

## A long way from home

Emily Adams  
PhilNews Writer

Before dawn, a string of headlamps illuminated the uphill trail from Upper Greenwood.

The Scouts walked sleepily over rocks as an orange-pink glow crept on to the horizon. Above them loomed the rocky peak of Baldy, still hours away but closer than ever before.

Crew 721-CC's journey to Philmont required months of planning. They prepared by climbing pointed mountain peaks 6,000 miles away near their hometown in Japan. After a 14-hour flight, the Scouts finally caught their first glimpse of the Backcountry.

"There is no place like Philmont in Japan," Crew Leader Totokinosuke Suzuki said.

Suzuki and the other crew members all started scouting when they were 10 or 11 years old. They're part of the Aichi Scout



ABOVE: Crew 721-CC at the summit of Baldy mountain. Photographed by Alex Cenci.

Council in Japan, which is celebrating its 70 year anniversary in 2019. The crew had special patches made to commemorate their trip to Philmont.

Each patch displays both the trademark purple flowers of their council in Japan

and the outline of the Tooth of Time. In the background, the American flag and the Japanese flag meet under the Scouting emblem.

One of the crew advisors, Hiroyuki Kobayashi, brought the patches with him to

**Continued on page 3**



LEFT: Interpretive staff gather at the main cabin of Garcia Cow. Photographed by Sherry Hamilton.

## Garcia Cow honors Seton legacy

Mark Cordeiro  
PhilNews Writer

Situated over Philmont's southern border, the brand new Garcia Cow staff camp is one of the most unique locations on the ranch.

The camp is located in a beautiful meadow on the UU Bar Ranch. Staff wear rugged outfits reminiscent of the 1910s and act out fictional roles working for Ernest Thompson Seton, a founder of the American Scouting movement.

Scouts who trek across the rolling hills leading to Garcia Cow are in for a program they may not be expecting— simple relaxation.

"A lot of the program we have at Philmont is very high intensity and really exciting stuff," Camp Director Alex Handel said. "From time to time, however, people like to

**Continued on page 5**

# Valle partnership brings benefit to land

**Sherry Hamilton**

PhilNews Writer & Photographer

Thousands of Scouts trek through the Valle Vidal each year, which is made possible by Philmont's relationship with the Carson National Forest.

In 1982, the Valle Vidal unit was donated for public use. Carson National Forest partnered with Philmont Scout Ranch in the 1990s and the land has been used for treks since then.

"The agreement is updated every year and is kind of loose," Philmont conservation staff member Michael Crockett said. "They basically give us a list of things they would like to see done on the land and Philmont chooses which services they think they could accomplish."

The agreement is fairly simple: the forest service lets Philmont access the land in exchange for hours of service to restore and maintain it.

"The bulk of the hours come from crews doing their conservation projects," Crockett said.

A big portion of the land maintenance provided by Philmont employees and crews is removing invasive species such as musk thistle, bull thistle, Canada thistle and houndstongue.

While Whiteman Vega has been a main conservation project area, there are several conservation projects in the Valle. Forest thinning has previously been implemented around Seally Canyon along with stream restoration to prevent sediment from affecting waterways.

In 2013, a decision was made to construct approximately three miles of new bike trail, rerouting three sections of the existing trail at Whiteman Vega and a portion of Forest Road 1921A which provides access to the area.

This was one of the big projects that solidified the relationship between the forest service and Philmont. The existing trail at Whiteman Vega wasn't easily accessible for beginner riders and was hard to maintain with soil erosion and runoff.

At the end of the 2014 summer season, Whiteman Vega launched its new trail while the old trail continues to be naturally restored.

Because the Valle is a part of the Carson National Forest, visitors who aren't associated with the BSA are able to access all of the Valle, including Philmont camp areas. The Philmont staff in the Valle are always welcoming to others and often provide advice for the area.

"The more work we do together with them, the more they trust us, and the better the relationship becomes," Crockett said. "There is a lot that Philmont can learn from public land, but the reverse is also true. The potential for the Valle Vidal is limitless."

## Activities Calendar

### August 5

Ultimate Frisbee @Villa Lawn, 6 p.m.

Jam Session @SSSAC 8 p.m.

### August 6:

Ice Cream @Steve Nelson's lawn, 8 p.m.

### August 7:

Dodgeball @Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

### August 9:

Ping pong @SSSAC, 8 p.m.



ABOVE: A participant enjoys program at Whiteman Vega. Photographed by Sherry Hamilton.

