

PHILMONT NEWS

JUNE 12TH, 2015

ISSUE ONE



The passing of the guard

Caleb Wong
Staff Writer

Considering the amount of responsibility they bear, general managers prefer to act decisively behind the scenes. While they let other staff leaders become the public face of Philmont, they support operations behind the scenes as Philmont continues to grow and accept more participants. In a rare public moment in Baldy Pavilion, leadership changed hands as former General Manager John Clark announced his retirement and Kevin Dowling took over his role to lead Philmont's operations as the new GM.

After seven years of service to Philmont as comptroller beginning in 2002, Clark

served as the GM from May 2009 to June 2015. On June 1st, Clark officially retired to spend time with his family and grandchildren. Our new GM, Kevin Dowling, has more than 34 years of experience in the BSA, including a recent role as general manager at Northern Tier High Adventure Base.

“He’s going to analyze whatever the situation is and make the right decision when the time comes.”

Clark said he faced different challenges everyday as the GM.

“The buck stops at your desk,” Clark said as he described the day-to-day life of a GM. “Sometimes you’re a referee, sometimes you’re a chaplain, sometimes



Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Former General Manager, John Clark, embraces the new General Manager, Kevin Dowling, during an all-staff gathering in the Baldy Pavilion.

you’re a fixer, but my methodology in terms of leadership and management is an old cliché: it’s

walk-around managing, which means you’re walking around and you’re listening.”

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Housekeeping or: how a Scout stays clean

Marie Reynolds
Staff Writer

A Scout is clean, and who helps them keep it that way? No one other than the hard working, driven Housekeeping staff at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Philmont's housekeeping staff is rarely seen and can be overlooked when it comes to ranch operations, but they represent a crucial part of the experience each Scout and employee encounters here. As a department made up of 14 people total, only four of which are year-round staff, they contribute an unbelievable amount of effort to maintaining the place that thousands of people call HOME.

Each of the year-round staffers are residents of Cimarron and have all worked in the housekeeping department for more than 15 years. Joanne Martinez, lead housekeeper, has worked for the ranch since 1987.

“Everything is getting bigger, and with less help,” Martinez said. “Even though there are 14 of us now, we are still short-staffed. The challenge is keeping up with it all. The indoor housing rooms, the offices, infirmary and medics buildings, the Villa guesthouses, all the bathrooms and laundromats - there is quite a bit.” Margie

Continued on page 3

Learning how to C.O.P.E.

Kate Johnson
Staff Writer

Philmont Scout Ranch attracts top-tier trainers during the staff-training period. Sherry Davis, challenge course trainer, hails from Ozark Trails Council in Missouri.

Philmont's Challenge Course camps: Urraca, Dan Beard, and Head of Dean, all use elements of C.O.P.E., or Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience,

to help crews form into strong, high-performing teams.

C.O.P.E. training includes all of the games and elements that participants may experience as well as training on safety, how to create a storyline and how to debrief the participants after each experience.

Davis spoke about the benefits for crews who participate in the program, “It can either build them back up or it can give

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Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

Meghann Boehm, Corey Mullins, Jess Dooley and Seth Roberts (left to right) squeeze together during a game of Brownsea Island

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May 29-June 11

Friday, 12	Saturday, 13	Sunday, 14	Monday, 15	Tuesday, 16	Wednesday, 17	Thursday, 18
8 p.m. Dodgeball at Baldy Pavilion	8 p.m. How to make ice cream workshop at Baldy Pavillion		8 p.m. Crocheting workshop at Walcutt Room in the SSSAC	5:30 p.m. Philmont 5K Color Run - begins in front of the SSSAC	8 p.m. Pizza planning and prep workshop at Hembree Hall in the SSSAC	

Just the bear facts

Jordan Rosell and Marco
Mascitti
Bear Researchers

Another great season is upon us at the Ranch. The first of the 21,000 plus campers arrived this week will hike through Philmont's unique and incredible wilderness in 2015.

As we all know, the staff and hikers aren't the only ones getting active this time of year.

Philmont's black bears are just stirring from their winter rest and are beginning to wander the Ranch in search of food. In our travels so far, we have found evidence of bears along the Rayado River and at several other spots throughout the Ranch, including sightings near the Philmont Training Center and Clarks Fork.

Contrary to popular belief, black bears don't sleep through the winter. Bears remain in a lethargic and sedentary state for three to eight months, depending on location and winter conditions. During this time, a bear's heartbeat can slow to as low as eight beats per minute (bpm), compared with a usual heart rate of 40-50 bpm. Bears will add up to 30 pounds



Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Philmont Bear Resaerchers Marco Mascitti, of Wisconsin, and Jordan Rosell, of California, sit with bear remains in the conservation office.

of additional body weight before beginning their rest by greatly increasing their daily caloric intake, sometimes up to 20,000 calories per day. However, unable to find sufficient resources before the winter, some bears will skip the resting process altogether.

After staggering from their dens in early May, black bears are groggy and in need of nutrition to restore their bodies. Bears will search for forage such as berries,

acorns, grubs and insects to satisfy their hunger.

Often, this time for bears happens to be the same time that campers and staff are venturing into the backcountry. Clearly, this is of concern for staff and participants alike as we hope to enjoy our summer while avoiding conflicts with wildlife. Please remember to use proper bear procedures that have been included in your materials and training,

both in Base Camp and the back country so that we can share our beloved land with all the animals who also call it home.

We have also found signs of mountain lions, so be sure to take a buddy and avoid hiking at night.

Find us in the Conservation Office or around the Ranch if you have any questions, we look forward to meeting all of you.

Thanks and have a great summer.

New payroll information

How do I log in to the payroll system? According to Paychex eServices, navigate to eservices.paychex.com/secure to access the Paychex employee self-service website. The company ID is 0472-E535. Your username is the first initial of your last name combined with your full last name using lower-case letters (e.g. "Joseph Bean" would be `jbean`.) Your password is the first initial of

your first name combined with the first initial of your last name (both capitalized) and the last four digits of your Social Security number (e.g. Joseph bean with a Social Security #XXX-XX-6677 would be `JB6677`).

