



# PhilNews

## Celebrating Cimarron

By Beverly Ponterio  
Staff Writer



**David VanDeValdy, a traditional woodsmith, handcrafts household items such as kitchen utensils and benches. He traveled from Texas to share his trade. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

The sky was an incredible blue as the sun beat down on the vendors' tents Saturday morning at Cimarron Days. There was music playing over loudspeakers switching between country and traditional Latino music.

Cimarron Days is an annual summer festival celebrating the birthday of Cimarron. There are great local arts and crafts, as well as some from out of state.

There was jewelry, soap, woodworking, and knives

with bone handles. Everything seemed homemade and some were made right in front of you as you walked around.

One Texan vendor, David VanDeValdy, a woodsmith, started out in the furniture business and began collecting old woodworking tools. His lathe, a machine used for making wood pieces with a circular axis, is from 1913 and he only uses it for projects like making bowls. Everything else he makes by

hand using traditional old tools.

At his tent, VanDeValdy was set up and making cooking utensils, a labor of love for him. He said, while utensils are the cheapest to buy, they take the longest to make because he has to carve them out evenly.

He said it all started when he was six and someone gave him his first pocketknife. "I got in a lot of trouble then for carving on all the wrong things," said VanDeValdy, but it is a passion  
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## A History in Progress

By Garrett Franklyn  
Staff Writer



**Visitors peruse the historic artifacts on the walls of the St. James Hotel on Saturday, June 23, 2012. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

A tarnished bronze register sits at the front desk of the St. James Hotel, a \$5.01 still tallied on the display from the last fingers that punched them in. Nearby is the more modern and functioning one worked by the receptionist.

The contrast between old and new is what the St. James has grown into. It is a hotel as much about the past as it is about the present.

"It's a continuing history," said Judy Kahlor, events coordinator for the Express UU Bar Ranch, which owns the hotel. "It's not just what it started as, it's

what it's changed into."

It's a history that began in 1872 when the hotel was built by Henri Lambert, who was once the personal chef to President Lincoln. Since then, it's been the host not only of guests, but gunfights, gambling and maybe even ghosts.

Some of the most important figures of the American West stopped by the St. James. Wyatt Earp, who won notoriety after the gunfight at the O.K. Corral, stayed in Room 11, while his friend Doc Holliday stayed in Room 16. Still stamped into the

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# PHILNEWS

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Sunday 24	Monday 25	Tuesday 26	Wednesday 27	Thursday 28	Friday 29	Saturday 30
					8 p.m. Dodge ball at Health Lodge Field	11 a.m.-2 p.m. Brat Day in Baldy Pavilion
Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
9 a.m. Day hike to Window Rock, meet @ SSSAC  Accepting entries for Photo Contest (page 18)	8 p.m. Ultimate frisbee on the Health Lodge lawn	8 p.m. Magic Tournament in Walcutt room  Rugby on the Health Lodge lawn	11 a.m.-2 p.m. Independence Day celebration burgers in Baldy Pavilion  7:15 p.m. Yoga @ PTC Small Fry	8 p.m. Movie Night in Baldy Pavilion  Kit Carson Games @ Rayado	8 p.m. Human vs. Zombies  5K run (details coming soon)	8 p.m. International Night: foods from everywhere @ Baldy Pavilion

**Philmont Museums:**

*Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library*

*Villa Philmonte-Kit Carson Museum*

The Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library’s current exhibits focus on Native American clothing and illustrations from the Ernest Thompson Seton collection and an updated look at Philmont history. The Museum Gift Shop markets Native American jewelry, pottery, a large collection of pawn and over 500 regional books titles. Open daily.

Villa Philmonte was the summer home of Philmont’s benefactor Waite and Genevieve Phillips. Open to the public daily for guided tours. Reservations are required and are made through the Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library.

The Kit Carson Museum at Rayado is a living history museum on the mountain route of the Santa Fe Trail. The settlement, located seven miles south of the Philmont Museum, was formerly the home of frontiersmen Lucien Maxwell and Kit Carson. Summer hours 8-5 daily.

Philmont is located 4 miles south of Cimarron on Hwy 21

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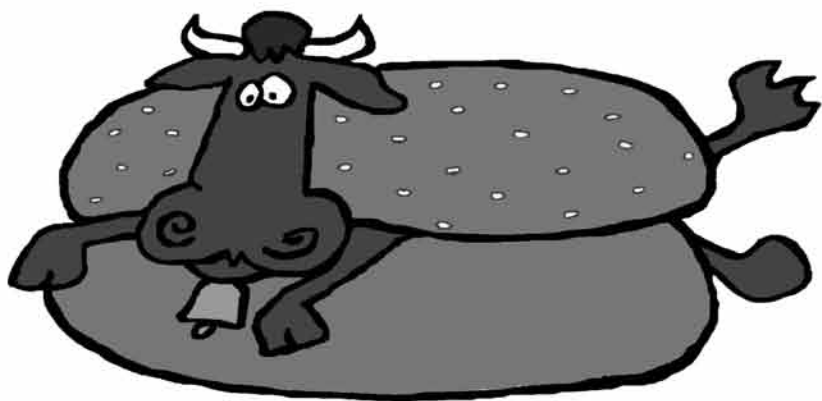


# Cow Paddy's Grill

Location: 301 C East 9th Street Cimarron, NM 87714

This is a new little grill in Cimarron. The menu consists of steaks, fried chicken by the plate or the bucket, hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, stuffed baked potatoes, crispy fries, onion rings, nachos, soft tacos, salads, and ice cream! (Shakes and sundaes). Everything is priced to bring in the locals. Come on in!

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# Mark's Minute: Home

By Mark Anderson  
Director of Program



SAMANTHA WAIDLER/ PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
2011

I had the opportunity to visit the Crater Lake campfire guided by staff members Nathan, Gage, JB and Will. It was a truly exciting, motivational event that included stories, songs and showmanship.

During the program JB related his Philmont journey. It connected with each member of the audience including crews who were at the end of their trek, crews who were at the beginning and a few staff members as well. The message from JB resonated with each of us. Following the story the staff shared a song by the Woods Brothers, "The Luckiest Man."

As I enjoyed the moment looking across at the Tooth of Time, I knew that I am "The Luckiest Man" to have

the opportunity to share the Philmont experience with so many. I hope that you also share this feeling. As the 2012 Philmont staff we are indeed lucky to call this "pile of rocks" our home.

After the campfire, as the crews were cherishing the final moments of the evening the staff sang one last song that added a punctuation mark to the night for me. It was a song from Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros titled "Home." The line from the song that struck me was "home is whenever I am with you."

I encourage each of you to enjoy every moment of your summer by sharing the many opportunities and experiences available throughout the Ranch with your Philmont family. You are indeed the "luckiest person."

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articles by Saturday to be in the following  
Friday's issue.**

**Email: [philmontnps@philmontscout  
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# Continued from page 1, Cimarron

that has grown over time.

Many of the vendors had interesting stories about their work and were very willing to explain how things were made, but the shops were not the only highlight of the event.

Throughout the day, there were games such as hula-hoop, cakewalks, duck races, a three-legged race, a sack race, an egg toss and a beanbag toss. There were also free carriage and stagecoach rides. Children played and lassoed fake steer while their parents browsed and enjoyed the music.

There was a small-town feel, as everyone seemed to know everyone else. Several of the vendors had affiliation with Philmont. Many were former staff while others were spouses of current staff. Some were both.

One of the local vendors, Jan Sinclair, owns Cimarron Canyon Woodwork, which is full of home décor, antiques, cabinetry and kitchen sets. "You never know what you'll find in there, not even I know what I'll find in there," said Sinclair. She and her husband collect and make beautiful items to keep in the store.



Guests of Cimarron Days participate in a cake walk. The baked goods were provided by Cimarron residents. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

There was also a bake sale for the Cimarron Volunteer Ambulance team, in order to raise money to buy a new cardiac monitor. "We're doing it so we can save lives...help us now so we can help you later," said Pam Pearson, a member of the team.

They recently acquired a new ambulance, but now only have one cardiac monitor to use between three ambulances

and it will be \$25,000 to get an additional one.

Overall, the Cimarron Days festival was a success, much to the relief of Valerie Kutz, the main planner of the event. She and her team have been working on it since October and were relieved at how well it turned out and what a great turn out they had from local residents Philmont staff and participants.

# Continued from page 1, James

ceiling of the recently-renovated bar are the many bullet holes from old gunshots.

