named after Jimi Hendrix and Isaac, named after Isaac Newton.

Rink uses familiar setting and characters to tell simple stories that are easy to read. There are no specific descriptions in the books, but rather a projection of characters feelings, not focusing on what they look like. Rink said he would rather deal with people as individuals.

The stories follow the boys through middle school to right before they enter high school.

"We give our readers a comfortable place to stand while they create themselves and find their place in the world," Rink said. "Our books read quickly and are about stuff. We meet the kids where they are, then teach and provoke to make them interested and curious. We work hard to be bold."

The basic "lesson" of each story is "finding the right thing to do," Rink said.

The fifth book in the series was recently awarded the Kirkus Award. That particular book is focused around someone close to Isaac suffering a traumatic brain injury.

"Jimi & Isaac 1a: School Soccer" is dedicated to Louie Cernicek, a high school soccer coach at LAHS. "We won state my senior year, largely because he had everyone practice penalty kicks in the week before the tournament," Rink said. "Our biggest game



Author Phil Rink, a Los Alamos native, has written a collection of short books surrounding the lives of two boys, Jimi and Isaac. Courtesy

was decided by a shoot-out. Mr. C deserves several books. He was an amazing guy."

So far there are five Jimi & Isaac Books. "School Soccer" starts with the early days of middle school and deals with the nature of competition. The second book, "Keystone Species" takes the boys on a bizarre trip to the open ocean to save something or other. The third is "Mars Mission" and fourth "Solar Power" deal with science and inventing and engineering and business.

The fifth book, "The Brain Injury" confronts uncertainty and disaster head-on: Isaac can't get what he wants. That's never happened to Isaac before. It is that book that won the Kirkus Award.

Every year the influential literary review company Kirkus singles out a tiny fraction of the books that they review for the prestigious "Best Books" designation.

"Kirkus Reviews is a big deal," Rink said. "We're very pleased that they selected Jimi & Isaac 5a: The Brain Injury for their list of the "Best Books of 2015."

In the story, Isaac watches the doctors and nurses

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Photo by Adrien Broom. Courtesy

Photos needed for SF, national exhibit

MONITOR STAFF REPORT

For the first time in New Mexico, the American Society of Media Photographers New Mexico and United Photo Industries has announced an open call for entries for the national photography exhibit called The Fence, and associated regional exhibit, The Fence New Mexico.

Los Alamos residents are encouraged to apply.

The Fence 2016 is an annual outdoor photography exhibition series with an annual audience of more than 3 million visitors.

This year, Santa Fe is joining the roster of exhibition locations, Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York City, as well as Boston, Atlanta and Houston.

The Jury's Choice winner will receive a cash prize of \$5,000 to support their work, a Leica T Camera Package and a Solo Exhibition at Photoville 2016.

The Fence New Mexico, a regional component of the national exhibit, will be presented in the same format and along with the national exhibit in Santa Fe at the Railyard Park during the summer. The project is also a collaborative partner in the second annual PhotoSummer 2016.

Only New Mexico residents are eligible to apply for the Fence New Mexico.

Photographers of all levels are invited to submit work that fits under one or more of six thematic categories: Home, Streets, People, Creatures, Nature, and Play. New Mexico residents can also submit their work for the national

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Paul Singh to visit Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Taos

BY MANDY MARKSTEINER
Special to the Monitor

The week of April 3 through April 9, Paul Singh, a successful entrepreneur and seed-stage investor, will visit Taos, Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque to deliver a week-long series of events for aspiring entrepreneurs and community members.

His "2016 Tech Tour" is a great opportunity for anyone starting a business, getting some practice at pitching, or getting that idea off the back burner. It will also be an

opportunity for entrepreneurs all over the state to get together for networking.

"I'm driving across North America to visit the places that startups actually start (and grow) their businesses," wrote Singh on his website, resultsjunkies.com. "Over the past 5 years, I've flown 500,000 miles, raised tens of millions of dollars for my venture funds, and invested in hundreds of companies around the world. I know startups and small businesses better than anyone else. And they know me. Along the



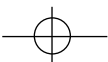
Paul Singh

way, I'll mentor thousands of entrepreneurs, visit incubators and co-working spaces, hold investor dinners and dive into the local (tech) culture. I'm doing it all with a pickup truck

and a custom-built Airstream travel trailer."

Singh started his career at America Online 15-17 years ago. Then he started several companies. In 2010 he raised his first venture capital fund, that invested in 1,500 companies worldwide. He said, "My goal is to go where venture capitalists don't ordinarily go. I'd like to avoid getting on an airplane, slow things down and meet as many founders and investors along the

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LIONS

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original, the twin lions are caught in a terrible storm and shipwrecked in the strange land and separated. To protect herself, the lioness, Violet, disguises herself as a boy and finds work with Lord Orsino, who is in love with Lady Olivia, who in turn has declared that she is in mourning after the death of her brother and will entertain no suitors for seven years.

In classical comedy style, all of the characters, including the knights and servants, are in love with the wrong people, but after all of the high jinks, sword fights and deceptions, everything is sorted out in the end.

