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The PhilNews is a staff newsletter published weekly by Philmont Scout Ranch.

On the cover:

Dan Beard staff watch as participants help each other in the Porthole event. (photo by Rebecca Bost, NPS Photographer)

From the desk: Editor's Note

The value of challenges

As a four-time Philmont Training Center participant (that is, before I came to staff here in 2006), I'm familiar with challenge courses: I've been through the Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) course twice, and the Urraca challenge course once. It's not hard to see the value in these courses. I can't imagine any other way a group of teenagers from all over the United States could have bonded the way my PTC groups did.

So I'm excited that we at The PhilNews have produced a challenge camp-themed issue. Often, it's the camps with horses, guns, blacksmithing and etc. that receive the most glowing reports from crews coming off the trail, and it may be easy to lose sight of the important lessons learned at the challenge course. But teamwork, communication and leadership skills acquired at a challenge camp are just as important as the memories one may cherish of touring a mine, milking a cow or throwing a tomahawk.

For this issue, we went to all three challenge camps to check out what makes each unique. We also visited Pueblano (an easy hike from Head of Dean) and Rich Cabins (two ridges away from Dan Beard) in order to bring you a taste of what else lies near these camps should you decide to visit them.

Also in this issue is a wealth of information that you may find helpful. Sustainability is becoming a big topic on the ranch (see pg. 3), and work on the new Philmont Field Guide will start soon (see pg. 4). Finally, the new Health Lodge was dedicated (see pgs. 10-11) and will soon be ready for use.

Next issue, we will be highlighting Double H and the conservation department. We're truly excited about it, and hope you look forward to it as well. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely, Chris

Please be aware that the views expressed in this column, as well as others printed in this issue, do not necessarily represent those of The PhilNews, Philmont Scout Ranch or the Boy Scouts of America.

CLARIFICATION: Ranger Trainer Bill Sassani would like to clarify a tip in his column that ran in Issue 5 about hiking Little Costilla. In the column, he wrote that a fence follows the ridge all the way to the summit. This is not accurate, as the fence comes to an end before clearing the treeline. It is important to look for a small trail on the western side of the ridge that takes you from the treeline to the summit.

Positive impressions are like seeds!

by Mark Anderson Director of Program

In the book "The Power of Nice" by Linda Kaplan Thaler and Robin Koval, the authors describe six "power of nice" principles.

The first "power of nice" principle is that **<u>posi-</u>** <u>tive impressions are like seeds</u>.

As the authors explain this principle, they suggest that <u>"every time you smile, laugh, thank or</u> <u>treat someone with graciousness and respect you</u> <u>through off positive energy.</u> That energy makes an impression on the other person that in turn, is passed along to and imprinted on the myriad others he or she meets. Such imprints have a multiplier effect, and ultimately, those favorable impressions find their way back to you.

"The results of the power of nice are rarely di-

rect. In fact, you may not notice any impact on your life, apart from the warm glow it gives you inside. Nonetheless, we have found that the power of nice has a domino effect. ... The positive impressions are like seeds. You plant them and forget about them, but underneath the surface, they're growing and expanding, often exponentially."

What an exciting concept for each of us. As we smile, laugh, thank or treat others with graciousness and respect, we throw off positive energy. This energy affects our fellow staff members and each participant that we come in contact with. As the authors state, "it has a multiplier effect."

Join me in a special effort to be a multiplier, and let your efforts expand exponentially through the people you interact with! Let's smile, laugh, thank and treat others with graciousness and respect!

Every little bit helps

by the Communication and Outreach Committee

You may have heard about a group working on ideas to begin and maintain Philmont's sustainability. After four meetings involving brainstorming and planning by 60 Philmont staff members, we have developed five areas of interest and plan to move forward with new initiatives. These subjects include **recycling**, **waste reduction**, **communication and outreach**, **renewable energy**, and **transportation**. In addition to these, we are pleased to report that these environmentally conscious practices already exist on the ranch:

- White paper recycling
- Only water lawns at night at PTC

• Reuse of Commissary boxes (lifespan of a single box exceeds five years)

• Use washable/reusable dishes in the Dining Hall instead of Styrofoam or paper dishes

- Solar power in the backcountry
- Swap boxes to create less food waste
- Awareness for water conservation

• Conservation work has become more ecosystem-oriented

• Manure from horse operation is reused to fertilize hay fields, which in turn is used to feed

the livestock

• The meat from the buffalo slaughtered is used in the dining halls

• Logging and partnership with Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI)

• Reuse shredded office paper at PTC

• Energy-saving heaters provide sole heating source in four ranch homes, including the Villa

• Used oil from the Philmont vehicle fleet and leftover white gas are used to heat the motor pool through the winter

• All printer cartridges are saved to be sent into the company and reused

You can contribute by incorporating these small tasks into your daily routine. Please look to The PhilNews for more information and future meeting dates, as we hope to generate new ideas with your help.

There are still good people in the world

by Stanley Peters Advisor for Crew 706-E

While backpacking near Mt. Cheaha in Alabama in mid-February, I lost my Crazy Creek Chair off my backpack. On a return trip 13 days later, I found it near where I lost it.

On Feb. 9, 2008, I went backpacking with Boy Scout Troop 41 from Troy, Ala. We started our trip just above Lake Chinnabee near Mt. Cheaha in the Talladega National Forest.

There were six Scouts and four adult leaders, and we camped out that night at the shelter above Cheaha Falls near Cheaha Lake.

The next morning we got up early, cooked breakfast and prepared to hike out to the trailhead at Turnip Seed Hunter's Camp. When I was preparing to leave, one of the last things I did was attach my Crazy Creek Camp Chair to my backpack.

Upon returning home, I realized that my camp chair had fallen off my pack and was gone.

On March 1, I took another group of Scouts back to Mt. Cheaha. We started hiking at the Turnip Seed Trail and hiked back toward Cheaha Falls. When we crossed the ridge near the shelter, I was amazed to see my Crazy Creek chair hanging on a peg in the shelter.

Finding it probably would not have been as important, but I bought it in July 2006 while I was on a trek at Philmont, and it had sentimental value.

The facts that someone picked it up and put it under the shelter, and that it stayed there for two weeks, make me believe that there are still good people out there – the kind of people who will not take something that does not belong to them. There is still hope for humanity, no matter what you see and hear on television, radio, or in the newspapers.

I know there is probably no way that the person that hung my chair up in the shelter will ever see this, despite the fact that I wish he or she could, and there is also no way he or she could have ever known that I would return to get it.

But this kind act reinforces my faith in the kind of people who like to get out and hike and camp. They are a special group of people in general.

The person that helped reunite me with my chair gave one old Boy Scout leader a very warm, fuzzy feeling when he saw it hanging there.

Stanley Peters is PhilNews writer Jennifer Peter's father.

Contribute to the new Field Guide

Dave and Susan Bates have undertaken the task of developing a new Philmont Field Guide. The purpose of the guide is "to educate and inspire readers about the natural and cultural heritage of Philmont and the surrounding area, and to enable them to correctly identify its natural features."

The first Philmont Field Guide was published in 1985, and was entirely produced by seasonal staff. Dave has invited this year's staff to participate in this project in research and writing portions of the book. If you are interested in participating, Dave will be at the Ranch from July 21 through July 28 working on the project. He would enjoy meeting with those who might be interested in helping. <u>If you are interested</u>, please I-Camp **Mark Anderson** and share with him your areas of interest and your days-off schedule.

This is a very exciting undertaking and a tremendous opportunity for members of the 2008 staff to leave their mark on Philmont.

Philmont Scout Ranch Fire Restrictions as of July 11, 2008

Effective July 11, 2008, the Colfax County Open Fire Ban has been lifted. The original restriction was enacted on May 28, 2008.

"Due to the amount of rainfall in Colfax County, the Colfax County Fire Marshal's office is declaring an end to the 'Dry Season' in Colfax County. This action follows the lifting of fire restrictions by New Mexico State Forestry. The County Fire Marshal will continue to monitor fire danger throughout the County, and may implement restrictions again if conditions worsen. Drought conditions still exist, and everyone is urged to continue to be extremely cautious with fire."

Larry Osborn Colfax County Fire Marshal

Based on the changes in fire restrictions, Philmont has implemented the following fire restrictions on July 14 for the remainder of the 2008 camping season:

- No smoking along trails!
- Smoking is restricted to designated areas:
 - CHQ = Advisors Lounge <u>or</u> Staff Lounge Dining Fly <u>or</u> Staff Dining Fly between Male and Female Tent City.
 - PTC = East Tent City Pavilion.
 - Within vehicles equipped with ashtrays while on paved roads or surfaced roads only.
 - Designated area at backcountry staffed camps.
- Fireworks are prohibited.
- Small crew campfires in designated fire rings are permitted (Philmont property only).
- Program campfires (base and backcountry) are permitted.
- Blacksmith forges and black powder shooting at designated ranges will be permitted.