"There's enough history here that you can still feel it," Kahlor continued. "When people walk in to this place, there is a feeling of old."

The history, though, has gone through different variations, depending on who owned the hotel. Some leaned toward exaggerating the legend of the St. James. In the 1800s, the owners had a "Barnum and Bailey mindset of feeding people what they want," Kahlor said. However, others, like Kahlor, have tried to keep the stories grounded in reality, at least as much as they could be.

One such story concerns Thomas James Wright, who was alleged to have won the St. James

in a gamble and was later shot. However, according to Kahlor, the story is largely dubious.

"It's one of many stories that developed at this hotel," she said. "We're trying to wade through fact and fiction."

What Kahlor thinks happened was that Wright, then a wandering cowboy of above-average poker skills, arrived at the St. James and won a lot of money off someone. One day, he turned a corner and got shot. Regardless of how he died, he is believed to be haunting the St. James—the door to room 17, where Wright stayed, is kept closed with a padlock. The story of T.J. Wright's ghost, and the many other paranormal happenings at the St. James, has helped the allure of the hotel, also steeped in the history of the

American West and the Santa Fe Trail.

"I think it's a combination of the two," Kahlor said. "If they [the ghosts] stayed here before, and they had good memories, they'll stay again."

Kahlor herself claims to having a brief experience with the ghosts at the St. James, though only through an intermediary when a member of the Altitude Paranormal Group was at the hotel. Kahlor, who previously believed that only seven ghosts were at the St. James, was soon told otherwise.

"She [the intermediary] stands there a moment, and she says, 'No, you have 17,'" Kahlor continued.

Which isn't too surprising, at least for Kahlor, as the St. James was a hotbed for many seedy

## Attention All Philmont Staff!!



The Villa Philmonte will be hosting a night full of singing and music on Saturday July 21st.

If you are skilled in singing or playing an instrument and would like to participate please let the Villa staff know by July 14th.



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activities through the decades. The hotel loomed as a crossroad between Mexico and the United States, and during the Civil War, Union and Confederate deserters alike shared space there, sometimes with murderous results.

For visitors to the St. James, Kahlor has one bit of advice.

"Explore the history. Explore the paranormal. Explore the possibilities," she said.

Kahlor has an open invitation for any would-be ghost hunters interested in investigating paranormal activity at the St. James. All they have to do is show up and she'll take them through the rooms.

# The Art of Seeing

By Matthew Baide  
Staff Writer

Jerry Poppenhouse is a photographer that has been all over the world. He has been to the Great Wall of China, oil rigs in the middle of the ocean, to African villages, all seeing the world through the lens on his camera. He attributes all of his accomplishments to one thing.

"It all started with Scouts," Poppenhouse said.

Growing up in a small Oklahoma town, his parents told him to get involved in Scouting. He got into Scouting in grade school and became the first Eagle Scout where he lived.

After high school, he joined the Navy, where the higher ranks noticed he was an Eagle Scout and put him in charge of a troop.

The Navy and basketball helped him earn scholarships to college. He graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a bachelor of fine arts.

Being a photographer has taken him to a variety of places, like his first trip to Alaska, when it was 65 degrees below zero.

"It does not feel cold, it hurts," Poppenhouse said. "Instant pain when your skin touches the atmosphere."

He has photographed horrific scenes. Poppenhouse told a story about a job he went to in Texas. The person he was working for told him to come back the next day because he wasn't ready. Poppenhouse went and worked on another job and when he came back the next day, the building had been blown up, killing 26 people. Poppenhouse had to take pictures of it, and he still remembers it to this day.

"When I left that place, I was a total wreck," Poppenhouse said. "It chokes me up today to



**Jerry Poppenhouse speaks about photography on Saturday, June 16 at Baldy Pavilion. Poppenhouse gave the audience tips on how to make their photos better and showed examples of his work. DAVID SPITZNAGEL/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

talk about it, just to see bodies and bodies, and you have to photograph it, but that's your job."

He also did some work with film. He worked on a movie for the Olympics, unfortunately, it was never shown because it was the year the United States boycotted the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

He met celebrities through photography, including Robert Redford and Pavarotti. He has been all over the world, almost every continent.

"What's really neat about going to other countries is getting to see how other people live," Poppenhouse said.

He said it was really important in his life to become a Scout, but didn't know it at the time he was becoming an Eagle Scout.

"You don't realize how important Scouting is at the time you are doing it, but later in life, you learn that it helped a lot," he said.

He was project director, a photographer and photo editor for the book, "Philmont: Where Spirits Soar" for the Boy Scouts of America. Poppenhouse's two kids helped him work on the book, taking them backpacking through Philmont while working on the book.

He shared words of wisdom about photography with the audience on the "Art of Seeing" on June 16. During a PowerPoint presentation he put together, he taught the audience about seeing, observing and shooting photos. Photography is about compromise.

"The neat thing about being a photographer is somebody pays you to do what you want to do," Poppenhouse said.

But even to non-photographers, he still had some advice to share.

"You learn your craft, and then you have to find a client that is going to pay you to do that," Poppenhouse said. "Do it well, do it the best of your knowledge."

# New Museum, New Opportunities

By Garrett Franklyn  
Staff Writer

In a few years, the Seton Memorial Library will look a little bit different and a little bit larger than it is today.

"We're going to update it into a multi-functional facility to better house, display, and make available our art, our literature, and all of our other archives while promoting Philmont's program," said David Werhane, Museum Director.

For now, Werhane only has conceptual plans drawn for what the museum could look like in the future. The schematics call for enlarging virtually every aspect of the museum, from the library itself to the exhibit and display spaces. If construction proceeds per Werhane's plans, the floor space of the museum will be almost doubled, which will allow more room for the museum's collection currently kept in storage. Pieces that would be available for public viewing are the personal notes of Waite Phillips and the Supreme Court's notes of the Maxwell Land Grant.

These would appear alongside other pieces of the museum's collection and even pieces that, though not historical now, would be considered a part of Philmont's history in the coming decades.

"We need to anticipate what

this museum will be showing 40 years from now," Werhane said.

The idea is to develop the Seton Memorial Library into a dynamic museum that engages with the continuing, living history of Philmont and the surrounding areas of Raton and Cimarron.

"We're here to help people learn," he continued. "We can be that place where staff and visitors come and learn. That's our goal."

From the Tyrannosaurus Rex footprint to the Apollo mission training in the '60s, the Ranch has been immersed in history that isn't always Scout-specific. But for nine months out of the year, during the off season, the museum is also the front door for the Ranch and a face for the Boy Scouts. The museum's new layout is designed to make it more flexible in regard to the two needs. Whether someone visits wanting to learn about Northern New Mexico or wants to learn about the Boy Scouts and Ernest Thompson Seton, the museum will be ready.

"It's connecting things back to nature," he said, invoking the words of Seton himself. "Philmont in its entirety is one gigantic living museum."



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# Phillip's Junction, Backcountry Oasis

By Katie Sill  
Staff Writer

Located in Philmont's South Country, "Phillip's Junction is like a backcountry gas station, grocery store and post office all in one," said Phillip's Junction staff member Ben Hinkle.

As a commissary camp, Phillip's Junction supplies crews with food and other resources they may need midway through their trek. By visiting Phillip's Junction, crews are not required to carry an entire trek's worth of food. Instead they restock their supplies while resting in the shadows of the towering trees at Phillip's Junction.

In the past, Beaubien functioned as the commissary camp for the South Country. This caused a lot of congestion in Beaubien when crews not participating in programing crowded the camp. Phillip's Junction was established to prevent overcrowding so crews not bound for Beaubien won't interfere with programing. Fortunately, since Phillip's Junction is a 20-30 minute hike from Beaubien, crews that layover at the ranch camp can still easily

acquire supplies like food, Ziploc bags and toilet paper if needed.

When multiple crews arrive at Phillip's Junction around the same time, though, things can get pretty hectic. Staff members like Sean Clark can be seen running back and forth gathering supplies for the crews.

"It's a constant cycle of receiving food from the commissary and giving food to the crews," said Clark.

Attached to the commissary warehouse, the Phillip's Junction trading post is a miniature version of the Tooth of Time Traders. They provide many of the same products: snacks, postcards, water bottles, gas for stoves and more. About the only thing the trading post at Phillips Junction doesn't provide are clothing, backpacks, and sleeping bags.

The normal hours of operations are 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but the staff is willing to open their doors at any hour of the day or night for crews.

"We're open and here for them when they need us," said Camp Director Bin Lizzo.