You can access your earnings statement, as well as your W-2 form, through this portal.

How will I be paid? Philmont pays staff members through direct deposit or by pay cards. If you

have not yet submitted the proper documentation to receive your paycheck through direct deposit, your paycheck will be loaded onto a pay card. Pay cards can be picked up at CHQ with a photo ID, such as a driver's license, or staff ID.

Contact Amanda Martinez in the CHQ office if you have questions about payroll.

Caleb Wong

Staff Writer

This year, Philmont switched to a new payroll system, Paychex eServices. Whether you are a new or returning staff member, you probably have questions about the payroll system. Here are some answers to questions you may have about payroll.

When will I be paid? Paydays are on the 7th and 22nd of each month.

Continued from page one: Housekeeping



Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

Joanne Martinez vacuums the crevices of the stairs at the entrance of the Waite Phillips Gallery at Villa Philmonte in the early morning light. Martinez has maintained the Villa, PTC and base facilities for almost 30 years in which Philmont has acquired new buildings and property. As the Ranch grows, so do the responsibilities of the Housekeeping staff.

Ways to show your appreciation to housekeeping staffers:

- Remember to say thank you in person. Housekeeping is located behind Medical echeck.
- Clean up after yourself and your personal areas.
- Be respectful of all Philmont community members
- Acknowledge the hard work of support staff
- Follow through with the "A Scout Is Clean" principle.
- Be kind, always.
- Leave a thank you note.

Martinez, a Philmont housekeeper for 33 years, said they also take care of many different departments' laundry "from here all the way to Casa del Corazon" a beautiful Cimarron property that Philmont is in the process of acquiring. With the added beauty over the years comes a challenge: there are more places to keep up than there are hands to do it with, increasing the hard-work and determination that these women put into the ranch each day.

Though she enjoys her job, Madi Skalla, a first-year seasonal staff housekeeper, said the challenge lies within very specific cleaning needs.

The task of trying to meet everyone's specific cleaning needs can be a daunting one, and the housekeeping staffers do their best to maintain a clean and pleasant atmosphere.

Evelyn Ramirez, a seasonal Housekeeper at the ranch, said "We are here to help them [the staff and Scouts] keep their area clean, not do it for them." It is important for the Philmont community to recognize

that cleaning up after ourselves is a way to show our appreciation for the support staff.

With every workday beginning as early as 6 a.m. and ending as late as 7 p.m., how do they continue the important work that they do?

"We have fun in our group," Joanne Martinez said. "We joke, we tease each other,"

Lydia Martinez said the housekeepers love being at the ranch because they are able to meet so many "interesting and diverse people."

A Scout is clean. By living up to this principle we are not only showing our loyalty to the Scout Law, we are also being active in our appreciation for the hard-working members of the Philmont Housekeeping community.

There is an obvious family-like atmosphere, a camaraderie that creates this powerhouse team. They have a deep appreciation for Philmont and the good work it does, which motivates them to keep this beautiful place looking its best.

Continued from page one: The passing of the guard

Clark and Dowling both possess a quiet, reserved leadership style.

"For the most part, I always put myself in the background," Clark said. "[I] never felt I had to be out front. Sometimes, you can make more things happen in the background than you can in the forefront."

In ways similar to Clark's reserved leadership style, Dowling also plans to lead quietly and acclimate to Philmont before setting goals.

"John and I are very similar," Dowling said. "We're good listeners, we digest the information that we hear, and then we implement a plan from there to make things happen...My ultimate goal for the summer is to look, listen, and learn."

Clark said he felt particularly

proud of two accomplishments during his tenure at Philmont: extending the lease on Chase Ranch for the next 100 years and purchasing Cimarroncita Ranch. Dowling said he will work with the Philmont staff and the Ranch Committee as the future unfolds.

"These [accomplishments] are near and dear to me," Clark said.

Witnessing personal growth and perseverance is a rewarding part of being a GM, said to Clark. Even when terrible accidents happen, Clark said, helping crews to get back on the trail instills lifelong lessons of perseverance in them. When lightning struck a crew hiking toward Baldy Mountain, Clark said, the staff not only saved their lives, but also motivated them to finish their trek.

"Our crew was able to get there, do CPR on those that were unconscious, and brought those back.

In roughly three and a half hours Baldy was completely evacuated and everyone was in the hospital somewhere... Every one of those kids, when they got out of hospital, came back to Philmont and finished their trek."

Dowling is well equipped to lead Philmont through challenges like these to deliver a high-quality program to participants, Clark said.

"He's a good decision-maker," Clark said. "He's going to analyze whatever the situation is and make the right decision when the time comes."

Continued from page one: learning how to C.O.P.E



Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

Meghann Boehm makes her way across the pirate ship rope copes challenge on Tuesday June 2, 2015.

them that super-high, that they feel like they can overcome and do anything. So, even if something did come up later down the trail they don't have any problems doing it because they can function together."

"A lot of our friends in the Scouting world, either their wife or their husband, aren't involved, so they're gone a lot...we go out and we do it together," said Davis about

teaching C.O.P.E. with her husband. "It's really cool to have all these experiences together. Not a lot of people get to do that."

When asked about the most important part of all the training she provides, Davis said, "knowing how to talk to them at the end, how to bring those kids out...and knowing the right questions to ask and how to get those kids to start realizing what

they need to do to become a better team," referring to the debriefing portion of the C.O.P.E. experience.

Davis' goals for the year include training Philmont staff to be able to provide program for crews who have only limited time available, and to be sure that staff are prepared to properly debrief participants.



Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Above: Harlan Camp Director Justin Kernes loads a backpack into a suburban before leaving the Welcome Center. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Left: Brett Callaghan reaches for a box to bring to Miranda. Tyler Sanders/ PhilNews

Ready or not, here it comes

Rain or shine, the first week of June always brings the exciting rush that is "Scatter." After their training in base camp, the backcountry camps packed up their gear and headed out to their new homes. Here are a few highlights from their move.



