

## Girls just wanna climb mountains

**Liz Harper**  
PhilNews Writer

At 7 a.m., Crew 611-K came hiking up to the porch of Metcalf Station, full of energy despite the early hour.

The crew, which consisted of six girls and two Advisors, came to Philmont through the San Clemente Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The girls were halfway done with their 12-day trek through Philmont's Backcountry and feeling empowered.

"We can move mountains," Crew Leader Belle DuPont-Moore said. "We can go to the tops of the peaks. We're learning that anything is possible. We're out here, showing how tough we can be, and I'm so proud that we're learning that we are strong warriors."

Though their experience follows the same path as other treks, it's less common to see an all-girl crew on the trail.

The girls chattered excitedly about their plans for the day as Metcalf's staff welcomed the enthusiastic bunch to the porch.

"I can't believe I'm actually out here," Wilderness Guia Sophie White said. "It's day

## The call of Philmont

**Eric Smallwood**  
PhilNews Contributing Writer

It's no surprise that bugle calls are symbolic of Scouting. Every Scout who has been to camp has heard of reveille, mess call or retreat.

However, many of these calls were used in the Cimarron area more than 85 years before



ABOVE: Members of the 611-K crew laugh as they try to balance the board during a cope challenge at Dan Beard Camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

five and I still can't believe that I'm here and sleeping out here."

The group of 15- to 17-year-olds had little to no experience with long-distance

Philmont Scout Ranch was founded.

The BSA adopted its bugle calls from the U.S. Army, and some BSA calls date back to the early 19th Century. Many were used by cavalry trumpeters at Rayado during the 1840s and 1850s.

Often BSA calls are identical to ones used by the U.S. military. Parallels between the U.S. Army and the foundations of scouting in America have always been apparent.

When the BSA was founded in 1910 most Scouts had already heard of bugle calls used in the Civil War, according to "Bugles and

backpacking, but that didn't stop them from constantly encouraging and supporting each

**Continued on page 3**

Scouting" by Bruce McCrea. The bugle calls became an easy way for Scouts to communicate over distances on a camp out.

Soon bugle calls spread throughout the BSA camps, including Philmont. What the Scouts may not have known is that the calls are already part of the Ranch's rich history.

In 1849, Lucien Maxwell's Rayado homestead offered a somewhat suitable location for a military post along the Santa Fe Trail. A post was soon established, and two

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## Metcalf welcomes first female staff

Liz Harper  
PhilNews Writer

*Editor's Note: Philmont's busiest season ever is in full swing. A record number of participants and seasonal staff are coming to the ranch this summer and new milestones are being reached. Three staff camps have female Program Counselors for the first time ever this year: Metcalf Station, Crater Lake and Pueblano. As part of our series Women of Philmont, we will be interviewing groundbreaking female staff members as they return HOmE for the summer.*

At Metcalf Station, staff tell stories about the old railroad that ran from Cimarron to Ponil Park. The stories aren't just for show, either - the Scouts they host will actually help build a working railroad similar to the one that was there in 1907.

Railroading is hard work, but it's work the staff embraces, especially the new female staff.

"I think anyone who is willing to do hard work should be able to be a part of this," Program Counselor Grace Taylor said. "If you're willing to do the hard work, and you

**Continued on page 8**



ABOVE: Kim Merry explains the importance of communicating in the forge. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

## Meet Father Roger Lopez

Mark Cordeiro  
PhilNews Writer

On June 15, Father Roger Lopez, clad in a standard Philmont staff uniform instead of his usual robes, stood to the side of Pueblano's porch conversing.

The porch was buzzing with activity as crews arrived ahead of a thunderstorm looming in the distance. Father Roger was unphased by the storm, continuing to chat with people he'd gotten to know as one of Philmont's Catholic chaplains.

As Father Roger made his rounds a participant walked up to the porch and let loose a monumental sneeze.

"41 sneezes!" Program Counselor Maggie McCulloch said.

The staff of Pueblano had, along with other eccentricities like creating an economy entirely centered around rocks, taken to counting the number of sneezes that happen every day in their camp.

The antics of Pueblano's staff elicited a round of smiles and laughter from the gathered Scouts. Pueblano was the third camp Father Roger visited during his duty as a Philmont driver that day. Even during his brief layovers at each camp, Father Roger made a point to go out of his way and talk to the staff he knew.

"While we're there to of course provide emotional and spiritual support for the campers, our primary focus is emotional and spiritual support for the staff," he said.