Phillip's Junction Trading Post provides Scouts with any items they might need while on the trail. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The staff at Phillip's Junction is very dedicated to their jobs. They create a friendly and welcoming environment for crews who may be worn down

by the strenuous demands of the trail. Trading Post Manager Julia Carney enjoys the opportunity she has to help crews.

"It makes my day when I

can help make their experience better," said Carney, smiling. "Whether it's giving them their chocolate fix or a Band-Aid."

# Beaubien: a Backcountry Brand

By Katie Sill  
Staff Writer

Known for its beautiful green meadows and lush surrounding forests, Beaubien is one of the larger staff camps in the backcountry. Beaubien is the South Country's ranch camp, opposite to Ponil, which is located the North Country and Clark's Fork located in Central Country. Crews can spend up to two days at Beaubien to rest from long days of hiking and to participate in multiple programs.

The first of many activities at Beaubien is the trail ride where participants ride horses through the Beaubien meadow and surrounding woods. There are two opportunities to participate in the trail ride: 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"My favorite part is watching participants develop a bond and

understanding with their horses," said Wrangler Hannah La Rue.

Wranglers coach participants through the basics of horseback riding in the corral before the ride begins. They help participants learn how to mount their horses, steer using reins, and monitor the behavior of the horses on the



Before a trail ride, wranglers demonstrate the basics of mounting and riding a horse. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

trail. The wranglers ride alongside participants to ensure the safety of everyone, including the horses.

Often participants who began the ride visibly nervous about being on a horse return from the trail ride with a new sense of confidence. Wranglers like Lauren Paxman are happy when they see participants petting and talking to their horses after the ride.

"A lot of times they'll say 'I love my horse!' which is great

because we love them too," said Paxman, smiling.

When participants aren't riding horses or recovering from a long day's hike, they can go to the branding pavilion located north of the horse corral. Beaubien offers a program where participants can get personal items branded with two different brands.

The first is the Philmont brand which has a P and a backwards S with a bar on the top. This brand is used to mark Philmont's cattle. The second brand is the official Boy Scouts brand with has a backwards S and with a diagonal line over it. All horses and burros at Philmont are marked with this brand. **Continued on page 8, Beaubien**



# Serenity and Fish Ponil, Something for Everyone

By Beverly Ponterio  
Staff Writer



**Colby Hill, a member of 612-C1, casts a line at Fish Camp on June 16, 2012. Fish Camp is a 1927 interpretive camp in which the staff of the camp play the roles of some members of the Phillips family. MATTHEW PROKOSCH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

Casting, fly-tying, touring cabins, and catching the sunset on the porch with the Waite Phillips family are all possibilities when one makes the trek to Fish Camp.

According to Brian Payne, who plays Waite Phillips, Phillips used to go to Fish Camp as an escape from the bustle of life in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

One of the reasons that Waite Phillips cherished the land surrounding Fish Camp is because it reminded him of his brother, Wiate Phillips with whom he explored until Wiate died at age 19.

Crews flow in heavily between breakfast and lunch, but the rush slows towards dinner. When a crew does arrive, one of the interpretive characters dressed to portray Phillips' family life in 1927 will step out to greet them and ask them to get comfortable on the porch and take off their shoes. One may hear about the history while sitting on the porch from Phillips' wife Genevieve played by Erika Marrs, his daughter Helen Jane Phillips played by Edie Adkins as well as family friends Ben Ames Williams (Steven Ritzdorf), John

**Continued on page 9, Fish**

By Matthew Baide  
Staff Writer

Looking through a window, there is a club, spade, diamond, and heart. A tombstone sits on the far right, and a dueling tree stands in the middle. And about 20 feet past the tree, there are farther black circles waiting to be knocked down.

This is Ponil, where cowboy action shooting is the newest attraction. This is the first year that the program has been introduced and there is a lot of buzz around it.

Keely "Mad Maxine" Peden and Anthony Akins are the gun slingers at the cowboy action shooting range. Ponil is the only range where crews get to shoot pistols, but there is also the option of shooting lever action rifles.

"It is awesome," Peden said. "I graduated in May, and I didn't think I would be getting paid to shoot guns for the summer."

The most popular target to shoot at is the dueling tree. Each participant starts with three targets on their side, and if they hit their target, it will swing over to the competitor's side. The person with fewer targets on their side wins.

Both Akins and Peden are pretty good shots, but Akins is the best shot.

"If there is a zombie invasion, come up to Ponil," Akins said.

Ponil used to be Base Camp. Now, it is a popular camp with plenty of programs for everyone.

## Continued from page 7, Beaubien

Participants can get both of these symbols branded on almost anything. However, branding plastics is discouraged. Not only is it unhealthy for participants to inhale the fumes of melting plastic, it's harmful for the environment. This means Nalgene are no longer suitable for branding at Beaubien. However, the plastic mugs purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders specially designed for branding are allowed. The best



**A Scout aims a single action pistol as Keely Peden coaches her on Saturday, June 16, at Ponil. The single action shooting is the newest program Ponil offers crews. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

Ponil is one of the biggest camps on the Ranch at 1.25 square miles, which is why Ponil has 24 staff members to help run the camp. With eight programs, every crew can find something to do at Ponil.

A popular program is branding and Western lore, where a staff member will heat up branding irons and brand certain items for the Scouts. There are four brands that Scouts can choose to brand such as hats, boots, cups, belts or backpacks.

Roping is a program where crews can test their skills roping cattle. Ponil offers horse riding and burros for crews who enjoy animals. They also serve as a commissary, where crews stock up on food during their treks.

When crews need to relax, they can take a seat at

the Cantina/Trading Post and play a board game, eat some beef jerky or enjoy a root beer. If crews want to learn about history, then they can visit the museum at Ponil. At the end of the evening participants have the opportunity to enjoy the evening program, the Cantina Show.

When crews are looking for a good meal, they come to Ponil for the Chuck Wagon Dinner/Breakfast, where they will be served biscuits and pound cake with peaches. Ponil serves about 120 people for each chuck wagon meal.

If crews are looking for program variety, Ponil would be a camp at the top of the list.

"With so many great programs, it is hard to choose just one," Camp Director Matt Murray said.

things to brand are leather items like wallets, belts, and boots.

"Leather lasts longer and doesn't have to get re-branded as often," said Branding Master Nate Nastase.

For dinner, the Beaubien staff provides a chuck wagon dinner for participants. Participants are revived and ready to continue on their trek.

At the end of every day is the Beaubien campfire program. The campfire features live

music, skits, and the history of Philmont. During the Father's Day campfire, the Beaubien staff honored all the fathers in their audience and thanked them for their service to Scouting. After the official campfire program concludes, the Beaubien musicians take requests from the audience.

"The campfire is the highlight of my day," said Nastase. "I love getting to interact with participants."



## Continued from page 8, Fish

T. McCutcheon (Jimmy Pierce), and United States Vice President Charles Dawes (David Jilka).

After a long hike, many of the crews say how nice it is to feel the wooden porch beneath their stocking feet. Adkins welcomes them in for a tour of their home.

Inside of the hearty wood cabin, one can see handcrafted furniture and beautiful log mantels over every fireplace. Hanging on the walls are pictures of the family and their close friends as well as many hunting trophies.

Adkins enjoys giving cabin tours and sharing the history of the family and their time in their home away from home. "It's all about the experience for crews," said Adkins.

Likewise, Payne enjoys giving crews an experience they

can remember and has worked to do so at Philmont for six seasons as backcountry staff. "You really get to work with people," said Payne, "...sometimes people who are at their lowest, and you get to help them back on their feet to get back to hiking."

For crews who have made Fish Camp one of their destinations, there are lessons to be learned.

The first lesson is generally fly-tying. Jimmy Pierce is the resident fly specialist and takes crews over to a room attached to the guest cabin where there is light for them to see while they learn to tie.

Inside the room there are tables and benches where each seat is set up with fly tying equipment. There are a fly tying tension vises to hold the hook in

place, different colored threads on bobbins, feathers, chenille, scissors and hackle pliers. The lesson takes about 45 minutes overall.

Scouts may then participate in casting lessons. They teach the standard "10 to 2" as well as a roll cast.

After a long day of fishing, advisors are welcome to have coffee on the porch with the Phillips family. Crews are also welcome to come to the cabin after advisor coffee to play cards.

The staff of Fish Camp encourages other members of staff and participants to come out and try their hand at fly-fishing or just visit and sit along the ever-bubbling stream to catch the sunrise in one of Waite Phillip's personal oasis.



