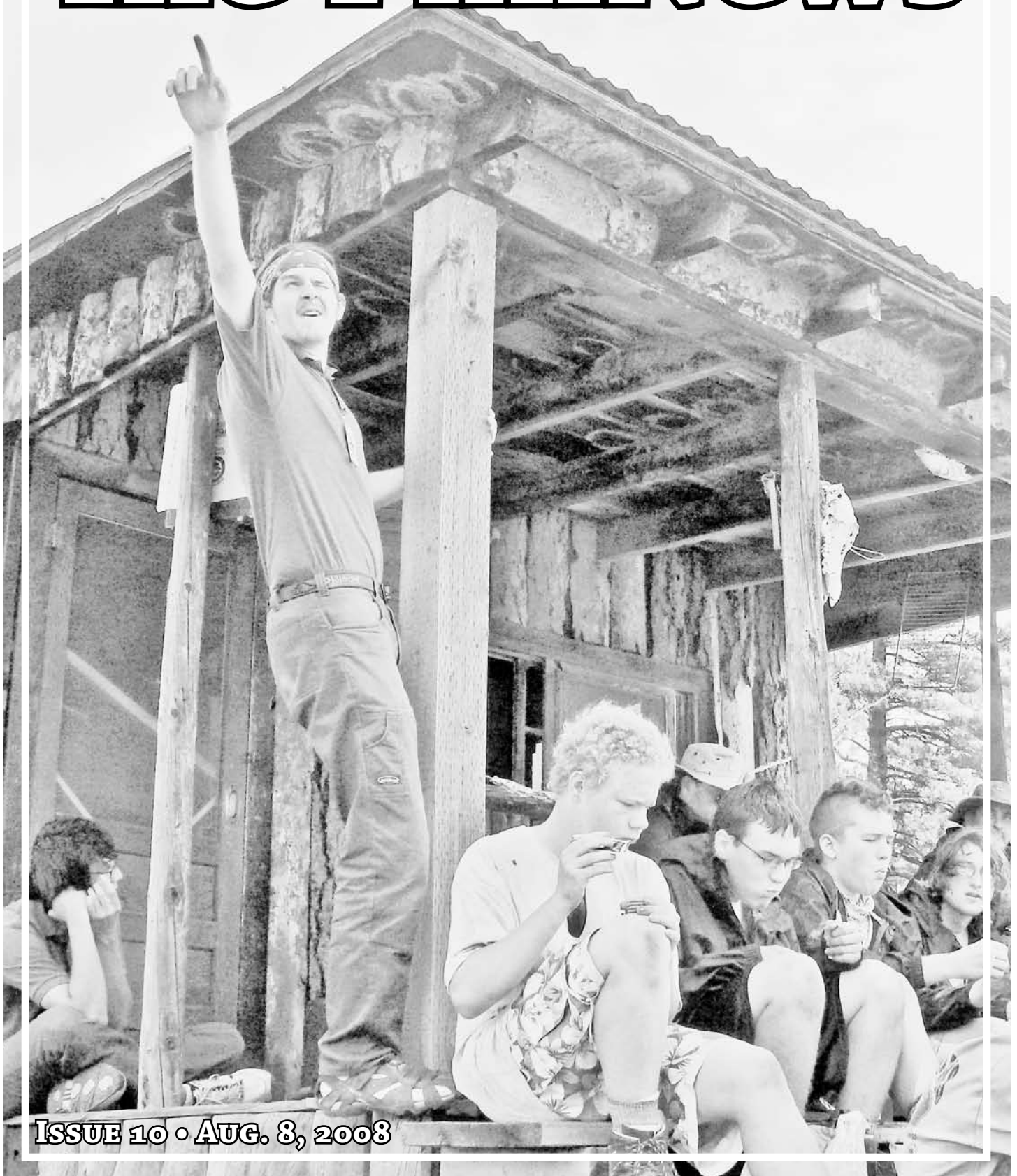


# The PhilNews



ISSUE 10 • AUG. 8, 2008

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

**On the cover:**

Ring Place Camp Director Steven August Hirsch, Jr., of the great state of Arizona points out an upcoming storm to a crew. (*photo by NPS Photographer Ben Boettger*)

From the desk: Editor's Note

# Philmont, here's to thee

Somehow, Issue 10 is complete and in your hands.

I know I've commented on this before, but the summer has seemed to slip right by. By the time this issue is printed, I'll have only 12 days left at Philmont this summer, and many other staff will also be wrapping up their last set of working days.

2008 has proven to be a year of surprises, and that includes this summer. Last year around this time, I thought I would be finishing a photojournalism internship. I certainly never expected to be the PhilNews manager, but I've enjoyed working with a good staff of writers and bringing The PhilNews to you every week, and I hope you've enjoyed the newsletter we've produced this summer.

To my surprise, this issue was another set of 36 pages. Writer Jennifer and I traveled to the far west end of Philmont, to highlight Crooked Creek (see pgs. 18-19) and Clear Creek (see pgs. 20-21) — interpretive camps that may be a little difficult to reach, but certainly fun to experience. We also are highlighting the dedication of the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center (see pg. 4), as well as publishing the last of the submissions we've received this summer.

This issue is the summer's final issue of The PhilNews, at least in terms of written content. The next issue — the "Final Issue" — will consist almost entirely of the Activities staff's annual photo contest results. So, we certainly hope you enjoy reading this "last" issue of The PhilNews.

Thanks so much for reading. Maybe I'll see you next year.

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.*

**CORRECTIONS:**

Via a careless error, the state of Virginia was left out of the State-by-State News section in Issue 9. We sincerely apologize to all staff from the state of Virginia for this omission.

The "Highlight on the 27,391 Reasons We Are Here" column on pg. 8 of Issue 9 stated that young adults of ages 14 to 19 can participate in the Venturing program. This is inaccurate, as young adults of ages 14 to 21 can participate.

The PhilNews regrets these errors, and urges readers to report other such errors that they may find in this publication.



**photos by David Byrne, Services**

**Above:** *The Tobasco Donkeys — both original and new members — performed their first live concert in front of several hundred staff on Aug. 3.*

**Left:** *From left to right, Mike Griffis, Eric Voss, Peter Bingen, Andy Gerhart, G.S. Harper, Larry McLaughlin, Ellie Nickens and Tim Collver.*



## Friendship and Philfriends

**by Mark Anderson**  
*Director of Program*

This past weekend as I enjoyed the Tobasco Donkeys' concert at the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center, I was reminded over and over of the tremendous friendships that are developed here at Philmont Scout Ranch.

The members of the band shared testimony of the many friendships and memories they had while they worked at Philmont and how those have continued through the years. Many times, one of the songs triggered a special memory, which they shared with us.

As I watched the staff enjoy the concert, I could see the same

friendships being formed.

Former president Woodrow Wilson said, "Friendship is the only cement that will hold the world together."

I know that each of us who are members of the Philmont Staff knows what true "friendship" is, and that it will bind us together in the years ahead.

# SSSAC to be dedicated on Aug. 16

by Jennifer Peters

PhilNews writer

Philmont Scout Ranch's new staff lounge – the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center – will be dedicated on the evening of Aug. 16. The ceremony will begin after the 5 p.m. dinner. The Silver Sage is an award given by the Philmont Staff Association, and is where the activities center gets its name.

"The Silver Sage Award is a recognition presented by the PSA to those who have provided exceptional service to Philmont, its participants, the PSA or any field of human endeavor that brings honor and credit to the legacy of the Philmont staff," said Randy Saunders, Executive Director of the PSA and contributing writer for *High Country*.

The Silver Sage Awards for 2008 will be presented to Jack Rhea, David Bates, Joe Clay and Bill Spice. Steve Fossett, who was going to be a Silver Sage recipient in 2007, will also be presented with the Silver Sage Honoree award.

Fossett was not able to accept the award last sum-

mer due to scheduling conflicts. Last September, the plane carrying Fossett disappeared, and he was declared legally dead. PSA policy prohibits giving the award posthumously, but the PSA would like to honor him and his memory with the Silver Sage Honoree award.

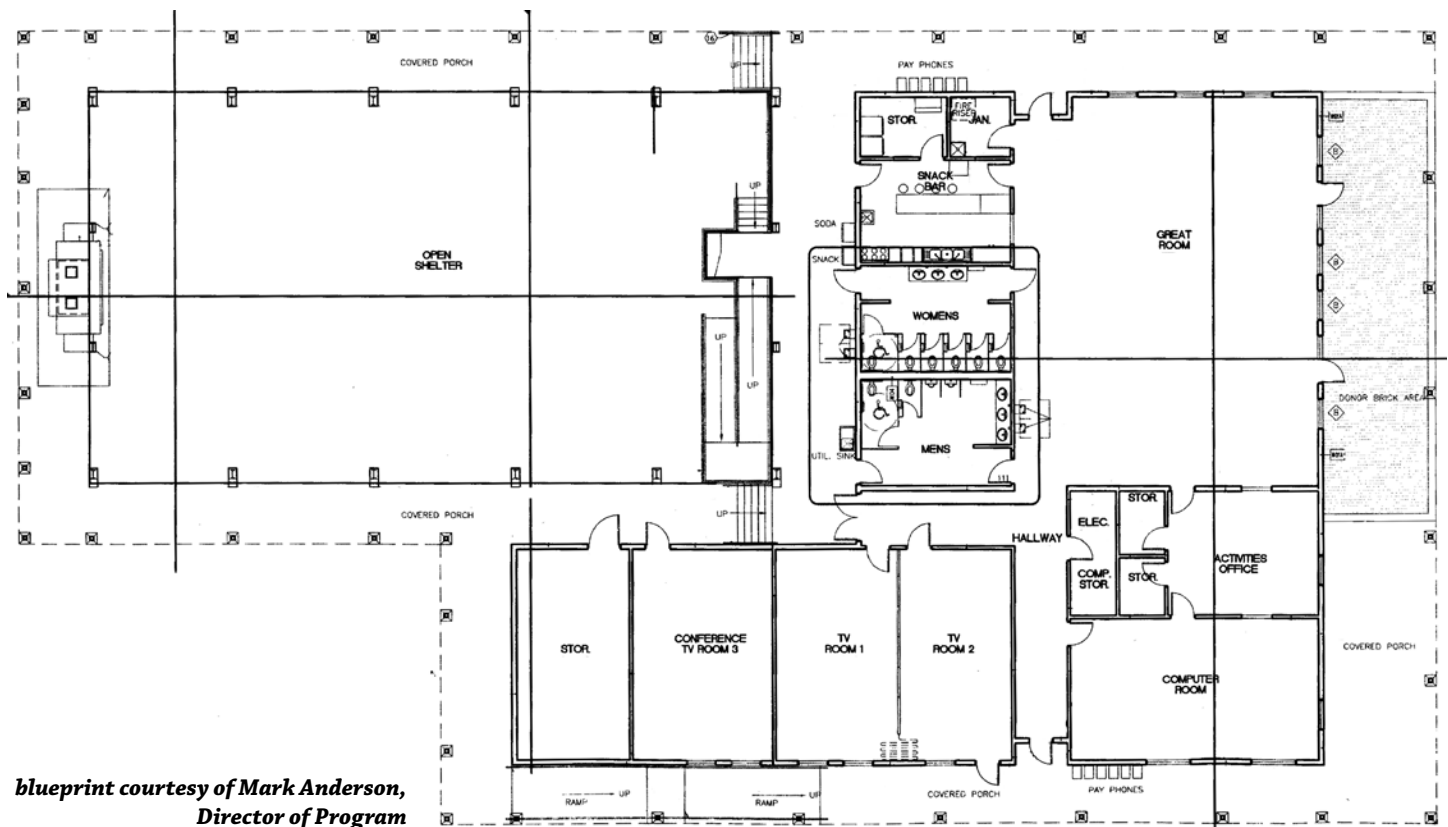
Saunders said the SSSAC, a project undertaken by the Philmont Staff Association, is the largest project ever attempted by the PSA in its history.