Typically, seven chaplains make up Philmont's Chaplain Corps. The seven chaplains complete religious duties like hosting mass, church or temple and help out with various tasks around camp.

Chaplains assigned to the Backcountry will often drive out and perform services for staff and participants, while chaplains assigned to the infirmary will retrieve sick or injured participants and transport them to



ABOVE: Father Roger Lopez. Photographed by Chris Langlois.

get medical care. A chaplain will sometimes stay at Base Camp and the Philmont Training Center full time to perform duties there.

To Father Roger, driving staff members around the Backcountry is an important way to accomplish his main goal for the summer.

"My goal, my aim, is to help people connect with what they need to connect with," he said. "If there's any goal, it's to live that Gospel life."

In addition to being a Catholic priest, Father Roger is also a Franciscan friar, a subset of Catholic holy men who follow the example of St. Francis of Assisi. Father Roger is called to live his life so it embodies what he views as a core message of the Gospel: love. Whether he's transporting advisors, the sick and injured or staff on their days off, he only hopes that he can give his passengers a bit of comfort and joy.

"I see people that are hardcore Christian or Catholic, to Latter Day Saint, to those of the Jewish faith, people who are agnostic, atheists," he said. "My role as the chaplain is to provide this emotional and spiritual support to all outside of what my own tradition is."

His travels take him all around the northern reaches of the Backcountry where he sees dozens of staff and participants. From Head of Dean to Santa Claus and Pueblano, Father Roger provides both vital logistical support and a warm smile to all those he comes across.



# Girls just wanna climb mountains continued

**Liz Harper**  
PhilNews Writer

**Continued from page one:** other to keep going toward the top.

A significant source of the girls' energy and determination came from faith

"I haven't been out on long 85-mile hikes before, this is my first one," White said. "But I know I can do it because you just have to have faith in yourself. And I feel like girls don't get told that enough, to just believe in yourself. We rely on other people. Out here, you have to rely on yourself."

By relying on themselves and on each other, 611-K created a solid foundation for teamwork and trust that was evident in each challenge they faced. In their challenge course session at Dan Beard, the crew and their advisors solved element after element with flying colors. With half of their trek still ahead of them, the girls of 611-K were already aware of some of the ways their trek

BELOW: Carolina Garcia and Elizabeth Nango share a laugh during a short break in front of Baldy Mountain on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.



would affect them.

"It's empowering because you feel like you can trust these people, and you are going so far with that group you kind of become like a family," White said.

For Crew Advisor Anita Richards, those words are proof of the growth the girls are going through. Even after they leave, they'll take away so much more than a few good stories about that time they backpacked through New Mexico.

"I want them to take away that they can do something that they're afraid to do," Richards said. "That they can have faith and courage to do things that aren't easy."

BELOW: A Scout hammers a piece of metal as Kim Merry helps hold it down during morning programming at Metcalf Station in Cimarron, New Mexico, on Friday, June 14, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.



ABOVE: Grace Maready swings the rain fly over her tent in the Valle Vidal in Carson National Forest in New Mexico on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

## Live music in June

**Monica Dunn**  
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

What better way to spend a warm summer evening than being surrounded by friends while listening to live music?

If this is your ideal way to watch sunsets, then you are in luck! There are plenty of live music opportunities in Cimarron during the

month of June.

### St. James Hotel

- Located at 617 S. Collison Ave., St. James' Music in June series runs from 7-10 p.m. Musicians perform outside in the outdoor patio area.
- Gary Gorence will be performing on Friday, June 21.
- The following Friday, June 28, Ry Taylor will be performing.

### Colfax Tavern & Diner at Cold Beer, NM

- Cold Beer is located at 32230 US-64 in Maxwell, NM. Musicians typically

perform on an outdoor stage.

- On Saturday, June 22, Cold Beer is celebrating Colfax County turning 150 with Cappton Reid performing from 6-10 p.m.

### Blü Dragonfly Brewing & Smokehouse

- The Dragonfly is located at 301 9th St #C.
- Ry Taylor is performing on Saturday, June 22 from 7-10 p.m.