# A long way from home continued

Emily Adams  
PhilNews Writer

**Continued from page one:** give to rangers and other Philmont staff.

Kobayashi has been to Philmont two times and was eager to climb Baldy with his crew. He woke the Scouts at 4 a.m. to pack up their gear before hitting the trail.

By mid-morning the crew was crossing the ridge up to Baldy, taking in the stunning views and wildflowers. When they reached the summit each Scout grabbed a corner of the Japanese flag and held it up proudly.

The crew plans on putting their Philmont experience to good use when they return to Japan.

“Scouting teaches important skills like reading a map,” Suzuki said. “We want to teach younger Scouts the things we learned at Philmont.”



ABOVE: Crew 721-CC stops to have some breakfast on the ridge of Baldy Mountain. Photographed by Alex Cenci.



LEFT: Tokinosuke Suzuki hikes the ridge to the top of Baldy Mountain. Photographed by Alex Cenci.

## Live music in August

Monica Dunn  
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

Cold Beer's annual Honky Tonk Hodgepodge music festival is this weekend. There will also be several talented performers visiting the St. James Hotel later this month.

### St. James Hotel

Located at 617 S. Collison Ave., St. James' Summer Music Nights run from 7 to 10 p.m.

Ry Taylor is back. He will be performing Saturday, Aug. 3.

The weekend after, Highway 38 Hound Dogs perform on Friday, Aug. 9 and Rocky Sullivan on Aug. 10.

Friday, Aug. 16 Skip Batchelor is playing.

The St. James is hosting a Cowboy Poetry event from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every day from Thursday, Aug. 22 to Saturday, Aug. 24.

Gary West & Friend are singing on Friday, Aug. 30; Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1.

### Colfax Tavern & Diner at Cold Beer, New Mexico

Cold Beer is located at 32230 US-64 in Maxwell, New Mexico. Musicians typically perform on an outdoor stage.

Grab your lawn chairs and cash for Cold Beer's Honky Tonk Hodgepodge music festival. Admission is free and open to everyone. Bands will be performing from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Aug. 2 and pick back up on Saturday, Aug. 3 from noon to midnight. Camping is available both nights. Coffee and breakfast are provided in the morning.

The lineup includes the following: Almost Pioneers, Bark Wilson, Bison Bone,

Bolonium, Bonnie Weimer, Bud Bronson & The Good Timers, Chella & The Charm, Cole Bee Wilson, Creekbed, Dave Payne and Salt Cedar, Down Time, Dylan Earl & The Reasons Why, Extra Gold, FaceMan, George Cessna, Grayson County Burn Ban, Greg Butera, Gun Street Ghost, Hang Rounders, Hi-Dive Blues Band, High Plains Honky, Jen Korte & The Loss, Jennifer Jane Niceley, Los Mocochetes, LOVE GANG, Michael Allen, New Mexican, Nightmare Blue, Ry Warner, Saul, Space In Time, The Barlow, The Kinky Fingers, U.S. Tygers, Westin Lee & Company, White Rose Motor Oil and Wolf van Elfmund.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, Jonathan Castillo Y Profundo is performing from 8 to 11:30 p.m. for a night of dancing. However, attendees must be at least 21 years old.

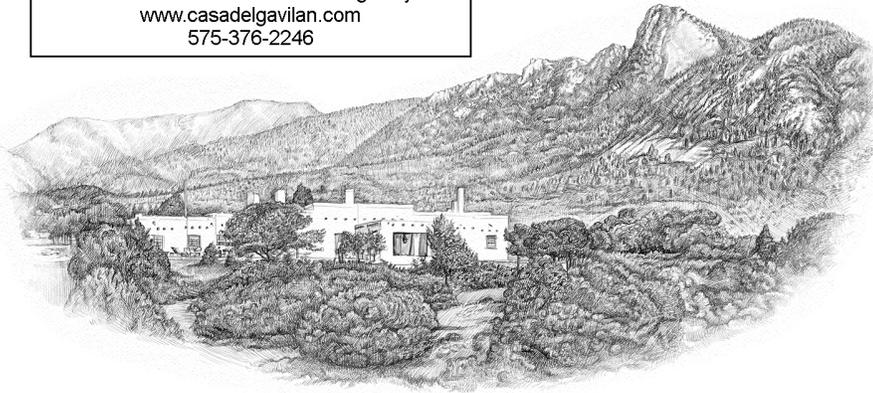
Finally, the Summer's End Concert will be performed by Gonzalo & Jonathan Castillo Y Profundo from 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 32. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