Crew campfire procedures:

- Campfires must be built in <u>established fire rings</u>.
- Clear all burnable material at least 10 feet from around the ring.

• <u>Keep campfires small</u>. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand and that are no thicker than a forearm or longer than the length between the elbow and middle finger. <u>Do not</u> climb trees to break branches.

- <u>Keep a pot of water</u> nearby the campfire.
- Never leave a campfire unattended for any reason.
- Burn all wood and coal to ash.

• Be certain that the fire is <u>"cold out"</u> before going to bed or leaving the campsite. Pour water on the coals, and stir the ash with a stick until a slush mixture is made. (You should be comfortable with placing your hand in the fire ring and touching the fire waste.)

• Break up any unburned coals and pack out the ashes. Hike for 30 minutes or half a mile, and then scatter ashes 100 feet from the trail.

• Stick an unburned stick an inch into the fire pit to show others it has been cleaned properly.

The Conservationist **A package deal**

You can tell a lot about a product from its packaging: where it's been, its properties/ingredients and, oftentimes, a description of the social implications behind that product. Much of the decision we make as to whether or not to purchase a product is based on the feel

and information we get from its package.

Becoming more cognizant of the effects of these choices is an important milestone on the road to better stewardship. Most of us mean well when we make these choices, but often looks can be deceiving.

One rule of thumb to help you out as you stroll down the aisles is to "keep it simple." The less processing that went into bringing the product to the store equals reduced impact. Avoiding processed foods may have health benefits as well.

A very tangible example of keeping it simple is applesauce vs. an apple. Both have the same origins; however, applesauce has undergone a process of pasteurization and is then packaged, oftentimes in individual servings that are then contained within secondary packaging.

If you're like me and you love applesauce, try making your own at home (or at a backcountry camp); this way, you can add as little or as much sweetener (honey, brown sugar or raw cane sugar) as you like. Most of the apple sauce we buy in stores is loaded with artificial sugars and preservatives. Depending on the apples you use in your homemade variety, you might not have to add anything! However, don't be fooled by an innocent-looking apple. Even though it is less guilty than applesauce, chances are it has been transported in some sort of disposable package along its journey, making it important for us to remember the values we discussed in earlier columns of seeking out local sources (farmers markets and CSAs) and being producers ourselves.

Other ways to out smartpackaging in the store is to seek out the aisle featuring the towering containers known as the "bulk bins." This option is available at most, if not all, Cooperative Markets (see last week's column), and is now a part of many conventional grocery stores as well.

Bulk bins use the same concept as buying whole bean coffee from a dispenser. You can purchase as much or as little of a product as you want. It gives you the ability to reuse bags or bring your own container. In addition to the environmental benefits of bulk bins, they also tend to be a cheaper alternative because the consumer doesn't have to pay for the extra packaging.

Regardless of what you purchase in the store, stop for a moment and think about the validity and necessity of the product you are purchasing. Many companies make an effort to appeal to our consciences by creating products with green credentials. But is a hot dog toaster made of 100 percent post-consumer recycled material really a step in the right direction?

For questions or issues you, would like to see addressed in future columns of "The Conservationist," please I-Camp Chris Ives @ Cons.

"The Conservationist" is a weekly column by Environmental Educator Chris Ives.

Homemade Applesauce Recipe

Ingredients

• 3 pounds apples, peeled, cored, cut into 3/4-inch pieces

• 1 cup water

• 1/3 cup (packed) brown sugar

• 2 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

• 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preparation

Combine apples, water and brown sugar in a saucepan. Bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until apples are very tender (about 25 minutes). Uncover and simmer until almost all liquid in saucepan has evaporated (about 6 minutes). Remove from heat. Stir in lemon juice and cinnamon. Cool 30 minutes.

Using fork, mash mixture until coarse and chunky. Serve at room temperature or refrigerate until cold. (Applesauce can be prepared 3 days ahead. Cover and keep refrigerated.)

From the Ranger Department Climbing Baldy Mountain

Standing at 12,441 feet, Baldy is the highest point on Philmont. From the summit, there are sweeping views of the North Country all the way down to Tooth Ridge, the Moreno Valley and Eagle Nest to the southwest, as well as Little Costilla and the Valle Vidal to the north. Climbing Baldy can be a highlight for any Philmont summer.

Getting There

Drive the Maxwell Road from U.S. Highway 64 north to the Maxwell Turnaround, where there are several parked staff cars. Along the road on the left side are buildings for the Express Ranch, and sometimes elk are visible in the large meadows.

For those who do not have a car, getting to up there can be trickier. Transports leave base from Backcountry Warehouse and Logistics to the North Country, and may be able to take you to Baldy Town or French Henry.

There is also a ride board in Activities, where you might be able to find a ride to the turnaround. If you have a few days off you can always be dropped off at Ponil, Pueblano or Head of Dean, then hike to the Baldy area.

Hiking Options

If hiking from the Baldy Town side, it is possible to follow a trail all the way to the summit. Although steep at times, this trail passes by old test pits from the mining days, as well as an abandoned cabin. From the French Henry side, there is a trail up to Copper Park, after which the route takes a sharp turn upward through loose rock and scree. Oftentimes, hikers will take the trail from Baldy Town up and over the mountain, then descend the screefield to Copper Park and hang out at French Henry to do program.

Another option from Copper Park is to hike the new trail that switchbacks up to the ridge north of camp. Once on the ridge, follow it around to Baldy Mountain. The initial climb up may be steep, but it is at least on a trail instead of loose rock, and hiking the ridge offers great views.

Touch-Me-Not

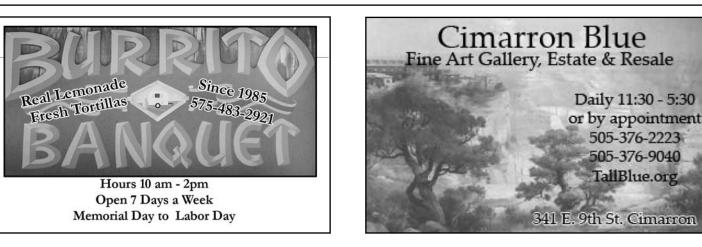
Touch-Me-Not Mountain, just south of Baldy, offers an additional challenge for those that want to get in more hiking. From Baldy's summit, follow the saddle and ridge south, which connects to Touch-Me-Not. Don't be fooled: the ridge is longer than it looks, so make sure to have plenty of water on hand. From Touch-Me-Not, you can double-back to the Baldy Town trail, or bushwack from the ridge down an intermittent stream to Black Horse Camp.

Things To Remember

Start your climb early to avoid the afternoon thunderstorms. As always, bring your 10 essentials and leave your itinerary in Base Camp. Hike with a partner. Two people double the resources for finding a transport to the area, and increase safety when hiking.

When driving a private vehicle, do not drive past Maxwell Turnaround. Also, the land on either side of the highway is privately owned, so do not hike there.

"From the Ranger Department" is a weekly column by Ranger Trainer Bill Sassani.



COLUMN

8 • The PhilNews

Highlight on the 27,391 Reasons We Are Here **The few, the proud, the crews of 35**

Hiking 103 miles would be similar to walking to Taos and back. I like Taco Bell, but I don't like it *that* much. However, that is exactly what the crews of Itinerary 35 do: hike 103 miles (not including any side hikes) with 40ish-pound packs. *And you complained about carrying your biology textbook across campus.*

Of the over 2,000 crews that will have hiked at Philmont this summer, only **six** will have dared to take on the longest Philmont trek, Itinerary 35.

I met up with crew 625-J in base camp after it completed this journey. The crew seemed happy to be off the trail but very proud of its accomplishment. When I asked them why they had chosen this itinerary, the overwhelming response was bragging rights and guns camps.

This was evident in that two of their favorite camps along the way were Sawmill and Black Mountain. Reloading their own cartridges and then shooting them with the .30-06 rifles at Sawmill was an almost unanimous choice for their favorite program.

The crew's trek was filled with literal and figurative ups and downs as they started their trek at Six Mile Gate and hiked all the way up to Whiteman Vega, then came back into base over the Tooth of Time. All members of the crew but one was able to complete the trek. The one member of the crew who was unable to finish took one for the team: he broke his wrist trying to get a snagged bear rope down at Whiteman Vega. When the crew was asked if anything funny happened while they were out on the trail, there was a ripple of laughter. Apparently even though they had crossed most of Philmont, they are still working on their bear identification skills, as both a cow and an adviser's burp were mistaken to be a bear.

Though the crew's skills with large mammals might need some brushing up on, Phillip, a youth in the crew, is now very acquainted with moths. One evening during Thorns and Roses, he had a moth fly into his ear. Some cooking oil, a liter of water, two and a half days, and a trip to the Health Lodge later, the moth finally left his ear. He calmly told me about how, the whole time, the new resident of his middle ear was alive and flapping.