## Activities Calendar June 21 - June 28

**June 22:** S'mores @ SSSAC back-yard, 8:00 p.m.

**June 25:** Jam Session @ SSSAC, 8:00 p.m.

**June 25:** Ice Cream @ Steve Nelson's lawn, 8:00 p.m.

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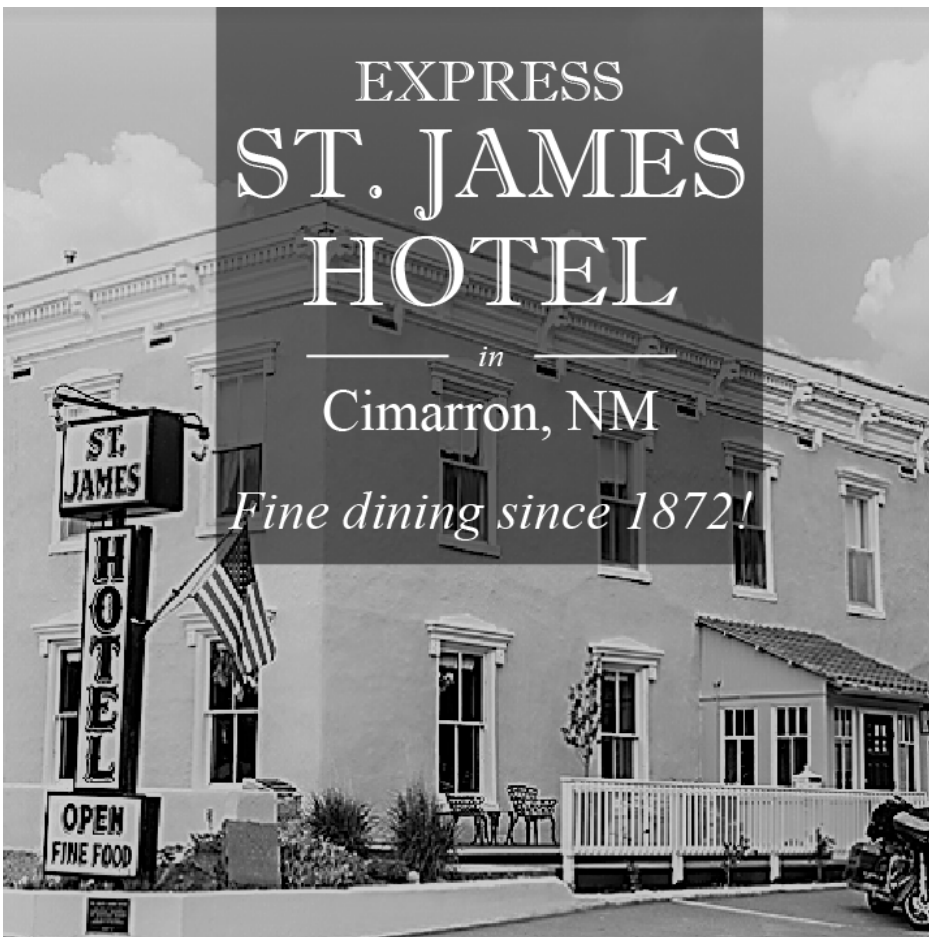
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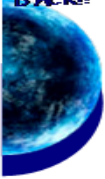
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## The call of Philmont continued

**Eric Smallwood**

PhilNews Contributing Writer

**Continued from page one:** elite mounted troops would have heard their trumpeters play a call every day.

The number of troops fluctuated with transfers and new recruits until the post's abandonment in 1851. In the historical non-fiction book "Forts and Forays" by James E. Bennett, Lance Corporal James Bennett describes arriving at the Rayado post for the first time on October 27, 1850:

*"Arrived at Rayado. Felt as though I had got home. Got a good dinner for the first time in two months. I met today the celebrated Indian fighter, Kit Carson, who resides at Rayado. This place derives its name from the Indian chief who had isolated himself from his tribe and lived alone in a hut here until he died. There are few people here and only about 10 houses besides the soldier's quarters. The place is situated on the edge of the great plains at the foot of the 'eternal snow-clad hills,' a spur of the Rocky Mountains."*

Assembly of the buglers would wake the men in the early morning hours before reveille was played. Retreat could be heard while lowering the post's colors, and tattoo would echo across the rolling hills and plains around Rayado to end each day.

This would become a regular routine for the Dragoons at Rayado post, and the sounds of trumpets a second language to them.

The similarities between bugle calls used by Scouts and the trumpet calls of 19th Century Dragoons is evident. It is important for scouts to walk hand in hand with their history, and learning the songs of trumpeters past and present gives them that opportunity.

If the hills could speak, they would tell of the sound of bugles rolling across this land for nearly 200 years. With a little luck, we'll hear them for 200 more.