The approximately 650 donors who contributed over \$100 will have a brick engraved with their name placed in the front of the building.

Five donors who gave even more generous donations will have a part of the building named after them. H.L. Hembree, John Murphy, Hugh Brewer and Dwight Stein will have rooms named after them, and the Taylor Family (John, Sally, Shelley, Holly and David Taylor) will have the porch named after them.

The SSSAC will be a better, more updated lounge for Phil staffers, and will also give the Activities staff a bigger area for entertaining them.

"It's going to be a lot nicer, and it will give us the opportunity to make activities more exciting," said



blueprint courtesy of Mark Anderson,  
Director of Program



Ashley Manning, Female Tent City Manager and Activities staff member.

Director of Program Mark Anderson stressed that the activities center will be the living room for Phil staffers.

The SSSAC will give the staff that stays in tents a place to go when it gets hot during the day. It will have more places for staff to watch TV, more computers with Internet access and a large printer, hook-ups for staff with laptops, a pool table, two foosball tables and a giant movie projector. The center will also have more tables under the open-air Baldy Pavilion, and a wraparound porch furnished with benches.

The Ranger Legacy Fireplace, located in Baldy Pavilion, is made of rocks from Baldy Mountain, and the mantle was made out of a tree that came from Cathedral Rock Camp, Anderson said.

The SSSAC will be open very soon, but for a sneak peak, join the PSA at the dedication on Aug. 16. The building is near completion, and is really something beautiful to see.

*This information was gathered from interviews with Mark Anderson and members of the Activities staff, as well as articles written by Randy Saunders that can be found on the Philmont Staff Association Web site ([www.philstaff.org](http://www.philstaff.org)).*

## The 2008 Silver Sage Award recipients

**by Jennifer Peters**

*PhilNews writer*

**Jack Rhea** was Philmont's Director of Camping from 1954 to 1962. He brought Philmont attendance to over 10,000, and laid the groundwork for all that Philmont is today. Rhea, along with Clarence Dunn, worked hard to establish the Ranger program. In 2007, the program turned 50 years old and is as strong as ever. Rhea is an inspiration, not only for rangers, but for the full-time and seasonal staff he worked with.

**Dave Bates** served as Director of Camping and Conservation, and is currently working on the new Philmont Field Guide. Bates began his association with Philmont as a Program Counselor at Pueblano in 1960; since then, he has done various jobs around the ranch. He wrote the PEAKS itinerary book, which made it possible for crews to choose their itinerary before arriving at Philmont. Bates also founded the Philsar program, which is now well-respected among New Mexico's search and rescue organizations. He was instrumental in getting the Valle Vidal incorporated in Philmont treks. Bates was also a founding member of the PSA.

**Joe Clay** came up with the idea of "living history" camps, which are what we now know as interpretive camps. The staff at the interp camps dress in clothing that is period-appropriate, and also use tools and props that coincide with those periods. Cyphers'

Mine was the first camp that incorporated the interp program based on the "Foxfire" books edited by Eliot Wigginton, which became the guides to living the old-fashioned way. Now interp camps cover different periods with period-specific activities, and are among the most popular at Philmont.

**Bill Spice** made Philmont and other High Adventure Bases operate completely self-sufficiently. He set financial goals for Philmont and turned it into a working business; now Philmont has the ability to accommodate over 20,000-plus Scouts a year. He also saw the potential for the Philmont Staff Association, and welcomed it to the ranch. Spice was also the PSA chairman in its fund-raising campaign.

### Silver Sage Honoree

**Steve Fossett** was going to be a Silver Sage recipient last year, but scheduling conflicts and a personal policy to not accept awards that he could not receive in person kept Fossett from receiving his award. Unfortunately, last September, Fossett did not return from a flight in Nevada and was declared legally dead. The PSA would nevertheless like to recognize Fossett for his outstanding work for the Boy Scouts of America. Fossett served on the BSA's High Adventure Committee, Northern Tier Committee and National Executive Board. He received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and became the National Eagle Scout Association president last year. Fossett was also a Philmont ranger.

*The Conservationist*

## An epilogue

I wanted to take a moment in this last column for the summer to thank all of you for being open and receptive to the concepts I have brought up in my weekly column.

Over the past eight weeks, I have attempted to arm us all with a little bit of knowledge that will make us more conscious of our decisions and the repercussions of those decisions. It was not my aim to impose my opinions on anyone or to tell you what to think.

I also realize that this subject is one that cannot be justly covered in such a short period of time. My idea was merely to start us all thinking more critically about some of the things around us that we accept as status quo.

Remember, just because something is common practice does not mean it is necessarily the best or most sustainable way. In this same vein, please do not accept all of the information I have shared with you as the law, either.

I challenge you to seek out answers for yourself,

formulate your own conclusions and never stop searching for truth. It is easy to sit back and let others make decisions for you.

I often hear expressions of concern for the future but then a lack of willingness to act on these convictions. Change often comes at a slow pace, which takes patience and a willingness to take into consideration the stand point of others.

However, change does not come at all if no one is willing to take the first step. Keep this theme with you as we return to our homes, schools, friends and family.

Also, remember that the respect and care we give to our environment does not stop at the parking lot or turnaround gate. To practice Leave No Trace principles in the backcountry and then return to an unsustainable lifestyle at home is counterintuitive.

Realizing the interconnectedness of all the parts of our lives and all of our actions is the most important step we can take toward preserving our natural world for future generations.

Thanks again for your willingness to listen.

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

### Got feedback for The PhilNews?

We've enjoyed providing you with a weekly supply of feature stories, news and submissions this season. But maybe there's something you wanted to see and didn't.

Although this is the last issue, it's not too late for your voice to be heard. I-camp us and let us know how we can improve for next year!

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*From the Ranger Department*

# Taking it home

Now that August has arrived, Philmont staffers find themselves packing their things to return to school, work or begin careers in the “real world.” The end of the summer can be a time to reminisce of all the adventures you’ve had, and to think of the future. Below are some thoughts about how to take home a Philmont experience.

## Adventure

There is no reason why the adventure of exploring the outdoors has to end on your last contract day. Local, state and federal parks and forests offer plenty of outdoor opportunities for visitors.

Also, there are other sports besides hiking, such as mountain biking, rock climbing, running, skiing, snowboarding and more. Spring break is a great time to have an extended trip, such as skiing in Colorado, or backpacking in Utah.

When you get home, get outside and stay active!

## Community

One of the many reasons why I return to Philmont is the sense of community, especially when 1,000 staff get together each summer for a common purpose. Many people these days use social networking web sites to stay in touch.

Philmont reunions are common, either as informal gatherings on college campuses or through the Philmont Staff Association. There are also outdoor programs, hiking clubs and outdoor social groups that can be found at school or in the local community. Some ideas include, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, the Sierra Club, the Colorado Mountain Club and The Mountaineers.

## Giving Back

Use the experiences you have had this summer as a motivator to give something back at home. Get ac-

tive as an adult leader in a Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew at home. Donate your time to a local outdoor club, environmental club, or conservation organization. Many colleges and universities have these programs on their campuses.

There are opportunities to volunteer on mission trips, with Habitat for Humanity, and other groups. One organization, Big City Mountaineers, takes inner-city youth on backpacking trips to get them outside and discover the natural world.

They also have a fundraising project called Summit For Someone, where volunteers raise money for Big City Mountaineer participants by climbing mountains in the U.S.

## Never Say It’s Your Last Summer

Even if you don’t plan to come back to Philmont next year, never say it is your last summer. Plans can change, and an opportunity can arise to return, whether it is as a Philmont staffer, as an adviser on a trek or coming back on a PSA trek or off-season trek such as Autumn Adventure or Kanik.

It may even be 20 years from now when you come back with your own son or daughter and introduce them to this magical place we love so much.

Whichever way it happens, don’t be surprised if this fall you find yourself in a classroom or an office, working on an assignment, and you catch yourself saying, “I want to go back to Philmont.”

## Thanks

This will be the last “From the Ranger Department” column this season. Thanks for reading, and good luck in the off-season! IWGBTP!

*“From the Ranger Department” is a weekly column by Ranger Trainer Bill Sassani.*

*You have to recognize when the right place and the right time fuse, and take advantage of that opportunity. There are plenty of opportunities out there. You can’t sit back and wait.*

*– Ellen Metcalf*

# Come to PSA's 2008 summer reunion!

**by Randy Saunders**

*Philmont Staff Association*

As the behemoth now known as the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center comes to life before your very eyes, the Philmont Staff Association invites you – the 2008 summer staff – to visit and participate in our summer PSA Reunion.

On the weekend of Aug. 16-18, there will be over 100 former Phil staffers gathering at the Philmont Training Center for a slate of hikes, projects and activities that promises to be a memorable experience. The PSA invites you, the summer staff, to join in on a number of them. No reservations are required... just drop on by.

On Saturday, Aug. 16, the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center will be formally dedicated at 7 p.m. The PSA will be presenting its annual Silver Sage award to David Bates, Joe Clay, Jack Rhea, and Bill Spice on that evening as well.

The ceremonies will be at the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center. You are welcome to stop by and be a part of the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Over 750 people made donations to the Capital Campaign that raised over \$1 million to build the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center. More than 200 of them will be attending the dedication event. This will

be one of those rare gatherings of Philmont staff from all eras at the same place, same time. If you are in Base Camp on the 16th, be sure to stop by.

On Sunday, Aug. 17, there are several activities that summer staff may visit. Any PSA members on the summer staff are invited to attend the PSA Annual Meeting, at 9:30 a.m., at the PTC Assembly Hall. This meeting is a good way to learn more about what the PSA does year-round to support Philmont and the staff.

There is also a Silent Auction on Sunday morning, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Beaubien Room at PTC. There are hundreds of items available in the auction from local businesses and PSA members.

On Monday, there is a special program that summer staff should make plans to attend. At 8 p.m., there will be the Zeke Palnick Porch Talk at the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center. This year's Zeke Porch Talk will be led by Ed Pease, the previous PSA president. Additionally, there will be ice cream after the Porch Talk.