**Brian Payne, the camp director of Fish Camp, practices fly fishing on June 17, 2012. Fish Camp is a 1927 interpretive camp in which the staff of the camp play the roles of some members of the Phillips family. MATTHEW PROKOSCH/ PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

## Tall Tales from Urraca

By Matthew Baide  
Staff Writer

Across from the porch of Urraca's cabin sits a meadow with deer roaming through it. Behind the cabin looms the Urraca Mesa, a scenic backdrop that towers over the camp.

Welcome to Urraca Camp, home to challenges and legends.

Urraca has two programs, a challenge course and an evening campfire.

"I enjoy the evening program because it is a chance for me to jam and it's close to bed," Camp Director Jeremy Ralstin said.

Urraca has between two and seven crews come through a day. The challenge course is a big attraction for crews, because a lot of the things that crews learn on the challenge course will help them later in treks.

"It's really cool when you have a crew and you take them out to the course and see them go from somewhat dysfunctional to high-level performing," Urraca staff member Nicole Butler said.

The staff enjoys working with the crews at the challenge course because it is fun and has a good impact on the Scouts.

But there is something mysterious about the mesa that has crews and staff alike looking over their shoulder.

At the evening campfire at Urraca, crews and staff can learn about the haunted past of the Urraca Mesa.

"It's really fun because you get to put on a show," Butler said.

Stories are told of the Legend of the Anasazi Tribe. They believed that at the eye of the skull on top of the mesa, there is a portal to the underworld and the fourth dimension. Tales are told of Scouts who did not believe in the stories and vanished without a trace. Ranchers making deals with death, the Urraca man, and other tales all contribute to a spooky evening program.

Stories told by Urraca staff will send people to bed with one

eye open just in case something attempts to pay them a visit. But does the staff believe the tales they tell?

"I am a skeptic, which is why I will be the first to die," Butler said.

"I think it became haunted because of the staff stories," Ralstin said.

However, the Urraca staff does not allow the dark tales to dampen their time on the mesa.

"The staff is really fun here and we have a great dynamic so everything runs smoothly," Butler said.

But when visiting Urraca, be sure to always keep an eye on the mesa. Because who knows when the portal might open again and release the wrath of the underworld.



**Jeremy Raistin (left) and Jacob Crawford play for scouts during their campfire program on Wednesday, June 20, at Urraca. ERIN NASH/ PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER**

*Backcountry Bison Pie* By Beverly Ponterio, Staff Writer**Ingredients:**

2lbs of ground bison  
 3 bell peppers  
 1 whole onion  
 1 box brown or dirty rice  
 4 cloves garlic  
 Olive oil  
 Eggs  
 Cheese (shredded or sliced thin)  
 Dinner rolls or pizza crust  
 Packet of stir-fry seasoning.

**Directions:**

1. Defrost the bison and chop the peppers, onion, and garlic cloves for sautéing. If using pizza crust line the bottom of several pie tins and light the wood stove.
2. Mix the onions, peppers and garlic together with half of the stir-fry seasoning and put them in a frying pan with olive oil to start the sauté.
3. Brown the ground bison and add the rest of the seasoning in another frying pan, can also season to taste with chili powder and seasoned salt.
4. Boil the rice, use entire box.
5. Once the meat is brown turn off heat and add 2-3 eggs.
6. Once meat is brown with eggs, rice is cooked, and vegetables are sautéed layer them into the pie tins in this order: bison, vegetables, rice. Whip one more egg and pour it over the top, then layer cheese on top.
7. Cook until eggs and crust are cooked through and enjoy. Top with sour cream for extra flavor.

*Reviews for Bison Pie*

"It was the perfect mix of simple ingredients that just work well together." Geoff Laundaw

"All it needs is an egg to make it more of a solid consistency." R. Dylan Palmer

"It was yummy!" Adele Owen

Attention All Backcountry Camps!  
 The PhilNews will be featuring weekly recipes.

Got a recipe you'd like to share? I-Camp it to News and Photo Services and we'll feature it in the PhilNews.

We'll also be cooking recipes submitted to the PhilNews for people at basecamp to review.

*Honey Chicken Stir-Fry***Ingredients:**

1/4 cup vegetable oil  
 1/3 cup honey  
 1/3 cup soy sauce  
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
 8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1 inch cubes  
 2 cloves garlic  
 5 small onions, cut into 2 inch pieces  
 2 red bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces

**Directions:**

1. In a large bowl, whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, and pepper. Place the chicken, garlic, onions and peppers in the bowl, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours (the longer the better).
2. Preheat the stove for high heat.
3. Drain marinade from the chicken and vegetables, and discard marinade.
4. Pour chicken and vegetables into a large frying pan and stir until the chicken turns white.
5. Serve over rice.

\*For vegetarian option simply remove the chicken.

\*Recipe found at recipes.com

*Ultimate Twice Baked Potatoes***Ingredients:**

4 large baking potatoes  
 8 slices of bacon  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1/2 cup milk  
 4 tablespoons butter  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 teaspoon pepper  
 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided  
 8 green onions, sliced, divided

**Directions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Bake potatoes in preheated oven for 1 hour.
3. Meanwhile, place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside.
4. When potatoes are done allow them to cool for 10 minutes. Slice potatoes in half lengthwise and scoop the flesh into a large bowl; save skins. To the potato flesh add sour cream, milk, butter, salt, pepper, 1/2 cup cheese and 1/2 the green onions. Mix with a hand mixer until well blended and creamy. Spoon the mixture into the potato skins. Top each with remaining cheese, green onions and bacon.
5. Bake for another 15 minutes.

\*Recipe found at recipes.com



# PTC International Representatives Conference

By Matthew Baide  
Staff Writer



CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The International Representative Conference occurred from June 18 to 22 at the PTC to promote international Scouting across the world.

37 representatives from all over the country and two representatives from the United Kingdom gathered at the PTC to discuss the opportunity of traveling abroad and trekking in different countries.

“Our goal is to make sure that everyone is on the same page and that everyone gets the proper information,” International BSA Committee Member Joshua Dick said.

This conference takes place about every three years. Each of the 37 volunteers is an international representative to their council. They are here to learn about how to take a troop abroad and share their experiences. They will then relay that information they learn here to the rest of their council.

The conference is a great place for the representatives to network with other councils so they can communicate about great international programs.

One of the international Scouting programs that was promoted at the conference was the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland.

The center offers a variety of programs, and crews going on treks to Kandersteg choose the programs they want to participate in. This dictates the itinerary that their trek will follow. They can participate in programs from ice climbing to chocolate and cheese tours, giving crews a different experience than Philmont.

“If we can get them excited, then they will go back and share everything that we are sharing with them about the programs,” BSA International Office member Janine Halverson said. “What the national and international office can do and provide for them, and then hopefully they will share it with people.”

The conference held a silent auction on June 21, with funds from the auction being donated to the World Friendship Fund, to help Scouting troops all over the world fund projects to help improve Scouting in their area.

International Scouts from different countries’ Scouting organizations are invited every year to participate in the conference. There have been representatives from Sweden, Kenya, Switzerland and Bangladesh.

Gemma Vetch and Asa

Continued on page 15,  
International

# A PTC Farewell

The lilting notes of “Home on the Range” greeted the first arrivals of the Philmont Training Center’s closing campfire, sung by staff members gesturing with the lyrics atop a wood stage.

Friday’s campfire, which occurs every week, was a bittersweet moment for the participants. Composed of different skits, songs, and award ceremonies, it’s designed to remind the young participants of their accomplishments in the previous week. Though the sad reminder of leaving Philmont hung in the air, there was still cheer.

“It’s a fun way to end the week at the training center,” said Bailey Gray, 18, who works at handicraft.

Each program at PTC can join in the campfire, which has a different theme for every new batch of participants that arrive weekly.

“Depending on the group and what they want to do, they can do their own skits,” she continued, saying that, for the most part, the range for the skits was wide.

Yet the most important thing about the campfire is not about rewards or songs or skits, but about reminding the participants of what they gained while at PTC.

“It [the campfire] shows how well they make friends,” Gray said.