For a short piece – the entire play clocks in at about an hour – there is a great amount of detail in this production. The set is simple but effective, with several Grecian pillars

being used to great effect. The costumes are elegant, giving just enough of a hint of the animal characters to make them obvious but not over-done.

The plot is simplified enough from the original inspiration to make the story easy to follow – a few of the Shakespearean characters are condensed, and even the tormenting of Sir Andrew, mostly the stand-in for Malvolio, has a much lighter, comic tone.

The cast is small, comprised only of Rose Corrigan, Patrick Webb, Tina Jenkins, and James Jenkins. Each actor has some lifting to do, playing two roles a piece with small costuming adaptations to match. Pat Fasel, Galen Gisler, Kathy Gursky, and Donna O'Donnell are the Illyria Players, adding great classical music to the piece.

This is a fun family night out, coming in at both the right length and comedic timing for younger children. It's a fine introduction to Shakespearean plots for the young, staying reasonably loyal to the subject matter without delving into the greater complications in the original plot, and it uses modern, easy-to-follow language.

"Lions in Illyria" is produced by the Los Alamos Little Theater by John Cullinan and directed by Jess Cullinan. There are four more performances, at 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Los Alamos Performing Arts Center, 1670 Nectar St. Tickets are available at the door as well as at CB Fox and on BrownPaperTickets.com.

SINGH

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way as possible."

During Tech Tour 2016, Singh will also be visiting Washington DC; Shreveport, LA; Pittsburg, PA; Tulsa, OK and over 28 cities across the U.S. and Canada. Singh has a significant following (for example, he has 250,000 Twitter followers) and will bring the spotlight to New Mexico by marketing the event to the national press.

Singh's visit to Los Alamos is hosted by Nik Seet (the LANL/RDC VAF fund's entrepreneur-in-residence who has been working to facilitate an entrepreneurial ecosystem here in Los Alamos), Patrick Sullivan (the executive director of the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation), and also hosted

by the Feynman Center for Innovation at Los Alamos National Laboratory; Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque have similar efforts underway with Singh. Seet said,

The hosts met with Singh on Feb. 18 for a kickoff call to plan the events schedule for the week. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to contact Nik Seet (nik@seet.com) with input so that he can plan the week's events so that they will be as helpful as possible for entrepreneurs in our area.

The week will be filled with many valuable opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. There will be presentations from Singh, networking events like happy hours and fireside chats, private and small group office hours,

and elevator pitch competitions.

"The nature of work is changing," said Singh. "The future of New Mexico is in the hands of entrepreneurs. The line between tech companies and brick and mortar businesses is getting very fuzzy. I want to welcome anyone who can get something out of this event. The more inclusive, the better."

Sign up for this event and get updates at bit.ly/new-mexico-tour.

To learn more about Paul Singh and receive his insights by email, sign up at resultsjunkies.com.

Contact Nik Seet, the Los Alamos host, at nik@seet.com.

Watch total solar eclipse at Nature Center

MONITOR STAFF REPORT

The next total solar eclipse will be visible on March 8 over Indonesia and the Pacific Ocean.

From 5-8:15 p.m. the Nature Center will show the live feed of the solar eclipse from a telescope on Woleai Atoll in Micronesia.

In addition to live telescope feed, Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) will have telescopes set up outside starting about 5 p.m. for those who want to see the sun from our perspective.

PEEC will also show a narrated webcast at 6 p.m. and have local astronomers on hand to discuss the many fascinating aspects of our solar system.

Total solar eclipses occur somewhere on earth on average once every eighteen months. Since



March 2015 total solar eclipse visible from Svalbard, north of Norway. PEEC/Courtesy

the viewing path is only 100 miles wide, they are quite rare for any given location. Thus, many people travel great distances in order to experience this natural and beautiful celestial phenomenon. The next total solar eclipse visible in North America will be seen in August of 2017.

This viewing will take

place at the Nature Center at 2600 Canyon Road.

This is a free event and no registration is required. To register or learn more about this and other Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) programs, visit peecnature.org, email programs@peecnature.org or call 662-0460.

PHOTOS

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and regional exhibits at the same time.

The deadline for submissions is March 7.

Once submissions are completed, an international jury of photography professionals will be called upon to review and select

40 photographers whose submitted work exemplifies the essence of "community" across cultural boundaries and geographical lines. The winning projects will be presented in a series of large-scale, curated, outdoor

exhibitions across five cities in the United States: Brooklyn, Boston, Atlanta, Houston and Santa Fe.

To submit entries: fencephotoville.com/submit/.

More information can be found at asmp-nm.org.

BOOK REVIEW

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closely to learn how to care for his father after his accident. Isaac feels like it is his responsibility. The story reflects all the uncertainty of the future and reality is brutal. "Isaac is OK with it, at least for now," Rink said.