So, please come and attend the PSA Reunion as your schedule allows. We are looking forward to sharing our Phil-stories of days gone by with you. If you have any further questions about the Reunion or the Philmont Staff Association, please I-Camp us or stop by our office at PTC (Beaubien Building).

## Kit Carson's cozy porch and its view

**by Leanne Vasold**

*Program Counselor at the Kit Carson Museum*

When it comes to fantastic porch views, I suppose it really depends on what each person actually wants to see as they sit and relax.

Kit Carson brings to Philmont and this debate the smallest porch on camp property. We have no porch swings since they won't fit. We have no porch talks, and no Scouts or advisers even try to sit there.

However, we have a fine view. No mountains or streams as other camps have, but a beautiful and historic glimpse in the 1850s hacienda courtyard. We boast three (count 'em, three) cottonwood trees, one

huorno, one cooking fire, an excellent ramada built Plains Indian style, a small well, three million flies, buffalo hides, a blacksmith shop and a great view of the front gate.

Not only is our view cozy and quaint, but we are also the best defended on our porch from hostile intruders. The hacienda walls and almost complete coyote fence can keep just about anything out, and our gun locker is a mere five feet from the porch door.

So come on down to the Kit Carson to look at our 6' x 3' porch and enjoy its historic view. You can see the Tooth of Time, Black Mountain, cows, elk and other wondrous things on your way. We will even put a folding chair out for you.



# laundry on a rainy Sunday

by Jordon Shinn

Ranger

traveling at high-speed  
i sit in the bustling laundromat  
and put my headphones on  
around me lips  
move un-dubbed to Coldplay  
i watch the rain fall  
teardrops to the sunburned  
smooth plains and rigid mountains  
away dust!  
colorless rain-clouds -  
wash my exhaustion  
fresh.

when the clouds break  
i'll stand in the clear  
sunlight with my shirt off  
and wait  
for joy to sprout.

# sangre

by Jordon Shinn

Ranger

i saw the mule deer dancing i heard the aspen quak- ing singing to the light of the sun the spin of the earth and my feet skipped to the throbbing rythm of the breathing symphonic reeling of Creation until i came upon a meadow of waist-high sunflow- ers	of knee-high dandelions ready to explode and took my boots off and walked barefoot into the green grass and wildflowers leaving behind foot- prints of un-uttered gratitude and surrendered to the wind's playful beckoning and buried myself like a mustard seed beneath the penny-less topsoil.
--	--

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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.

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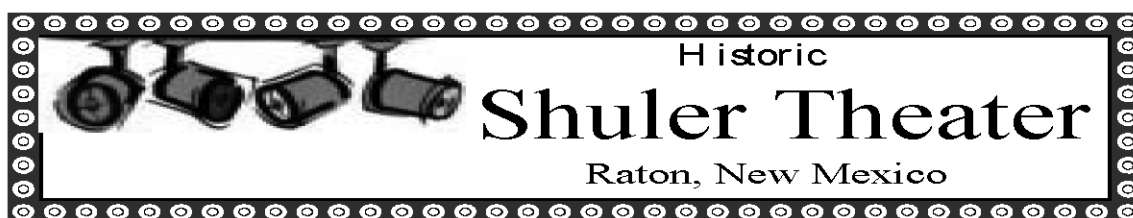
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# *The adventures of Rayado: Mike takes days off*

*by the staff of Rayado*

After 23 straight days of work, Mike our CD had the nerve to take days off. He walked off into the sunset, muttering something about Trinidad. Before he left, however, there was one thing he'd forgotten to do: fill in the commissary order.

The staff members stared at the order form, but realized they hadn't received the proper training to fill it out. After three days, desperation set upon Rayado like a cloud of doom. The staff members looked at each other more and more hungrily as rations began to dwindle.

When the afternoon trek came out and threw tomahawks, one of the kids bet the staff members that they couldn't hit an apple off his head. He was right. The Scout became the guest of honor at dinner. The apple was also delicious.

The fourth day dawned, and Mike still hadn't returned. The Texans finally took matters into their own hands. They raided the remainder of the Chef Boyardee pizza kits – the only foodstuff left – and barricaded themselves in the Dragoon building and raised the Texas flag, declaring themselves an independent country. They took the cannon with them.

Tim the New Yorker let his inner urban jungle cat get the best of him, and began pacing while looking at Megan, the smallest, with glittering eyes. Leanne sat at the table, stroking her knife, keeping her eye on Tim.

She debated eating him until she realized that there was food seven miles down the road. In the middle of

the busiest part of the day, she disappeared, heading north, and was picked up midway to base camp by her good buddy Gene Schnell, who is therefore the reason she is alive today.

Unfortunately, she neglected to inform Gene Schnell of the circumstances at Rayado.

Shoshana called up Rabbi Rock to pick her up. They returned home safely, where she happily ate all the kosher food she could possibly hold.

Steve, champion walker, hiked to Black Mountain, where the soldier garrison welcomed him with open arms and manly beards and stuffed him with hard tack, which ironically had been I-camped to the Black Mountain boys only a week earlier by the girls at Rayado. Ross the Roving Prospector dropped by. There was much merriment.

A week went by. There was still no sign of Mike. Finally, on the morning of the twelfth day of Mike's time off, two riders were seen on the horizon. Mike and a representative of Stevebonia came galloping from the east. When they came into the hacienda, there was an uneasy quiet over the dusty ground.

Little Megan was the only one to be found. She was sitting on a log in front of a fire in the fire pit, stirring a pot of stew and wearing a tinfoil hat which came to a point. She explained it was to prevent aliens from reading her thoughts, and then offered Mike and the representative of Stevebonia a bite of stew. They declared it scrumptious, and there was much merriment.

The rest of the staff was never heard from again.



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# Crater Lake rocks!

**by Barbara Garcia**

*CHQ Registration*

Well, it happened... I've been here for a little more than five years and have been to one camp program, Ponil. But after being invited so "specially" by the Crater Lake men in the last PhilNews to attend their PhilFiesta on Aug. 4, I was graciously "escorted" there by Steve Nelson and his family.

Let me just say, I was in total awe by the talent and comradeship of the staff – Mark, Bryce, Brett,

Michael, Skip and Pete. What they do and how they treat each other and their guests was quite amazing.

This is just a small thank you to their very big hearts.

**Context:** Last issue, the Crater Lake boys were asked what the ingredients of a baked good representing Crater Lake would be. They answered with, "Anything made by Barbara Garcia, who we sincerely hope comes to our Philfiesta which is August 4th. Seriously, Barbara is an angel."

# New things are happening at Handicraft!

**by Kay Anderson**

*Director of Handicraft*

We have collected "feet" so kids of all ages (even teachers) can take home footprints of the animals native to New Mexico. The animals we have available for footprints are bear, deer, turkey, raccoon, armadillo, coyote and eagle (synthetic). The foot is pressed into raw clay and then fired. A clear glaze can be added to the print collection if desired.

We have been experimenting with fused glass, and have made suncatchers and pendants, among other things. We are very excited about the results, and will offer glass-fusing as a class next summer.

We have also been experimenting with melting glass bottles that become cheese trays or wall hangings. We have even put colored glass in the bottles. They are the most amazing creations to enjoy.

Our big project is a "primitive pit firing" in a barrel. We loaded a 55-gallon barrel that has been cut in half with sawdust, copper sulfate, rock salt and many other organic items, along with ceramics that have already been fired once. This is done in place of glazes. The organic materials will create different colors. For example, banana peelings make purple. This is the way local Indians created their pottery. We are recreating history, and that is what makes it exciting.

These projects are in addition to our regular crafts that are available. We have a large selection of leather stamps, including specially-made Philmont stamps and

stains to use on the many leather items we have available, such as belts, coin purses and knife holders.

We have over 1,000 rubber stamps, including Philmont stamps for rubber stamping, scrapbooking and fabric stamping on T-shirts, totes, aprons or vests.

In our jewelry section, we have turquoise, sterling silver, gemstones, arrowheads, horn and bone beads, ceramic and glass beads and sterling silver chains to make necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

In our ceramic room, we have many animals and vases in bisque (already fired once), on which you can paint, and we spray a ceramic sealer or you can glaze, and we will fire in our two kilns. We also have two potters' wheels available. We have clay handbuilding classes in which you are given three pounds of raw clay to do whatever you wish. We have many molds to use for your clay, as well.

In our children's room, we have many items to nail, hammer and paint, including two styles of birdhouses, shuttles, gods eyes, birdfeeders, catapults, bug boxes, dream catchers and shadowboxes, which the kids nail together and then paint. The back is a photograph taken on the ranch of an animal, and then they paint a ceramic to match the picture so that they can take a part of Philmont home with them.

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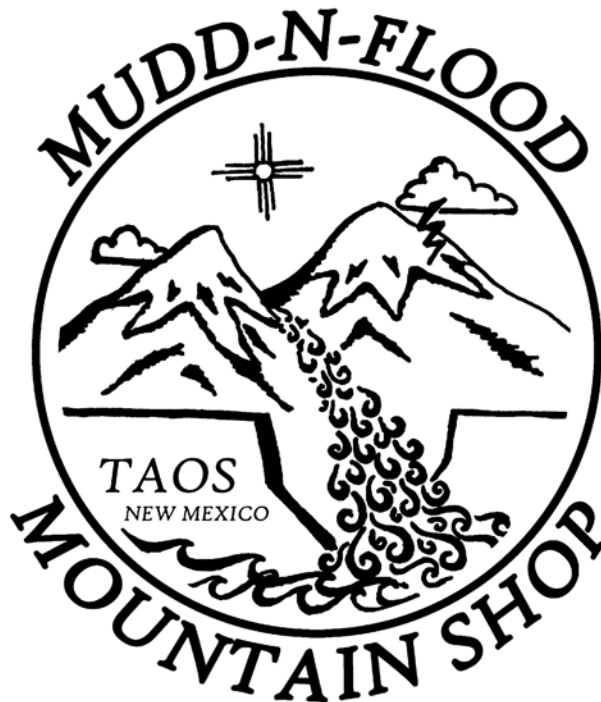
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# Yet another summer gone by

**by Chris Dunn**  
PhilNews Manager

I never meant to come back to Philmont.

After having been a Philmont Training participant for four summers (1997, 1999, 2004 and 2005) and then worked at News & Photo in 2006 and 2007, I swore up and down that 2007 would be my last season at the ranch.

Then I sent in my application in December, and ended up signing my contract in March.

Philmont has been my summer home since I was

16, and now – four years later – I’m saying once again that I can’t return next summer. But really, there’s no telling. I might not get those internships or those jobs or, quite simply, I might wind up looking at Arrowhead Rock when I leave on Aug. 20.

Regardless of whether or not I come back, this summer has been so different than past summers, but nevertheless full of wonderful memories. And, although I still have just over two weeks (as of press time) to squeeze in more adventures, I’d like to share three of my thus-far fondest memories of this summer.