Right: Senior Warehouse Associate Daniel Vigil drops foamies down to backcountry staff at the Merchandise Warehouse. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Above: Jacob Ramsey, from Owasso, OK, moves boxes of food onto the front porch of Clarks Fork. This will be Ramsey's first year on Philmont staff. Josh Galemore/ PhilNews

Right: Hunting Lodge staff radios base to 10-8 for the summer on Saturday, May 6. "Welcome home, Hunting Lodge," said radio responder as the staff cheered. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Left: Trevor DuBard and Brett Callaghan carry boxes to the front porch of Miranda. Tyler Sanders/ PhilNews

Left: Andrew Louvau, of Kansas, cleans the cabins at Black Mountain during scatter. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Ranger mile: Lookout Meadow, worth the climb

Matt Hart
Ranger Associate Chief

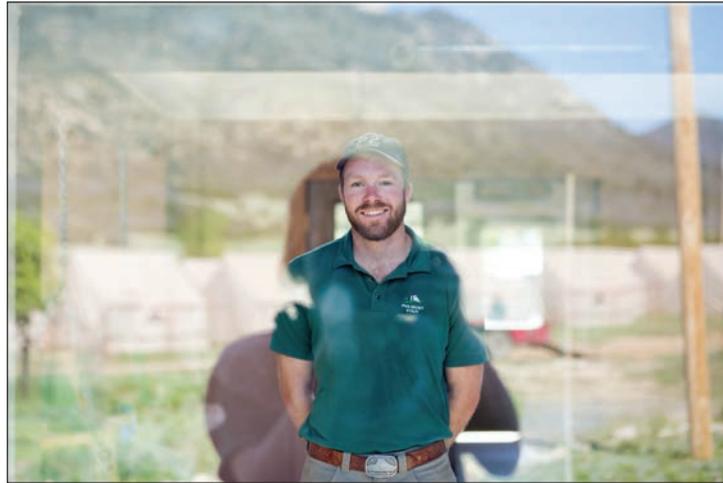
Hello, 2015 Philmont staff! Welcome to the Ranger Mile, a weekly column in which members of the Ranger Department will profile various hikes on and off Philmont as well as other outdoor adventure opportunities for staff on days off.

Before we dive into this week's hike, a few words on getting out there.

As Philmont staff, we are uniquely privileged by our access to the 140,000 acres of diverse northern New Mexico backcountry that comprise our ranch. It is tempting to sleep in and relax on your days off, but that is not why you are here. Any former staff member will attest that it is the early mornings and long hikes which endure in one's memory, and there was always another spot on the map that they wished to have explored. Televisions and

restaurants will be yours to enjoy year-round for the rest of your life. Your window to experience Philmont's enchanting terrain is a narrow one. For two and half months, the backcountry is your backyard: make the most of this remarkable gift.

I've been lucky enough to get out there a few times already this year, including a memorable night spent at Lookout Meadow. If wildflowers, aspens, and solitude are up your alley, make sure a hike to Lookout Meadow is on your to-do list for the summer. There are plenty of enticing routes to deliver you there, but the quickest from Base Camp begins with a bus to Zastrow Turnaround or driving your personal vehicle to the Abreu parking area. Follow the Rayado River trail



Matt Hart

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Pro tip: bring along *The Philmont Field Guide* and enjoy identifying a wide variety of wildflowers

past Old Abreu Camp then cross the creek and burn some calories climbing the legendary "Stairmaster" trail. With Bonito Creek cascading down beside you, keep your legs moving at a moderate, steady pace and enjoy the floral transition from the pine-oak life zone to the higher-altitude spruce-fir zone.

Before long, the climb will mellow as you scramble around vesicular basalt deposited four million years ago by volcanic activity on Crater and Rayado Peaks.

After emerging into the sprawling, green Bonito Canyon, keep your eyes peeled for a trail

sign on the south side of the valley pointing your way up to Lookout Meadow. After climbing a final 500 feet, grab a campsite next to the lower finger meadow and spend a night low-impact camping and enjoying the grand vista to the north which gives the camp its name.

From Lookout Meadow, options abound. Peak baggers can tag the summits of Crater and Rayado Peaks before hoofing it up over Lookout

Peak then descending from Webster Pass to Fish Camp and following the Rayado Canyon trail all the way back to Abreu or Zastrow Turnaround. For those with a longer stretch of days off, a quick hike up Bonito Canyon and a visit with the welcoming staff at Beaubien is a must. As our department learned at Ranger Rendezvous last week, the wet spring has left Beaubien's meadows green and gorgeous, and nothing is quite as soothing as relaxing on the main cabin's porch swing and admiring our verdant backcountry.

Explore more of Philmont's beautiful southwest corner, if time allows, or return to base via Fish Camp and the Rayado Canyon, Fowler Pass and Crater Lake, or by catching a ride from Beaubien or Phillips Junction. Whatever your route, be sure to complete a Staff Backcountry Access Permit and carry the essentials for hiking at Philmont. Stay safe and happy trails!

Pat McNeill
Philnews Editor

Out of Eden and into God's Country

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist from New Mexico, Paul Salopek, is practicing an unheard of – at least in our time – slow, intentional form of storytelling.

During the Out of Eden Project, Salopek is retracing the migration of humans across the planet by foot. The trip began in 2013 in Ethiopia and Salopek is now somewhere in the Caucus Mountain Range in Georgia. He plans to conclude his travels in 2020. Salopek is chronicling his journey by capturing ambient sounds and panoramic shots of his surroundings every 100 miles as he slowly traverses the globe

and interacts with countless people and experiences their perspectives. The milestones of Salopek's trek can be found at outofedenwalk.com

He is also sharing his message of "slow journalism" that focuses on people and their experiences. He has recorded a video for the ranch elucidating this idea that will play at all opening and closing campfires.

Why does this matter to Philmont?

Salopek said he wishes to travel the Santa Fe Trail and come through Philmont during his journey, but more importantly, Philmont is encouraging staffers and participants to grow from Salopek's process by slowing

down and recording major milestones throughout their summer employment or treks. The ranch is providing participants and staffers passport booklets to chronicle these personal milestones during their own journey. Completed journals may be submitted to the Welcome Center by participants or to PhilNews for staffers.