# Ranger mile

**Jenny Washburne**  
Assistant Chief Ranger

The last thing anyone expects to find hiking the canyons of Baldy country is a large, open-spaced meadow. But sure enough, perched at 9,400 feet on the Baldy Skyline sits the Ewell's Park meadow: easy enough to find, but not well-known or traveled.

The hike to Ewell's Park camp is not very steep, but the roughly four-mile trip can take longer than expected. Starting from the Maxwell trailhead, it's a little more than a mile to Miranda Camp. Take the trail and stop by Miranda to say hello to the staff and raid the swap box before you continue about 2.5 more miles up the trail to Ewell's Park. The trail gets steeper after you pass through

Ute Meadows Camp, but the views along the trail are well worth the climb.

As you approach Ewell's Park, watch for the campsite map (it will be located on a tree along the trail) and pay attention to the small trails winding through the campsites. Most of the sites are tucked into the woods on the south and west sides of the meadow. The woods are pleasant, but for the best views, you'll want to cut across on the trail to the northeast. Stay on the main trail through the center of the camp (it passes near Campsite 7) as it continues north, and soon you'll find yourself on the edges of a wide, wet meadow bordered by aspens and perfect white firs that look like Christmas trees.

As the sun sets behind Baldy's massive head, crews hoping to summit Philmont's highest peak get a great view of their

upcoming climb as they sit down to dinner. Whether you're planning to hike the peak yourself or just sit and think for a little while, the Ewell's Park meadow is a peaceful place to take in the view.

## Fun fact:

Ewell's Park Camp was named after Richard Stoddert Ewell (1817-1872), a U.S. Army officer best known for his role in the Civil War. Captain Ewell also served as an escort along the Santa Fe Trail in the 1840s, helping to explore the Gadsden Purchase and spending time manning the military post at Rayado. Interestingly, Ewell's military nickname back in the day was "Old Baldhead" or "Baldy," making the Ewell's Park camp location at Philmont rather ironic.

# Chaplain's Corner

**Elder Scott (Doc) Ferrin**  
LDS Chaplain

Last year our HOmE experienced a 36,000 plus acre fire with 26,000 acres burned through the heart of Philmont. We experienced the evacuation for Springer Break. Some of our colleagues volunteered to be shipped off to other BSA camps while we waited for the resumption of crew visits to Philmont. Others worked to repair and prepare Philmont for the future.

So that happened. None of us would have chosen that, but what did it teach us? What good came and comes from this catastrophe?

Many of us as staff will have been together under interesting and trying circumstances and have shown that being prepared means handling a catastrophe with good will, energy and resiliency. But let us not make flesh our arms, or boast in our own strength alone. Perhaps we sought and had help from higher sources, and hidden blessings were bestowed.

I spent a couple of seasons fighting fires here in New Mexico. In my day we had nothing like the DC-10 VLATs planes we got to witness responding to the fire.

First, the VLAT planes are not certified to do it alone. Although I'm fascinated as a private pilot and could go on and on about the specifics of VLAT operation, I assume as a chaplain you see where I'm going here in general. We don't need to do it alone in life or on a fire line.

A DC-10 VLAT's cruising speed is 370 knots and they can weigh nearly 400,000 pounds. They are heavy, powerful, they have a lot of momentum, and they don't exactly turn on a dime or deal with high contour drops well.

However, and significantly to the analogy I seek to draw, their operators don't give up because of these weaknesses or shortcomings. They focus on their strengths and seek help—think faith and duty to God here. The VLAT operates out of Albuquerque and must be coordinated with a loitering lead plane, whose cruising speed is much lower, and they must follow that plane as a guide. If this delicate aerial partnership is completed correctly a great benefit is provided to quench the fiery flames menacing a place such as Philmont and Cimmaron.

Now the obvious metaphor. Perhaps we can let faith and a quiet partnership with God lead us through difficult and dangerous times throughout our lives. Going it alone is not allowed in the case of the VLAT's and their wildland fire certification, and going it alone is not required in the case of our lives.

I suggest we can partner with God through faith and our inner voice of conscience to lead beautiful and fruitful lives in the midst of trials.

Some experts have noted that the second greatest biodiversity of any life zone is in burned out forests as light and space is created. I have been thrilled to see so many trees that were signed last year and partially burned, still alive as survivor trees one year later.