## At Whiteman Vega

Kurt, Josh and Jeff are getting ready to take their first crew out on the bike trail at Whiteman Vega. Kurt asks me if I’m coming along.

Before I can answer, Josh says, “Of course she is.” He then stifles any objection I might pose, by saying that I wouldn’t get the true experience of Whiteman Vega if I didn’t take the bike trail.

He has a point.

After 10 minutes on the trail, I’m ready to give up. I’ve fallen behind the crew, I haven’t been on a bike in seven years and the steady uphill is killing my thighs in a way I never imagined. But Kurt stays with me, distracting me with conversation, encouraging me on the uphill and helping me improve my technique.

We catch up to the crew after Pudding Hill. The next challenge is an eight-inch drop, which I don’t attempt. The challenge after that is a sharp, steep curve to the right. I’m the last to take it, besides Josh,



and it’s a little nervewracking. 14-year-old Chase has already taken three spills, and needed 10 minutes to steel his nerves before he pushed off and went down the curve.

It’s finally my turn. I take a deep breath and start pedaling. Remembering what Kurt told me about downhills, I stand up on the

pedals, lean back and do my best to steer, even though my arms are jarring uncontrollably as my bike flies over the rocks and bumps. As I sail through the last 10 feet, I hear Kurt, Jeff, Josh and the crew cheering me on.

“You did it, Chris!” Kurt shouts as I skid to a stop. “You did it better than any of the guys!”

Kurt’s rear tire later goes flat, and he and Josh walk their bikes back to the yurt. As they approach camp, and Jeff and I go to meet them, Kurt drops his bike on the ground and starts clapping in rhythm.

“My name is Chris”

(clap-clap clap-clap)

“I am a miss”

(clap-clap clap-clap)

“I am no siss”

(clap-clap clap-clap)

We join in on the clapping as Kurt finishes with,

“If you think I’m lame”

(clap-clap clap-clap)

“You can kick my [butt]!”

(clap-clap clap-clap)

We all do high-fives as Kurt announces, “Chris was SUCH a trooper today!”



### At Wheeler

Clouds are brewing overhead, but it's a cool, windswept day near the treeline of Wheeler Peak. My dad has been having trouble since before we reached Williams Lake, and has had to stop after every 10 feet of gained altitude. Even though my friends have gone on ahead and I'd love to reach the top in record time, I remain with my father, making him drink water and

eat energy-loaded dried fruit and encouraging him.

My dad and I have never been very close. We didn't really start getting along until after I graduated from high school. And I've never been one prone to give words of comfort. I'd like to think I'm a motherly figure of sorts – I love cooking for and helping out friends and family – but encouragement is not my strongest suit. I'm really

struggling with trying to keep my father from collapsing altogether, in body and in spirit.

We're out of the treeline and almost to the snowbank that separates the skreefield from the rest of the slope, when my dad has to stop again.

"You're doing great, Dad," I say, and we pound fists.

"You're a good girl, Christine," he says. I'm a little startled at his use of my full name – it's something he does only when in earnest.

"I try," I say, trying to keep it lighthearted.

"No – you are," he says, and I suddenly remember all the times he's told my brothers and me, "Do not try; do."

"You're a good daughter," he then says.

My dad never made it to the top. He finally stopped after we crossed the snowbank, and told me to go on ahead. But it means so much to me that he tried so hard.

### At the Double H

Night falls at the Double H, and for once, it's a little quiet in the staff house. The movie is over, and staff are milling in and out, speaking in hushed tones.

Daniel and I sit outside on a bench, looking at the night sky. I can never see stars in Missouri or Texas, and it thrills me to look up and see an expanse of star-studded sky at Philmont. But the sky at the Double H dazzles me beyond belief. The moon highlights the edge of the clouds on the other end of the

horizon, and the stars somehow seem to echo through eternity.

There are no campers shouting at campfire, no staffers stumbling through the dark, no cars whizzing by on the highway.

It's just the plains, the distant mountains, two or three trailers, the staff house, the corrals – but most importantly, it's



just the vast sky and the millions of stars that I can never see nine months out of the year.

*photos by Chris Dunn, PhilNews Manager*

**Whiteman Vega:** *Camp Director Josh DeCamp balances a bicycle on its rear wheel.*

**Wheeler:** *My dad, Benno Dunn, braves a smile halfway up Wheeler Peak on July 12.*

**Double H:** *Silhouetted against an electric pole, the moon highlights the surrounding clouds at night.*

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# Like father, like... daughter?

by **Danika Foster**

*PTC Registration*

Summer is coming to a close, and we are all preparing to say our last goodbyes and think of the summer in reflection. My summer began as a camper and is ending as a staffer. I came to Philmont as a member of crew 617-O, and by my first full day, I knew I would be here for the duration.

Some say Philmont is their blood, and I would have to agree with them. I only had a few things to take care of to become one of the infamous "trail hires." Taking care of my plane ticket was the most of my worries, since my dad was my adviser. He instantly told me that staying at Philmont would be "good for me."

I didn't really know what that meant, but I was up for an adventure and sought Steve Nelson as soon as I got off my trek.

I have realized so many things this summer by witnessing the sheer adventure that is Philmont. I have learned not only about my strengths and weaknesses, but also about my father and why Philmont was

special to him. He practically lived at Philmont for the summer when he was a teenager.

My dad came on two council treks, participated in Rayado, did the program that has become ROCS and served on staff as both a Ranger for two years (including Rayado) and a TR (now RT) for two years. Since then, he has also come on a trek with my brother's troop, and one with my crew.

I had often wondered what it was that brought him back, but now I know. It is the Philmont stories and the PhilSongs that bring them to life. It is the relationship you have with a crew through the bonds of adventure. It is the time spent warding off minibears in the backcountry, or the pounds of bacon grease you consume on a visit to a staff camp.

Philmont has been a special place for my family. I have grown up listening to my dad fiddle or sing Philsongs and Philmont Hymn, talk about why deodorant isn't allowed in the backcountry or listen to my mom gush about my dad's Philmont proposal, but it hasn't been until my time here that I have fully understood his love for camping and adventure the way I do now.

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photo by Jeanne Collins, NPS Photographer

*Crooked Creek Camp Director Heather Harvie, or Mollie Casey, leads a cabin tour for a crew.*

## Visiting the Caseys at Crooked Creek

by Jennifer Peters  
PhilNews writer

Crooked Creek, located in Philmont's South Country, is a great place to learn about homesteading, the anatomy of a milk cow and how to properly massacre lettuce-eating beetles.

Crooked Creek gets its namesake from the shape of the creek running through the large meadow in front of the cabin.

The interpretive camp's program is set in the year 1875, and the staff there present themselves as a family.

The Casey family is made up of three brothers – Andy, Mick and Jack – and three sisters – Mollie, Josie and Sally. Mollie, the oldest sibling, is played by Camp Director Heather Harvie.

The Casey family came here from Tennessee in

1870 when, after a run of bad luck, they decided to move out west. They stayed in the Cimarron area because of the hospitality of Lucien Maxwell. The creek and the meadow made Crooked Creek's location a good place for the family and their animals to finally settle.

"We came out here five years ago, from Johnson County, Tennessee," Harvie said. "We were having some bad luck, so we decided to hit the Santa Fe Trail and head west. When we got to Cimarron, we knew we were getting close to Santa Fe. So we talked to Mr. Maxwell in town, and he said he would let us settle on his land. We just have to show improvements and pay the tax collector when he comes around.

"We decided to settle on this beautiful spot," she continued. "The animals have plenty of grass to graze on, we have a nice flat spot for our cabin next to these big Ingleman Spruce trees and we're not too far from the water. There's lots of water for our animals with



Crooked Creek running through.”

The program at Crooked Creek is homesteading, which includes feeding and caring for the animals, candle-making, cabin tours, doing chores and relaxing.

The staff are responsible for two burros, two cows, three chickens and two chicks.

“The calf is Milk Face; the mom cow’s name is Susie Q; the hens’ names are Henny Penny and Lucy Goosy,” Harvie said. “The rooster’s name is Rob. We named him after Sergeant Scurvy at Black Mountain. And we have two adolescent chickens and their names are Sunshine and Abby.”

As for the burros, their names are Leroy and Jenkins.

During the day, the burros and cows are kept in the meadow, where they can eat grass and drink from the creek, while the chickens are free to roam around the camp.

Every night at 7:30, the burros and cows are brought into their shelters. The burros are brushed, the milk cow is milked, the pens are cleaned out and all of the animals are fed and watered.

“This evening you can come up at 7:30, and we will be milking the cow, bringing in the burros, brushing them, feeding all, shoveling some things and getting some water,” Program Counselor Heather Helbig – also known as Josie Casey – said in her porch talk to a newly-arrived crew.

The Crooked Creek staff teach participants how to milk a cow, and give an extensive anatomy lesson on the milk cow. Andy Casey, played by Program Counselor Wes Givan, shows the visitors everything they need to know about milking a cow during “Teat Time with Andy.” The anatomy lesson explains how milk cows have two lookers, two listeners, a talker (or mooer, rather), four stander-upper things, six hanger-downers and a swishy wishy.

Some of the other chores at Crooked Creek are weeding and watering the garden, chopping wood and working on the new flagpole.

The staff grow corn, peas, beans and cabbage in the garden. Earlier, they had a problem with beetles eating their lettuce, but one of their “visitors” advised them to put coffee on the cabbage, to over-caffeinate the beetles. The staff tried that home remedy, had a beetle massacre and now their cabbage is growing very well.

Candle making is another chore that participants get to help the staff with. The participants can take their candles with them, or they can leave for the family to burn in the cabin.

Crooked Creek is one of only two camps at Philmont that does not have a road leading up to the camp. All of the staff’s food must be carried in and their garbage carried out on the burros. Participants must pack out their own garbage as well.

“We cannot take trash, because I’m a lady and I don’t have to put up with that,” Helbig said in her porch talk. “We also don’t take garbage because we don’t have a road. Everything goes in and out on Leroy and Jenkins, and they don’t like a lot of weight; they’re kind of lazy. Then they complain that they have to work one day a week – one day! It’s not even that far, and it’s not even heavy for them to carry. Please don’t leave us garbage.”

The staff also have to get their water out of the spring every day, because they do not have running water at the camp.

Visiting Crooked Creek gives staff and participants a good opportunity to see how people really lived back in the 1870s. For the staff member looking to relax with a beautiful view, Crooked Creek is the place to go. The staff there is very hospitable, and Heather Helbig’s program talks are hilarious.



# The mountaineering life at Clear Creek

by **Chris Dunn**

*PhilNews Manager*

Tucked away in the central southwest corner of Philmont, Clear Creek is home to four generations of Philmont sumps (all of which are still functional) and six staff dedicated to the accurate representation of the historical program of mountaineering.