So well has it done, in fact, that it has drawn from

By Garrett Franklyn  
Staff Writer



PTC Closing Campfire. AL GERMANN/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

departments outside of PTC. season staffer who works as a computer technician assistant. “I don’t work at PTC, but I still come to the closing ceremony to enjoy the festivities,” said Nathan Schomburg, a first-

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## Storyteller Cinema

110 Old Talpa Canon Road, Taos, NM  
(575) 751-4245

### Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R)

Benjamin Walker, Dominic Cooper

105 minutes

1:20 PM

### Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (R)

Benjamin Walker, Dominic Cooper

105 minutes

4:20, 7:05, 9:30

### Brave (PG)

Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly

100 minutes

1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20

### Rock of Ages (PG-13)

Julianne Hough, Diego Boneta

123 minutes

1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

### That's My Boy (R)

Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg

114 minutes

1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45

### Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (PG)

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock

93 minutes

1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:00

### Prometheus (R)

Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender

124 minutes

1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35

### Snow White and the Huntsman (PG-13)

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth

127 minutes

1:05, 3:55, 6:55, 9:40

### New Animation Studio Born

By The Wrap

DQ Entertainment, an Indian-based gaming and animation company, has launched a feature film division that will release animated films. Their first film is a 3D version of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

### Blondie and Devo Unite

By WENN

The bands Blondie and Devo are uniting for a nostalgia tour. This greatest hits tour, known as Whip It to Shreds, will begin September 7 of this year.

### Microsoft Introduces: The Surface

By The Wrap

Microsoft unveiled the Surface, a new tablet designed to directly compete with Apple's Ipad. "It's something new, something different, a whole new family of computing devices from Microsoft," said Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. More to come.

### Jackson 5 (Minus One) Tour

By Associated Press

It's been three years since the death of Michael Jackson and the remaining Jackson brothers are planning a tour of their own. Marlon, Jermaine, Tito and Jackie will return to the stage as The Jacksons. They've rearranged their classic songs to suit their voices and plan to pay tribute to Michael during their shows.

### Johnny Depp is Single

By Associated Press

Actor Johnny Depp has split from his partner of 14 years Vanessa Paradis. Even though the pair never married they had two children together. It was an amicable separation according to the actor's publicist.

### Search for the New Benji

By Associated Press

A nationwide search has been initiated to find a dog that will portray the character Benji. A Facebook page has been set up so pet owners and shelter staffs can post pictures and videos of dogs they think could be the next Benji. All of this will be done to revamp the Benji franchise.

### The Used Banned from Canada

By WENN

The band The Used have been banned from performing in Canada for 10 years due to frontman, Bert McCracken's criminal record. McCracken was denied entry into Canada earlier this month forcing the band to scrap the tour. To address this the band will have concerts along the Canadian border states like Michigan, New York and Washington.

### Picasso Vandal Identified

By CNN

Uriel Landeros, 22, was captured on a cellphone video spray painting over Pablo Picasso's "Woman in a Red Armchair" painting in a Houston museum. Crime Stoppers were able to identify Landeros after the video was uploaded to YouTube. Landeros was charged with criminal mischief and felony graffiti, both of which are third degree felonies, and warrants have been issued for his arrest.

### Charlie Sheen's New Show

By CNN

Actor Charlie Sheen returns to TV in FX's show "Anger Management." In this sitcom version of Jack Nicholson's 2003 film, Sheen plays a former baseball player learning to overcome his anger issues. This marks a transition in Sheen's acting career. "I'm done playing a drunken, womanizing, immature character," Sheen said. "This time I'm playing an adult."

## Concerts and Shows

July 6: The Beach Boys; Sandia Casino Amphitheater; Albuquerque, N.M.

July 20: Sublime with Rome; Hard Rock Casino Albuquerque Presents the Pavilion; Albuquerque, N.M.

## Movies Coming out June 29

I Heart Shakey (PG)

People Like Us (PG-13)

Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13)

Magic Mike (R)

Take this Waltz (R)

Ted (R)

\*These movies may not be available at Taos' Storyteller Cinema

## Trebek in the Hospital

Alex Trebek, 71, suffered a mild heart attack, but the "Jeopardy!" host should make a full recovery and return to the game show next month. He expects to be back at 'Jeopardy!' when production begins taping in July for the show's 29th season.



# Local and Regional

**Albuquerque Isotopes**  
By Isotopes website

The isotopes played well over the week, winning four of the last six games. The Isotopes are 1.5 games back of division leading Oklahoma City. The isotopes play four games on the road at Omaha before coming home for a five game homestand against Red Rock.

**Colorado Rockies**  
By ESPN.com

The Rockies have lost five of their last seven games, including four straight against Detroit and Philadelphia. The Rockies have a three game homestand against San Diego before heading on the road to take on St. Louis and Washington before the all-star break.

**Boxing**  
By ESPN.com

The World Boxing Organization reviewed the Manny Pacquiao against Timothy Bradley fight and ruled that Manny Pacquiao won the fight, although the official result will stand. Bradley won the WBO welterweight title from Pacquiao on June 9, and Pacquiao has a rematch clause in his contract for the fight which is preliminarily scheduled for Nov. 10. Reports state that Pacquiao is likely to take the rematch.

**Mixed Martial Arts**  
By ESPN.com

UFC on FX 4 Results: Gray Maynard defeated Clay Guida by split decision to possibly earn himself a title shot after the Benson Henderson-Frankie Edgar rematch. If Edgar were to win, it would be the fourth time the two have faced each other. Other Results: Sam Stout defeats Spencer Fisher, unanimous decision; Brian Ebersole defeats TJ Waldburger, unanimous decision; Cub Swanson defeats Ross Pearson, TKO; UFC 147: Rich Franklin defeated Wanderlei Silva by unanimous decision. Franklin, 37, is looking for one last title run before he plans to retire.

**College Baseball**  
By NCAA.com

Arizona and South Carolina were the final two standing in the College World Series. South Carolina is making its third straight appearance in the CWS finals, winning the CWS the last two seasons. This is Arizona's first CWS appearance since 2004, and they have not won the title since 1986.

**Hockey**  
By NHL.com

The Edmonton Oilers selected Nail Yakupov first overall in the 2012 NHL draft. This is the third straight number one pick for the Oilers, drafting Taylor Hall and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins the last two drafts. Yakupov played for the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League scored 31 goals in 42 games last season.

**Sandusky Case**  
By Associated Press

Jerry Sandusky was found guilty on 45 of 48 counts. Sandusky was accused of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years. The penalty carry a minimum prison sentence of 60 years all the way up to 442 years maximum, almost assuring that he will spend the rest of his life in prison. Sandusky was initially faced with 52 counts of sex abuse, but four were dropped.

# National Sports

## Baseball Standings

### American League

AL East	W	L	GB
Yankees	43	28	-
Orioles	41	31	2.5
Rays	40	32	3.5
Red Sox	38	34	5.5
Blue Jays	37	35	6.5
AL Central			
Indians	38	34	-
White Sox	37	34	5
Tigers	35	37	3
Royals	31	39	6
Twins	29	42	8.5
AL West			
Rangers	45	28	-
Angels	40	33	5
A's	35	38	10
Mariners	31	43	14.5

### National League

NL East	W	L	GB
Nationals	41	29	-
Mets	39	34	3.5
Braves	38	34	4
Marlins	34	38	8
Phillies	34	40	9
NL Central			
Reds	39	32	-
Pirates	38	33	1
Cardinals	38	35	2
Brewers	33	39	6.5
Astros	30	42	9.5
Cubs	24	48	15.5
NL West			
Dodgers	43	30	-
Giants			
Diamondbacks	40	33	3
Rockies	27	44	15
Padres	26	47	17

**NCAA Football**  
By ESPN.com

The BCS commissioners and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick endorsed a four team playoff model that if approved, would begin in 2014. The BCS presidential oversight committee met on June 26 to approve the model. The model would replace the current BCS system that has been in place since 1998.

**NBA Finals**

By Associated Press

After nine seasons in the NBA, the King finally has his ring. LeBron James and the Miami Heat defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 121-106 to win game 5 and the series 4-1 to win the NBA championship. LeBron James was named the MVP of the finals, recording a triple-double in the final game with 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in game five. Kevin Durant had 32 points and 11 rebounds in game five, but it wasn't enough to overpower the Miami Heat, as all five starters scored double-digit points.

**Soccer**

Euro 2012: Finals July 1 Portugal/Spain vs. Germany/Italy

**Tennis**

Wimbledon: Quarterfinals: July 4, Semifinals July 6

# World

## Islamist Leader Declared President of Egypt

By The Huffington Post

After days of delay for the results of its presidential runoff, Egypt has announced Mohammed Morsi as the winner of the election and the country's new president, the Associated Press reports.