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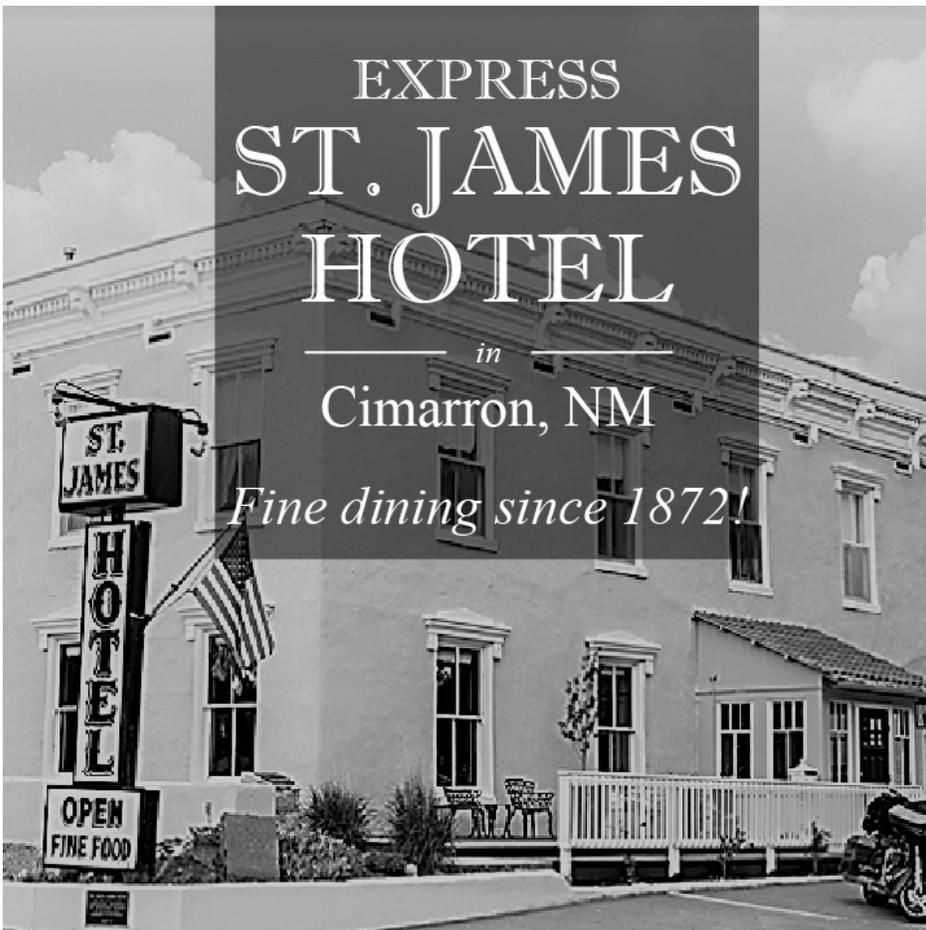
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# Garcia Cow honors Seton legacy continued

Mark Cordeiro  
 PhilNews Writer

Continued from page one: sit down and try to catalog a wildflower or do a watercolor of the meadow.”

The “nature saunter” part of the program lets Scouts take a step back and unwind in the beautiful areas surrounding the cabin. Participants who find Garcia Cow on their itinerary can look forward to sketching and painting watercolors, activities Seton excelled at.

If the beauty of the UU Bar Ranch alone isn't enough to satisfy participants, they can try their hand at the conservation program. Scouts can learn about the flora and fauna of the area by studying pelts, bones and other remnants of local wildlife.

The program and the camp itself are made possible by the generosity of the UU Bar Ranch. After the loss of three staff camps in the Ute Park fire, the UU Bar signed a land-use agreement allowing Philmont to use their land and ease crew loads in the southern region.

“I think it's incredibly cool that we get to use this land,” Program Counselor Cassie Hansen said. “Apache Springs has been looking out on Garcia Park for years, looking out on this cabin and these buildings, and watching the sunset over here for years. We're just very fortunate to be able to use it.”

Treks that swing into the southern reaches of Philmont property may get the chance to visit Garcia Cow and experience nature as Ernest Thompson Seton would have wanted them to. From quiet contemplation in the meadows to the simple joy of painting, Seton's legacy can be felt at Garcia Cow.



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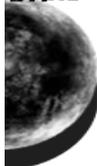
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# Chaplain's Corner

Lori Weber  
Jewish Chaplain

One of my all-time favorite musicals is "Les Miserables," and there is one line that touches me more than any other. That line is:

"To love another person is to see the face of God"

As I stand at my chapel, with my guitar in hand, feeling privileged to be Philmont's Jewish Chaplain, a thought enters my mind. I can't help but wonder about the connections we make, when standing or sitting next to our neighbor, as we are joined together through communal singing!