625-J is just one of six crews that will make the 103-mile journey this summer. Each crew will have new stories and adventures as they cross more trail than is routed in any of the other itineraries.

This crew from Bellevue, Wash., started out as nine youth and three advisors, and ended as twelve men who grew both individually and together as a crew over ten days and 113 miles – on what started as just a hike in the mountains.

"Highlight on the 27,391 Reasons We Are Here" is a weekly column by PhilNews writer Tawny Slaughter.

Mercantile Outfitter Shirley Dale $\checkmark \uparrow \checkmark$ $\intercal \downarrow \intercal$ $\intercal \downarrow \uparrow \checkmark$ $\intercal \downarrow \uparrow$ $\P 0$ Box 511 129 East 12th Street Cimarron, NM 87714 (575)-376-9128



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The smooth sounds Come on down to of the Lake the Junction!

by Mark Bryson

Camp Director of Crater Lake

If you like manly men with beards and one of the best views of the Tooth of Time on the ranch, then you should come and visit Crater Lake. The intoxicating smell of bacon will entice you and draw you toward the cabin. While working for the Continental Tie & Lumber Co., you'll learn how to spar-pole climb and make railroad ties. The plight of the logger children will capture your heart, the smooth sounds of the lake at the 7th Annual Company Meeting will melt your face and our words of wisdom will blow your mind. Come visit and we will gladly create you a culinary masterpiece.

by Mark Spencer Camp Director of Phillips Junction

Welcome, one and all to the camp with the most extreme croquet course ever and the chicken waffle! I am Mark Spencer, CD PJ, and I am here to invite every staff member to come and visit PJ for great fun and fellowship all summer long. We are not just a commissary and trading post where crews restock on supplies, but a sanctuary for staff and campers alike where you can restock on peace of mind, excitement and overall awesomeness. So, if you need to restock, come on down to PJ, where we never run out of a good time!



Philmont, KU dedicate new Health Lodge

by Jennifer Peters *PhilNews writer*

Philmont Scout Ranch held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Philmont Health Lodge on Saturday, July 12, and also celebrates 51 years of partnership with University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Self-guided tours were allowed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for any Philmont staffers who wanted to check out the new Health Lodge. A banquet was also held at 6 p.m. in celebration of the dedication.

The Health Lodge staff will start moving equipment and supplies into the building, but an official open date has not been set.

KU School of Medicine Vice Chanceller Dr. Barbara Atkinson, KU School of Medicine-Witchita Dean

Dr. Ed Dismukes and other KU doctors attended the event.

Philmont Chief Medic Ashley Robertson and other members of the Philmont Health Lodge Task Force were present as well.

The University of Kansas gives students pediatric credits for attending one of three sessions at Philmont every summer. These medical students have many learning opportunities while getting hands-on experience.

The fourth-year students participate as medics at Philmont. *High Country* Editor and Philmont Health Lodge Task Force member Mark Stinnett writes, "Medics will evaluate and care for patients seen or admitted at the health lodge, serve as primary responders for injured or ill patients in the backcountry and participate in lectures and teaching opportunities provided by attending physicians."

Physicians from KU, as well as doctors from other schools, come to the ranch to supervise the medics.

"Our treatment level is not going to change at all from the old Health Lodge to the new," said Chief of Support and Fulltime Paramedic, Gavin Faulkner. "We'll still have EKG (electrocardiogram) capabilities, we'll have suture capabilities, IV (intravenous therapy) capabilities. Everything we offer at the old Health Lodge, we'll offer at the new Health Lodge."

The new Philmont Health Lodge will have a library and conference room, radio room, on-call room, trauma room, nurses' station, pharmacy, laboratory, therapy room, four examination rooms, a consultation room, eight patient rooms (one of which will have quarantine capabilities), a medical records room and a waiting room.

The old Philmont Health Lodge and KU have seen over 700,000 participants pass under the Philmont sign since their partnership began over 50 years ago. Hopefully the new Philmont Health Lodge and KU relationship will be even stronger for the next 50 years.



photo by Rebecca Bost, NPS Photographer KU representatives and Philmont leadership cut the ribbon!

The new Health Lodge: its mission statement, goal and scope of service

Excerpts from a speech by Mark Anderson

Director of Program

The Philmont Health Lodge is established to support the mission of Philmont Scout Ranch, which in turn furthers the aims of Scouting as defined by the Boy Scouts of America.

Our specific goal is to help to establish and enforce necessary standards of health and fitness in order to ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for all the participants at Philmont, evaluate patients with illness or injuries, to treat patients which fall within our capabilities, refer cases which are beyond our capabilities to appropriate facilities and to advise ranch management on matters involved in health safety and injury prevention.

The scope of service for this building is a small private facility which maintains a limited pharmacy and is capable of only a few laboratory tests and will rely heavily on nearby facilities for laboratory work, X-

The harrowing tale of a man and his dog by the staff of Ute Gulch

As the sun rises over the ridge, Tom, our Rooster crows, signaling the start of a new day. If you come early enough, you can help out with the morning chores of milking, and collecting the eggs from the coop. If you arrive later in the day, make sure you get in a round of black powder rifle from atop our majestic 40-foot spar poles.

If it's gold you're looking for, then you're in luck. You can't swing a pick or pan a pan without coming up rich. We pride ourselves in helping Scouts develop as a unit through a variety of challenge course activities. Supper time comes around at 5, and to get to the chuck wagon-Mexican-Dutch oven feast, you rappel down a 30-foot cliff.

So come to Ute Gulch, where everything happens at once.

rays, hospital care and consultation with specialties.

The Philmont Health Lodge should not be considered a hospital. Any patient who would normally require admission to a hospital should be taken to the appropriate facility. The one exception is that we administer intravenous fluids for re-hydration; otherwise our beds are used only to temporarily ward patients who cannot return home to recover. If a patient cannot feed himself, take care of personal hygiene and properly self-administer needed medications, that patient is transferred to a place where those needs can be met.

We distribute medications and sometimes controlled substances from our licensed pharmacy according to the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy standards and policies to some of our patients on a dose-by-dose basis.

A French personal ad by the staff of French Henry

Three eligible miners seeking wealthy women to support our exorbitant lifestyles. Our investment in the Cimarron Zeppelin fleet failed, so we can no longer afford silk cravats, shingray boots and monkey paw canes.

Do you enjoy beating hot iron, long walks into dark holes? If so, feel free to stop by French Henry. But, watch out for the three old mining widows around camp.

Face melting at Clark's by the staff of Clark's Fork

Wild steers... 51 horses... Six painted... Roy. Brandin'... Ropin'... Charles Goodnight... Oliver Loving... Chuck...

We will melt your face off...

What's going on around the world?

First President to be elected in Nepal

In April, a 239-year monarchy was ended in Nepal after the Constituent Assembly voted to abolish it. On July 19, the Nepalese must vote in a President who will swear in the new Prime Minister. There are three main parties with candidates, although none of the parties has the majority in the Constituent Assembly.

Videotape from Guantanamo Bay released

A tape of a Guantanamo Bay integration was made public after the Supreme Court ruled that all evidence had to be turned over. The tape is of 16-year-old Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen whose attorney made the tape public after receiving it from the Canadian authorities. Khadr is held on several terrorism charges, the most served of which is murder. He is accused of killing a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan in 2002 with a grenade.

Australian man spent \$1,000 a week on beer

An Australian man convicted of his seventh drunk driving charge had spent A\$1,000 (\$972 in U.S. currency) a week on beer. Construction worker Michael Leary had been hitting the bottle hard for the past five years after breaking up with his partner, and was not jailed despite his considerable number of offenses.



Instead, the magistrate banned Leary from buying or holding a bear for the next 12 months.

Belgian Prime Minister submits resignation

Prime Minster Yves Leterme submitted his resignation to the King of Belgium on July 15. It is not yet known if the king will accept his resignation. Many Belgians worry that this resignation might lead to more conflict and chaos, as Leterme had set a July 15 deadline for political reforms, which were not met on time. He took office in March after nine months of deadlock between Dutch and French-speaking parties.

International Criminal Court tries to bring charges against Sudan

The International Criminal Court is trying to being charges against Sudan President Omar al-Bashir. Sudan claims this is a way to incur hostilities between tribal groups in Darfur, and plans to do all it can to block the genocide charges. The Sudanese government has warned that if the case is continued, it will harm relations with the UN.

Bermuda hit by tropical storm

Tropical Storm Bertha hit Bermuda on July 14, knocking out power to thousands. In the capital of Hamilton, winds knocked over utility poles and flooded the streets. All flights and ferries were canceled until the storm had passed. The U.S. East Coast also felt the effects, with dangerous rip currents from the Carolinas to the New England area. There has been one known drowning at the New Jersey beach due to the storm.