There, along the headwaters of Rayado Creek, Camp Director Jonathan Connor and his five program counselors represent various trappers and owners of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, as they would appear in 1831. They instruct crews in tomahawk throwing and black powder rifle shooting, as well as demonstrating beaver traps and giving trade talks. In their free time, they fix their own shoes and order the most exotic selections available from the commissary.

But if you were in a crew, all you would know is that these mountaineers – not “mountain men” – know their stuff.

“The staff as a whole has researched [the time period] quite extensively in the Seton Library at the

beginning of the year,” Program Counselor Stephen Kuehl said. “We found out a lot more about our characters. We are all based on historical people from the time period, except for maybe Jean Baptiste over there, who’s Evan [Kolk].”

Philmont classifies Clear Creek as a “mountain man” camp, but according to the staff’s research, that term does not appear until later in the 1800s, in dime-store novels. Instead, the staff refer to themselves as trappers and mountaineers.

Going in line with the mountaineering life of 1831, the staff have taken what information and equipment Philmont has provided and produced as accurate a program as possible. While their cooking and radio are located in a staff cabin hidden among the trees at the top of a hill, an interpretive cabin built in the 1950s helps them maintain their presentation as true mountaineers. Inside the cabin are artifacts and trapping gear, which the staff discuss in trade talks to crews touring the cabin.

Near the interpretive cabin are the tomahawk-throwing range and the beaver trapping area on the Rayado. The black powder shooting range is further up the hill from the staff cabin.

Clear Creek is not the only camp to offer black powder rifle shooting. Miranda and Black Mountain also provide black powder program. However, while Miranda in the North Country is also a “mountain man” program, its emphasis is on the rendezvous – a once-a-year gathering of all the trappers, mountaineers and traders in the area.

“All the trappers who are out in the mountains come together once a year to get a glimpse of civi-



photo by **Ben Boettger, NPS Photographer**

*Clear Creek Camp Director Jonathan Connor demonstrates how a trapper would set up a beaver trap in the 1830s.*



**photo by Ben Boettger, NPS Photographer**

*Clear Creek Program Counselor Andrew Hildreth juggles tomahawks — a staff-only activity!*

lization,” Program Counselor Matthew Ison said. “So they all get in one huge camp, and there’s a bunch of trade goods and they can buy things like tobacco and whiskey. And they pretty much go crazy.”

But at Clear Creek, the emphasis is on the trapping and mountaineering life itself, and the staff have chosen a relatively early time period in which to present themselves. It is partially because this is one of the first years Clear Creek has been “in” 1831 that the staff have had to conduct so much of their own research before scatter.

“The stuff they give us for backstory is enough to kind of create a character, but when people ask you specific questions, you really have to go and research that stuff,” Kolk said. “They’ll ask you how much did this cost at this place at this time, and the little paragraph that you’re given doesn’t provide that.”

“That little paragraph, it’ll give you your personality, in case you’re acting on stage,” Ison added. “But when people are looking at you and asking questions, you actually have to know something about the time period.”

Fortunately, the staff have done their homework. In fewer than 20 minutes of casual conversation, their topics varied from facial hair among the Native Americans to the clothing worn by mountaineers to the tattoos used by the various trapping companies — all within the time period of 1831.

This is all the more impressive when one realizes how little that era and the trapping profession are discussed in history books.

“It’s a program that doesn’t get a whole lot of attention,” Kolk said. “Not that it’s anybody’s fault — it’s a difficult program to give attention to. It’s not a time period that a lot of people know about, or are even interested in. People are interested in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, but in between it’s just kind of a mish-mash of stuff that happened. So you just have to work to make it interesting and to flesh it out.”

The relative obscurity of the time period presents a number of challenges that many may not be aware of until they work at Clear Creek. For example, interpretive clothing has presented an interesting dilemma.

“Our camp’s at the beginning of the Philmont timeline,” Connor said. “Because we’re 1831, it’s harder to collect these clothes because not a lot of people make them. Other camps, you have a lot of people who like making WahMakers because they do Western reenactments. But there’s not a lot of trapping reenactments.”

But the staff make things work, whether they end up sewing their own interps (as Connor has done, having worked at Clear in two previous years) or cobbling their own shoes. And crews and visitors are guaranteed a good time, whether they’re competing in a tomahawk-throwing contest or wading in freezing water to set beaver traps or quizzing the staff about the trapping business.

Plus, Clear Creek has its very own mountain. Mt. Phillips was originally Clear Creek Mountain, and is still labeled as such on some U.S. Geographical Survey-based maps. A relatively easy hike from camp, Mt. Phillips provides a spectacular view and is good for either a day hike or a means of entry to or exit from Clear Creek.

As Program Counselor Andrew Hildreth said, “We’re the keepers of the mountain” and, later, “Where else do you get to wake up and get paid to live in a cabin in the woods, and shoot guns and throw tomahawks?”

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# Greetings from Father Mike



**by Father Michael Hanifin**  
*Catholic Chaplain*

Father Mike has been a scout since the age of eight, and is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow.

He first came to Philmont in 2001, when he attended the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" course at the Philmont Training Center during Relationships Week. When the content of the course changed in 2004, Father Mike again attended the same course during the Relationships Week.

In 2006, he returned to Philmont for a third time,

to be an adviser on the St. George Trek. Along with Father Gerard Gentleman, he led a crew of 10 participants from all over the United States.

In the summer of 2007, Father Mike was a Philmont Chaplain for five weeks.

This year, he was invited to be a faculty member of the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" course at the Philmont Training Center from July 27 to Aug. 2. He continues on as a Philmont Chaplain until Aug. 21.

Father Mike is a priest of the Diocese of Orange in Southern California. He was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest on Oct. 3, 1987, and since 2001, has been the Founding Pastor of Santa Clara de Asís Catholic Church in Yorba Linda, California.

Father Mike is the Diocesan Catholic Scout Chaplain for both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. He is chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Council 13311, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the First Friday Friars.

Father Mike holds a BA in Religious Studies, a Master of Divinity Degree, Masters of Arts in Theology, Masters of Science in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling, and also has Pupil Personnel Services Credential in School Counseling.

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# ***What's going on around the world?***

## **School in Turkey collapses, killing 18**

A school headmaster, his deputy and the chairman of a religious foundation were detained on Aug. 2 after an explosion caused the school to collapse, killing a teacher and 17 students were killed. 27 others were injured. Some students described a strong gas odor right before the explosion. Local engineers have said that poor construction and a lack of proper building inspections contributed to the high death toll.

## **New Japanese cabinet convenes**

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda has replaced 13 of his 17 cabinet members in hopes to stimulate economic growth. Fukuda's cabinet was sworn in at the Imperial Palace in front of Emperor Akihito on Aug. 2. Fukuda plans to reform policies to help with rising gas prices and declining birth rates. Fukuda, whose policies have been slowed by the opposing Democratic Party, will not dissolve parliament and hold new elections, an action which has lowered his approval rating to 20 percent.

## **Pacific nation Tonga crowns new king**

The small Pacific island nation of Tonga crowned its first king in over 40 years. George Tupou was crowned in a coronation ceremony on Aug. 1. The country, located east of Fiji, held a weeklong celebration with three coronation balls, two ceremonies and a huge pig roast. The first of the two ceremonies was a traditional "kava," where a mildly narcotic drink is served. The second was a more royal affair, wherein the king was given a gold scepter and white ermine fur crown. The people of Tonga demanded in 2006 a more British-style form of government, while still attempting to hold onto their traditions. Tupou has said that he will reform the country's government.

## **Hindu pilgrims killed in stampede**

Over 150 Hindu worshippers died in a stampede during an Aug. 3 religious festival in northern India, after a shelter that people were standing on collapsed, causing a panic in the crowd. Tens of thousands of people had traveled to attend the festival that began on Aug. 2 to worship the Hindu mother goddess. Offi-

cials said as many as 50 of the deceased were children, who had become separated from their parents during the stampede. The government of Himachal Pradesh said that it will pay 25,000 rupees (\$592 U.S.) to the deceased victims' families. Stampedes in India are not uncommon at religious festivals, due to the lack of crowd control.

## **Jellyfish populations soar due to decline in oceans' health**

Scientists in Barcelona, Spain, point to rising ocean temperatures, overfishing and oxygen-depleted waters as the causes of a recent rise in jellyfish populations. Jellyfish populations have been increasing all over the world, and some species have been seeping into new territories. Global warming and a decline in rainfall are raising the temperatures, which in turn seems to aid in jellyfish reproduction. Pollution in some waters has depleted oxygen levels and jellyfish thrive in these environments. In Australia, the number of reported jellyfish stings last year has doubled the number reported in 2005.

## **Earthquake in China results in fatalities**

A 6.0 magnitude earthquake shook China's southwest province Sichuan on Aug. 5, killing at least one and injuring 23. The epicenter was 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) from the city of Guangyuan in Sichuan, at a depth of 10 kilometers, and happened at 5:49 p.m. (3:49 a.m. MDT), according to the U.S. Geological Survey Web site. Aftershocks were felt in Beijing. Communications were disrupted in Qingchuan County in Sichuan.

## **Human remains found in shoe**

A human foot was found in a shoe that washed up on a shore west of Port Angeles in British Columbia on Aug. 1. The remains of five other feet have been found over the past year in British Columbia. The King County Medical examiner's office has said that the foot was not mechanically cut off, but disarticulated, meaning it could have come off naturally. Police do not have any open cases that could lead to the identification of the person that the foot came from.

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

## **Suspected bioterrorist commits suicide**

Nearly seven years after the 2001 anthrax attacks, the perpetrator may never be brought to justice, as well-known microbiologist and suspect in the attacks Dr. Bruce Ivins committed suicide on July 29. Ivins committed suicide amidst forthcoming federal indictments for the murder of five U.S. citizens by contaminating envelopes with anthrax spores in Sept. 2001.

Officials at the Department of Justice released a statement saying they are considering closing the case as early as the first week of Aug 2008. New technology has led them to believe that Ivins was the person behind these acts of terrorism and, had the technology been available sooner, they would have been able to determine where the anthrax was created.

Ivins has suffered from psychiatric problems and was labeled as homicidal and sociopathic by his psychiatrist. Ivins' co-workers and friends are still claiming his innocence.

## **Security guard shot at party attended by celebrities**

A security guard was wounded at an Aug. 2 party attended by celebrities Nelly, Usher and Gabrielle Union. Shots rang out at 3:30 a.m. outside the Atlanta nightclub Dreamz ATL during a party sponsored by recording artist Jermaine Dupri. The security guard was shot in the arm after escorting some rowdy patrons outside the club. He received treatment at a local hospital and was released later that day, DeKalb County Police spokesman Marcus Hodge said.

## **Landmark FCC ruling is against Comcast**

The Federal Communications Commission ruled against Comcast, ordering the company to stop blocking Internet users who were using file-sharing software. The case sets a new precedent for the right of users' access to all Internet content and software.

The 3-2 ruling took place on Aug. 1 and imposes no fine on the nation's largest cable company, but requires Comcast to stop blocking users within the year. Network providers cannot block people from getting access to on-line materials, said the FCC chairman, Kevin Martin.