At the onset of this season, there has been talk about focusing the *why* of things rather than the *what* or *how*. So, why is it important to chronicle our journeys at Philmont?

When Waite Phillips gave stewardship of Philmont to the Boy Scouts of America, he did not just hand over some of the

most pristine land in America. He handed over land that is as dense with history as it is beauty because he believed Scouts would honor that history. Philmont and the Boy Scouts continue to excel in preserving the lands and their history like they have done for the last 77 years.

History is often cobbled together from first-hand accounts left behind that serve as a looking glass into the past. Scouts can contribute to the first draft of the continuing history of Philmont by recording their experiences and sharing them with the ranch. Philmont acts as a beacon to the most interesting and wonderful people, all

with fantastic stories to share. Those stories also add to a history that will outlast Waite Phillips' and the Boy Scouts' tenure with the land.

This is your chance to add your stories and experiences to the legacy of Philmont.

I encourage every staff member and participant to share their passport journals with PhilNews as we catalog a first-hand living history. Regardless of whether you want to submit your journal, take time to slow down, reflect and become intentional with every act while you are here in God's Country.

Meet the chaplains

Todd Zinn Jewish Chaplain



Morgan Court/PhilNews File Photo

I'm excited to be back serving as your Jewish Chaplain for the whole summer.

This will be my fifth summer at Philmont. I'm originally from Massachusetts, I went to college in Baltimore, lived in Israel for two years and now I live and go to school in Los Angeles. I currently have two years of rabbinical school left until I get ordained as a Rabbi.

During the year I work at Hillel at the University of Southern California and at Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, California.

I am a huge sports fan and love talking advanced metrics about my beloved Boston Red Sox (who are playing terribly right now) and Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots.

+Padre Catholic Chaplain



+Padre Kaitlyn Chaballa/ PhilNews File Photo

My name is very long: Boy Scouts of America, you need not stand on ceremony or protocol. However, it describes very briefly who I am and what I have been doing for a long time. Due to the length of my name and its contents, some folks shy away!

“What do you say to a bishop?” or, “What do you call him?” To all engaged with the

In short, I have been a Roman Catholic Priest for 54 years, having been ordained on May 7, 1961. The first 28 years I served

Continued on page 8

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Continued from page 6: +Padre

as an assistant priest in parishes in Indianapolis. Concurrently, I was a high school teacher/principal in a co-ed school of 850. Following those nine years I was superintendent of the 70 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from 1970-1980. Then, I was named chancellor of the Archdiocese in 1980 and served in that position until 1989 while being pastor of the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Then the Holy Father invited me to become the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville.

For 22 years I was the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Evansville; I remain a bishop in retirement.

As a bishop, I was appointed as Liaison to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Boy Scouts

of America in 1998. I served in that capacity until 2011.

From 1998 until the present I came to Philmont every year to participate in the PTC week of Scouting in the Catholic Church. That very first year I did the first of five St. George Treks. I was 63 years old for the first one and 71 for the last one!

I retired on June 29, 2011. I immediately jumped in my car and drove directly to Philmont to serve as a Philmont Chaplain for July and August that year and every year since. I was a Catholic Chaplain here last summer from the beginning of training until July 4th. This year I will be here until July 24th and depart following St. George Trek 2015.

What a joy it is to be here again!

Chaplain's corner: God's privileged guests

It is my privilege and joy to be back at Philmont as a PhilChap. My first "boots on the trail" experience at Philmont was in the summer of 1998. I had heard about this marvelous place for years from Troop 174 in Indianapolis for whom I became their informal chaplain in the late 1960's. I was never a Scout. I quickly discovered however that Scouting provides superb opportunities for personal physical, mental and spiritual growth for any Boy Scout, Venturer or Scouter.

Philmont fits the bill in providing exceptional opportunities in all three areas for Philmont staffers as well. None of those three are "done" deals for any of us as we strive to maintain our physical health and strength as well as our spiritual well-being.

The awesome beauty and varied experiences here challenge our mental capacity. We remind ourselves that we are in God's country by noticing the setting in which we are living and hiking.

Which one of us dares to pretend that we are in complete physical condition when the trails test and

stretch our God-given abilities each step of the way.

We find ourselves mentally challenged as we gaze at the magnificence of mountains, the azure skies and the horizon from the heights. It is difficult to get one's mind around the question: how did this awesome place come to be?

The interchanges with fellow trekkers can easily boggle the mind

as one recognizes the many varied gifts and talents of those with whom we hike. That acknowledgement can distract us, however, leading us to be envious or jealous of others causing blindness to our own personal gifts and talents. Thank God we are all different and unique.

Our morning prayer is prompted by the rising sun; our noonday prayer comes with sharing a trail lunch preceded by the Philmont grace; our evening prayer is encapsulated in our recollection of our silent prayers as we hike the mountainous trails while our senses are bombarded with all that the Almighty created for our enjoyment.

Evening prayer is punctuated with fatigue after the day of hiking and participation in programs. The sharing of Roses, Thorns and Buds with our crew members is a fitting summary of the day as we anticipate a refreshing night of sleep in a cozy sleeping bag, sheltered in a dry tent. We are prepared to silently thank God for another wonderful day.

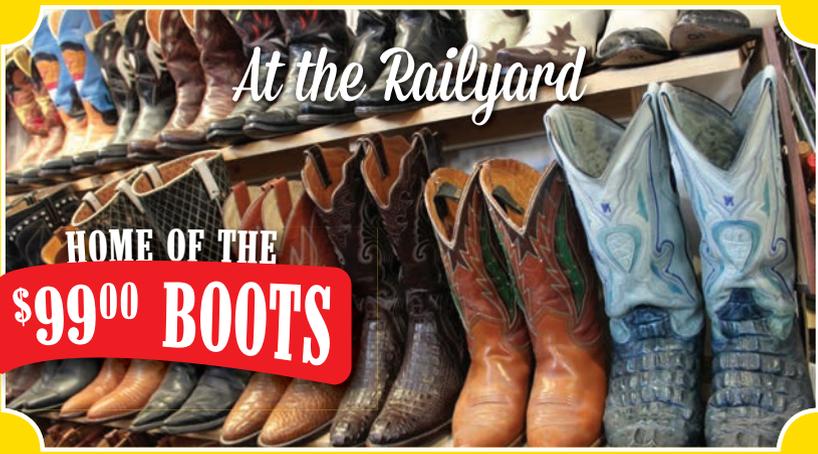
Indeed Philmont is God's Country! We are privileged guests!