World Food Program worker killed in Somalia

In Somalia, a gunmen killed a member of the World Food Program contract trucking company on July 15. This is this year's fifth killing of a WFP staff member. He was killed in the town of Buale over a dispute. The organization has said that oftentimes, local militia will require truck drivers to pay in order to pass through with humanitarian supplies. Due to the 1993 famine, drought and ongoing conflict, most Somalians depend on humanitarian aid to survive.

What's going on around the U.S.?

General Motors to cut jobs and production

General Motors announced on July 14 that the company would lay off salaried employees, cut back production and borrow at least \$2 billion. The company is trying not just to survive but also to make a complete rebound from the recession in the U.S. market.

Tony Snow dies

Former Bush Press Secretary Tony Snow died of cancer July 12. Snow served as the Press Secretary under Pres. George W. Bush for 17 months until he had to leave his position due to his battle with colon cancer. He died at 53 years of age, at the Georgetown University Hospital. Snow was known for his ability to interact with the press and maintain a positive outlook.

eBay wins case over counterfeit jewelry

A federal judge ruled on July 13 that eBay is not responsible for the sales of counterfeit Tiffany & Co. jewelry on eBay. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Sullivan said that eBay had in place adequate measures to combat counterfeit items and that companies such as Tiffany are responsible for policing their trademarks on-line. Companies are able to review listings and make eBay aware of counterfeit items. In 2007, almost 100,000 sellers were thrown out or blocked from returning due to involvement in counterfeit goods.

Students live large on stolen identities

Former Drexel University student Jocelyn Kirsch pleaded guilty on July 14 to identity theft that founded her and her now ex-boyfriend Edward Anderton's exotic vacations and extravagant lifestyles. The pair stole from friends, neighbors and acquaintances, and in two years, they spent over \$116,000 of other people's money. Their scheme was discovered after a salon employee informed police that a check for Kirsch's \$2,250 hair extensions had bounced. Kirsch and Anderton face a minimum two years in prison.

Elderly women convicted of murder and insurance fraud

California residents 77-year-old Helen Golay and 75-year-old Olga Rutterschmidt were sentenced on

July 14 to two consecutive life terms in prison. The women were caught in a scheme wherein they befriended two old homeless men, housed and cared for for two years and took out life insurance polices on them. The women then staged murders that looked like hit-andruns in dark allies. Authorities first became suspicious after the two women claimed and profited from insurance from the second man's death, whose body showed the same injuries as the other man's.

Bush pushes for removing ban on: offshore drilling

Pres. George W. Bush urged Congress on July 14 to lift the ban on offshore oil drilling. He repealed the executive order that prohibited offshore drilling; however, there is still in place a law which deems offshore drilling as illegal. Bush is pressing Congress to repeal this law and allow the recourses to be drilled for in the ocean. The president has been joined by Republican lawmakers in pushing for the law to be repealed.



What's going on in the different states?

Alabama

The Department of Postsecondary Education announced the state will more strictly require for-profit schools to prove their legitimacy.

Alaska

The 3,500-foot Okmok Caldera volcano erupted July 12 and is still spewing plumes of ash more than 6 miles high.

Arizona

The U.S. District court pushed Rep. Rick Renzi's corruption trial into the spring. He was indicted in February on counts of conspiracy, money laundering and insurance fraud.

Arkansas

Gov. Mike Beebe appointed Sam Ledbetter of Little Rock and Alice Mahoney of El Dorado to the state Board of Education.

California

Legislation banning the use of trans fats in restaurants is awaiting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's signature. Minus use in deep-frying, the bill would require the removal of oils, shortenings and margarines with trans fats by 2010.

Colorado

A state audit for the financial records of the Colorado Division of Parks found that the state park records have \$600,000 in unaccounted money.

Connecticut

State probate court administrator

James J. Lawlor resigned July 14 after his attempts to reform the court system were met with much criticism.

Delaware

The Delaware State Education Association announced July 14 that it endorses Democrats Lt. Gov. John Carney Jr. and state Treasurer Jack Markell, both of whom are running for governor.

Florida

Pres. George W. Bush said on July 14 that he would lift the ban on offshore drilling in the gulf.

Georgia

A new Web site, georgiabankrobbery.com, that posts images from bank surveillance cameras was launched to allow the public to view images of subjects whom they might identify.

Hawaii

Gov. Linda Lingle said the state is considering a four-day work week, with 10-hour shifts, for state employees due to high gas prices.

Idaho

The state Department of Parks and Recreation approved more than \$6.8 million in grants to improve campgrounds and clear mountain bike trails in its facilities.

Illinois

Advocates for state-funded agencies are lobbying against Gov. Rod Blagojevich's \$1.4 billion budget cut made to balance the state budget.

Indiana

Sen. Barack Obama is scheduled to hold a national security summit at Purdue University, as part of his recent focus on national security.

Iowa

The Iowa Lottery started its new scratch game July 14 that supports the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund's goal of reaching \$50 million.

Kansas

Former executive director of the Kansas Democratic party Brett Cott and 12 others were indicted in a scandal involving illegally siphoning more than \$300,000 of tax money to fund political campaigns.

Kentucky

Gov. Steve Beshear will push for legislation for an optional "In God We Trust" state license plate.

Louisiana

Gov. Bobby Jindal vetoed \$16 million in legislative projects from the state operating budget after claiming the projects as "slush funds."

Maine

The Maine Cancer Foundation announced \$480,000 in cancer research grants for 2008. An additional \$42,000 was granted to education and patient supporting the state.

Maryland

The Maryland Transit Administration will use up to 500 hybrid electric buses by 2014 to reduce emissions and noise pollution.

Massachusetts

Businesses, insurers and hospitals are feeling the heat of Gov. Deval Patrick's proposal to ask them for \$100 million to help fund the state's health insurance law.

Michigan

Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation that would prohibit business from selling gift cards that expire fewer than five years after issued.

Minnesota

Lawmakers are looking to help farmers who lost more than 50 percent of a crop due to storms that passed through Dakota County last week.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Hospital Association may ask courts to block Gov. Haley Barbour's plan to cut \$375 million from the Medicaid program, which could force hospitals to close.

Missouri

Most universities are raising tuition to the maximum limit, as a new law that caps tuition hikes at the inflation rate goes into effect.

Montana

The Bozeman School Board said on July 14 that the state has not done enough to meet its constitutional obligation to fund public schools after the schools have seen drastic cuts over the past few years.

Nebraska

Gov. Dave Hienman supports a Nebraska State Fair move that would take the fair from Lincoln to Grand Island. Lawmakers may place the decision on the November ballot.

Nevada

Lawmakers await the Nevada Supreme Court's decision on term limits. Court justices could make a decision that would block 13 legislators from serving again in 2009.

New Hampshire

The Legislation Office Building is being de-molded. Workers are removing black mold from the state building, hanging new wallpaper and laying in new carpet.

New Jersey

The gypsy moth damage of New Jersey forests is lower than projected for the year. Officials say they are seeing fewer pockets of severe defoliation than last year.

New Mexico

Joe Ruiz, a former state insurance regulator, was sentenced to 48 months in prison. Ruiz was convicted on 30 felony counts for soliciting bribes in the form of charity donations.

New York

Rochester billionaire Tom Golisano donated \$3,800 to Barbra Kavanaugh, who is running against current Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, D-Buffalo.

North Carolina

Lawmakers are composing a list of potential bullying activities to help define anti-bullying and harassment policies statewide.

North Dakota

Legislators are looking to bring accessible, affordable broadband Internet access to rural North Dakota to help boost employment opportunities and bring in more teachers.

Ohio

A voter activist group filed a motion asking a federal judge to investigate counties the activists say illegally destroyed ballots from the 2004 election.

Oklahoma

Gov. Brad Henry toured the areas of Cimarron County affected by drought on July 15. This was his first visit to the county since taking office in 2002.

Oregon

A new law requiring proof of citizenship to attain an Oregon driver's license is now in phase. The law is aimed at tightening security.

Pennsylvania

A lawyer investigating a Poconos casino leaks case obtained cell phone records for prosecutors and state police. Sprint-Nextel handed over the records last month, making the law enforcement community uneasy.

Rhode Island

Perennial presidential candidate Ralph Nader filed petitions July 14 giving him a spot on the ballot in Rhode Island. Nader's running mate is 40-year old Matt Gonzalez of San Francisco.

South Carolina

Enough signatures were collected to get Ralph Nader on the South Carolina presidential ballot.

South Dakota

Amidst the poor start to the planning season this summer, the winter wheat harvest may make a comeback. Though the harvest will be

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Vermont

Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie is calling for a special session this summer by lawmakers to review the state's sex offender laws.

Virginia

Slade Allen Woodson, 19, pled guilty to six felony crimes related to the Interstate 64 shootings.

Washington

Three cases of dental deaths in the last three years has led Fred Quarnstrom to resign from the state board.

West Virginia

Over \$40 million of federal funding will be going towards state highways. This comes from a bill passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 14.