When similar setbacks and destruction seem to be encountered in our lives, I'd suggest faith, calling for help in prayer, following the lead plane of faith and maintaining a long-range view that our trials can strengthen us.

Philmont's land is recovering nicely. Our staff and you have helped and will help it to recover. It is a privilege to see your collective response to this fire and its adversity. I hope to watch your lives over the years as you deal with similar strength and courage through life's challenges. Thank you for your goodwill, friendship, courage and strength.

Philmont's flame still burns in hearts of many. In the long term, we'll be better for the Ute Park fire of 2018 and for all our challenges. May you be blessed as you overcome the world and live with faith, inner peace and hope as you fulfill your personal duty to God.

# Scouting museum sees record visits after 2018 fire

Mark Cordeiro  
PhilNews Writer

In the summer of 2018, the BSA celebrated the opening of the National Scouting Museum just across the road from Philmont's headquarters.

The museum has moved several times over the course of its life, most recently from Irving, Texas. Unfortunately, due to the Ute Park Fire, the museum hasn't been able to welcome a full season of crews until 2019.

Now that the museum is open, however, people from all over the country are swinging by to learn the history of the American Scouting movement. A team of professional and volunteer docents is available to help participants and the general public understand what Scouting is about.

One of the museums' volunteers is Marty Latimer, a retired professional Scouter from Utah. Latimer is working a four-week stint at the library educating Scouts about the various pieces of history showcased in the museum.

"The museum is really geared to show people the heritage of scouting," he said. "It does not have, for example, every merit badge ever sewn together, but more the spirit of

scouting."

The spirit of Scouting can be found as soon as you enter the museum's first room. It features exhibits on the Order of the Arrow, New Mexico history and original artwork from Ernest Thompson Seton, one of the BSA's founders. There's a glass case that displays the first Eagle Scout award earned in 1912 and reproductions of early Scouting uniforms.

The goal is that by the end of the tour Scouts will leave with a newfound appreciation for their heritage.

"Hopefully, you'll leave with the spirit of scouting because you sense the value and contribution that scouting's making to society," Latimer said.

The museum is free and open to the public every day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Ry Taylor

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## Philmont Staff Photo Contest

Hey Philmont staffers! As you start your summer, remember to take photos, document your adventures, and capture some sweet moments this summer and enter them in the Staff Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted from July 1st to July 21st. Prizes will be awarded!

### Categories

Tooth of Time	Landscapes	Miscellaneous
Staff Activity	Philmont Skies	Porch Views
Camper Activity	Humor	Animals and Wildlife



## Calling All Staff Artists!

The TOTT is looking for Philmont staff to design the 2020 adventure patch!

### Guidelines:

- Must be a traditional patch shape
- Needs to have the words:

•Adventure •Philmont Scout Ranch •2020

Patch designs should be submitted by August 1 to [ToothofTimeTraders@scouting.org](mailto:ToothofTimeTraders@scouting.org)





BELOW: Metcalf program counselors teach a Philmont Crew how to lay rail during their morning programming at Metcalf Station at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico on Friday, June 14, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.



ABOVE: Kim Merry watches as a scout twists a piece of metal during morning programming at Metcalf Station. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

# Metcalf welcomes first female staff members continued

Liz Harper  
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page two: want to be out there, and you want to help, go ahead.”

When Taylor and her fellow female program counselors, Montana Ludlow and Kim Merry, applied to work at Metcalf they didn’t know they would be the camp’s first female staff members. When they found out they were thrilled.

“I was super happy,” Taylor said. “I like trains, I like history. It’s awesome. It’s something I’ve never done before, so it’s a learning experience and that’s always fun.”

Now that she and the other program counselors are at Metcalf their excitement is constant. They love their camp and their program wholeheartedly. Plus, there’s an added bonus in interacting with female participants, who they hope will come back on more treks and maybe even as staff someday.

“Now that women are at Crater Lake and Pueblano and Metcalf, female participants will come through, see us and go, ‘I can do this because they’re doing it,’” Merry said.

For the women of Metcalf, working at this

camp is a special opportunity to help run a unique historic program while changing lives. Their passion for working at Philmont runs deep, stemming from their own treks and previous experiences.

“My favorite thing about Philmont is bringing in people that don’t know Scouting, because Philmont is the best representation of the Scouting program,” Merry said. “This is what Scouting is all about. It’s about the challenges and the growth and the understanding of each other in the community, and we have all of that here.”

## Puzzle Corner

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