It seems that whether we are engaged in prayer, or singing a psalm, or even a wordless melody, an incredible bond is created with our neighbor, and more importantly with that of our entire reverent community. When we join our voices together, we become something greater than we ever imagined. It's times like these that I can't help but wonder about Victor Hugo's line as I think of a similar parable. Is it possible that when we SING as a community, and if we sing with true KAVANAH (Hebrew word meaning intention) that we are actually HEARING the voice of God? That is, can we actually feel the presence of God in our own hearts as we sing together?

The power of singing has the capacity to transcend us in time and in space. Through words and melodies, we can go back in time and visit an old friend, or become a teenager again. We can pull out a memory that we might not have thought about in years. Our hearts may be overflowing with joy or we may be moved to tears. Yes, music is that powerful!

When we are engaged in singing with our neighbor, or a whole group... all the more so, because now we've taken that internal feeling and made it real by sharing it outwardly with another human being. Add words from our own liturgy that really speak to us and we have something that's super powerful.

I mentioned that I feel privileged to be Philmont's Jewish Chaplain. I feel this way because I have been able to witness this pure joy of singing with our community every evening for the past three weeks.

When I first present a new Hebrew prayer or even a wordless melody sung on "Yai Dai Dai" to our group, there is always hesitation. It seems that people are a bit shy, or possibly unsure of themselves... "Am I singing this correctly?" "Have I got the words down?" etc. Yet, as the spiritual leader, I make sure to keep going, letting the song, the words go on a little longer in hopes that more people will join in. For those that have already mastered the words and/or melody, I linger to give them a chance to find their own meaning in the music, the prayer, and yes, to really open up and

hear their neighbors. There is something quite meditative and spiritual about repeating the words and/or melody over and over again and especially in the presence of others.

I noticed something very interesting recently. With the recent influx of severe storms and rain, conveniently coming down just at service time, we have needed to move our services to our indoor space within our chapel. This causes us to move into small quarters and we find ourselves shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors... but something truly wonderful happens! When we begin to sing, we all REALLY hear ourselves within the presence of each other and that seems to create even more powerful communal singing. It is truly as if we are a choir and have been practicing for weeks. It is only after services have ended that I realize that I've just met the majority of these amazing people for the first time tonight! Yet, we all bonded together as if we have known each other for a lifetime!

It has been an absolute joy watching people grow spiritually, musically, expanding their horizons through deeper learning and through improving focus and awareness, and what better place to do this than at Philmont? Add the singing of the birds, the quiet beauty of the deer, the gorgeous landscape and there's no doubt in my mind that I am in God's Country where I am privileged to see the face and hear the voice of God in everyone I see and within all the voices that I hear.

## Ranger Mile

**Durant Abernethy**

Mountain Trek Coordinator

To get to the newest rock-climbing camp at Philmont, you'll need to reach Chase Ranch Trailhead, a simple 15-minute drive or bus ride from base. Before you hit the trail, be sure to stop by the Chase Ranch house and get a tour from the wonderful staff that live there.

To get started on the hike to Chase Cow, cross the road from Chase Ranch and head north along the trail parallel to the creek. The trail is beautiful and surrounded by sunflowers, but it can be a bit uneven, so make sure to bring comfortable footwear. This trail ends at the intersection of the road and Chase Canyon. Cross the fence to the right to begin your trek up the old road on the floor of the canyon. The Chase Canyon road is full of incredible views of exposed sandstone rock faces; however, the canyon doesn't have much shade, so bring lots of water and sunscreen. The hike follows the main road through the canyon with a gentle incline. About halfway to Chase Cow Camp, you'll pass Hells Fire canyon, a trail camp with a water buffalo parked nearby. Feel free to fill up your water here. As you continue on down the road be sure to keep your eyes open for wildlife. From frogs to mountain lions, the canyons on the Chase Ranch are teeming with life.

As you get close to Chase Cow Camp, the canyon will begin to narrow and then open into a beautiful meadow. In camp you'll have an opportunity to boulder, climb, and even play cowball (a variety of volleyball that is quite a spectacle). The hike back is a gradual downhill along the same path you hiked in on. Be sure to visit this camp in its inaugural year because it is one of the must-see camps at Philmont.

Fun Fact: the Chase Family first came to Cimarron in 1867 after buying around 1,000 acres of land from Lucien Maxwell. Visit the Chase homestead to learn more about the impressive Chase family tree and their adventures in Cimarron.



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