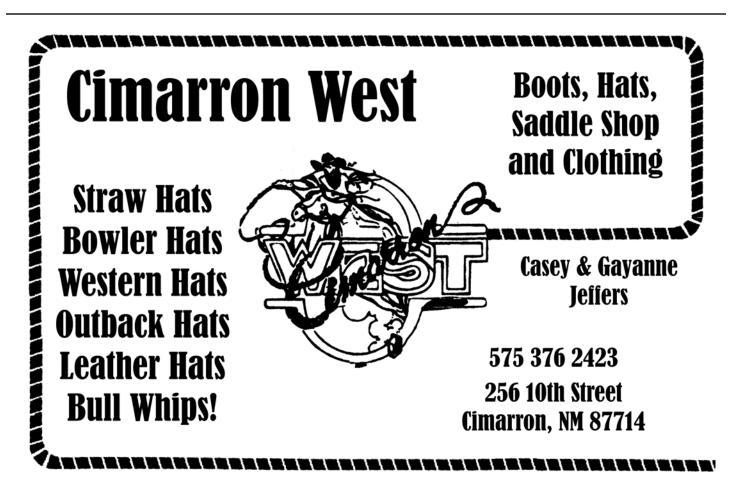
Wisconsin

Over 7,000 residents are calling for better health care reform in Wisconsin. The Citizen Action of Wisconsin groups hopes to get a health care reform advisory referendum on the ballot in November.

Wyoming

Though natural gas prices have gone up around the country, companies in Wyoming continue to get lower prices for their product.

All stories were gathered from http://www.stateline.org, a conglomerate news Web site that gathers major headlines from a variety of news sources.



about two weeks late, the harvest could be a record-breaking one if bad weather holds off.

Tennessee

Sluggish consumer spending and low corporate expansion have caused tax collection to fall another \$62.5 million below what the budget predicted. Overall, the state is \$433.6 million behind.

Texas

A state audit released on July 14 said 70 percent of people with disabilities who requested to be placed in a community-based home were denied.

Utah

Six different lawmakers received Playoff tickets from Micron Technology Lobbyist Stan Lockhart.

What's going on in sports?

American League wins All-Star Game

The American League won the All-Star Game the last to be played in Yankee Stadium — that lasted 15 innings and ended at 1:37 a.m. on July 16 with Justin Morneau's slide home. The nearly five-hour game awarded a 4-3 victory to the AL, and extended the AL's winning streak to 12. The National League continues to lead 40-37-2. Boston Red Sox outfielder J.D. Drew won the All-Star MVP award.

Bears add Jones to backfield

Kevin Jones signed a one-year deal with the Chicago Bears on July 15. The former Detroit Lion rushed for 581 yards and eight touchdowns on 153 carries last season. He played four seasons with the Lions after being drafted by Detroit from Virginia Tech in 2004.

MLB discusses instant replay

Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said the instant replay system is being looked at "in-



tensely." The MLB wants to have the system implemented by August in order to have it running smoothly by the postseason. Selig told ESPN that a decision has not yet been made, but if they agree to use instant replay, it would be ready for the postseason.

Former 76ers, Flyers area to be demolished

Former home of the Philadelphia 76ers and Flyers, Wachovia Spectrum, is scheduled to be closed and demolished next year. Owner Comcast-Spectator announced its plan July 15, saying it will replace the 42year-old arena with a complex of shops, bars, restaurants and a hotel.

Track coach banned for life after doping scandal

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency gave track coach Trevor Graham a lifetime ban for aiding his athletes in obtaining performance-enhancing drugs. The ban prohibits Graham from participating in any event sanctioned by the U.S. Olympic Committee, the IAAF, USA Track and Field or any other group associated with the World Anti-Doping Agency. Graham had been connected with Marion Jones, Justin Gatlin and Tim Montgomery.

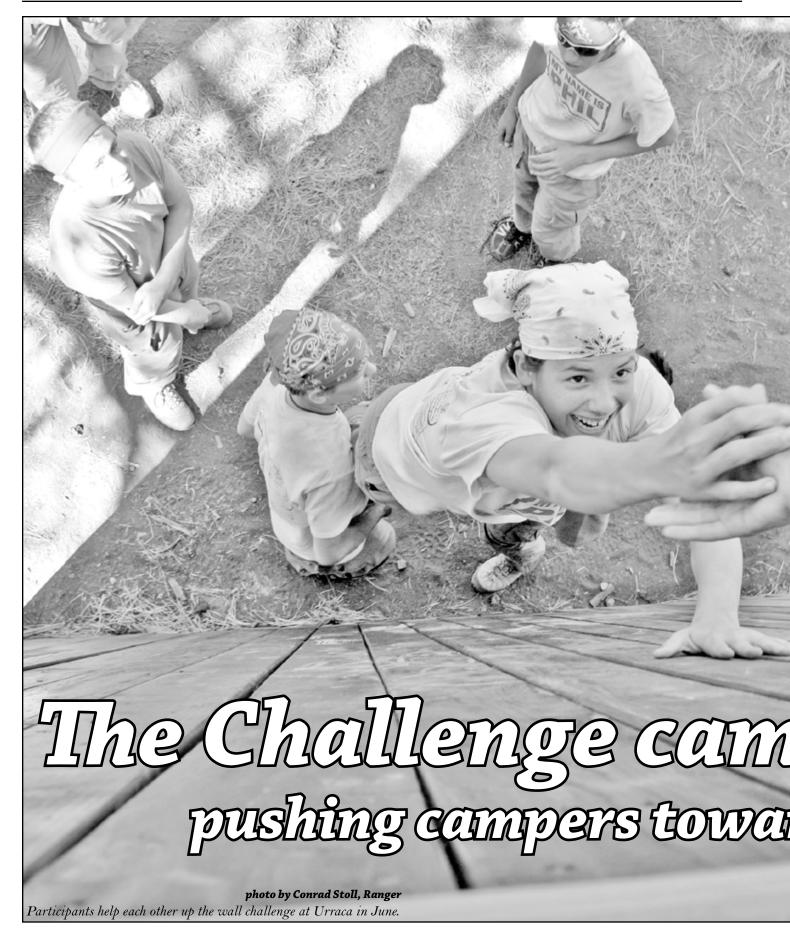
SEC Freshman of Year undergoes surgery

Lady Volunteer and SEC Freshman of the Year Angie Bjorklund had surgery July 14 to repair a torn meniscus. The six-foot sophomore shooting guard from the University of Tennessee reportedly "tweaked" her knee, resulting in the meniscus injury. Lady Vol Sports Medicine Director Jenny Moshak told ESPN Bjorklund is expected to fully recover.

Tour de France standings as of July 15

1 - Cadel Evans (Aus) Silence-Lotto 42hr 29min 09sec;

- 2 Frank Schleck (Lux) Team CSC +1sec;
- 3 Christian Vande Velde (US) Garmin-Chipotle +38;
- 4 Bernhard Kohl (Aut) Gerolsteiner +46;
- 5 Denis Menchov (Rus) Rabobank +57.





Challenge camps may not feature staff in interp clothing, or give participants heavy guns to shoot, or provide burros.

Instead, staff at challenge camps help crews think and work together — and the lessons learned and experiences gained from these teamwork exercises can come in handy both on and off the trail.

Philmont has three challenge camps whose staff are able and willing to put crews to the test. Head of Dean and Dan Beard operate in the North Country, while Urraca is located in the South Country. There is also the COPE course (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience), operated by Philmont Training Center.

Each of these challenge courses features events designed to involve each individual in a crew and to make everyone work together. Limitations are placed on the participants, in order to make them think about how to complete each event.

One of the most engaging crews I've ever encountered on the trail or in the backcountry was at Head of Dean last week. The boys of 703-M2 were a spirited bunch who already worked well together before beginning the challenge course. Speaking in pirate-talk the whole time — "They've been looking forward to Thursday because it has an 'arr' in it and they can talk like pirates," an adviser told me — the boys completed each event with admirable teamwork, energy and cooperation.

I ran into some of the 703-M2 boys the other day in base camp, and they told me all about their trek. Many of them had been to Philmont before and knew what they wanted to see and do. They had chosen Itinerary 29, which took them through Crater Lake, the Hunting Lodge, Cimarroncito, Miranda, French Henry and Ponil. Head of Dean was, for them, a pass-through camp, but of all the programs the boys had experienced, the challenge course was their favorite.

"We chose this itinerary specifically so that we could go through this camp and do this program again," one of the advisers told me while at Head of Dean.

I can't think of a better testimony to the value and fun of challenge courses.

An array of visuals at Head of Dean

by Daniel Flatt *PhilNews writer*

Life is full of obstacles: earning an Eagle badge, graduating high school and sometimes getting you and your fellow Scouts over a 12-foot wall of two-byfours.

In its twenty-fifth year as a Challenge camp, Head of Dean (HOD) camp provides crews a chance to not only overcome its team-building course, but also a chance to kick back, enjoy the view and even play an occasional game of ultimate Frisbee.