The books are written simply so that school-aged child can relate. The topics, however, may be too intense for younger readers. Rink collaborated with many doctors for the book on brain injury. The point of the stories is to provoke readers and recognize life always has questions. The books can apply tools to be successful. "Think and do and always pay attention," Rink said. "That way you can always find a way to deal and solve problems.

Rink and his wife, who does marketing for the books have been trying very hard to get into Scholastic Book Fairs, which is supposedly where most kids buy books. In the meantime, any bookstore can order the books from their standard distributors, or people can buy the books directly from Amazon.

"We beg all our readers to please leave reviews. They are crucial to us," Rink said.

"The Best Books award is especially important for independently published books like ours," Rink said. "We're in over 200 libraries throughout the United States, but many libraries and most bookstores won't even consider carrying Jimi & Isaac Books or other 'indie' books. We rely heavily on word-of-mouth and referral, so recognition by an industry leader like Kirkus means a lot."

The Kirkus review can be found at kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/phil-rink/jimi-isaac-5a-brain-injury/.

Rink wanted a water ski when he was 15 years old, so he bought a mahogany plank and built one. Later, at his first engineering job, dissatisfied with the performance of a water treatment cell, he built several prototypes in his garage. His innovations were patented and eventually became

the basis for an entire water sanitation industry. Rink's ability to build and think, led to a successful problem-solving career and 11 patents, so far.

The whole book series idea came when he and his family couldn't find substantial books about inventing and science for kids, and especially boys. Even though he drew on his own ongoing adolescence and extensive coaching experience, writing and bringing the books to market turned out to be more challenging than building his engineering career.

"I'm much more interested in helping kids see that science and art and shop and sports and music are all worthwhile. Once they realize that, the kids will mix according to their interests. Much more productive," Rink said. "I'll write more books," Phil Rink said. "But we need to figure out how to get books to kids. Ultimately, we need to get into Scholastic Book fairs."

Over time, Phil has become more convinced of the need for relevant, updated stories to help boys find their place in the world. Classic myth and modern fantasy are useful to discuss values, but they don't clearly relate to the practical issues of growing up in a quickly changing world where boys may not follow their father's career, play their father's sport, or readily apply their father's life lessons (if they even have a father or father figure). The goal of these books is to help boys understand and accommodate accelerating change, but also give them a stable place to stand while they write the stories of their own lives.

Rink is a mechanical engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, and science and soccer coach. In addition to the Jimi & Isaac Books, he's published a book on sailing the Caribbean, several magazine articles, and a few professional papers. He lives with his family on Camano Island, Washington.

Rink worked at Los Alamos National Labora-

tory for many years and Rink's wife, Nancy was a mechanical engineer working for Boeing. The couple have two children and one grandchild.

Read more about the author at amazon.com/author/philrink.

Jimi & Isaac Books are available at jimiandisaac-books.com, many libraries nationwide (including as e-books), and at Amazon.com.

The Kirkus Prize is one of the richest literary awards in the world, with a prize of \$50,000 bestowed annually to authors of fiction, nonfiction and young readers' literature. It was created to celebrate the 81 years of discerning, thoughtful criticism Kirkus Reviews has contributed to both the publishing industry and readers at large.

The Prize has three categories: the Kirkus Prize for Fiction, the Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature. Both traditionally published and self-published books reviewed by Kirkus that earn the Star are eligible. Eligibility for self-published books is determined by the date of the online publication of Kirkus' review, not the books' publication dates, since self-published books are sometimes submitted for review to Kirkus after publication.

Each of the three categories is composed of three highly regarded judges: a writer, a bookseller or librarian and a Kirkus critic. The judges are chosen for their intellectual curiosity, sense of fairness and wide knowledge of literary excellence across the various genres within the category of books they're judging. Judges will confer among themselves to choose the six finalists in their categories (finalists are announced on Sept. 30), and will then meet in person to choose the winners before the announcement on Oct. 15. In the Young Readers' Literature category, the finalists will include two picture books, two middle-grade books and two teen books.

ART OPENING

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come a kaleidoscope of constant movement to her. Gibson is predominantly a mixed media artist. The work in this show "Emergence" cap-

tures the confusion and loneliness of her journey. Fuller Lodge Art Center, at 2132 Central Avenue, is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through

Saturday. Artwork can be previewed in slide-shows on the website: fullerlodgeartcenter.com. Call 662-1635 with any questions.

Documentary, explores Loretta Lynn's roots

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — When Loretta Lynn was growing up in Butcher Hollow in Kentucky in 1930s, her home in the coal mining community was always filled with music, either from her own voice echoing through the trees or the sound of the Carter Family's songs.

The country icon's Appalachian musical roots are explored on a new "American Masters" documentary on PBS as well as her first new studio album in a more than a decade, "Full Circle," both debuting Friday.

Los Alamos Little Theatre presents a comedy for all ages

Lions in *Illyria*
Special Ticket Price \$10 all seats

Based on William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night adapted by Robert Kauzlaric

February 26 - March 6

Fridays 7 pm
Saturdays 2 & 7 pm
Sundays 2 pm

Tickets at CB Fox and LALT.ORG