## **CDC estimates HIV infections at higher rate**

The Center for Disease Control said that about 40 percent more people per year contract the HIV infection that causes AIDS than previously thought. New methods of tracking the HIV infection are better able to determine when patients first became infected. The disease may not show symptoms for up to 10 years after initial infection, making it very difficult to track all new cases. However, the findings do not show an increase in cases, rather only that past estimates were lower than they should have been.

The number of new cases has been relatively stable for years.

## **U.S. hospitals begin deporting immigrants**

Hospitals around the U.S. have begun deporting immigrants when the hospitals cannot find nursing homes that will accept the patients without insurance.

Hospitals are federally mandated to find post-hospital care facilities for patients, while Medicare does not cover long-term treatment for illegal or newly legal immigrants. This is causing some hospitals to repatriate patients back to their home country. The American immigration office does not take part in these transports.

There is now one company that specializes in patient repatriation based out of California, called Medicare.

Doctors call this a death sentence for the patients, who leave first-rate medical care to be treated in third-world countries, if they are cared for at all.

## **Credit card theft transcends international borders**

Eleven people were indicted Aug. 5 for allegedly stealing more than 40 million credit card numbers. Federal authorities believe that at least nine major U.S. retailers were hacked, making this the largest hacking case the Justice Department has ever tried to pursue. Three of the defendants are U.S. citizens; the others are from Estonia, Ukraine, China and Belarus. The theft has been underway since late 2006, according to Boston attorney Michael Sullivan.

# ***What's going on in the different states?***

## **Alabama**

Members of the Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy criticized Gov. Bob Riley for vetoing a bill that would have established an energy research commission.

## **Alaska**

The Alaska Senate approved a bill that would help all Alaskans pay for heating costs, regardless of the type of fuel, as well as granting a \$500 cash payment to all residents.

## **Arizona**

Lake Powell has reached its highest level since 2002, indicating that the Colorado River is rebounding from one of its worst dry spells on record.

## **Arkansas**

The Hope for Arkansas campaign – a state-run lottery that funds college scholarships – received \$75,000 in July, boosting the overall sum to \$425,000.

## **California**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a temporary 1-cent state sales tax increase, in hopes to decrease California's budget deficit.

## **Colorado**

Gov. Bill Ritter physically helped cart hundreds of thousands of signatures on Monday in order to place on the ballot a proposal to eliminate an oil and gas industry tax credit.

## **Connecticut**

Five Connecticut hospitals have stepped up to compete for a partnership with the University of Connecticut Health Care Center, whose financial struggles could be alleviated by a favorable partnership.

## **Delaware**

State treasurer Jack Markell said on Monday that the state needs to invest more aid for residents seeking a college degree.

## **Florida**

Baby boomers are expected to start taking residence in Florida between 2010 and 2030, increasing their standing as the state's largest age group.

## **Georgia**

The Medical College of Georgia might partner with the University of Georgia and Georgia State University, to request the state Board of Regents to extend health insurance benefits to domestic partners.

## **Hawaii**

The state's leading gas energy provider, Gas Co., filed for an 8.4 percent rate increase that would affect residential customers.

## **Idaho**

Nearly 200 Idaho Air National Guardsmen are expected to return on Aug. 6 after completing a 45-day mission in support of NATO military operations in Afghanistan.

## **Illinois**

Effective Aug. 4, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has closed Abraham Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site on Mondays and Tuesdays, due to the state's budget crisis.

## **Indiana**

A 4,000-pig concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) has been proposed for a site fewer than six miles from New Haven.

## **Iowa**

The statewide smoking ban that took effect July 1 is not applicable in certain areas of the Iowa State Fair, as determined by fair officials.

## **Kansas**

More than 10,000 petition signatures were submitted Monday in support of Ralph Nader's name being placed on Kansas' November presidential ballot.

## **Kentucky**

Legislators said on Aug. 4 that all pending road and bridge projects will be reconsidered, in order to save money without sacrificing safety.

## **Louisiana**

State Attorney General Buddy Caldwell said on Aug. 4 that the murder investigation into patient deaths after Hurricane Katrina will continue.

## **Maine**

The Maine Supreme Judicial

---

Court ruled that people who gather signatures on petitions for candidates seeking office need to actually witness each person's signature.

## **Maryland**

State environmental officials are trying to determine the source of several pounds of undetonated explosives found July in rocks deposited in Anne Arundel County.

## **Massachusetts**

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority officials said MBTA riders will face a significant fare increase if the state legislation does not step in to relieve the transit system's debt.

## **Michigan**

Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is under investigation by state police for a July 24 confrontation between Kilpatrick and Wayne County Detective Brian White.

## **Minnesota**

The St. Paul Police Department may go out of state to help fill the 3,5000-member security force needed for the Republican National Convention.

## **Mississippi**

Gov. Haley Barbour said on Aug. 4 that his most recent plan to fund Medicaid puts to rest a long debate over a long-term funding solution.

## **Missouri**

Police and state officials removed six decayed bodies – making a total of eight found – from a Columbia funeral home that is facing a

lawsuit by outgoing Attorney General Jay Nixon.

## **Montana**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality will issue a permit for a proposed gold mine in southwestern Montana if the developers post a \$470,000 bond for environmental reclamation.

## **Nebraska**

A hiring report released on Aug. 4 indicated the University of Nebraska is making progress in increasing the racial and gender diversity of its faculty.

## **Nevada**

Lawmakers agreed on Aug. 4 that owners of foreclosed homes should be made responsible for maintaining them, as opposed to state and local governments.

## **New Hampshire**

Hundreds of New Hampshire college students from Massachusetts lost support from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, and are scrambling to file for new loans to pay approaching state tuition bills.

## **New Jersey**

Rutgers University president Richard McCormick announced on Aug. 4 that he and his wife will donate a \$100,000 performance bonus he received from the university to a financial fund for undergraduates.

## **New Mexico**

Santa Fe County public information officer Stephen Ulibarri warned county staff that the hard

economic pressure faced by the media industry will compel reporters to increase the search for evidence of mismanagement and scandal.

## **New York**

Students in public colleges now face higher tuition with less financial aid from work-study programs, according to a study conducted by Rep. Anthony Weiner's office.

## **North Carolina**

Gov. Mike Easley passed a bill on Aug. 4 that will legalize ticket scalping over the Internet, effective through June 30, 2009.

## **North Dakota**

Gov. John Hoeven said on Aug. 4 that the state surplus will exceed \$1 billion by next summer.

## **Ohio**

Labor unions are backing a proposed ballot issue that would make Ohio the nation's first state to mandate that businesses give workers seven paid sick days a year.

## **Oklahoma**

Chief state geophysicist James Lawson, who had worked at the Oklahoma Geological Survey since 1970, was killed in a two-car collision on Aug. 3.

## **Oregon**

In the worst showing since No Child Left Behind was passed, more than 430 state schools failed to reach federal performance standards this year.

## **Pennsylvania**

As a result of the 2006 federal

Deficit Reduction Act, custodial parents in Pennsylvania will be charged \$25 a year by the state, in order to offset the cost of collecting child support.

### Rhode Island

Dr. Timothy Babineau, the University of Maryland Medical Center chief medical officer, will assume the presidency of Rhode Island Hospital — the state's largest hospital — on Oct. 1.

### South Carolina

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism director Chad Prosser said on Aug. 4 that he wants a state campaign promoting South Carolina as a gay tourism destination to continue, citing public relations concerns.

### South Dakota

Gov. Mike Rounds proclaimed the week of Aug. 4 as Farmers Market Week in South Dakota.

### Tennessee

Volkswagen Group of America has confirmed SSOE as the architecture, engineering and construction management contractor for VW's new \$1 billion production facility in Chattanooga.

### Texas

Tropical Storm Edouard struck Galveston and Houston on Aug. 5, causing minimal damage.

### Utah

State school buses could help reduce air pollution in coming years, with the help of \$2.3 in federal grant money.

### Vermont

An unsuccessful bill prohibiting the Vermont National Guard from being sent to Iraq has sparked several other state legislatures to consider similar bills in the coming months.

### Virginia

State officials say fire ants have invaded at least eight public parks in the South Hampton Roads area.

### Washington

An immediate hiring freeze ordered by Gov. Chris Gregoire could eliminate almost 2,000 jobs and save \$90 million in the next fiscal year.

### West Virginia

Forbes magazine ranked West Virginia as the worst state for employment, using a total of 32 data points to determine rankings.

### Wisconsin

Despite stocking Silver Creek in Fond du Lac County with brown trout in 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has not yet fully inspected the millpond that holds back the creek's waters in nearly 20 years.

### Wyoming

Office of State Lands and Investments director Lynne Boomgaarden recommended that the state approve a natural gas and carbon sequestration plant on state land in Sublette County.

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

# What's going on

## Olympic swimmer accepts two-year suspension

U.S. swimmer Jessica Hardy withdrew from the Olympics on Aug. 2 after testing positive in stimulants and muscle-building drugs. Hardy may have unknowingly ingested the stimulants as a part of a multivitamin supplement. The Olympic committee allowed her time to determine the source of the drugs and look into her legal options, but Hardy withdrew from the trials. Hardy's lawyer, Howard Jacobs, has said that his client is accepting responsibility and putting her teammate's interests above her own.

## Football Hall of Fame inducts six new members

The Pro Football Hall of Fame inducted six new members on Aug. 2. Former Washington Redskins Darrell Green and Art Monk, along with former Redskins coach Emmitt Thomas, were inducted. Former San Francisco 49er Fred Dean, former New England Patriot Andre Tippett and former Denver Bronco Gary Zimmerman were also inducted.

The six men were chosen out of 17 finalists by the Hall of Fame's committee. The Pro Football Hall of Fame has inducted 247 members since its opening in 1963.

## Baseball card sells for \$1.62 million at auction

A 1909 T206 Honus Wagner baseball card sold for \$1.62 million at an auction in Chicago on Aug. 2. The T206 cards were part of a series that came in packages of cigarettes released by the American To-



# n in sports?

acco Co. between 1909 and 1911. There were fewer than 100 Honus Wagner cards produced, and fewer than 10 are in excellent condition.

Wagner was one of the first five men to be inducted into National League Hall of Fame. The most ever paid for a baseball card was another T206 Honus Wagner, which sold for \$2.8 million in 2007.

## Britain's top player wins Masters title in Cincinnati

Andy Murray, a 21-year-old Scot, won his first Masters Title in Cincinnati on Aug. 3. On Aug. 4, he was ranked No. 6 in the world, which is his highest career ranking. Murray also achieved his first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Wimbledon and two other titles this season. He defeated third-seed Serbian player Novak Djokovic to take home the Cincinnati Masters trophy.