Morsi, the candidate from the Muslim Brotherhood, faced off with former Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq after the two candidates collected the most votes in the first round of Egypt's presidential election.

## Israel Jittery After Brotherhood Victory in Egypt

By Associated Press

Israel's prime minister says he hopes peace with Egypt will remain intact after it chose an Islamist president.

Israel has been apprehensive about the possibility of the Muslim Brotherhood taking the top spot in neighboring Egypt, because the veteran Islamist group does not formally recognize Israel.

Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979.

## Paraguay's Ousted President Goes on the Offensive

By Associated Press

Ousted Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo fought back Sunday against the politicians who engineered his dismissal, setting up an alternative government and pledging to upstage Paraguay's new leaders at an upcoming regional summit.

## Turkey Calls NATO Meeting on Warplane Downed by Syria

By the BBC

Turkey has called a meeting of NATO member states to discuss its response to the shooting down of one of its warplanes by Syrian forces on Friday.

## Eight Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Cross-Border Attack

By CNN

More than 100 Taliban fighters crossed over from Afghanistan and attacked three Pakistani military posts Sunday night, killing at least eight soldiers, Pakistani military officials said.

At least 15 Taliban fighters were killed in firefights that followed the attacks in the district of Upper Dir in northwest Pakistan, Colonel Wasim Ahmed told CNN.

## Mexico Front-Runner Draws Crowds, Protests

By Associated Press

The front-runner in Mexico's July 1 presidential elections has rallied tens of thousands of supporters at his first mass campaign event in the country's capital, saying he will respect Mexico's democracy and govern for all if elected.

Candidate Enrique Pena Nieto is running for the old Institutional Revolutionary Party, which governed Mexico for 71 years until 2000. His candidacy has sparked protests in the capital, which is governed by the leftist Democratic Revolution Party.

## Fires Rage Along Western States

By The Huffington Post

Firefighters in Western U.S. states struggled to contain out-of-control wind-stoked wildfires on Saturday as summer temperatures mounted, and a fresh blaze consumed more homes in Colorado even as Utah allowed 2,500 evacuees back for the night.

Colorado firefighters remained unable to halt the spread of the High Park Fire, a growing 81,190-acre (32,856-hectare) blaze in steep canyons west of Fort Collins. The fire jumped containment lines on Friday and roared through a subdivision, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents.

# National

## Jerry Sandusky convicted: Judge denied Sandusky lawyers' request to resign before trial

By CBS

Jerry Sandusky's lawyers said Saturday they tried to quit at the start of jury selection in his child sex abuse trial because they weren't given enough time to prepare, raising an argument on the trial's speed that could become the thrust of an appeal.

And one of the jurors who convicted Sandusky of 45 child sex abuse counts said Saturday he was swayed by the "very convincing" testimony of eight accusers who said the retired Penn State assistant football coach molested them for years. Jurors in the two-week trial convicted Sandusky of 45 of the 48 counts against him, meaning Sandusky, 68, likely will die in prison.

## Worsening wealth inequality by race

By CNN

White Americans have 22 times more wealth than blacks -- a gap that nearly doubled during the Great Recession. The median household net worth for whites was \$110,729 in 2010, versus \$4,995 for blacks, according to recently released Census Bureau figures.

The difference is similarly notable when it comes to Hispanics, who had a median household net worth of \$7,424. The ratio between white and Hispanic wealth expanded to 15 to 1. The gap between the races widened considerably during the recent economic downturn, which whites weathered better than blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Current Philmont Staff can buy the following ads for a reduced price in the 2012 Maverick July, 4 Rodeo Program

Business Card size...\$20

1/4 page...\$45.00

1/2 page...\$80.00

Full page...\$125.00

Take this opportunity to show your support and be a part of the 90th Maverick Rodeo!

For more information please contact Dave Kenneke-  
Dave.Kenneke@scouting.org or 575-447-2366 & Fred  
Cribbett-217-299-6839



# Chaplain's Corner: How Awesome is God's Country!

By Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger  
Chaplain

Recall the first time you arrived at Philmont Scout Ranch. Reflect on your first impressions. Are they not still most vivid in your memory?

Imagine yourself a fourteen-year-old graduate from eighth grade far away from the comforts of home and family. You arrived at the Welcome Center at 6,700 feet above sea level.

Your dream of coming to Philmont had morphed into reality. The adrenalin rush was a delight as you were greeted by your Ranger. Your high adventure was really unfolding for you.

Suddenly a twinge of anxiety took the edge off your excitement as you began the process of final prepping for your trek. There was

medical re-check, trip planning, gathering of camping gear and food from Services. You may have wondered how you were going to carry your personal gear along with your allotment of crew camping gear and food.

You found some relief when your Ranger did shakedown. You were amazed that you did not need all that your mom had insisted you bring. You learned the first lesson of being a part of a crew. Your large tube of toothpaste was sufficient for the entire crew to share for the trek.

So your trek began. The size and scope of the Philmont landscape and terrain was yet to be discovered; that twelve-day Philmont experience would become the source of happy

memories to sustain you for years to come. But there is something else.

In my experience of having trekked Philmont five times with crews and driven its mountainous roads as a Philmont Chaplain for seven years, something else grows within one's spirit.

The Philmont Hymn seems to capture that indescribable feeling of truly belonging in God's Country. The magnificence of God's creation in its natural beauty is quickened by the sharing of it with one other. It is a hymn of praise to God our Creator shared by anyone who has trekked the trails of Philmont!

## Continued from page 11, International

Bangladesh.

Gemma Vetch and Asa Gurden came from the United Kingdom Scout Association for the conference to share some of their experiences.

"I've been talking about staff opportunities for our programs in the U.K. and across the country," Gurden said. "And about what program and Scouting is like in the U.K. and to give these guys a comparison so they can help people back in their own councils figure out how to get people across into the U.K. and visit us."

Gilwell Park is the Philmont of the U.K., with 109 acres for Scouts to trek. Gilwell is not as large as Philmont, and both Gurden and Vetch are impressed

with Philmont.

"The size, you talk about it in the U.K., we have no bit of land that is this big supported by one organization. It's massive in comparison to what we could have in the United Kingdom," Vetch said. "So going around yesterday and looking at some of the infrastructure, it was just incredible, absolutely out of this world."

Coming to Philmont showed the international guests some differences between BSA and the Scout Association in the U.K. They have learned a lot from the BSA as well as taught some things about Scouting.

"Everybody here is genuine, everybody is here for the right reasons, to support young people

to get the opportunities," Vetch said. "There are some differences to how we do our training, our adult training, we look at our wood beads and wood badge slightly different, the uniforms are different. But we have the same values. Scouting is the same, they might call it something different like Tiger Cubs, but the Scouting is exactly the same."

Vetch and Gurden wanted to thank Philmont for making them feel welcome and making their Philmont experience so enjoyable.

If you have any interest in international Scouting, seek out your international representative or go to [www.scouting.org/international](http://www.scouting.org/international).

### Stay involved throughout the year!

Keep up-to-date with the latest *High Country*, regional reunions, access to the member's directory, cool stuff, and much more...



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# The Wild Within

*Archilochus alexandri*

By Beverly Ponterio  
Staff Writer

The black-chinned hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri*, is about 10 centimeters long and is the most common across Philmont. They have a beautiful metallic green color on their backs and pale gray or white bellies that have spotting towards the chin. The males have black under their beaks that often goes all the way around their head; some even have a purple throat.

At Head of Dean Camp there is a small colony of these black-chinned hummingbirds living on and around the front porch. They clean out the plastic feeder almost every other day according to staff members who refill the feeder constantly to keep up with the frenzy.

One of the females built her nest on some ropes hanging from the porch rafters. Staff call her Mrs. Brady and enjoy watching her add spider webs to insulate the nest.

Hummingbirds fly at 25 mph on average and the smaller ones flap about 55 times per second. They are territorial, which becomes particularly evident when watching them at a bird feeder.

Even with six different fake flowers from which to lap up the nectar, the hummingbirds would frequently only feed one or two at a time. If more try to feed at a nearby flower, they often fly at each other, chasing the others away.

One may even notice that there are alliances between some groups of birds meaning that certain birds will feed together and chase competitors as a team, while others are loners or form competing groups.

While feeders are fun to have in order to watch hummingbirds, they are often filled with solutions that are potentially dangerous for the birds. The proper proportion is four parts water to one part

sugar without any use of red dye or sugar substitutes such as honey or Karo syrup.