"For me, my favorite (challenge) was pushing all of us over the wall," said Scout Kyle Saltsman of crew 703-M2 from Baltimore, Md. "That was just because you know you don't get

over it unless you rely on your crew members. It takes half you and three-quarters your team."

In the wall challenge, a crew must get its entire group over a 12-foot wooden wall. Only two may stay at the top to help the others up, and as each gets to the top, a person is rotated out of participation, making strategy and planning key to success.

HOD Program Counselor Anthony Akins echoed Saltsman's opinion by placing the source of the wall's popularity on its visual intimidation.

"I guess you just come up to it and ask, 'How are we going to do this?' And then everybody always does – I've never seen a crew not get over the wall," Akins said. "I think it's just kind of intimidating, and then you actually do it. It's like, 'Wow, I did that!"

Located at the head of Dean Canyon – midway between Baldy Skyline camp and Upper Dean Cow camp – at 8,840 feet above sea level, HOD camp also gives remarkable visuals of the more natural kind.

Framed by age-old pines and looking north from the front porch of the cabin is a clearing that gives a view of the southern Rocky Mountains, adding a pic-



Members of 703-M2 lift the "ring" from the King's Finger event at Head of Dean.

ture-perfect touch to advisers' coffee.

Camp Director Rachael Marks said, "We pretty much have the most amazing view of the southern Rockies. It's stellar."

The 12 available campsites are tucked away along the side of a green meadow. In the early evening, the meadow is home to games of ultimate Frisbee led by HOD Program Counselor Rex Bair and his coworkers. Crew members and staff launch Frisbees into endzones marked by pines and a firewood log.

Along with the wall, the challenge course has five stations in use, including an initial team-building station, King's Finger, the Spider Web and Nitro Rope.

The course also has a tire traverse, where crews try to cross a 30-foot section using five hanging tires. The staff said the traverse challenge that is the "other Scout favorite" is broken, and they have not received the material to repair it.

Aside from the broken traverse, the seven HOD staff who call themselves the "HOD pod" remain optimistic as they look out over Philmont's Dean Canyon and challenge crews to succeed.

Urraca's ghosts, goblins and challenges

by Tawny Slaughter

PhilNews writer

Urraca Mesa has been scaring campers at evening campfire for years, with the legend and lore of the haunted Urraca Mesa. Though campers might leave the evening program with a few extra flashlights turned on and triple-check that their tents are closed that night, they will be able to do so with better communication, planning and teamwork thanks to the Urraca Mesa challenge course.

Urraca has a six-station challenge course, and a seventh is in the works. Each station presents Scouts with a challenge for which they have to work together in order to overcome.

Some examples of this are the "All Aboard" and spider web challenge. In the All Aboard challenge, crews have to fit all members on a 2-feet by 2-feet platform, and are often given limited points of contact with the platform. Scouts therefore have to work together to plan how all of the crew can be off the ground but not break any of the limitations they are given.

In the spider web challenge, a rope is zigzagged between two trees to create a sort of vertical spider's web. Members of the crew have to work together to get all members to the other side of the spider's web. Different limitations are placed on the crew, such as every crew member has to go through a different gap in the ropes, and they cannot touch any of the ropes.

Urraca Camp Director Desi Atwater explained that these challenges show crews that "they are capable of doing things and overcoming challenges on their own" without adults' input or direction.

The seventh challenge that is being built this summer is a tilting platform. The goal of the challenge is to get everyone on the platform without its tipping over or anyone's falling off.

The staff of Urraca Mesa is a very high-energy and enthusiastic group. When hiking to Urraca as a staff member, do not worry about having to search for the cabin. Chances are, someone will have yelled, "Hello staff" before you have spotted their front porch.

Once you have made it in view of the cabin, you might ponder if the staff member on the porch is do-

ing aerobics or standup comedy, but do not be dismayed it is just their porch talk -a very unique and funny porch talk nonetheless. Never have bear procedures been presented with so much enthusiasm or brought so many laughs.

"We all get along really well," Atwater said, and praised her staff for doing so well as a mostly firstyear backcountry staff.

If you are ever feel like you are dragging along one day, this is a staff that is sure to bring a smile to your face. While Urraca Mesa might be haunted, you are sure to have a good time and feel very welcome while visiting Urraca camp.

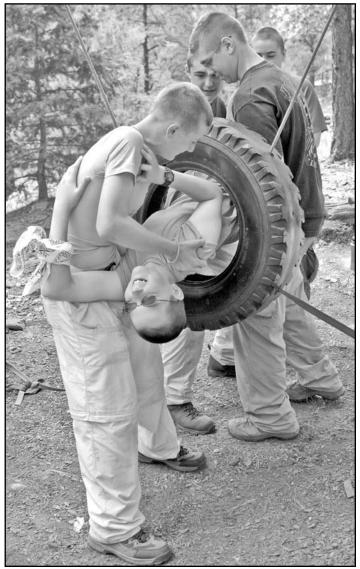


photo by George Terrizzi, NPS Photographer Participants help each other through the Porthole at Urraca.



Staff at Dan Beard help spot for a participant being carried through a gap in the Spiderweb event.

Dan Beard offers more than challenge

by Jen Peters *PhilNews writer*

Dan Beard is the northernmost camp on Philmont property, and has one of only three challenge courses in the backcountry.

Named after Daniel Carter Beard, Dan Beard additionally prepares crews for camping in the Valle Vidal by teaching Leave No Trace techniques.

The staff also works with participants to remove musk and bull thistle from the Valle. Dan Beard is the only challenge camp that has a cons project available for crews.

Dan Beard's original program in the late 1960s was Dutch oven cooking and chuckwagon meals, but the camp was closed in 1969. In 1989, it was reopened as a staffed camp, and the staff taught low-impact camping to help crews transition to the more natural conditions in the Valle.

The challenge course was added to Dan Beard in 1990. The course's object is to instigate teamwork, communication and leadership within the crew.

"The goals are to work on communication skills to become a tighter unit from the beginning of the course to the end and become a stronger team," said Camp Director Eddie McClure.

Initiative challenge events get the participants ready for the challenge course. The staff at Dan Beard gives the participants directions, and also poses questions to get the crew to open the chain of communication and learn from their mistakes.

"What could you have done differently?" Program Counselor Gwen Neumeister asked. "What are you going to try for next time?"

At Dan Beard, Leave No Trace techniques are also taught to get the participants primed to go hiking and camping in the Valle.

"We also teach Leave No Trace – not the practical side like hanging bear bags or using sumps," said McClure. "We teach the principles and guidelines to get them (participants) in the right mindset to go into the Valle."

Dan Beard is also the starting point for many staffers attempting to complete the Ranger Marathon. The marathon is a hiking challenge that requires staffers to carry a 35-pound pack and hike from Dan Beard to Carson Meadows (or vice-versa) in under 24 hours.

For staff members who are looking for a place to relax or test themselves mentally and physically, Dan Beard is a good place to visit.

Get to work and have fun at Rich Cabins

by Chris Dunn PhilNews Manager

If you've ever had the urge to fling poo, Rich Cabins is the way to go.

"Program' is a dirty word here," Camp Director Tim Collver said. "We don't have program here; we have chores. It depends on what needs to get done around the place, which makes it more like a real ranch."

Rich Cabins, located in Vermejo Park, is the site of a homestead built by the five Rich brothers, who came from Austria in the 1890s. After saving up money from logging work in Arizona, the Rich brothers built the cabin in the early 1900s.

Through a series of various owners and uses since the Great Depression, the cabin fell into disrepair. In 1992, Vermejo Park began permitting Philmont to use the area as a staffed camp, provided that the buildings were kept in good shape.

The Rich Cabins staff is doing its best to keep up Philmont's end of the deal. Collver and "Iron" John

Logan have continued a number of projects around the cabin since last year, as well as begun new ones.

"I'm very much passionate about this cabin specifically," Collver said. "That's why I came back to this place. Last year, John and I felt like there was a lot of stuff to be done with the cabin that wasn't done yet, so we wanted to come back and keep working."

Collver and Logan's projects have ranged from fence-building to minor repairs to constructing a new bed for the girls' room. The rest of the staff fills in other roles in the homesteading family's daily routine. Some program counselors teach crews about gardening, ecology and botany. Others discuss classical music "which is something the Austrians probably know," Collver said – and baking and animal care.

The program varies on a daily basis, as crews can either learn about life on the homestead or help out the staff. Chores rang from chopping wood to building fences to flinging poo.

"A lot of camps muck stalls, right? So if crews show up and we need poo out of the stalls and we say, 'Hey guys, want to muck stalls?', no 14-year-old wants

> to do something called 'stall mucking," Collver said. "But if you say, 'Hey guys, want to fling poo?', what 14-year-old doesn't want to fling poo?"

> In the evening, the staff squeezes in all overnight crews into its roofed porch for some family-style entertainment, which includes old-time fiddling and storytelling. The staff also invites audience participation: every night, five lucky crew members contribute to the tale of the origins of Ghost Cat, who haunts the cabin.

> Later in the night, as crews return to their campsites, the valley is filled with sounds from the cabin as the staff continues to sing and play the fiddle, guitar, mandolin or banjo (or all of the above). It's just another reminder that even though a crew is done chopping wood or flinging poo, life goes on in the homestead.



evening at Rich Cabins.

Lookin' good and loggin' at Pueblano

by Daniel Flatt *PhilNews writer*

Tucked away in a hollow full of wood chips and men who eat their bacon by the pound, trekking crews can find "Dirty Shirt Sam" and the Pueblano Boys of South Ponil Creek. Here, Scouts learn spar-pole climbing and participate in logging activities in the tie yard of the Continental Tie and Lumber Company.

The interpretive camp features the reenactment of the company started by Thomas Schomburg in 1907 in the Ponil

Canyons. Currently, the company is represented by what Dirty Shirt Sam calls the Pueblano Boys.

Commonly referred to as "Dirty," the logger played by Wesley Johnson of Beaumont, Texas, introduces many crews to the camp with his famed porch-talkin'.

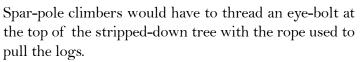
"What we do here at Pueblano is, we look good," Dirty said to his afternoon crowd on the porch. "On the side, we do a little bit of logging, all right? Y'all know what rule number one of logging is? Always look good."

Johnson said he puts on the act to make the crews' time at Philmont as enjoyable as his when he came through the Crater Lake interp camp as a participant.

"I came through Crater Lake in 2003," Johnson said, "and I just remember climbing and having a lot of fun, especially with my dad and the rest of my crew. When I decided to come back this year, I really wanted to bring that to other people."

Johnson and others also take their act of "lookin' good" away from the porch and into the logging yard, where they teach the crews logging techniques.

Behind the cabin, the staff teaches crews to scale trees stripped of bark and limbs, or what were known before the days of modern logging technology as "sparpoles." When rope was run from teams of donkeys to the tops of the spar-poles and back down to the logs, leverage was gained and loggers were more easily able to snake their harvest down to places of transportation.



Across the creek from the cabin, crews get another dosage of logging that the staff of Pueblano have come up with themselves.

"We do tie-making," Johnson said, "but right now, all of our broad axes are broken, so we're doing logger challenges. We came up with a series of events. They hold axe handles out straight and see how long they can hold them, how many pull-ups and other stuff."

While lookin' good and working hard may be on the top of their list, the Pueblano Boys claim to have a lot fun. From frying up anything from doughnuts to chocolate-chip-and-grilled-cheese sandwiches, Camp Director Ron La Curan – a.k.a. Hugo Oswald Wehmann – said the "macho" eating and way of life has made his group of eight staff into eight good friends.

"This is one of the finest camps I've worked at," La Curan said. "I've gotten really close to the staff here. It's a hell of a lot of fun. You get to live up to that kind of machoism that everybody expects out of a logger camp. You get to be insulting, you've got to be eating so much meat – and there's no problem with that here."

Nothing is said to be a problem for the Pueblano Boys, as the men are always macho, the butter is always deep-fried twice and the fun is only an axe swing away.



Program Counselor Wesley Johnson demonstrates how not to descend a spar-pole.

Logger recipes

Bacon Dogs

Take your hot dog (unfrozen) and slit it down the middle, but not all the way through. Cut enough 1/4-inch hunks of cheese to cram in the slit. Take 1-2 pieces of bacon and wrap them around the hot dog. Place on cookie sheet in an oven at 350 degrees F until bacon cookes and the cheese is melted.

Heart Attack Hamsteaks

Ingredients

- 4 hamsteaks
- 1 metric buttload (or 1.6 standard buttloads) = 2 lbs of cheese (shredded)
- 1-2 boxes of mushrooms (sliced)
- 2-3 green bell peppers (sliced)
- 1/2 3/4 pouch of fajita seasoning (pronounced fuh-jee-tuh)

Fry sliced peppers and mushrooms in olive oil, and add fajita seasoning. In a cast iron, cook one hamsteak, then on one half add 1/4 pound of cheese and some veggies. Fold other half over and add 1/4 pound of more cheese on top. Throw in the oven at 260 degrees F until the cheese is melted.

Optional additions: green chilis, jalapenos

Fried in bacon grease

Before working at Pueblano, Program Counselor Andrew "Otto" Brownell had never cooked bacon. But because loggers must consume a pound of bacon and two sticks of butter every day, Brownell is now a bacon maestro. Below is a list of food items Brownell has thus far fried in bacon grease.

- two chocolate chip cookies
- one cheese sandwich
- one banana
- one bowl of raisin bran
- one cheese danish
- three eggs
- one Pop Tart
- one apple cinnamon muffin
- one bowl of Lucky Charms
- six doughnuts (three sugar doughnuts and three chocolate-covered doughnuts)

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Interested in professional Scouting?

information prov. by the BSA

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness. Now more than ever, the BSA is committed to helping the youth of our nation realize their full potential.

Several thousand executives in local councils lead, guide and facilitate the work of more than one million adult volunteers on whom Scouting depends to carry out its mission. Executives who work for the Boy Scouts of America are called professional Scouters. It's the job of the professional Scouter to inspire, recruit, train and support the BSA's volunteers, in addition to working with community leaders and rallying public support for Scouting's activities.

In this management role, you oversee a district or service area within a local council, and your responsibilities can be broad and varied. Some of the duties include promoting, supervising and working in the district or service area with the local volunteers. As a professional Scouter, you will be called upon frequently to multitask and combine many of these skills to get successful results.

Your unique, innate talents make the difference! Scouting allows you to have an impact on the lives of so many in the process of accomplishing your professional career objectives. You can develop the management and leadership skills that lead to professional success and personal growth, and you have an opportunity to have a major effect on the lives of America's youth.

Try the professional Scouting path, and see why it fits your need for a job that not only meets your current career objectives, but allows you to have an impact on the lives of so many in the process.

Feel free to I-camp or talk to **Associate Director of Program Steve Nelson** if you have an interest in professional Scouting. On Monday, July 21, there will be a speIf you have skills in human relations, public relations, marketing, fundraising, finance, accounting, business management or sales, you should consider taking the opportunity to become a professional Scouter.

If you are presently in college, some of the majors and college classes that could be of benefit for professional Scouting are liberal arts, education, marketing, communications, business administration, social sciences and American Humanities.

The professional Scouter should:

• Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

• Be a United States citizen or have declared the intention to become a U.S. citizen

• Have attained age 21

• Be people-oriented and work well with adult volunteers, community and business leaders and representatives of other organizations

• Be able to work varied hours when necessary to achieve positive objectives

• Believe in the BSA and subscribe to its principles and standards

• Successfully complete the BSA's online Selection Research Interview (SRI)

The BSA offers a comprehensive benefits program, including a choice of medical plans; a free, confidential employee assistance program; dental assistance; vision coverage; basic, optional, and dependent life insurance; employee and family accidental death and dismemberment insurance; and long-term disability insurance.

The BSA also has opportunities to participate in the BSA Retirement Plan, tax-deferred annuities and the Scout Executives' Alliance.

The BSA recognizes the importance of healthy, productive employees, and supports its employees and their families with an excellent benefits pack and salary. The minimum starting salary for a professional n a beginning executive position is more than \$35,000.

cial reception in the Villa Philmonte's Gallery Room, to meet and greet with Scout executives, Scouting professionals and others interested in professional Scouting.

The heart of Philmont



by Fr. Gerald Gettelfinger Catholic Chaplain

On June 30, as I drove through Cimarron on my way to Philmont, I was anticipating a wonderful month of serving as a Catholic Chaplain and as a member of the chaplaincy corps.

The left turn off Highway 64 onto Highway 21 has been familiar to me since 1998, my first trip to Philmont. In fact, that memory is a signpost branded in my subconscious where heartfelt joys are stored.

Yet another was the arrowhead rock on the side of Tooth Ridge; indeed I was returning again. Still another was my first sighting of antelopes grazing

Our world

We need to stop. Just stop. Stop for a moment. Before anybody Says or does anything That may hurt anyone else. We need to be silent. Just silent. Silent for a moment. Before we forever lose The blessing of songs That grow in our hearts. We need to notice. Just notice. Notice for a moment. Before the future slips away Into ashes and dust of humility. Stop, be silent, and notice.

In so many ways, we are the same. Our differences are unique treasures. We have, we are, a mosaic of gifts To nurture, to offer, to accept. We need to be. Just be. Be for a moment. Kind and gentle, innocent and trusting, Like children and lambs, Never judging or vengeful Like the judging and vengeful. And now, let us pray, Differently, yet together, Before there is no earth, no life, No chance for peace. — Mattie Stepanek

freely on both sides of Highway 21 as I neared base camp. Then the deer near the nature trail reassured me that I was very close.