## Vijay Singh wins Bridgestone Invitational

Vijay Singh won his first World Golf Championship at the Bridgestone Invitational on Aug. 3. Singh missed three putts within an eight foot span on the back nine and almost lost the tournament, but he sank the last putt and pulled a victory. He shot 2 under 68, gaining a one-shot lead over Stuart Appleby and Lee Westwood. Singh has won more PGA titles than any other foreign-born player, but has not won in the U.S. since March 2007. Phil Mickelson was ahead for the first 14 holes with a one-shot lead, but made three bogeys on the last four to put him at 70, 2 shots behind.

## American League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Tampa Bay	66	44	0.6	-	Won 5	7 to 3
Boston	64	48	0.571	3	Won 3	5 to 5
NY Yankees	61	50	0.55	5.5	Won 2	5 to 5
Toronto	55	56	0.495	11.5	Lost 1	5 to 5
Baltimore	53	57	0.482	13	Lost 1	5 to 5

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Minnesota	62	49	0.559	-	Won 1	7 to 3
Chicago Sox	61	49	0.555	0.5	Lost 2	4 to 6
Detroit	55	56	0.495	7	Lost 4	3 to 7
Kansas City	52	60	0.464	10.5	Won 2	7 to 3
Cleveland	48	62	0.436	13.5	Lost 1	4 to 6

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
LA Angels	69	42	0.622	-	Lost 2	7 to 3
Texas	58	54	0.518	11.5	Won 1	6 to 4
Oakland	53	57	0.482	15.5	Lost 6	1 to 9
Seattle	42	69	0.378	27	Won 1	4 to 6

## National League

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Philadelphia	61	50	0.55	-	Won 2	7 to 3
Florida	59	53	0.527	2.5	Lost 1	6 to 4
NY Mets	58	53	0.523	3	Lost 4	4 to 6
Atlanta	51	60	0.459	10	Won 1	3 to 7
Washington	41	70	0.369	20	Won 3	3 to 7

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Chicago Cubs	67	45	0.598	-	Won 2	7 to 3
Milwaukee	62	50	0.554	5	Lost 1	3 to 7
St. Louis	62	52	0.544	6	Lost 2	5 to 5
Houston	53	57	0.482	13	Won 3	7 to 3
Pittsburgh	51	60	0.459	15.5	Lost 2	4 to 6
Cincinnati	51	61	0.455	16	Lost 3	2 to 8

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	STRK	L10
Arizona	57	54	0.514	-	Lost 2	7 to 3
LA Dodgers	56	55	0.505	1	Won 2	7 to 3
Colorado	51	62	0.451	7	Won 1	6 to 4
San Francisco	46	64	0.418	10.5	Lost 1	4 to 6
San Diego	43	69	0.384	14.5	Won 1	5 to 5

# The Manly Men of Crater Lake know all

**Q: Hypothetically, what do I tell Philmont if I misplaced one of their trucks?** - *Very anonymous*

**A:** Most of the time, when you start a question with “hypothetically,” it means you actually did do what you might have hypothetically done. So — you have misplaced a Philtruck, then too bad. You might just want to start walking your DNR butt home.

**Q: Are bears attracted to homemade soap?** - *Terrified in the backcountry*

**A:** Bears are attracted to other bears, duh.

**Q: How does the ranger zipline work uphill?** - *A camper*

**A:** The ranger zipline is just another ploy to make rangers seem cool. Can they grow beards? No.

**Q: If you could make up the manliest Olympic sport ever, what would it be?** - *A manly man*

**A:** Die and then come back to life in under four minutes.

**Q: Why do rangers yell all the time about wanting to go back to Philmont if they already are at Philmont?** - *Not a ranger*

**A:** Rangers get disoriented often. And if you haven’t noticed already, rangers pridefully exclaim

about all the times they shwack. They shwack because they’re lost — or because they know they’ll derive “coolness” from shwacking, but no, they are not cool. Shwacking is dumb. Just stay on the trail. It will lead you to where you need to go.

**Q: What is the best logger recipe you guys can come up with that involves a pound of bacon and two sticks of butter?** - *Skinny Scott*

**A:** Melt the butter and fry the bacon in it.

**Q: It’s the end of the summer, and I’m out of money to get home. Any ideas?** - *Spent too much this season*

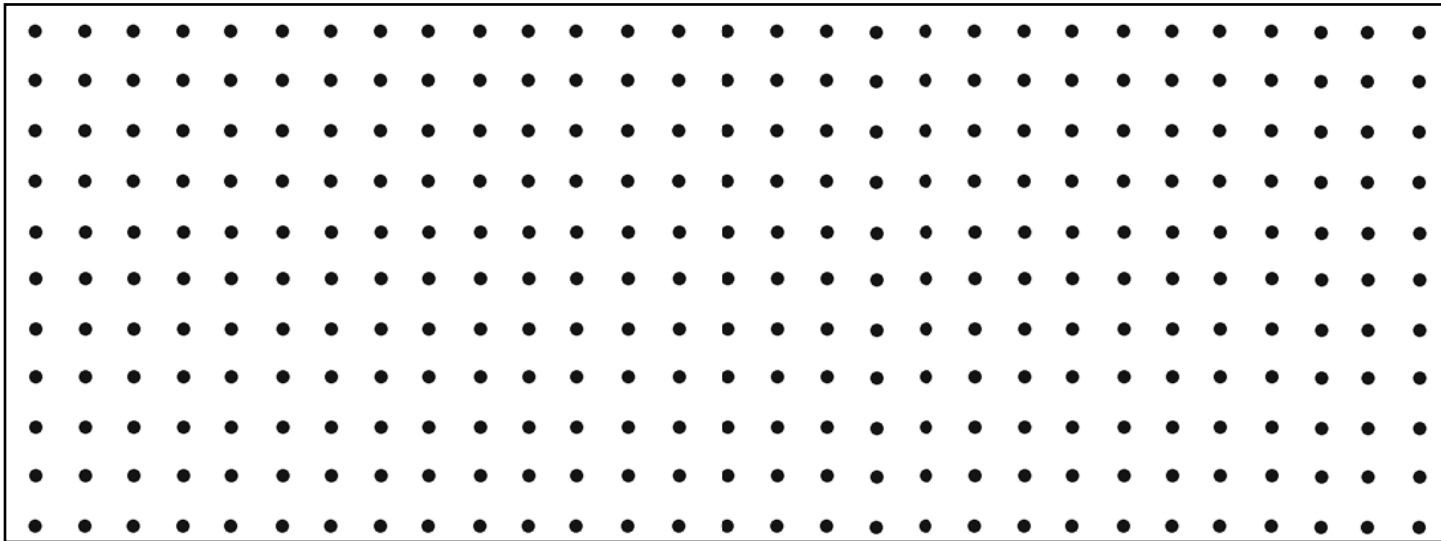
**A:** Various illegal activities guarantee easy cash — however, those are not BSA appropriate activities, so we of course will not do them. I heard the CreeMee was hiring.

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.

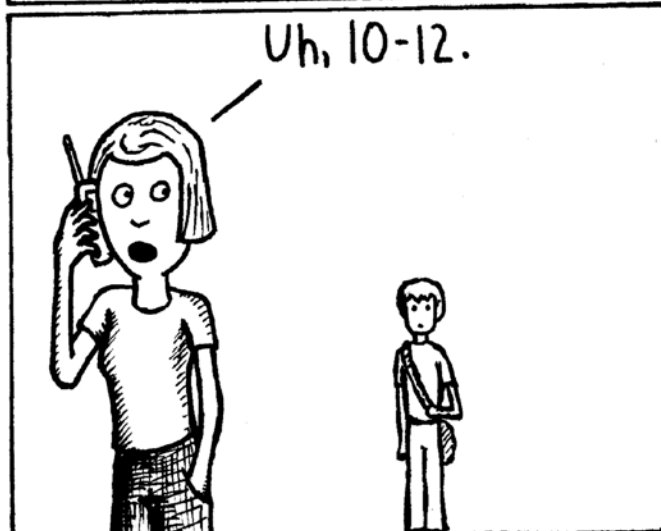
**This is the last advice column this year**  
The wise and compassionate men at Crater Lake have just given you their last pieces of sound advice for this summer. Thanks for reading!

The Dot Game

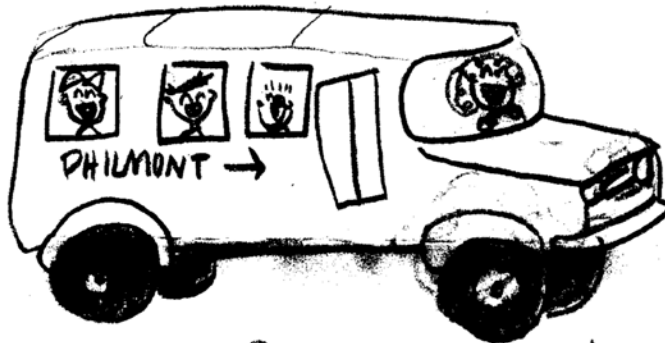
Take turns with your opponent by connecting one pair of dots with a horizontal or vertical line. Try to be the one to close each square with the fourth side. If you close a square, you get another turn. Mark the squares you make with your initials, because whoever has the most at the end wins. Good luck!



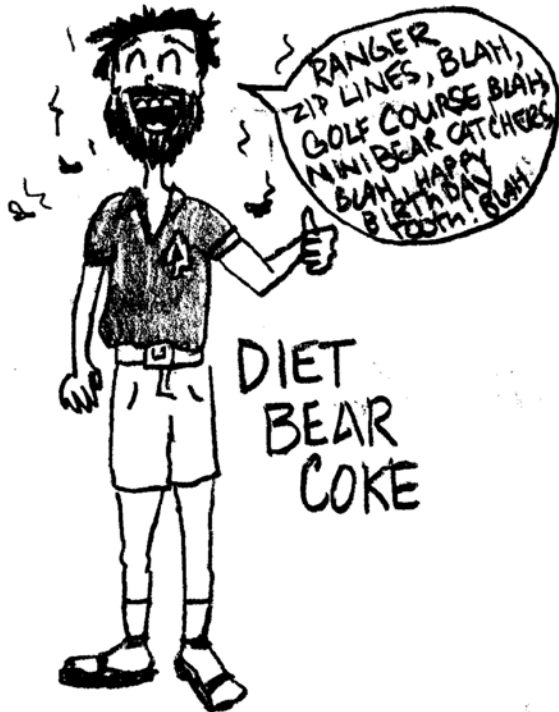
So There I was:



And All I Could Think Was...



A BOX OF CINNAMON  
KIDZ CRUNCH

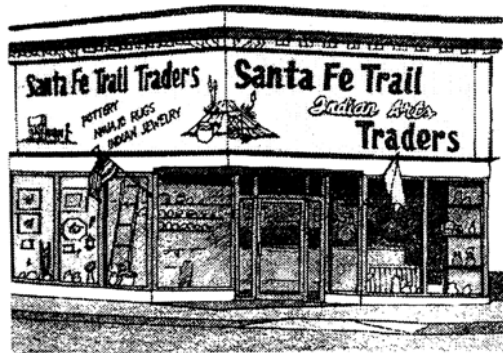


# Word search (theme: this issue)

G F P Y F B H K F H F T E K X C  
 F A E G A S R E V L I S R C H R  
 L F Z V K E E R C R A E L C T O  
 I Y B A R B A R A G A R C I A O  
 R W J J Q T F A R C I D N A H K  
 N N T D C Z U E P J V S V U R E  
 U H A C M D U E E M V S W H P D  
 S Y E K N O D O C S A B O T E C  
 R D U I S D N E I R F L I H P R  
 V E F S A U Q B B V S B V V M E  
 U A A A T C K L T I J L V D B E  
 B J E T S L B T Q S M B S I F K  
 P Y D A V W B N H R X V G A Y P  
 E Y R A I N Y S U N D A Y D P Y  
 X N O S R A C T I K V K H L B E  
 H E X F A S P L M M D A P Z P R

BARBARAGARCIA  
 CLEARCREEK  
 CROOKEDCREEK  
 HANDICRAFT  
 KITCARSON  
 PHILFRIENDS  
 PSA  
 RAINYSUNDAY  
 SILVERSAGE  
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 CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF NEW MEXICO



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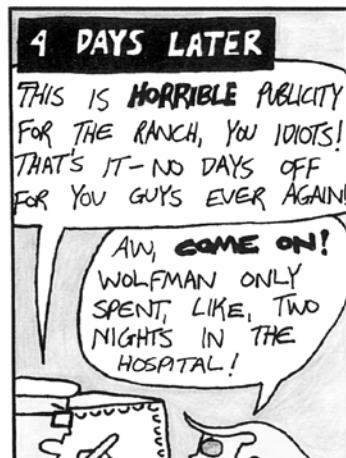
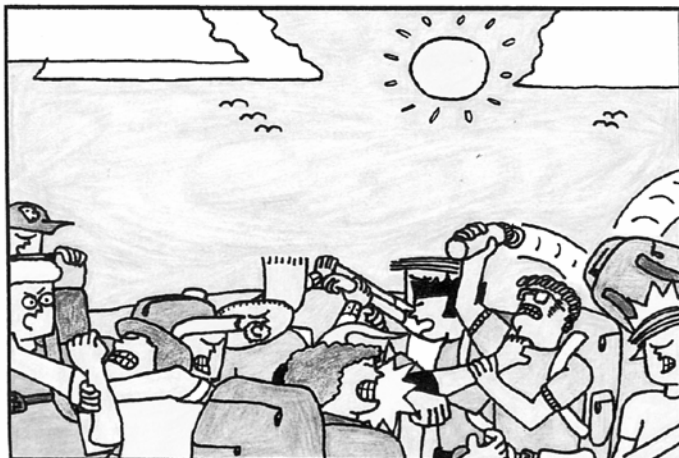
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# Get your sudoku on!

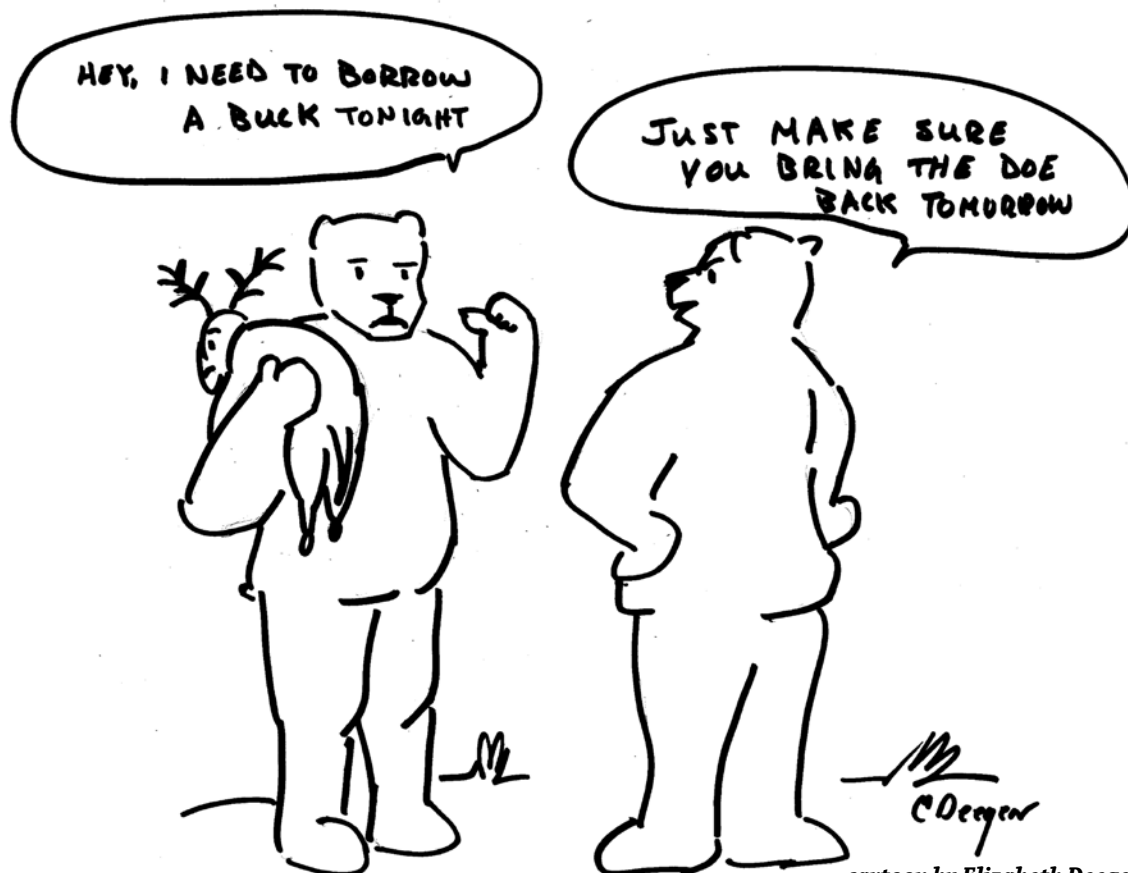
sudoku courtesy of websudoku.com

**Level: Medium**

7		8	6		9	1		
		5						
6					3	7		
		4	8	9			1	
3			1	2	5			8
	8			3	4	2		
		7	3					5
						6		
		6	5		7	3		1

**Level: Evil**

				3				
	9		1		6	7		
3	7	5	2					
5		1						
		3	5		7	1		
						2		6
					5	8	4	3
		6	3		1		7	
				9				



cartoon by Elizabeth Deegear, Registration

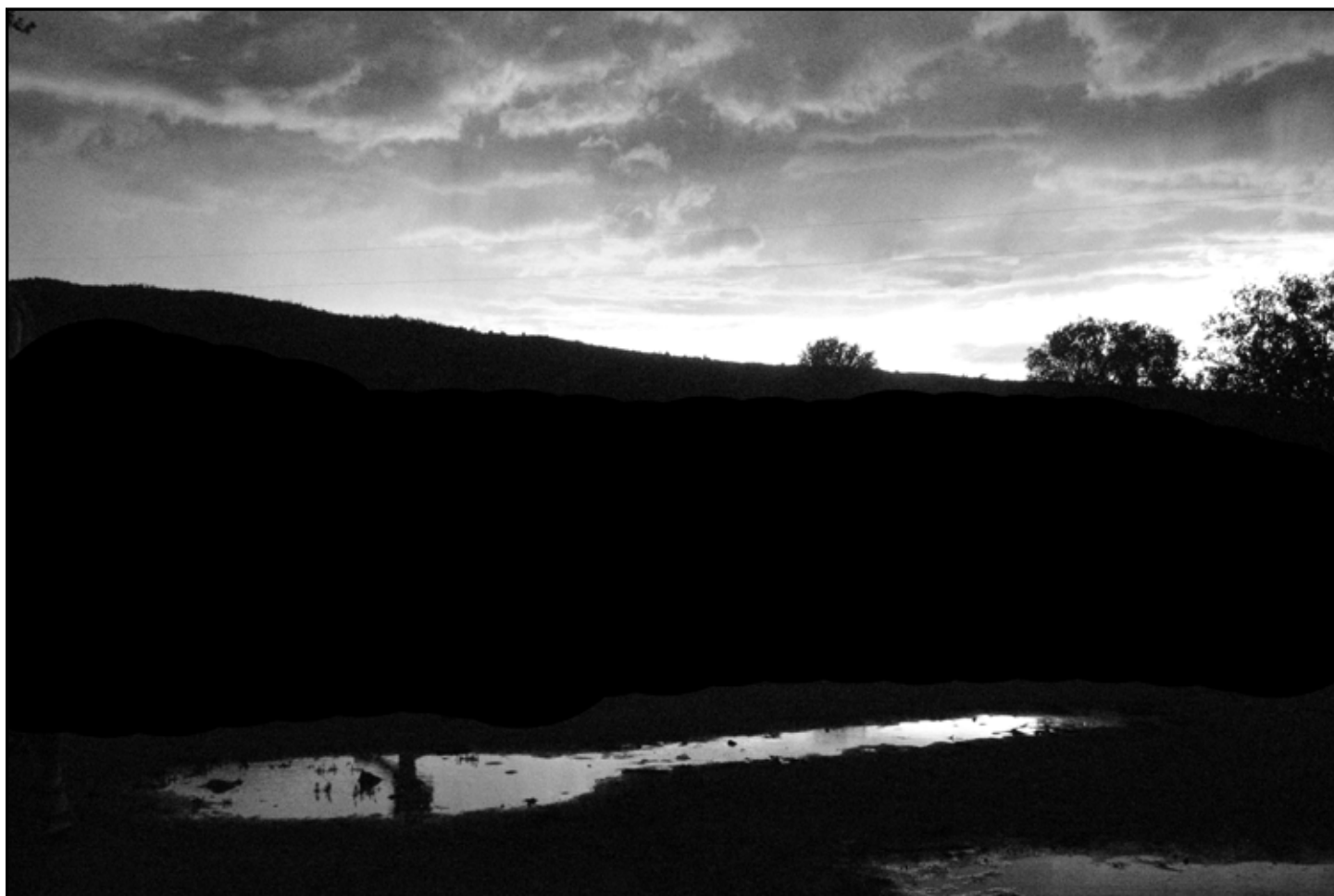
## CHQ Activities Calendar

<b>Friday</b> (Aug. 8)	Movie Night (8:15 p.m., Advisers' Meeting Room)
<b>Saturday</b> (Aug. 9)	Tie Dye (8:15 p.m., outside staff lounge)
<b>Sunday</b> (Aug. 10)	Bazaar (8:15 p.m., outside staff lounge)
<b>Monday</b> (Aug. 11)	Kickball (8:15 p.m., field outside staff lounge)

**[PLEASE NOTE: Locations of activities are subject to change if SSSAC is completed!]**

## PTC Evening Schedule

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



**photo by Chris Dunn, PhilNews Manager**

*The sun sets over Tooth Ridge on July 28. It's kind of a shame this can't print in color, because the sky was almost on fire that night.*