Many people think the sweeter the better, and while it is true that the hummingbirds will come and enjoy the sweetness of your feeder, they cannot readily digest the excess amounts of sugar and it could make them sick and kill them.

Likewise, red dye is not necessary and may also cause trouble for the birds. Instead, buy a hummingbird feeder that has red on it or tie a red ribbon around a plain feeder. This will help attract them as well as keep them safe.

If the solution is not gone within two or three days you should throw it out and make a new batch. To prevent waste it is smart to fill a feeder half way instead of all the way up.

Be sure if you are stopping at Head of Dean Camp that you check on Mrs. Brady and ask the staff about their hummingbird companions.

**If you have a cool wildlife encounter whilst hiking in the backcountry or around base camp, please come by the News and Photo office and ask for Beverly. We'd love to share it in our next issue if possible.**



A female black-chinned hummingbird sits on her nest on Monday, June 11 at Head of Dean camp.  
BEVERLY PONTERIO/PHILNEWS STAFF WRITER

*"We live in a wild world, yet act as captives. I instead hope to hold the world captive by exposing the wild within it."*  
Beverly Ponterio



# Owen's Corner: Autumn Adventure and Winter Adventure Staff Applications now Accepted

By Owen McCulloch,  
Associate Director of Program



Owen McCulloch is the Base Camp and Seasonal Personnel Director at Philmont. KATY MOONEY/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Are you looking for some adventure? Are you avoiding leaving God's Country? Are you afraid you'll never see squeeze cheese again?

Applications are now being accepted for fall and winter staff positions. Positions available include: Autumn Adventure program staff, PTC Conference, Food Service, Trading Post, Horse Department and Maintenance. In addition, a small number of staff members are employed to support the winter and early spring operations for Camping, PTC and Trading Post operations.

If you would like to be considered for one of these staff openings you need to complete a Philmont Seasonal Employment Application and submit it to the Personnel Department at Camping Headquarters. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 5 p.m. Applications received

after the deadline will not be considered. Offers for fall and winter employment will be extended after July 31. Only applicants who are employed in the immediate previous season are considered for these second-season positions.

The Autumn Season runs September 4 through November 9, 2012. The winter/spring season runs from December 27 through March 31, 2012. A few positions will run through April until the start of next year's summer season.

Autumn Adventure is a fall program that allows a crew to plan a customized itinerary and hike the backcountry with a staff guide. Winter Adventure is Philmont's cold-weather camping program, and includes ski touring, snow shelter building, snow camping, winter ecology, hiking, snowshoeing and the use of winter tools and equipment.

Serving as a member of the Second Season Staff is a great opportunity to be part of the "behind the scenes" action that makes the Philmont magic come alive year round. Applicants should understand they will be expected to perform many different duties if hired for these positions.

A number of staff positions are available from August 22-31. These staff will help close base camp and prepare for the fall programs. The Ranch is happy to extend a summer contract to cover this additional time; it is also a good way to earn a little more gas money for the return trip to home or college.

Please contact the Personnel Office at Camping Headquarters for an application or for more information.

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# Staff Stats

**Top 10 Most Popular Men's Names:**

1. Matthew	7. Michael/William
2. Andrew	8. Robert
3. Christopher	9. James/Kyle
4. David	10. Jacob/Thomas
5. Daniel	
6. John	

**Top 10 Most Popular Women's Names:**

1. Rachel	6. Caitlin/Mary
2. Amanda	7. Erin/Hannah
3. Katherine	8. Catherine/Victoria
4. Sarah	9. Amber/Amy
5. Elizabeth/Emily/Megan	10. Bridget/Madison/Jessica

**Where Staff are Coming From:**

<b>National</b>	New Jersey: 14
Alabama: 9	New Mexico: 98
Alaska: 2	New York: 13
Arizona: 29	North Carolina: 37
Arkansas: 16	North Dakota: 0
California: 44	Ohio: 37
Colorado: 32	Oklahoma: 26
Conneticut: 5	Oregon: 4
Delaware: 1	Pennsylvania: 39
Florida: 37	Rhode Island: 2
Georgia: 37	South Carolina: 12
Hawaii: 1	South Dakota: 1
Idaho: 6	Tennessee: 23
Illinois: 50	Texas: 128
Indiana: 28	Utah: 17
Iowa: 17	Vermont: 2
Kansas: 51	Virginia: 32
Kentucky: 11	Washington: 16
Louisiana: 7	West Virginia: 3
Maine: 3	Wisconsin: 23
Maryland: 31	Wyoming: 0
Massachusetts: 18	
Michigan: 36	<b>International</b>
Minnesota: 13	US Virgin Isl: 1
Mississippi: 17	Puerto Rico: 1
Missouri: 57	INTL England, UK: 2
Montana: 2	INTL Haiti: 1
Nebraska: 8	INTL Ukraine: 1
Nevada: 1	INTL Zambia: 1
New Hampshire: 0	

## Photo Contest Rules

- 1) Photos must be scenes at Philmont and must have been taken this summer by a current staff member.
  - 2) No digital alterations (e.g "photoshopping") are permitted, except in the Digital Creations category.
  - 3) Photos can be I-Camped to, dropped off in person, downloaded at the CHQ Activities Department, or sent to Philmont.Activites@scouting.org
  - 4) All photos will be printed in 8x10 sizes. Printed photos will be scanned and reprinted. Highest resolution should be used when taking photos (at least 200dpi).
  - 5) All photos submitted will become property of Philmont Scout Ranch.
  - 6) All photo entries must be labeled clearly with photographers name, department, category and title of photo. Note: Any photo missing any of the information will not be accepted.
  - 7) Photos must be submitted to the CHQ Activities on or before July 14th.
- Categories
- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Landscape         | Storms & Rainbows    |
| Sunrise &Sunset   | Flower &Plants       |
| Wildlife          | Humor (no vulgarity) |
| Digital Creations | Staff Activity       |
| Camper Activity   | Black &White         |
| Porch View        |                      |
- Winning Photos will appear in the Philnews at the end of the contest and be displayed in the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center.

**Number of Eagle Scouts and Number of Referred Staff**

Eagle Scouts: 634 (77.6%)    Referred: 127 (22.9%)



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# WORD JUMBLES

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**rain gear**

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bleotst**

# The Importance and Breadth of Recycling

By Michael Crockett  
Sustainability Specialist

Of the three “R’s of sustainability (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), recycling is given the most attention, because it yields the most visible and tangible results. As opposed to simply reducing the quantity of resources consumed, recycling involves the active diversion of waste materials from the landfill by returning them to the stream of consumer products.

At the 2012 New Mexico Recycling Conference in Albuquerque, recycling was described as the “gateway drug” to sustainability. We all generate waste, and it is important to prevent that waste from entering a landfill but also to reuse that waste. Doing so reduces the demand for already taxed natural resources. The ideal scenario involves a concentrated effort

to reduce consumption while finding a recycling outlet for any waste generated.

In addition to actually recycling waste, of equal importance is the purchase of products made from recycled material. At its root, recycling is essentially a matter of economics. The purchase of recycled products generates demand for recycled goods, and thus a market for the entire recycling industry. For example, the #5 plastics used at Philmont are taken to Whole Foods in Albuquerque where they are sent to Preserve Products through their “Gimme 5” program. Preserve then recycle the plastic and manufactures’ toothbrushes, razors, kitchen and dinnerware available to the consumer, thereby completing

the waste-to-product loop of recycling.

Whether it’s at home, at school, or here at Philmont, recycling is an easy and important first step on the road to sustainability. The recycling industry not only preserves natural resources and saves communities money but also helps boost local and global economies by creating jobs and providing an easy to access source of material. While recycling cannot be the only consideration in waste reduction and resource management, it is certainly a necessary and vital component to any approach to long-term sustainability.

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# Philmont Staff Association Announces Writing Contest

The Philmont Staff Association (PSA) is holding its first ever writing contest for Philmont’s seasonal staff members.

The deadline for submission is July 13. The PSA will announce the winners on August 3. Winning entries will appear in “High Country,” the magazine of the PSA.

The judges for the contest are a panel made up of the Publications Committee of the PSA. Warren Smith will chair the panel. Smith is a past editor of “High Country” and a columnist for WORLD Magazine. He has also written or edited 10 books, including the recently released “I Wanna Go Back: Stories of the Philmont Rangers.”