All these conjured up and began to replay the delightful images of five St. George Treks I had successfully negotiated beginning at age 63 in 1998 the last at age 71 in 2006. But....

...my *heart quickened* as I met a trail-bound bus stuffed full of eager young men about to begin an awesome experience.

My memory suddenly transported me onto that bus. I was again sharing my first time experiencing Philmont. My heart was bursting with eager anticipation.

Then there was the anxious and gnawing question "Am I up to this?" That was quickly dispelled by the whimsical and delightful banter of the two enthusiastic and clever rangers destined to lead their two respective crews for their chosen itineraries.

My heart 'spoke to me' of a yearning to once again be aboard such a bus and hiking the trails of Philmont. I again felt the infectious excitement displayed by the rangers... the heart of Philmont!

Now as Chaplain for the second time, within one week I have had numerous occasions to be

guided by the respective staff members at base: Camping Headquarters, Registration, Logistics, Backcountry Warehouse, Mail Room, Ranger headquarters, Dining Hall, NPS, Security, Welcome Center, Maintenance, Health Lodge, Motor Pool, fellow Chaplains, Staffs of opening and closing ceremonies... the heart of Philmont!

Then there are you backcountry staff members, often found in interpretative dress. You not only regale arriving crews with imaginative and engaging porch talks, but also with challenging programs, uplifting and humorous evening campfires, chuckwagon dinners, coffee for advisers, help and hospitality to Chaplain... the heart of Philmont!

CHAPLAINS' CORNER July 18, 2008 • 27

Poised and ready to assist on a moment's notice are a corps of Rangers highly trained and expertly skilled members of PHILSAR teams... the heart of Philmont!

The heart of Philmont is not place, terrain, beauty, climate nor wildlife. They all help to form the body of a wilderness experience called Philmont.

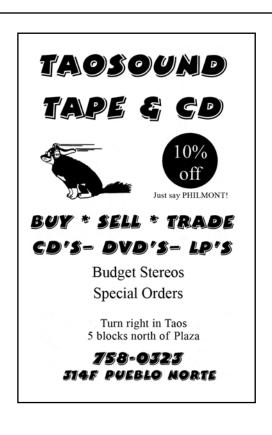
What makes that body throb with life are all of you engaged in the mission of this high adventure base to serve the thousands of young men and women who come to experience Philmont.

However, you need to know that the rest of us do not take lightly your commitment, renewed each day to make Philmont such an unforgettable, indeed life changing, experience for the young impressionable Scouts who come to fulfill a dream.

I for one salute each and every one of you! I thank you! We indeed need one another!

Captivated by the *Heartsongs* of Mattie Stepanek, I invite you to join with me in reflecting on his poem entitled "Our World." It might serve as a personal or group reflection to allow ourselves to be challenged by the solitude offered by Philmont and its natural beauty.

Our world at the moment is Philmont! You provide its heartbeat!



Join the Club!

Philmont Staff Association

A fellowship of current and former Philmont staff



It's just \$15.00 for a year's membership!

That gets you 6 issues of *High Country* with updates, news and stories all about "God's Country", plus access to our online membership directory listing former staff living all over the world, and a nifty PSA car decal.

We also have cool Nalgene water bottles, t-shirts, CDs with great Philmont songs, and more.

Just I-Camp this form to the PSA, or stop by our office (we're next to the Beaubien Room) at PTC. Office hours are 8:00am to noon and 1:30pm to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, 1:30pm to 5:00pm on Saturday, or 8:30am to 10:30am on Sunday.

Please enclose \$15.00 with this form. You can also do payroll deduction up through <u>August 1st</u>.

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PAYROLL DEDUCTION

The Manly Men of Crater Lake know all

Q: Why do you guys always ask for baked goods when you eat a pound of bacon and two sticks of butter every day? - Suspicious

A: First things first. Bacon is an essential part of the logger diet, and we are required to have it every day. Secondly, how many times do we have to tell you that the baked goods are for the logger children? If you spent all day at logger preschool, you'd want some baked goods after your grueling day.

Q: Are the Crater boys ever... wrong? - *Wondering*

A: Mark didn't make bacon one day. That was wrong.

Q: What's the worst animal you could have in your tent at night? - *Scared silly*

A: The Crater Lake Death Snakes.

Q: What is the best Philmont prank? - Uncreative crook

A: Stealing the Tooth of Time. The clouds do it on

The Manly Men of Crater Lake are on break for Issue 8, which is the Double H issue. The staff at Double H will instead provide their infinite wisdom/advice. Stay tuned! a regular basis. We still haven't figured out how they do it. It is the ultimate heist.

Q: What magical healing properties does half-strength Gatorade have that full-strength Gatorade does not? - Teetotaler

A: Screw Gatorade. Eat bacon.

Q: Why doesn't Philmont have some sort of recycling program?

- Leave No Trace enthusiast

A: Actually, Philmont is in the process of creating a sustainability program. There are meetings in the AMR occasionally where Philmont staffers meet to talk about sustainability issues. I-camp Adam Sandberg at French Henry for details.

Please be aware that the views expressed in this advice column do not necessarily represent those of The PhilNews, Philmont Scout Ranch or the Boy Scouts of America.

Tell us your troubles!

The wise and compassionate men at Crater Lake are anxiously waiting to help you. I-camp your questions to the News & Photo Service to get answers and have your problems spread all over the Ranch.

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Submit to The PhilNews!

We want you to look inside and discover that hidden (or not-so-hidden) poet, photographer, writer, recipe-writer, illustrator or whatever you may be.

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See the backpage for more details.

ENTERTAINMENT



cartoon by Ben Boettger, NPS Photographer

ENTERTAINMENT

The Dot Game

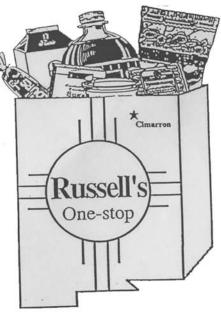
Take turns with your opponent by connecting one pair of dots with a horizontal or vertical line. Try to be the one to close each square with the fourth side. If you close a square, you get another turn. Mark the squares you make with your initials, because whoever has the most at the end wins. Good luck!

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Russell's One-Stop

Russell's Grocery (575)-376-2224

Cimarron Floral (575)-376-2619



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Cree Mee Drive-In (575)-376-2480

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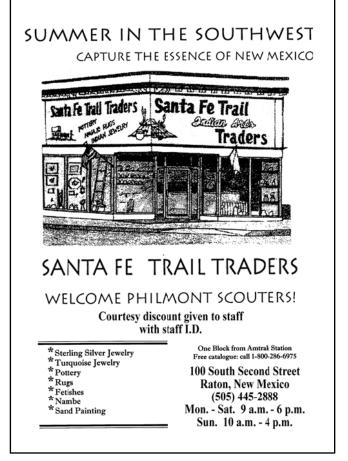
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Word search (theme: this issue)

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Level: Easy

Level: Hard

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cartoon by Kira Redzinak, Program Counselor at Clark's Fork



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CHQ Activities Calendar

Friday (July 18) Saturday (July 19) Sunday (July 20) Monday (July 21) Tuesday (July 22) Wednesday (July 23) Thursday (July 24) Friday (July 25) Brat day! (11 a.m.- 1 p.m., outside staff lounge) Thumb War Championship (8:15 p.m., outside staff lounge) Hot Dog Eating Contest (8:15 p.m., outside staff lounge) Capture the Flag (8:15 p.m., field outside staff lounge) Soccer (8:15 p.m., field outside staff lounge) Move Night (8:15 p.m., Advisers' Meeting Room) Ultimate Frisbee (8:15 p.m., field outside staff lounge) Ice Cream Float Night! (8:15 p.m., outside staff lounge)

PTC Evening Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Opening	Handicrafts	Western	Movie night	Handicrafts	Closing	No events
program	6:30 p.m.	night	7 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	program	scheduled
8:15 p.m.	Cracker barrel	6:30 p.m.		Cracker barrel	7:30 p.m.	
	7 p.m.	·		7 p.m.		

Don't forget!

There's a lot of important information in this issue of The PhilNews. Don't forget to check out the following:

- Information about sustainability at Philmont on **pg. 2**
- Field Guide information on
 pg. 4
- Updated fire information on
 pg. 5

• Health Lodge dedication information on **pgs. 10-11**

Professional Scouting information on **pg. 27**

Be Phil-famous!

Contribute to The PhilNews! Share your Philmont- and Scout-related stories, experiences and information by sending us content for publication. Articles, columns and other written submissions should be 300-600 words long, and will be edited for length, style and appropriateness. We also accept photos, recipes, cartoons and illustrations, poetry and letters to the editor.

Send us content via I-camp, at the News & Photo Service office or via e-mail (philmont-nps@netbsa.org). All content must be turned in by **Monday at 5 p.m.** in order to appear in that Friday's issue. We look forward to hearing from you!