+Padre Kaitlyn Chaballa/ PhilNews File Photo



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New at the Tooth of Time Traders

Kate Johnson
Staff Writer

Have you visited the Tooth of Time Traders yet? The Tooth of Time Traders was designated one of the Top 100 Retailers by Outdoor Magazine in 2014. Staffers are excited for another big year ahead. Tooth of Time Traders clerk Brendan Stewart said, "it sets the bar for us working this year." ToTT clerk Mitchell Hoffman confidently stated, "We're gonna knock it out of the park. Every year's going to be bigger and better."

Philmont's ToTT staffers are finishing up training the week before participants arrive, and are prepared to assist customers this summer. Staff members receive training in how to fit backpacking packs and hiking boots, besides familiarizing themselves with the inventory.

So what's the new camping gadget everyone's talking about this year? That would be the Polaris Optifuel™, which can be used with either liquid fuel or canister fuel, the only stove of its type on the market today. Although they are not a new item this year, ToTT clerk Sara Fleurquin also recommends the Columbia Omnitech shirts as a baselayer for warmth.

And what's popular at the ToTT so far? "What really sells the best this time of year is stuff staff members have forgotten... staff members come in here remembering that they're about to go on the trail and they're like oh, I need a toothbrush, so they run in here for that kind of thing," said

ToTT clerk Benjamin Mann.

ToTT clerk Harrison Booth said, "the belts and buckles sell very well. Everybody really loves them. It seems like every time a person comes through, they're always wearing a belt or buying one...it's just a classic thing that everybody wants."

Casey Migacz, Tooth of Time Traders assistant store manager and E-commerce specialist, commented on last year's belt and buckle sales, "We sold 13,625 belt buckles, which is interesting because we only sold 12,461 belts. Some people want more than one belt buckle."

By the way, those 12,461 belts account for 40,063 feet of leather, or 7.59 miles of leather sold in 2014.

A few other new items are arriving this year. Baldy Town, Ponil, Ute Gulch, and Phillips Junction will get their own special Nalgene's, only available at those camps. "You have to hike to them if you want them," said Migacz. Additionally, most of the staffed camps are getting new camp patches, and this will be Metcalf Station's first year with a patch.

Mann summed up the ToTT's goals for this year: "We're not really a business, we're kind of just a thing that helps Scouts; we're here to help the Scouts get out on the trail. Trying to help the Scouts, not trying to sell them the most expensive thing... that's what makes us different from other

Ten essentials: rain gear

Marie Reynolds
Staff Writer

Fifth on the "10 Essentials for Hiking" list and number one in your hearts: rain gear and extra layers of clothing. Not only does this fifth essential provide a nifty layer of gear, it could very well be a life saver while trekking through the unpredictable and rugged backcountry.

V. Najera, trading post manager, said, "For every 10 people who come through the door, eight of them are buying rain gear." Last summer, the Tooth of Time Traders sold 437 rain jackets alone. The application of the 10 Essentials list in all backcountry education at Philmont has made a huge impact on Scout safety and satisfaction.

Nate Lay, Chief of Medical Services at the Philmont Infirmary, said, "Rangers do a great job of education. And backcountry camps are key because not only do they let the crews know about weather that might be coming their way they are also on spot with hot chocolate, cider, and water. So, when a crew does come in cold and wet, they provide great hospitality."



Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

Mountain Trek ranger Christian Branden stands outside the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center during a torrential downpour.

With the unpredictability of the weather here in New Mexico, being prepared and expecting the unexpected is a must. "You can have temperature fluctuations even in midsummer, especially at elevation and after a rain storm, so these layers are going to be vital in preventing things like hypothermia. Any time someone is wet and cold it can compound any other issues you may have while hiking. Your blisters hurt more if you are wet and tired. But certainly hypothermia is the life threat," said Lay.

"Some hypothermia patients are seen in the summer, especially if they have another injury, like a knee or ankle problem, that will keep them immobile for a while. If the weather comes in and they are unable to get up and move to generate heat, they will become colder much faster."

As the summer season begins to pick up it is important that backcountry staff camps are ready and waiting when a crew does come in wet and freezing. Lay said, "We try to be very dynamic in our department with the camping and program team of recognizing a problem and taking action to fix it. The ten essentials have been around for a long time, and there's a reason for that. It's a good checklist anytime you go out into the backcountry. We really stress that here in our department, and it can make all the difference in the world."

Philmont's ToTT staffers are finishing up training the week before participants arrive, and are prepared to assist customers this summer. Staff members receive training in how to fit backpacking packs and hiking boots, besides familiarizing themselves with the inventory.



Tyler Sanders/Philnews

The Optimus Polaris Optifuel Stove is one of many new items available this year at Tooth of Time Traders. This stove is made to run on any liquid fuel.

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An army marches on its stomach: Food Services

Kate Johnson
Staff Writer

Food Services staff put in long hours each day to feed camp staff and participants. Seasonal staffers work ten-hour shifts, four days a week.

Food Services Director Joey Fernandez said, “the most challenging part of the job is that we have fourteen weeks to train our staff...Most departments you can shut down for training. We can’t. I think we train the entire summer. It’s tough... We have a new guy back here that’s never made 800 pounds of meatloaf... It’s very rewarding to me, at the end of the season, when you see how much they’ve grown and what they can do.”

“We have three deadlines to meet every day, and we have to be ready,” Fernandez said referencing the daily cycle of meals to be served. At this year’s staff banquet, Food Services served 1078 meals in only 16 minutes.

The Philmont Camping Headquarters kitchen has all sorts of machinery and methods designed to make the process

easier. From the conveyor belt that cycles dishes, the enormous industrial cooking equipment, to the soda machines that are filled through tubes in the ceiling, and even a specially created Philmont recipe book, the kitchen is streamlined for efficiency.

The Philmont recipe book includes instructions about what is to be done to prepare each day’s meals including the thawing of meat and preparation for meals as far as four days in advance. This advance planning also serves to further the ranch’s efforts toward sustainability. Last year, the accuracy of this list completely eliminated the need to thaw food under cold water, conserving water in drought conditions.

Assistant Kitchen Manager Christopher Martin spoke about the kitchen’s priorities, “Our most important thing is safety, and after that is getting the meal done.” Food Services Director Fernandez also referenced the fact that safety is a high priority for food services, and one that requires a lot of work.

However, all that hard work has certainly paid off. Last year, the Food Services department received zero deficiencies when inspected.

“We’ve built such a good relationship with the state department that they’ve

actually used Philmont as one of their training sites...and they train all their inspectors in our facility—which is a really good feeling for me,” stated Fernandez.

New Mexico Environmental Department District 2 Food Specialist Anita Roy said, “I’m always just astounded by the amount of food that these guys prepare.”

The goal of Food Services is clear. “We take pride

in what we do. We know that people come here and have high expectations. I want perfection,” said Food Services Director Fernandez. “Customer service plays a big part. If I can smile and not be grouchy, then my team can. I just hope that we’re doing our part playing a piece in the puzzle for the entire ranch.”



Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Tyler Reed takes dishes at the conveyor belt from other Philmont staff. This is Reed’s first year working at Philmont. He says he applied here when he received an application in the mail after receiving his Eagle Scout.



Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Jesse Zavits, a first year prep cook at the base camp dining hall, prepares gluten free food for a later lunch.

Caleb Wong
Staff Writer

By the end of the summer, answering nature’s call will become easier than ever. Philmont is constructing new, accessible bathroom facilities in the Philmont Training facilities. Philmont will also construct ramps leading to the dining and assembly hall complex to improve wheelchair access, said Philmont Training Center Director

Andrea Watson.

The bathrooms and ramps are being built to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Right now, Watson said, participants with physical disabilities have to travel to the bathrooms near the Beaubien room and enter the dining hall and assembly hall through inconveniently located entrances.

“A lot of things have changed as far as regulations and policies, but the thing that has never changed is our desire to serve all customers well,” Watson said. “It’s always been hard for us when we have people come to Philmont both in the summertime and throughout the year who maybe have some special physical limitations.”

A garden will surround the outside of the bathroom and a wall will obscure wheelchair ramps to protect the continuity of the Spanish-Mediterranean style architecture that characterizes PTC, Watson said.

“Not only are



Construction is underway on new facilities at PTC. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

we going to have new bathrooms, but we’re also going to tie the building all together a little more effectively. So then it’s going to look a little more streamlined in connection to the Villa.”

The Philmont Staff Association has raised \$500,000 to fund the

construction of the project, according to the PSA webpage. Interstate Construction, an contractor that has been contracted on projects for Philmont in the past, is working on the project.

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New restrooms come to PTC

An electrifying display in base camp

Caleb Wong
Staff Writer

“I don’t know what everyone else does for excitement, but for me, lightning!” Sam the Cloud exclaimed. “Everyone thinks I’m such a good shot, but I have enough voltage that I don’t have to hit exactly what I’m aiming for. Most of the time, I just get close and the ground current does the rest.”

Although the lightning safety video, produced by the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is meant to entertain, the intent behind the video is much more serious: educating viewers about lightning.

Camping, according to statistics released by the National Weather Service, is associated with 6 percent of total lightning injuries. Only one activity, which is also offered at Philmont, is associated with a greater amount of lightning injuries at 11 percent: fishing.

This year, Philmont has made new changes to lightning

procedures. In previous years, Philmont enforced a blanket policy regarding all forms of lightning, but crews and staff will now follow specific procedures depending on the form of lightning.

For example, Philmont now highly encourages people caught outside in lightning storms to crouch on the ground and bring their feet together – the lightning position. Why? According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, ground currents account for 50-55 percent of all lightning injuries.

This additional step – bringing the feet together – prevents lightning from spreading to the rest of the body by creating a closed circuit around the feet, according to Julie Vigil, who educated staff about lightning procedures during all-staff training.

“By having your feet together, the idea is the lighting is going to go up one foot and right down the other, whereas if your feet are

apart, it could come up and hit vital organs,” said Vigil.

Director of Program Mark Anderson offered these additional tips for lightning safety:

- Think about where you camp. It’s important to be aware of the weather pattern changes around you and working toward your safety way before you need it. Remember, there is no safe place.
- Avoid standing next to trees and other tall objects.
- Crouch in the lightning position when located in an open field.
- If you’re outside, it’s okay to sit on your backpack for your own comfort. Just make sure you’re not touching any metal parts. If inside a tent, it’s okay to sit up on your foam pad and bring your knees together.



Sean McElligot/PhilNews

Staff members try out the ground lightning simulation outside the mailroom during all-staff training.

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Security

Pat McNeill

Philnews Editor

“Pit Bulls and storm clouds in the door, puppies and rainbows going out,” is the mentality of Philmont’s security office, according to Security Manager Rick Atmore.

Atmore is ex-military and law enforcement and said his staff is comprised of committed individuals, some with similar backgrounds, who constitute years of law enforcement experience. He told PhilNews the security office is just one facet of Philmont responsible for providing a life-changing experience for thousands of participants who come through the ranch each summer.

The security office has many responsibilities. One of the major ones, said Atmore, is pairing lost items with their owners. More than 10,000 items arrive in his office seasonally. Items ranging from gear like brand-new boots thrown over the welcome sign, to wallets and electronics found in basecamp or the backcountry. Among items reunited with their owners were 46 wallets, containing more than \$5,000 in cash; 32 cameras; 52 cellphones; and 22 pairs of prescription

Tyler Sanders/PhilNews
“We are a community and as one we will face the issues that a community has,” Rick Atmore explains to a group of Philmont staff about the importance of having a Security Office at Philmont.



Tyler Sanders/PhilNews
Steve Hentzelman helps Harrison Key fill out a blue slip for his missing cell phone. Last year 3,581 items were found with a 87% return rate and of those 52 where cell phones. “It makes my day being able to give some kid his 300 dollar wallet back.” said Hentzelman.

glasses. The return rate for lost items was an all-time high of 87 percent, according to Atmore.

The security office also provides locksmithing services and unlocked more than 50 cars in one season.

Atmore wished to remind all staff members to take measures to protect personal property during the rush at the beginning of the summer by taking steps such as stowing electronics or other valuables out of sight as well as



Tyler Sanders/PhilNews
5,000 Lockers are distributed a year by the Security Office to participants at Philmont.

applying a parking sticker as soon as possible. He also mentioned seeing many staffers losing cellphones and wallets from the back pockets of their Mountain Hardware staff pants.

Participants are encouraged to put their trek number on items because it is the simplest way for Philmont to identify and find groups, rather than looking at troop or hometown info and working down the line to find the trek number. Atmore said, in some cases, items have been reunited with their owners while still on the trail.

The security at Philmont is an approachable, friendly resource for all staffers and participants and all are invited to their porch for a chat anytime, which is located between the Welcome Center and NPS buildings.

Everyone works for conservation

John Celley

Recreation Resource Manager

The needs of humans, livestock, and wildlife are deeply intertwined across this complex, working landscape. The long history of high adventure at Philmont is a testament to the hard work, commitment, and vision of the generations of staff that have come before us. Mostly, they treated the program and land resources with care and respect. However, sustaining our current levels of use, while maintaining the quality and resilience of our ecosystems, is a delicate balancing act.

The Conservation Department uses a variety of programs and techniques to continue this tradition of thoughtful, adaptive management. In each case, we combine education and stewardship. Teaching why a project is significant, in addition to how to do it, helps us instill a sense of responsibility and purpose in our program participants. By holding ourselves accountable for the “why,” we are building a department culture of inquisitive

exploration.

None of these activities can succeed in isolation. Stewardship of the ranch’s human, recreational, and natural resources is everyone’s responsibility. Success demands the collective effort of all 1,130 staff members working intentionally with every participant. When we show someone where the recycling container is or direct them to a conservation site, we are protecting the future of this place. When we take steps to conserve water or electricity or gasoline, we are protecting the future of this place. When we share our “stoke” for the outdoors with everyone around us, we are protecting the future of this place.

So, as we begin the summer, seize the opportunity to reflect on the impact you intend to make and the legacy you want leave. With the contribution of every staff member, this land can provide wilderness adventures for generations. When we do our jobs well, we are all working for conservation.



John Celley Kream Young/PhilNews

Partners on the Ponil

Kate Johnson
Staff Writer

Philmont Scout Ranch owes a lot to its “Ponil Partners” for allowing the Boy Scouts of America to use their land. Confused about the details of Philmont’s various land use agreements? The Seton Memorial Library and Philmont Museum has the “Partners on the Ponil” exhibit on display for the purpose of enlightening people on how Philmont’s arrangements work.

“This exhibit not only promotes the history and the ecology of those properties, but it also helps to give our staff and our participants a better understanding of what those properties require of us,” said Philmont Museums Director David Werhane.

For your reference, the Elliot Barker Wildlife Area and the Ponil Ranch do not allow overnight camping, and all hiking on the Ponil Ranch must occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Vermejo Park Heck Place includes two “Leave No Trace” (LNT) camping areas, and the Vermejo Park Greenwood Tract includes Rich Cabins, a staffed camp, as well as two more LNT camping areas. The Chase Ranch has two LNT camping areas, and plans to install some

campsite infrastructure are underway. The Valle Vidal has three LNT camping areas, and includes the Seally Canyon, Ring Place, and Whiteman Vega staffed camps.

The exhibit serves a dual purpose. Seton Museum Assistant Manager Tim Collver stated, “I think that on the same level that Philmont pushes knowing what you’re hiking through environmentally, we also push...knowing where you are historically; that’s one of the reasons that this [exhibit] is so important.”

The display includes details of the history of the land that Philmont’s neighbors share with us. For example, a photo of Nettie Chase, after killing her first bear, is on display. Next to the photo sits the exact bridle, saddle, and rifle that she was using when the picture was taken.

The development of an exhibit requires an extensive journey into understanding the relevant history, turning that history into a compelling story, and finding the materials to support that storytelling process. Werhane stated, “This [exhibit] probably represents less than one percent of the research that’s done on this stuff.”

One of Ernest Thompson Seton’s displayed drawings pictures Nettie and Mason Chase handling sheep. It serves as a reminder of how Philmont’s history should not be viewed in a vacuum, but deserves the rich historical context of the surrounding properties.



Partners on Ponil is located in the Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library. The exhibit was opened in 2014.

Pat McNeill/PhilNews



While teaching candle making at Philmont’s Living History Day, Carole Owens keeps shaded underneath her woven sunhat. Miss Owens came to Philmont from El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum in Santa Fe, in order to assist backcountry interpretive staff better understand historic skills and customs.

Josh Galemore/
Philnews

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Buried Treasure

Lynn Larkin

Volunteer

Most of us know, or should know, that Waite Phillips had a twin brother Wiate. We know that they left their Iowa home as teenagers to travel and work their way across America. Great times were had, but tragedy struck several years into their adventure. In a Washington hospital, Waite watched as his brother took his last breath. He died from acute appendicitis.

Grief stricken, Waite returned to the family home in Iowa with Wiate's body and personal belongings. Not surprisingly, Waite kept these items – the only physical connection to his brother.

They were discovered after Waite's own death in 1964.

In the biography of Waite Phillips, his son Elliott, or "Chope" as he was known, reveals a long held secret: "Just after my dad died, my wife Virginia came across some old stuff that you could put in one hand. Those few things were all together stuck away in Dad's dresser drawer. There was an old tobacco tin with some rolling papers, a few trinkets, tintype pictures of girls and one of my father and his twin brother. Dad had held onto these things all through the years and kept them close by. We figured out that those were the things he took out of Wiate's pockets when

that boy died in Spokane. Those were his brother's last possessions." (Michael Wallis, *Beyond The Hills, Oklahoma Heritage Association*, 1995, p.375.)

Waite Phillips had held on to these things for more than 60 years. And now, his son had them. Seemingly insignificant items like this have a way of disappearing over time, separated or tossed in the trash by someone who may not recognize their worth. But their end would not happen so ingloriously. A better fate was in store, as one day Chope gathered them up and headed to Philmont.

When he arrived, "Chope saddled up a horse and rode toward the Sangre

de Christos. He moved dirt " (Wallis, p.375.)

through the high grass and Chope Phillips passed made for the trails that led away April 26, 2015, at the toward the Tooth of Time, age of 97. We don't know and to the mountain named if he drew a treasure map for his father, and the high showing the location of meadows and cow camps Wiate Phillips' possessions — probably not.

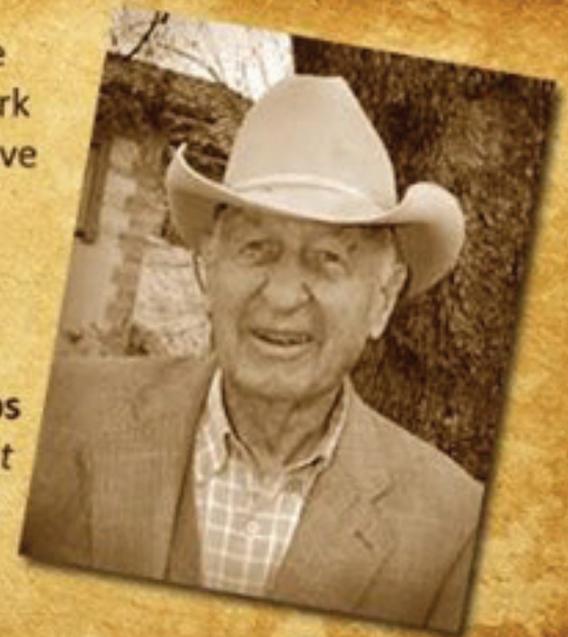
We shouldn't be loved so much. When he reached a place he knew concerned one bit about his father had liked, Chope where the treasure is reined up his horse and anyway. Just having the dismounted. All around knowledge of its existence him were endless blue sky, is reward enough.

So, as we walk the trails of Philmont this summer, be mindful that we could be walking past this special place in Waite Phillips' those last possessions of heart. A place where there is indeed, buried treasure.

Where is that place on Philmont that is special to you, the one that tugs on needles and grass over the your heart?

You know, life is actually reasonably short. Which I think when you take somebody my age you realize how short it is. And it's pretty nice to work at something. Everybody should be working at something. I don't believe in people just sitting around. But it's very important to be working at something that you're very interested in. You'll do a better job of it for one thing. You'll get a lot more satisfaction out of it. And I just think that's a pretty important thing.

Elliot Waite "Chope" Phillips
benefactor of Philmont
 1918-2015



U.S. News

Wildfire chances remain low for June

Chances of wildfires are reduced across much of the nation this month, according to the Associated Press.

They reported the National Interagency Fire Center's (NIFC) findings, which said large areas of southern and central U.S. are at "below normal" risk for wildfires due to frequent rains.

However, drought-stricken California, as well as Hawaii and Alaska are at above-normal risk for the spread of wildfires.

The NIFC expects wildfire danger to increase as the summer continues.

McKinney, Texas, police officer resigns after arrest-video goes viral

A McKinney, Texas police officer resigned this week following the release of a video showing him pulling a teenaged girl, clad only in a bikini, to the ground before restraining her with a knee planted in her back while responding to calls of fighting at a party.

Residents told local radio station KDFW that the teen had been rude to the officer, but did nothing to warrant physical contact and was not part of the group that was fighting when officers were called.

Eric Casebolt resigned Tuesday amid allegations of racism. Police Chief Greg Conley said the officer's reaction was indefensible, according to CNN.

World News

New information released on mid-May ISIS raid

American intelligence agencies have released new information about a raid on an Islamic State (ISIS) group based in eastern Syria that garnered data on the terrorist organizations leadership, financial and security infrastructure, according to the New York Times.

They reported the mid-May raid, which resulted in four to seven terabytes of data, led the U.S. to identify the location and kill an ISIS lieutenant, Abu Hamid.

The Islamic State has not confirmed the death, according to the New York Times.

Sports

First Triple Crown winner in more than three decades

American Pharoah won the Belmont Stakes last Thursday and solidified its place as the 12th ever Triple Crown winner after winning the Kentucky Derby and Preakness.

The last Triple Crown recipient was in 1978, according to ABC News.

American Pharoah was trained by Bob Baffer and is owned by Zayat Stables.

Sudoku

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Difficult

Right: Mark Anderson and a group of staff members stand on top of the bell in front of the dining hall on Wednesday June 1, 2015. It is a Philmont tradition for rangers to fall from the bell after a "I want to go back to Philmont" chant before every meal.

Doyle Maurer/PhilNews



Above: Rangers Jon Mosteller-Smith and Ben Gonzales of Training Crew 17 scream for their group mate as he sprints between tents during a Ranger Rendezvous exercise about camping privacy.

Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Above: John Celley lifts his son, Bernard, at the Conservation banquet after a day of training near Metcalf Station.

Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Right: Nathan Coney, of Massachusetts, provides direction for the conservation staff after a day of conservation training near Metcalf Station.

Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Left: A rainbow frames horses in the pasture across from Base Camp on Saturday, May 30 after afternoon rainfall. Philmont is greener than usual thanks to the rain this spring and summer.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Above: Beaubien Assistant Camp Director Claire Ficke sings on the porch of the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center on Monday June 3, 2015.

Doyle Maurer/PhilNews