“Writing about Philmont is not as easy as it looks,” Smith said. “Because Philmont has such obvious beauty and because we love it so much, it is too easy to fall back on clichés and sentimentality. The trick to writing about Philmont—especially when you’re writing for people who already know about Philmont—is to take what is familiar and somehow make it new.”

The PSA Staff Association Writing Contest will recognize a winner in the following categories:

- Adventure Story: Has something strange or unusual happened to you or someone you know at Philmont? A near miss or

close call? A dream realized—or deferred? A crazy day-off road trip? Let us hear about it.

- Spiritual/Personal Memoir: From Henry David Thoreau to John Muir to Annie Dillard, the “green world” has provided powerful settings for reflections on spiritual matters. What has Philmont taught you about your life or your God?
- Poetry: All forms are welcome.
- Fiction: Lew Wallace, D.H. Lawrence, Walker Percy, Willa Cather, and Zane Grey are just a few of the great novelists who have used New Mexico as a setting for fiction.

Smith offered this advice to those considering submission. “Great writing is concrete,” he said. “It may offer thoughts and opinions, but those thoughts and opinions should spring from close observation of the world around us.”

He added that writing about Philmont should “show and not merely tell.” He said, “Don’t say that the view from Window Rock is beautiful. Say that a crew that had been obnoxiously loud all morning, became suddenly quiet when it stepped onto Window Rock and saw the plains stretched out below them. Say that the loudest and most obnoxious kid in the crew could manage only one word: ‘Wow.’” Smith said this sort of close observation and

narrative detail allows a reader to enter the story, making flowery descriptions unnecessary.

It is preferred that submission be via email, as a Microsoft Word attachment. Email all submissions to wsmith@worldmag.com. Handwritten submissions must be legible and I-camped to the PSA office. All submissions are due by midnight, July 13, 2012. Please limit all submissions to no more than 1500 words.



# An Ever Present Danger

By Matthew Baide  
Staff Writer

The effects of the 2002 Ponil fire are still affecting Philmont today. 92,500 acres of burnt mountainsides devastate parts of the North Country. Unfortunately, the Ponil fire may be the first of many large and severe landscape-scale fires at Philmont.

Wildfires are an ever-present danger at Philmont. Excessive fuels in the forest along with the high-risk weather conditions could spell catastrophe if a forest fire were to break out during extremely dry conditions.

Mary Stuever, a visiting forester with the volunteer forest program, has a Masters' degree in fire ecology and has been a firefighter for 30 years.

She says a forest fire at Philmont is inevitable, and she hopes Philmont will be ready to survive the event with minimal damage.

"It's a time bomb. It's not a question of if there is going to be another big fire, it is a matter of when there is going to be a big fire."

Stuever thinks that a healthy forest is more resilient to the



It has been ten years since the Ponil Complex Fire burned 92,500 acres of land. CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

impact of forest fires.

Forest fires are a natural part of the ecosystem, helping to clear away dead trees and grasses to make way for new trees and grass to take its place. However, throughout the West, including on the Philmont landscape, forest fires have been suppressed for more than a century. By preventing natural forest fires, trees grow too dense and fuel builds. Then when fires do burn, the damage to the ecosystem is

extreme.

There is a dilemma in how to manage the Philmont forest. Although Philmont has too many trees, the costs of moving wood and the lack of markets limit the amount of logging that can take place.

"Throughout the west there are no simple answers. It may be easy to say we made this mistake, let's fix it, but fixing it is a very serious and complicated challenge."

**Continued on page 23, Danger**

# Interested in Running?

By Toph White  
Health Lodge Support Staff

Many people enjoy running here at Philmont. Although it is a great sport for personal challenge and time for relaxation and reflection, many runners have expressed an interest in having group outings. In response a few staff members have been working to create a running/jogging group or club. Current efforts include:

- Starting the 16th of June, David Pedrick (Sustainability Coordinator) and when he can, Toph White (Health Lodge) will meet anyone interested at 6:00am at the Staff Activities Center on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for

a run before breakfast. The group will meet and decide the length, speed and goal of the run daily.

- The hiking partner board in activities will also have a run buddy interest sheet. Please sign up if you are looking for a running partner and list what your goals or needs are. Would you like to have a competitive partner to push you or raise the bar?
- Various running activities and races in the local and surrounding areas will be posted on the run board. Interest sheets to hook up with others for training or carpooling to and from

events will also be available.

- The activities staff is also working on organizing events such as the Philmont 5K and possibly a special permission trail run.

An interest meeting will be held on July 2nd in the Walcutt Room of the SSSAC at 7 p.m. to help develop the goals and expectations for our exercise program.

Please attend as many events as you can or would like; to push yourself, try something new, or just be a healthy participant. Hope to see out there and happy trails!

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# PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship

The Philmont Staff Association Seasonal Staff Scholarship program has steadily grown over the past five years. More money for college expenses have been awarded each year, and more staff have submitted applications for these funds. Both trends continued last summer. Ninety-eight summer staff applied for the PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarships in 2011. Thanks to our members' generosity, the PSA awarded a total of \$34,000 to thirty recipients last year.

The Philmont Staff Association is working hard to make 2012 an even bigger year for the Seasonal Staff Scholarship program. There will be more funds available to use for school expenses. However, you need to apply. Forms are available around the Ranch, including the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center

and the PSA office. Scholarship awards of \$500 for first year staff, \$1,000 for second year staff, and \$1,500 for third year staff will be made for the Fall 2012 – Spring 2013 academic year. Payment of the scholarship will be distributed directly to the school. Applications are due August 31, 2012.

Over the past five years, \$96,000 was been awarded to Philmont staff. First year staff to seasoned veterans, Wranglers to PTC staff to Rangers, freshmen to graduate school students, the Philmont staff has been well represented amongst the scholarship winners. All college and post-secondary education students are encouraged to apply this year.

# Staff Highlight of the Week: A Match Made in God's Country

By Katie Sill  
Staff Writer

As one of many mail room clerks, Jennifer Vrbancic bears the responsibility of ensuring mail passes through Philmont safely. Known as "Peaches" by most, she works hard sorting mail for both crews and staff members. According to the mailroom staff, it's important that everyone is able to send and receive love to and from home

"Jennifer does her best to take care of everyone" said Jillian Forestiere, a fellow mail clerk.

In addition to processing domestic mail, the Philmont mail room handles all the I-Camps. I-Camps are a free means of staying in touch with staff across the Ranch. They allow people to foster and maintain friendships or relationships throughout the summer. Jennifer knows, from personal experience, how important I-camps can be.

"Without I-Camps, I may have never met my husband," said Jennifer.

Jennifer met her husband Nick Vrbancic, the web manager for the Tooth of Time Traders website, during the summer of 2008. The two were both on backcountry staff. Nick Vrbancic was the Camp Director of Cimarroncito while Jennifer was the cook at Ponil. Throughout that first summer both sent regular I-Ccamps to each other. Eventually friendship turned into romance and the two began dating.

"We kept every letter we ever sent to each other" said Jennifer.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL RICHARDS

In 2011 Nick proposed at the top of Lover's Leap. At the time the couple was training for their search and rescue certification. Nick convinced Jennifer to hike to the top of Lover's Leap and despite her fear of heights she agreed. After they reached the top, Jennifer was too scared to approach the edge. Nick asked 'the question' just as Jennifer was beginning to calm down only to cause her to burst into tears again. This time,

however, they were tears of joy.

The couple decided to have the wedding ceremony at Philmont, where it all began. They married this past April at Rayado and the reception was held at the Philmont Training Center. Nick describes the event as "the beginning of their next big adventure together."

"Philmont finds a place in everyone's heart and for us this is our home," said Jennifer, smiling.

## Continued from page 21, Danger

Stuever believes that Philmont is doing the best they can in managing their forests.

"Until the market gets better, it's very hard for any of these ranches in Northern New Mexico

to be very successful," Stuever said. "But Philmont has an active forestry program and an active forestry plan. So Philmont is doing what they can do with the situation that they have."

For more information on the Philmont forests or fire ecology, please visit Mary Stuever or any of the visiting foresters at the demonstration forest near the Cimarroncito Reservoir.

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Rayado Ranger Jac Cottrell hands out sage to Rayado crew members before sendoff on Wednesday, June 20. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



Before lunch, rangers get Scouts excited about Philmont with a story and a trust exercise. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



The first crews of summer 2012 return to base camp on Tuesday, June 19. DAVID SPITZNAGEL/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



Bear researcher Ben Carlucci boils bear bones in laundry detergent and peroxide to prepare them for educational use on Saturday, June 16. CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER