

PhilNews

Halfway to Heaven

By Matthew Baide
Staff Writer

From the sweet ballad that is "100 Miles," to the tender upbeat sounds of "Another Lovin' Mountain Song," the band Halfway to Heaven offers a song for everyone.

Joshua Standard met Jeremy Ralstin last summer at Pueblano. The two decided to make an album together, and Halfway to Heaven was born.

Nokosee Fields was recruited into the band when he first came to Philmont. He features in every

song except one, playing violin, mandolin, and bass.

They released their first studio album, "100 Miles" on April 27. They played a CD show on the day of the release in Illinois.

Ralstin worked at a studio in Oklahoma, where the album was recorded. Fields lives in Oklahoma, and drove to the studio to do five hour recording sessions, laying down mandolin, violin and bass however he saw

fit.

"It was cool, I really liked the experience," Fields said. "I felt I wasn't as prepared as I should have been, but we got it done. I think it sounds really good. It was difficult and I liked the challenge."

Joshua Standard wrote or co-wrote every song on the album.

"Some of them were songs that we could churn out in 30 minutes with a jam session, and

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Josh Standard, the Camp Director of Clark's Fork. CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

Bear Wilderness Research

By Matthew Baide
Staff Writer



Bear researchers Ben Carlucci and Grace Bond set up bear hair snares near the Urraca turnaround. The snares collect hair samples from passing bears that can tell researchers the gender, species and identity of the bear. AL GERMANN/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The Philmont wilderness is home to many bears, and Matthew Gould, a graduate student at New Mexico State University, is working with Philmont Bear Researchers and New Mexico Game and Fish to keep tabs on the state bear population.

Gould is researching bear populations in New Mexico for his masters' project. The New Mexico Game and Fish wanted to continue their research of bear population for better management, so he took the project after his advisor informed him the assignment was available.

"I've always kind of had an

interest in bears and population," Gould said.

He has done all of his wildlife research with bears, including grizzly bear recovery in Montana. His goal is to eventually work as a wildlife biologist.

Gould is working in a collaborative effort with New Mexico Game and Fish, New Mexico State University, Forestry department, United States Geological Survey and private landowners.

From the Colorado border to Santa Fe, Gould is setting up bear hair snares. The snares are barbed wire wrapped around four trees, with bad smelling

Continued on page 5, Bear

Weather
Forecast

Friday 7/6
Hi 86—Lo 53



Saturday 7/7
Hi 87—Lo 53



Sunday 7/8
Hi 87—Lo 54



Monday 7/9
Hi 87—Lo 54



Tuesday 7/10
Hi 87—Lo 55



Wednesday 7/11
Hi 85—Lo 54



Thursday 7/12
Hi 84 —Lo 54



Friday 7/13
Hi 84—Lo 52



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Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
					<p>5:15 p.m. 5K Run starting on SSSAC porch</p> <p>8 p.m. Humans vs. Zombies</p>	<p>8 p.m. Dodgeball @ Baldy Pavilion</p>
Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13	Saturday 14
<p>8 p.m. Swing dance and S'mores @ Baldy Pavilion</p>	<p>Tom Munch, singer (details forthcoming)</p>	<p>11 a.m.-2 p.m. Brat Day @ Baldy Pavilion</p> <p>8 p.m. Rugby @ Health Lodge lawn</p>	<p>9 a.m. Overnight hike to Rich Cabins, start @ SSSAC</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Yoga @ PTC Small Fry</p>	<p>8 p.m. Movie Night (Original Willy Wonka) @ Baldy Pavilion</p> <p>Table Game Triathlon @ SSSAC</p> <p>Knitting lessons in Walcutt Room</p>	<p>8 p.m. Coffee House @ Staff Dining Hall</p>	<p>7 p.m. "Wannabe Band" plays at The James</p> <p>8 p.m. Stargazing at the Stockade, meet @ SSSAC porch</p> <p>Photo Contest Judging</p>

In Issue 3 of PhilNews, Philmont Camp Director of Crater Lake, Ry Taylor, was referred to as "Ryan Taylor." This is incorrect and the article should have referred to him as only "Ry Taylor."

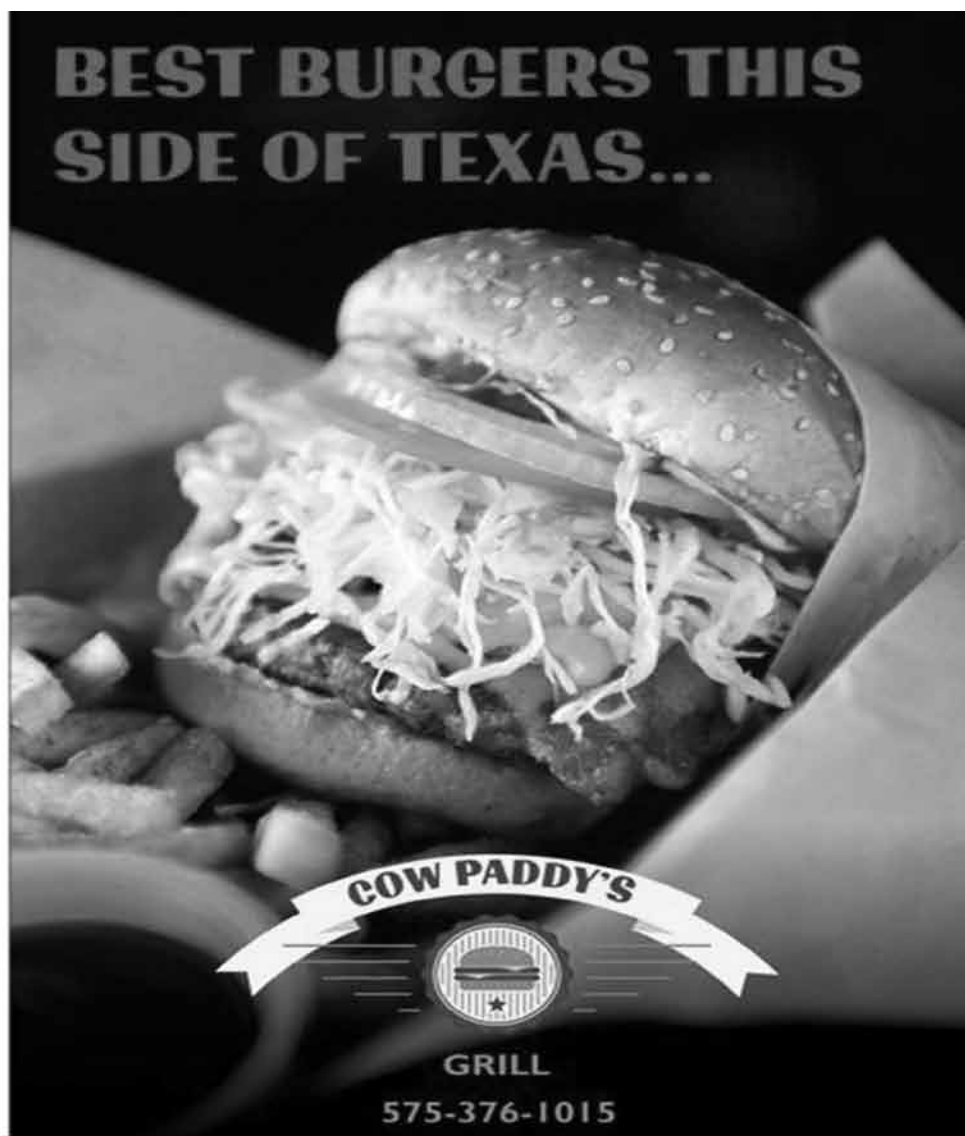
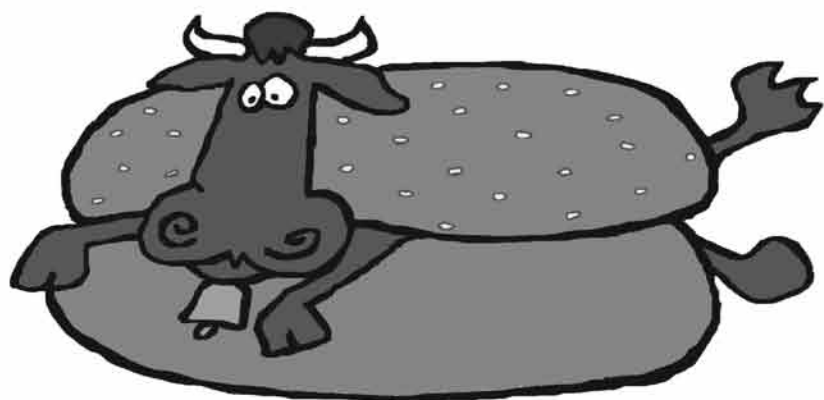
If any corrections or mis-information in the PhilNews is noticed please feel free to I-Camp News and Photo Services or email us at philmontnps@philmontscoutranch.org and we will make the appropriate corrections.



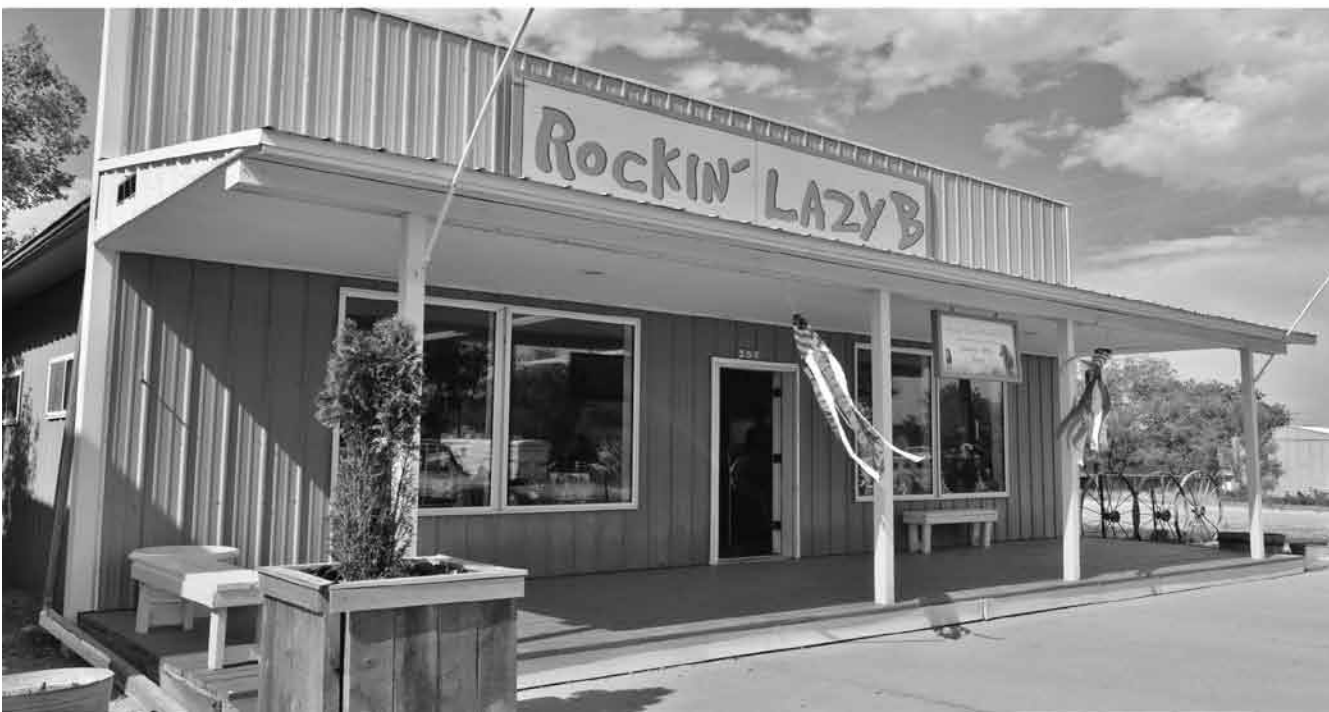
Cow Paddy's Grill

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: Philmont Staff Teamwork

By Mark Anderson
Director of Program

This week the National Visitation by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) took place across Philmont Scout Ranch. The Visitation Team affirmed that Philmont met all mandatory standards and all quality standards. The team found that the collective effort of the Philmont Staff was truly delivering wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime.

The Visitation Team committed over and over again about the positive teamwork spirit they found in all areas of the Ranch. Teamwork is a rare gift that allows ordinary people to attain extraordinary results.

"Lessons from the Geese" is a powerful illustration from nature of the rules of high performance teamwork.

"As geese flap their wings, they create uplift for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if any bird were to fly alone.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own, with another formation or catch



**Mark Anderson, Director of Program. SAMANTHA WAIDLER/
PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER 2011**

up with the flock."

From this passage I would like to encourage each of us to work together to follow through in our "V" formation with the program delivery that we have been practicing since May, to continue to encourage each other as we continue to find ways to help and support each other along our journey.

Helen Keller wrote "alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

We will have another chance to show a Visitation Team our abilities on July 9, 10 and 11 when representatives of the American Camp Association conduct a review to verify compliance with the ACA standards of best practices for camp operations.

I would like to thank each of you for the work that you are doing this summer as members of the Philmont Staff!

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Continued from page 1, Heaven



Jeremy Ralstin, the Camp Director of Urraca. MATTHEW PROKOSCH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

others like '100 Miles' I worked on for almost two months," Standard said.

The entire album is original and was written within the last two years.

"The inspiration behind most of the songs is an undying love for the mountains," Standard said. "Several are just about being happy and at home in the mountains, such as 'Another Lovin' Mountain Song' and 'More to See'."

Standard was inspired by Philmont for some songs, such as "Baldy Mountain Road" and "More to See". It was also a place that gave him confidence to play in front of people.

"Others were just about stories I had heard or the pretty girl that chased me to Colorado in the off season," Standard said.

His favorite song to play is the "Ruby Chief" because it is fun to sing and play and is a little

dark. Ralstin and Standard are in every song with guitar and vocals. Standard usually sings lead vocals with Ralstin singing harmony.

Ralstin's favorite songs are "100 Miles" and "Another Lovin' Mountain Song."

"I like the ballad and the string section of '100 Miles,' it's really cool," Ralstin said. "And 'Another Lovin' is an upbeat jam song with good lyrics. It is just fun to play."

Both Ralstin and Standard are hoping that Fields would join Halfway to Heaven full time, and that is certainly an option.

"I would be more than down," Fields said. "I am always looking for something to do musically. And I liked how this project turned out. At first I didn't know what to think about it exactly, because I was just in a studio, it was just me by myself with the tracks, but the finished

product I was really impressed."

Ralstin is the Camp Director at Urraca, and Standard is the Camp Director at Clarks Fork, so they don't get much time to practice together. But they get together and practice whenever they get the chance.

The three haven't done many live shows together. They played at Cow Paddy's when it first opened. The group currently does not have any upcoming shows, but they hope to book a few before the end of the summer. Ralstin was hoping the band would be able to play at the Mission Creek Festival in Iowa.

The band is halfway through writing the next album. They hope to record in the fall, and release the album by the beginning of next summer.

"100 Miles" can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders, on iTunes, Amazon, and many other CD retailers.

Continued from page 1, Snares

liquids to attract bears, such as fatty acid tablets along with various strong smelling liquids. When a bear comes by, he will likely leave hair on one of the barbed wires.

"The more potent smelling the bait is, the more likely the bear will be attracted to it," said Bear Researcher Ben Carlucci.

There is also barbed wire nailed on specific objects called "bear rubs." Bear rubs are objects that bears come into contact with naturally, such as power poles, signposts and road signs.

"The snares are not much different from a bear coming into contact with sharp brush. It doesn't harm the bear, but it helps Fish and Game have a specific site from which to collect the sample," said Carlucci.

Throughout the summer, Gould and his team will be at Philmont checking the traps and collecting hair samples. After the summer, he will send

the hair samples to a lab in British Columbia. The lab will do genetic analysis, identifying sex, relationships, and different information about the bears. He hopes to have all the data by early 2013 so he can do some preliminary analysis on population estimates.

With the data, Gould can estimate the minimum population, total population estimates and the range of the population. Besides doing the population study, Gould hopes to find out other information about bears.


"[The] cool thing is you can look at some genetic questions with this data," Gould said. "The [genetic similarities] of the population, I can look at the differences between them and the bears in the Sacramento mountains down in Rio Del Sol. I can look at them and see if there are any differences between the mountain ranges and the desert.


There is a lot of information you can get."

He will be conducting research in the southern half of New Mexico next summer.

All the effort is going toward the continued persistence of black bear populations throughout New Mexico.

Bear Researchers Carlucci and Grace Bond are volunteering to help Gould with this project. They advise that participants and staff stay away from the snares, because bears might avoid a snare if there is human scent nearby.



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New PhilCast Video Broadcast

By Beverly Ponterio
Staff Writer



Videographers Sean Barber and Nick Pittman take video of Aaron Loncki for a PhilCast on Friday, June 29. PhilCasts will soon feature a new format. DAVID SPITZNAGEL/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The PhilCast was shot in a tight broadcasting format, but is changing to be “more like ‘Dirty Jobs’...more in the moment kind of capturing,” said Sean Barber, Lead Videographer. Events will be shot as they are happening with just one host as opposed to many. That host will be Aaron Loncki, Special Ops at Tooth of Time Traders.

When asked what excites Loncki about hosting the PhilCast, he said, “It’s gonna be a lot of fun...it’s fun to spread the news and the happenings of Philmont, being able to interact with the participants and showing all it has to offer.”

Barber and Videographer Nick Pittman plan to continue taking their time editing, but hope to make the episodes “newer and fresher.”

Pittman and Barber started the new format this week with the Philmont Training Center

Family Programs. In the future, they intend to cover Ponil’s new shooting program as well as programs at Valle Vidal camps, as they are frequently an untapped resource.

They also intend to bring to light the Ranch and Dining Hall Departments, as many are unaware how much work goes into each daily. The dining hall feeds thousands of people three meals a day and works like a well-oiled machine. The Ranch Department is responsible for maintaining the functioning cattle ranch including the burros, horses, bison and cattle.

“It’s going to be more fluid and fun,” said Barber. Be sure to keep an eye out for the PhilCast by either checking out the YouTube channel, Facebook page, or going to the about section at philmontscoutranch.org and clicking on PhilCast.

Thunder Ridge Tent Design

By Beverly Ponterio
Staff Writer

Philmont’s new tents were designed to last longer. The old Philmont models have been around since the 1970s and have survived well, but have needed many repairs. The new tent, called the Thunder Ridge, was sent out for its first trial by participants on June 27. Philmont ordered 300 tents this year as a trial, and if they work as expected, 500 more will be ordered for next year.

Though the previous Philmont tents are a bit lighter, the new tents were intended to cut down set-up time and take a beating.

“If people are out on their first backpacking experience, putting up a tent and throwing poles around et cetera, it’s gotta be pretty tough,” said Shelley O’Neill, Trading Post Manager, when describing the durability of the Thunder Ridge.

According to O’Neill, tent

poles break most often in today’s tents, but these poles are DAC aluminum, which is lightweight and strong. They also went with heavier material and reinforced stitching, which makes the tent a little bit heavier and sturdier.

Philmont went through several manufacturers to find the best design for the new tents and chose MSR’s design. The tents are specifically designed for Philmont and even include some special customizations. Upon entry into the tent, one can find the “Bermuda Triangle” silk-screened on the bottom. One will also find the Philmont Wilderness pledge sewn inside.

O’Neill calls herself a “gear freak,” and owns several tents of her own. When she got involved in the new tent design, she set up the Thunder Ridge prototype and then began to set up the old blue A-frame Philmont model.

She said it was embarrassing how long it took her in comparison and how labor intensive it was. She thinks crews will be thrilled that when it is about to rain, they will be able to set up the tent in enough time to stay dry.

The tents have already seen improvement. Due to a flaw in one small piece during manufacturing, the strap that holds the fly on was too silky and would slip out, but with the new parts finally here, O’Neill is confident that crews will be wholly satisfied with their Thunder Ridge experience.

The tents will not be sold in any stores, not even the Trading Post. It is strictly a Philmont Scout Ranch tent geared towards making treks even better.

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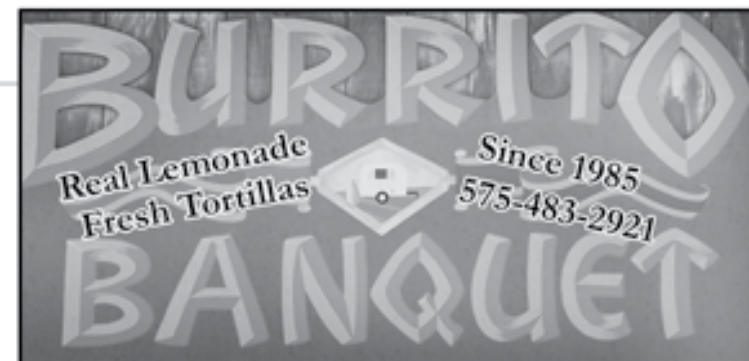
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Reliving History: Rayado/Kit Carson

By Beverly Ponterio
Staff Writer

When one steps through the keyhole door, they will hear a ping as Bill Newt, played by Lee “Blue” Price, hits a frying pan. The only thing that will actually hit those entering is the smell of the forge coming from the

blacksmithing shop.

Participants are informed that the reason the door was so small was so when anyone tried to enter who was not friendly they would be looking down at their feet while stepping through.



Lee “Blue” Price pets a chicken at the end of his tour on Tuesday, June 26 at the Kit Carson Museum. CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

Then, the Carson family could hit them with a skillet or something and make them think twice about entering.

The major programs at Rayado/Kit Carson are hacienda tours, tomahawk throwing, and blacksmithing.

During the beginning of the tour, Price makes it known that before anyone settled out in New Mexico, the land belonged to the many different tribes such as Jicarilla Apache, Comanche, Navajo, Anasazi, and many more. He then gives the history of how the land came into and out of many sets of hands such as Beaubien, Maxwell, and Carson who settled Rayado.

Then, the tour continues into the banquet room, the bedroom, the kitchen, the fur room, and the tack room. Each room is explained as to its functionality and use.

Once you exit the hacienda, you can step over into the blacksmithing shop. When wagons used to come in off the Santa Fe Trail, they would often need repairs the smithing shop to service them, which is now run by the staff who rotate out.

Tom Boggs, played by Thomas Edward Starkey as well as Tim Goodale, played by Jason Windsor dress in period clothing covered in soot as they control the fire and hammer out supplies. Staff and participants may try their hand at black-smithing or watch the process unfold.

Aside from the ping of

the pan, one may also hear the distant ‘thwack’ of a tomahawk hitting the large wooden target called a cookie.

Want to try out tomahawk throwing? Vidal Trijillo played by Stephen Alexander, or James White played by Jeremy Barrett teach the safe way to throw and the commands to follow. At ready to throw, you pull the tomahawk back “like you’re scratching your back,” according to Price. “Throw at cookie” is the command to release the tomahawk at the target. Then, wait to hear the command to retrieve when safe.

Boggs’ wife Rumalda Boggs, played by Causey Cato, runs La Posta, the old store, which is stocked with period items such as saltboxes, old coffee, burlap sacks, whiskey barrels,

fishing kits, pots and pans, etc. Cato shows groups around and answers their questions. You may also run into Petra Abreu, played by Michelle Wagoner or Lenora Beaubien played by Siobhan O’Rourke in the section that has candy sticks, harmonicas, old games, books, blankets and more available for purchase.

Whether you want to throw a tomahawk, use the blacksmith tools of old, learn the history of Rayado and Kit Carson, or just see some kind smiling faces, Rayado/Kit Carson is a great place to spend the day.



Thomas Edward Starkey works the bellows at the blacksmith shop on Tuesday, June 26 at Rayado. RACHEL TAYLOR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

OATC Trails and Opportunities

By Garrett Franklyn
Staff Writer

Many of the trails hiked here at Philmont had simple beginnings, carved out of the earth with shovels and pick-axes wielded by the calloused hands of trail crews sprinkled across the backcountry.

But these are not regular trail crews. They come from across the United States, never having heard of or met one another before, for

a 14-day program that combines conservation with hiking. Called the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, it allows participants to come to Philmont when their hometown Scout Troop isn’t able to and still enjoy the Philmont experience, all while teaching the precepts of brotherhood and cheerful service common to the Order of the Arrow.

“They [participants] meet someone just like them 2,000 miles away,” said Timothy Riedel, the Conservation OATC Coordinator. “It’s neat that they come out here.”

The first seven days have participants work on trail construction and maintenance, while the last seven are a backpacking trek designed by

the participants themselves. What they learn on the trail is more than just conservation and hiking, though.

“It’s not just cutting bushes and shoveling stuff,” said Robert Fudge, 27, Associate Director of Conservation. “They have to pull together as a crew.”

And pulling together as a crew, unsurprisingly, helps to

reinforce the sense of camaraderie the OATC hopes its participants will absorb, according to Fudge. As he called it, it’s “teambuilding through trailbuilding.” By coming together, trail crews will create a legacy in the relationships they have with one another, which is akin to the legacy they will leave at Philmont.

Continued on page 9, OATC

The Soldiers of Black Mountain

By Katie Sill
Staff Writer

The year is 1872; it's been seven years since the end of the Civil War and one troop of veterans have made a comfortable living for themselves in the mountains of New Mexico. Their camp is nestled in the valley at

the base of Black Mountain. For seven years these soldiers have been searching diligently for one thing: gold.

The regiment first learned of gold in the area from the local tribes. During a trade, the army

captain, portrayed by Tristan Wagner, received small pieces of the precious metal. The Indians told him where they found the gold. In doing so, they planted the dream of wealth in the mind of the former-Union soldiers.

"Once we received our discharge papers we immediately left to find gold" said Bryan Cross who portrays the army's doctor.

Unfortunately, the promise of gold has yet to be fulfilled. This has not dampened the spirits of the troop, however.

"The surrounding mines are doing well so we're not too discouraged," said Captain Wagner, "Our time will come."

In the meantime, these veteran soldiers have found other ways to make a living in the wilderness of New Mexico. They've put their skills and talents to use. As a former Sergeant, Jake Harvey works as a blacksmith in the camp forge, accepting commissions from the

surrounding settlements.

"We make anything from horseshoes and nails to curtain rods and knives for our customers" said Harvey.

Harvey is ready and willing to share his new trade with those who pass by the camp. He even allows participants to assist him in his projects. Harvey is adamant about the safety of those who help him since the forge can heat up to over 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Everyone who enters the forge area must wear protective eye gear and aprons. Participants can keep anything they help create in the forge.

As marksmen, the soldiers accept bounty for hunting animals. They've collected the pelts of wolves, bears, and even mountain lions. The regiment has also become a source of law enforcement for the surrounding area.

To practice, the troop set up a shooting range near their camp.

They use the same black powder rifles they used in the Civil War. Experienced soldiers, such as the ones at Black Mountain, could fire three rounds in a minute. Such speed is unnecessary during times of peace. Since they are no longer in combat, the soldiers take the time to clean and care for their weapons – a luxury not available during battle. At the shooting range, they like to challenge themselves with small targets like playing cards.

"Anyone who can hit the playing card can keep it" said Dr. Cross, smirking. "It's harder than you think."

Participants passing through Black Mountain are invited to try their hand at both the shooting range and the forge before ascending the challenging peak. Better hurry, though, because it's only a matter of time before the troop strikes it rich.



Bryan Cross shoots a black powder rifle on Monday, June 18 at Black Mountain Camp. This post-Civil War interpretive camp also offers blacksmithing instruction. LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The View From Miner's Park

By Katie Sill
Staff Writer

As one of the closer camps to base, Miner's Park is a popular destination for staff and crews alike. It offers the thrill of rock climbing to all its visitors no matter their skill level.

Participants can practice their rock climbing skills on one of the many artificial rock walls surrounding the Miner's Park cabin. Periodically, the staff challenges participants to climb around all four sides of the rock walls. It's a fun activity that offers a reward. Anyone who succeeds will receive a package of doughnuts.

For those interested, Miner's Park also offers rock climbing on the nearby mountain. The climbing site is a 20 minute hike from the cabin. Once there, experienced rock climbers offer

instruction for proper techniques and safety.

"My favorite part is coaching participants through their climb," said Miner's Park Program Counselor Kate Beiswanger.

Not everyone who visits the climbing site is required to climb, however. This is because rock climbing at Miner's Park is a challenge centered activity. This means, each participant that chooses to climb sets their own personal challenge.

"So whether they want to climb five feet or all the way to the top we'll help them," said Beiswanger.

The participants that do reach the top are greeted with a view unlike any other. Towering over the treetops they can gaze across Philmont's beautiful South

Country.

"It's one of those things, that, you won't get to see if you don't climb up," said Assistant Camp Director Adam Gault. "We do everything we can to make sure participants get to see it."

It's normal for participants to feel nervous when climbing and most people are scared of the prospect of falling. There's no need to worry, though, because all the climbers at Miner's Park are equipped with a harness. The harness is tied to their climbing rope which is anchored at the top of the rock. Participants are also required to wear helmets at all times in the climbing area.

As if these safety measures weren't enough, the staff members have one more piece of advice for their climbers: meow.



Carl Sanman checks to see if the helmet is properly fastened on one of the many Scouts who climbed on Tuesday, June 26 at Miner's Park. CONNOR SPURR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

"Meowing actually increases your dexterity and the likelihood you'll land on your feet," said another Program Counselor Carl Sanman, jokingly.

Staff members entertain visitors with their comedic banter and create a fun atmosphere.

In doing so, they help calm the nerves of their participants.

Those interested in testing their skills against the rocks of Miner's Park are invited to do so as long as their willing to channel their inner feline.

Miranda, Black Powder and Furs

By Garrett Franklyn
Staff Writer

Deep in the Miranda cabin—past the tomahawk throwing, black powder range and mountain ball pitch—mountain man and fur trader extraordinaire James Kirker stood in the dank, heavy cabin air before several Scouts, selling wares.

“What’ll yawl be having?” he said as they settled, tired and worn from their hike, on a half-circle of logs.

The “green horns,” as they’re called by Kirker, responded almost in unison: The younger ones cried “Guns!” as the older ones grumbled “Tapioca.” But at the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous Trading Post, the only currency is pelts and furs, two things Scouts rarely bring on a trek. So instead of trading with Kirker, they had to learn about the West and the mountain men within.

Kirker, whose real name is Tucker Baker, plays the role of the fur trader whenever he’s at Miranda, much as the rest of his coworkers themselves play roles all their own. At Miranda, an early-19th century interpretative camp, each staff member dresses in clothes of the period and lives a different life during the summer.

For Eric Kessler, a 19-year-old who goes only by “Thomas,” that life is of a soldier turned fur trapper who journeyed West. Thomas’s martial experience, a knife and axe hangs from a woven leather belt at his waist, and familiarity with the local Native Americans has made him a benefit to the men of Miranda. His reason for working at Miranda and Philmont, however, has little to do with his alter-ego.

“I had an awesome time out on trek,” Kessler said. “The staff looked like they were having a good time. I had a good experience.”

But perhaps as importantly were three simple charms he found at the camp as a youth.

“I liked the scenery, the meadow and black powder.”



Wei-Jen Yu pours black gunpowder into a gun cap on Sunday, June 1, at Miranda shooting range. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

Deep in the north of Philmont, the Miranda cabin claims a rolling field of green as its front porch. It’s the first thing arriving Scouts see of the camp and is a welcome sight for some of them before the inevitable climb toward the third-highest peak in New Mexico. Hanging in the background, Mt. Baldy sits waiting for the crews that will leave Miranda in search of challenge.

Wesley Walters, of Troop 149 from Athens, Ga., has traded nervousness for excitement, as has the rest of his crew. Though covered in dirt and sweat, Walters is ready for the 12,441 foot summit and has enough spare energy to join his crew in warbling a few lines from “Call Me Maybe.”

“We’re stoked,” he said. A Life Scout, Walters is working toward his Eagle by building a cross-country track for his town.

In the meantime, Walters and his crew will be able to unwind by enjoying the programs offered at Miranda. They can join in the tomahawk throwing, play mountain ball against staff members, or fire black powder

rifles. The .50 caliber percussion-cap Hawken, in keeping with the time-specific nature of the camp, can be heard at intervals throughout the day as a light peppering of pops bouncing off the mountains surrounding Miranda.

The rifles are provided by Lyman Products and are the company’s Great Plains Rifle, built to model the Hawken of the early 1800s. Lyman provides the rifle for research and development purposes. After the guns are used and sent back, Lyman sends more and the cycle continues until the summer closes.

The day drawing to a close, Walters and the other crews at Miranda will be able to take their time before hiking Mt. Baldy, perhaps even sitting through one of Kirker’s sales pitches before retiring for the night.

“We’re trying to make a buck here,” Kirker said. “I owe the company some money.”

Again in the cabin, Kirker markets his wares to the green horns assembled around him, who now pass around a tin can of coffee beans while guessing at its

Continued from page 7, OATC

“It’s entirely possible to come back a decade later and hike on what you built,” Fudge continued. “We really like the idea where they leave a legacy. At the end of the summer, those who come out here leave a tangible mark.”

Which may explain why so many OATC participants eventually return to Philmont as staff members. The camaraderie developed through the trail crew can be carried outside Philmont; the OA serves as a channel that can help participants stay in contact with the friends gained at Philmont.

“It’s that alumni association

kind of thing where they can keep in contact outside of the Ranch,” Fudge said. “We have so many people come back for so long.”

Nor are OA-specific treks bound exclusively to Philmont. The organization also offers treks at each of the other high adventure camps. At Northern Tier, OA members can sign up for the Wilderness Voyage or Canadian Odyssey, while at Sea Base they can sign up for the OA Ocean Adventure. Those interested in any of these treks, according to Fudge, need only to be a registered OA member.



Austin Winker, of troop 624 F4, competes in a tomahawk throwing competition on Sunday, July 1, at Miranda. “We did it yesterday too and came back today to throw again,” Winker said. “It’s a blast.” ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

brand. No sooner had the words “Folgers,” “Maxwell House,” and “Starbucks” died in the musky cabin air than Kirker spoke up, keeping character.

“Star-what? What is that? This is real, gen-u-ine coffee.”

And like before, the Scouts, without furs and pelts with which to trade for the coffee, sit through

Kirker’s rendezvous lessons as the pops of the Hawken rifles come gliding through the field.

Sweet and Spicy Bacon Chicken

Ingredients

- 4 chicken breasts cut into thirds
- Bacon slices
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Garlic powder
- Chili powder
- Brown sugar

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees
2. After cutting the chicken into thirds, season with the spices.
3. Wrap a bacon slice around each piece
4. Roll in brown sugar and place in greased baking dish.
5. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and bacon is nice and crispy.

*Recipe found at Pinterest.com



Reviews for Sweet and Spicy Bacon Chicken

"I would totally make it myself! It's tasty and easy." Cory Simmons-Edler

"It reminded me of one of my grandmother's recipes." Nate Telford

"It was very tasty but I would prefer less brown sugar." Matthew Mansfield

Skillet Zucchini

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter
- 6 medium zucchini, sliced
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 large tomatoes, cut into chunks
- 4 slices cooked bacon
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
2. Mix in zucchini, onion, tomatoes, and bacon. Season with salt and pepper, and pour in water.
3. Cover, and cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are tender.
4. Stir the bread crumbs and soy sauce into the skillet, and mix in Cheddar cheese.
5. Cover, and continue cooking 2 minutes, until cheese is melted.
6. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese to serve.

*Recipe found at allrecipes.com

Overnight Apple Cinnamon French Toast

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 (21 ounce) cans apple pie filling
- 20 slices white bread
- 6 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup maple syrup

Directions

1. Grease a 9x13 inch baking pan. In a small bowl, stir together the melted butter, brown sugar and cinnamon.
 2. Spread the sugar mixture into the bottom of the prepared pan then spread the apple pie filling evenly over the sugar mixture.
 3. Layer the bread slices on top of the filling, pressing down as you go.
 4. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the milk and vanilla then slowly pour this mixture over the bread, making sure that it is completely absorbed.
 5. Cover the pan with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight.
 6. In the morning, preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
 7. Place covered pan into the oven and bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 60 to 75 minutes.
 8. Remove from the oven and let stand for 10 minutes, then cut into squares.
- *Invert the pan onto a serving tray or baking sheet so the apple filling is on top. Serve hot.

*Recipe found at allrecipes.com

Regional Leadership Excellence

By Katie Sill
Staff Writer

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) hosted the Southern Region Leadership Conference as a part of their Journey to Excellence program. This was the first of four regional conferences that will meet at PTC throughout the summer. Journey to Excellence replaced the Centennial Quality Awards program as a means of encouraging excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the Boy Scouts.

“It’s a national program designed to recognize units, districts and councils,” said Andrea Watson, Associate Director of Program for PTC.

Despite what the title infers, not all of the participants were from the Southern Region. Due to scheduling conflicts some participants from other regions may not be able to attend the conference dedicated to their particular region. In situations like this, participants from all over the country can attend any of the regional conferences.

“We are here to learn ways to better serve the youth in our country,” said Southern Region President John Finch.

Throughout the week lessons and lectures were delivered to train the leaders of Scouting. For example, Membership Specialist Rudy Gonzalez taught courses on ways to encourage participation in the Hispanic and Latino communities. In addition to educating participants how to increase Scout membership in their area, the conference also discussed retention techniques.

Both in and out of the classroom, Philmont created an environment where formality and rank took a backseat to fostering relationships. The men and women participating in the Journey to Excellence program



Participants of the Southern Region Conference enjoy Dutch oven delicacies on Saturday, June 30. The Southern Regional Conference focuses on building numbers in their region and Scout retention. DAVID SPITZNAGEL/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

created a support system within regions and between councils.

“With us all working together, we can find new solutions to old problems,” said District Executive George Etier.

Etier and his District Chair Vince Donart traveled from Houston, Texas to participate in the Southern Region Leadership Conference. Both Etier and Donart were pleased with the quality of instruction they

received. They are excited to implement what they’ve learned to expand Scouting in their area.

“These are connections that will benefit councils from all over the country for years to come,” said Finch.

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Magic Mike (R)

Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
110 minutes
1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

Ted (R)

Mila Kunis, Mark Wahlberg
106 minutes
1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 9:45

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

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG)

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
93 minutes
1:00 PM

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

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
93 minutes
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

Nora Ephron Passes Away By Entertainment Tonight

Nora Ephron, perhaps best known for penning the films "When Harry Met Sally" and "Sleepless in Seattle" has died. She was 71. According to the Washington Post, the three-time Oscar nominee passed away from the blood disorder myelodysplasia. She was reportedly diagnosed with the disease six years ago.

2012 Olympics Song Announced

By Associated Press

The song "Survival" by the British band Muse has been selected as the official song for the 2012 London Olympics. The thundering rock anthem will be played during the games as athletes enter the venues and before medal ceremonies. Muse frontman Matt Bellamy says the song was written with the Olympics in mind and "expresses a sense of conviction and determination to win."

"Ted" Lights up Box Office By CNN.com

Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane's comedy "Ted," which stars Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis, earned an impressive \$54.1 million out of 3,239 theaters during its debut weekend -- the third-best debut ever for an R rated comedy behind the openings of "The Hangover Part II" (\$85.9 million) and "Sex and the City" (\$57 million) -- and the best debut ever for an original comedic storyline.

The Avengers Passes \$600 Million By WENN

Superhero blockbuster "The Avengers" has become only the third movie to pass the \$600 million (£375 million) mark in America. "The Avengers" is the only non-James Cameron-directed film to cross the \$600 million mark - his "Titanic" and "Avatar" lead the U.S. box office chart with takings of \$658.8 million (£411.8 million) and \$760.5 million (£475.3 million), respectively.

Avril Lavigne, Philanthropist By WENN

Pop star Avril Lavigne has donated instruments to a children's hospital in California following a visit to the facility in April. The "Sk8er Boi" hitmaker visited Mattel Children's Hospital at the University of California Los Angeles and toured the wards meeting ill kids before putting on an impromptu performance with them. She returned and brought some musical cheer by presenting the youngsters with instruments to learn while they recover.

Katie Holmes Files for Divorce By WonderWall

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are calling it quits after being married for five years. Katie Holmes filed divorce documents in New York and seeks sole custody of their daughter, Suri. While this is the first marriage for Katie Holmes, Tom Cruise has been married twice before, to Mimi Rogers and Nicole Kidman, with whom he shares two children.

Showtime's Dexter Ends after Eighth Season By msn.com

In an interview with the Showtime drama's executive producer, Sara Colleton, TV Guide confirms that "Dexter" will end once completes its seventh and eighth installments. "In some ways, this is a two-season series-ender. We have worked that out and know where it's going to end. Next year will definitely be the last year of 'Dexter.' Absolutely," said Colleton.

Spice Girls Raise Money for Charity By WENN

The Spice Girls are reportedly raiding their closets and selling their most iconic outfits for charity. Victoria Beckham is donating the little black dresses which earned her the Posh Spice nickname, Sporty Spice Melanie Chisholm is handing over athletic tracksuits and Geri Halliwell is giving up basque-style mini-dresses. Leopard print items worn by Melanie Brown and babydoll frocks made famous by Emma Bunton will also be part of the sale, in aid of U.K. charities Save The Children and Children In Need.

Ann Curry Fired from Today Show By Associated Press

Ann Curry's exit represents NBC's most visible response to the popular morning show's worst stretch in the ratings in nearly two decades. Curry joined the show as a news anchor in 1997. Passed over for the co-host job when Vieira replaced Couric, she was given the chance when Vieira left last June. But her pairing with co-host Matt Lauer never seemed to click and she took the fall for the show's ratings troubles.

Movies Coming out July 6

Collaborator (NR)

Savages (R)

The Do-Deca Pentathlon (R)

The Magic of Belle Isle (PG)

The Pact (NR)

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

Local and Regional

Albuquerque Isotopes

By Isotopes.com

After a 4-3 week, the Isotopes took the lead after the poor week that Oklahoma City had. The Isotopes have a half game lead over Oklahoma City with a little over a week to go before the All-Star break.

Colorado Rockies

By ESPN.com

The Rockies had a decent week, winning three of seven, including an 11-10 game against the NL East leading Nationals in extra innings.

Denver Nuggets

By ESPN.com

NBA Draft Results: 20. Evan Fournier, Shooting Guard, Poitiers Basket 86 (France); 38. Quincy Miller, Small Forward, Baylor; 50. Izzet Turkyilmaz, Center, Banvit (Turkey).

Baseball

By ESPN.com

All-Star Game, July 10, Kansas City, Missouri; American League Starters- Rangers C Mike Napoli, Tigers 1B Prince Fielder, Yankees 2B Robinson Cano, Rangers 3B Adrian Beltre, Yankees SS Derek Jeter, Rangers OF Josh Hamilton, Yankees OF Curtis Granderson, Blue Jays OF Jose Bautista, Red Sox DH David Ortiz; National League Starters- Giants C Buster Posey, Reds 1B Joey Votto, Braves 2B Dan Uggla, Giants 3B Pablo Sandoval, Cardinals SS Rafael Furcal, Dodgers OF Matt Kemp, Cardinals OF Carlos Beltran, Giants OF Melky Cabrera.

Hockey

By ESPN.com

Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins reached an agreement on an extension. The contract is reportedly paying Crosby \$104.4 million over the next 12 years. Crosby was about to enter the final year of his current contract. The deal means the 24 year old will be in Pittsburgh until 2025.

NCAA Football

By ESPN.com

A presidential oversight committee approved a four team college football playoff, beginning in 2014. The four teams will be chosen by a selection committee, and the semi-finals will be held at current bowl sites, and the national championship game will be awarded to the highest bidding city.

Soccer

By UEFA.com

Spain defeated Italy 4-0 in the Euro 2012 final. This is Spain's third consecutive major title, winning Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup. They will look to defend win their fourth major title at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

NBA Draft

By NBA.com

As predicted by many experts, Anthony Davis from Kentucky was the No. 1 overall draft pick by the New Orleans Hornets on June 28. Kentucky's Michael Kidd-Gilchrist was drafted second by the Charlotte Bobcats, Florida's Bradley Beal was drafted third by the Washington Wizards, Syracuse's Dion Waiters was drafted fourth by the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Kansas' Thomas Robinson rounded out the top five, being drafted by the Sacramento Kings.

National Sports

Baseball Standings

American League

AL East	W	L	GB
Yankees	48	30	-
Orioles	42	36	6
Red Sox	42	37	6.5
Rays	41	38	7.5
Blue Jays	40	39	8.5
AL Central			
White Sox	42	37	-
Indians	40	38	1.5
Tigers	39	40	3
Royals	35	42	6
Twins	33	45	8.5
AL West			
Rangers	50	30	-
Angels	44	35	5.5
A's	38	42	12
Mariners	34	47	16.5

National League

NL East	W	L	GB
Nationals	45	32	-
Mets	43	37	3.5
Braves	41	37	4.5
Marlins	38	40	7.5
Phillies	36	45	11
NL Central			
Reds	43	35	-
Pirates	42	36	1
Cardinals	41	38	2.5
Brewers	36	42	7
Astros	32	47	11.5
Cubs	29	49	14
NL West			
Dodgers	44	36	-
Giants	45	35	-
Diamondbacks	39	39	5
Rockies	30	48	14
Padres	30	50	15

Golf

By pgatour.com

Tiger Woods won his 74th PGA Tour Tournament, coming from behind in the final round to win the AT&T National Tournament. Tiger is now second all-time in PGA Tour victories, trailing Sam Snead who has 82 PGA Tour victories. Tiger is playing in the Greenbrier Classic this week, his last tournament before the British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club in St. Annes, England.

Wimbledon

By Wimbledon.com

Rafael Nadal made an early exit in Wimbledon after losing to Lukas Rosol in the second round. Nadal made it to the finals last year, losing to Novak Djokovic. Venus Williams lost in the first round of Wimbledon Elena Vesnina. Many predicted Venus to be a dark-horse contender at Wimbledon, and now Serena is the last Williams sister standing.

Mixed Martial Arts

By UFC.com

Saturday, July 7, UFC 148: Anderson Silva vs. Chael Sonnen, Tito Ortiz vs. Forrest Griffin, Patrick Cote vs. Cung Le, Dong Hyun Kim vs. Demian Maia, Chad Mendes vs. Cody McKenzie, Ivan Menjivar vs. Mike Easton.

World

UN Suspends Syria Peace Mission

By BBC News

The head of the UN Stabilization Mission in Syria, Norwegian Gen. Robert Mood, has said the operation had been suspended due to escalating violence. UN observers will cease patrols and stay in their current locations.

“This suspension will be reviewed on a daily basis. Operations will resume when we see the situation fit for us to carry out our mandated activities,” he said, adding that a “return to normal operations remains our objective”.

Officials Projected Winner of Mexican Presidential Vote

By CNN

Enrique Peña Nieto is the projected winner of Mexico's presidential election, according to a quick count by election officials.

Supreme Court Blocks Pieces of Arizona Immigration Law, Allows Centerpiece

By The New York Times

The Supreme Court on Monday delivered a split decision on Arizona's tough 2010 immigration law, upholding its most hotly debated provision but blocking others on the grounds that they interfered with the federal government's role in setting immigration policy.

The court unanimously sustained the law's centerpiece, the one critics have called its “show me your papers” provision, though they left the door open to further challenges. The provision requires state law enforcement officials to determine the immigration status of anyone they stop or arrest if they have reason to suspect that the individual might be in the country illegally.

China Launches Its First Woman Astronaut into Space

The Shenzhou-9 capsule, which launched on Saturday from the Jiuquan spaceport near the Gobi Desert, will carry China's first female astronaut, Liu Yang, toward the Tiangong space lab. She will spend over a week living and working there conducting tests and scientific experiments.

First Hours of Egyptian Election See Little Enthusiasm

By The Huffington Post

As Egyptians went to the polls on Saturday morning to complete the first democratic presidential election in the country's history, none of the “unbridled jubilation” of past votes was evident in the streets. Instead, voters met the first hours of the runoff between former prime minister Ahmed Shafik and Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohamed Morsi with small lines and little apparent enthusiasm for either of the two men.

Supreme Court Upholds Health Care Law, 5-4

By The New York Times

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld President Obama's health care overhaul law, saying its requirement that most Americans obtain insurance or pay a penalty was authorized by Congress's power to levy taxes. The vote was 5 to 4, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joining the court's four more liberal members.

“The Affordable Care Act's requirement that certain individuals pay a financial penalty for not obtaining health insurance may reasonably be characterized as a tax,” Chief Justice Roberts wrote in the majority opinion. “Because the Constitution permits such a tax, it is not our role to forbid it, or to pass upon its wisdom or fairness.”

National

Obama Immigration Plan to Stop Deporting Some Illegal Immigrants

By CNN

The Obama Administration said Friday it will stop deporting young illegal immigrants who entered the United States as children if they meet certain requirements. The shift occurs as an election-year policy change and was greeted with praise by certain Latino leaders.

Colorado Wildfires Worst in State's History, Mayor Says

By The Associated Press

The mayor of Colorado Springs says a raging wildfire has destroyed an estimated 346 homes, making the blaze the most destructive in state history.

Mayor Steve Bach says city officials assessed the damage and that it was subject to change as they get more information.

It is one of the worst fires to hit the American West in decades, forcing more than 30,000 residents of the state's second-largest city to flee their homes.

The 28-square-mile fire started Saturday and is 55 percent contained as of July, 2. Its cause is under investigation.

Anger at Facebook E Mail Swap

By BBC

Facebook has recently swapped the primary e mail address listed in the profile contact information with a standard @facebook.com layout, angering some users. The change is designed to help drive more traffic toward the main website and produce more advertising revenue.

Daredevil Crosses Niagara Falls

By The Christian Science Monitor

On Friday, Nik Wallenda walked into history books. That day, he became the first person to walk on a tightrope across the Niagara Falls. Nearly 1 billion people watched the event, and over half the televisions in Western New York were tuned in. Wallenda, who wore a safety tether as required by his funders at ABC, crossed the 1,800-foot wire through a dim haze of mist and broke into a run at 15 feet near the end. He next plans to cross the Grand Canyon on a high wire to honor the memory of his grandfather.

Prostitution Sting in Bay Area Sting Rescues 6 Teens

By Huffington Post

The San Francisco division of the FBI announced a major multi-agency crackdown on child prostitution in the Bay Area of California Monday, June 25. Part of Operation Cross Country, the FBI and local and state law enforcement partnered together with the Innocence Lost National Initiative in an effort to rescue children forced into child prostitution. Six children were rescued and seven arrested during the sting operation, which brings the total nationwide count to 79 children rescued and 104 arrested.

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Chaplain's Corner: Father Dennis O'Rourke, V.F. Chaplain

Fourth of July

This week we celebrated Independence Day. Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army and another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners. They were men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing that the penalty would be death if captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so humiliated by the British that he was forced to move his family constantly. He served in Congress without pay and his family was in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals and soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed.



Father Dennis O'Rourke. MATTHEW PROKOSCH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Robert Norris and Philip Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty

more. Standing tall, straight and unwavering, they pledged "for the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never tell you a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted. We shouldn't.

While you enjoyed your holiday, I hope you silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Father Dennis O'Rourke, V.F.

I am Father Dennis and am happy to return to Philmont for my 22nd time! I started off in 1986 at the Training Center, working as conference faculty for seven summers. The first time I was a Base Camp Chaplain was in 1995. I've missed two summers since then. This is a wonderful place, as you all know.

I have been a priest for 32 years and am currently a pastor at St. Gabriel's Church in Cave Creek, Arizona, about a ten hour drive from here. I've been coming up every summer since 1999 to open the Catholic Chapel, about a week before the majority of staff arrives. It is a great trip. I usually spend about six hours at the Ranch, then head back to Arizona. For the past few years, my 89-year-old uncle has joined me for the road trip. He loves it as well.

You may have noticed the initials "V.F." after my name. My bishop in Phoenix has appointed me a Vicar Forane. That means I am his official representative in an geographical area of the diocese call a Deanery or Vicariate. Mostly it means more work!

St. Gabriel's is a fairly good sized Catholic Parish with about 1600 households. They range from senior citizens to young families with children and everything in between. We always have something going on there for all age groups. Since I started there in January of 2006,

we have started a Boy Scout Troop (already produced 4 Eagle Scouts), a Venture Crew and a Cub Scout Pack. It is truly a Scouting parish. There is another priest there full time. I also have been able to find a priest from India to come replace me during my Philmont stint.

My time this summer is only 4 weeks, but I'm happy to be back.

My experiences at Philmont have allowed me to be with some amazing people over the years. Many have become good friends. It is a wonderful opportunity to work with great chaplains from other faith groups, as we are a team here. Other than our evening religious services, only occasionally are there denominationally specific issues we need to handle.

I am consistently impressed with the quality of the seasonal staff. At no time is it uneasy to hold intelligent conversations with any staff member, and I am made to feel welcome any place I go while at Philmont. You people are amazing! You have so much to give, and in giving you are blessed by God and so bless others. I am also impressed with those who come to hike this wonderful place. The vast majority are prime examples of the goodness of the youth of our country and of the Boy Scouts of America.

I'm happy to be back, even for such a short time.

The Wild Within

By Beverly Ponterio
Staff Writer

Equus ferus caballus



Horses gather at a water trough on Friday, June 22 in the PTC horse pasture. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

Horses, genus species name *Equus ferus caballus*, have been domesticated since ancient times. We know because of artifacts with paintings of them during hunts or gravesites for horses or fragments of pottery with horses on it. For me, horses are about connecting with nature, self, and God.

The first time I met him his hooves shattered the silence and tore through the sand. He was charging full speed towards me; I dared not move. He came to a stop with a proud snort in just enough time, and our noses touched. He nuzzled my face and was off again, and I knew I had to ride this horse.

After four years of neglect, he was taken to the rescue stable where I worked, and was so thin you could see his spine and count every rib. A solid chestnut, with only a white spot on his head called a star; they decided to call him 'Star 2,' since there was already a horse named Star at the

barn.

There was a lot of legal red tape to adopt Star 2, but in April of 2008, I finally did and renamed him Sargent, spelled so that I could call him Sarg or Gent if I so chose.

I worked with Sargent for a while, and he began to trust me, as well as follow me around with his nose to my back.

When we ride, we move like one unit and, being that he is a Tennessee Walking Horse, his pace is faster than our other horses.

Today, Sarg lives on our farm and after four years of riding him, he is retired at age 33. He still follows me everywhere, unless there is a clover patch nearby, and falls asleep while I groom him.

Despite the powerful connection between horse and human, many people fear these majestic animals.

When asked, most attribute their fear to the sheer size of

the animal, but what they fail to realize is that horses have no concept of how large they are. This is partially because they see objects at about twice the actual size.

Often when people reach to pet a horse's face the horse pulls away and looks frightened or angry, leading to the misconception that the horse does not like them. The truth is that horses have both monocular and binocular vision. This means they can see almost 360 degrees in monocular, but also switch to binocular in order to see directly in front of them. Either way they have a blind spot of about four feet directly in front and behind them. Thus, when one pets their faces, they never saw the hand and the touch startles them into throwing their head.

While they are powerful, horses are herd animals, meaning they have a herd mentality. They like to be in social groups and respond strongly to dominance.

"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

It is important to establish oneself as the dominant horse and command respect, but not by using violence.

There are many different philosophies of how to train and work with horses, but violence is not among them. Aside from cruelty, horses are prey animals and so respond negatively to violent treatment as you have just made yourself a predator in their mind.

While here at Philmont, the thing I miss most is spending time with my horse; whether riding, grooming, or just lying in a field together. If one can overcome the fear and find the opportunity, it is my opinion that everyone should try riding, or at least grooming one of the gentlest giants on the Ranch.

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.

Owen's Corner: Philmont Recruits Year Round

By Owen McCulloch,
Associate Director of Program

As we round the half-way mark of our summer, many of us begin to contemplate, "What in the world will life be like after I leave Philmont this summer?" Will you find yourself trying to explain to friends why you feel the need to eat bratwurst every 10 days, give porch talks to anyone who walks by your front door, or burst into Lee Greenwood songs? It is difficult to explain to those that have not experienced Philmont, but there is an opportunity to help educate them: try recruiting them for Philmont staff!

Each year, Philmont visits college campuses across the country. We visit anywhere from 20 to 40 campuses, usually where we have a significant number of previous staff from that school. Events range from general job fairs, summer camp job fairs, or specific recruiting events (aka:

pizza parties) held for people interested in hearing more about Philmont.

Much of our recruiting has moved online with YouTube videos, college job boards, mailing letters, and direct email campaigns, but our most effective method of recruiting is still staff telling their friends about Philmont and encouraging them to apply. Many of our staff are great recruiters; this is easy to see when we look at campus representations. Also, it can be a great way to earn a few extra bucks on a referral. Did you know you can get \$25 for every person you recruit that gets hired and works a season at Philmont?

We are looking to expand our on-campus recruiting, and are looking for some help. We are looking to identify some Philmont Recruiters. These recruiters would either host an

event or represent Philmont at a job/recruitment fair. The expenses for the event would be paid for, recruiting materials sent to you, and the opportunity to recruit some great talent from your area would be the goal. Training will be provided at Philmont before the end of the summer season.

If you have an interest in being a Philmont Recruiter on your campus, or in your area, send Owen McCulloch, Camping Headquarters, an I-Camp with the following information: name, current Philmont position, campus or area(s) you could recruit in, and your preferred recruitment venue (small pizza event, or a booth at job fairs).



Owen McCulloch. KATY MOONEY/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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Staff Stats Photo Contest Rules

2012 Total Summer Staff: 1103

# female: 286 (25.9%)	#9th year: 9 (0.8%)
# male: 817 (74.1%)	#10th year: 10 (0.9%)
# returning: 549 (49.8%)	#11th year: 4 (0.4%)
# new: 554 (50.2%)	#12th year: 5 (0.5%)
# 1st year: 554 (50.2%)	#13th year: 2 (0.2%)
#2nd year: 215 (19.5%)	#15th year: 1 (0.1%)
#3rd year: 131 (11.9%)	#17th year: 1 (0.1%)
#4th year: 68 (6.2%)	#18th year: 2 (0.2%)
#5th year: 56 (5.1%)	#19th year: 1 (0.1%)
#6th year: 20 (1.8%)	#28th year: 2 (0.2%)
#7th year: 13 (1.2%)	#33rd year: 1 (0.1%)
#8th year: 8 (0.7%)	

- 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.

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- MTDOOM
- GRIMA
- BOROMIR
- SARUMAN
- MINASMORGUL
- SHIRE
- BILBO
- EOMER
- BAGEND
- PIPPIN
- ISENGARD
- ARAGORN
- MORIA
- SAURON
- BREE
- ELROND
- PELENNOR
- SAM
- FRODO
- EWYIN
- HOBBITON
- ROHAN
- GANDALF
- GIMLI
- MORDOR
- ARWEN
- RIVENDELL
- GOLLUM
- FARAMIR
- FANGORN
- MINASTIRITH
- LEGOLAS
- THEODEN
- MERIADOC
- DENETHOR

Presidents of the United States of America

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Sustainability: Water, a Vital Resource

By Katie Sill, Staff Writer

In collaboration with the Sustainability Team

Water is a natural resource necessary for survival. However, the availability of water is often taken for granted. All over the world water is becoming an increasingly limited resource. The lack of water in some areas has even led to armed disputes among nations.

It's no surprise then, that in places like New Mexico, where water is scarce, the conservation and protection of water is an essential part of sustainable living.

Philmont Scout Ranch has a total of 2,800 acre-feet in annual water rights. That's over 912 million gallons each year. The water rights were determined by Doctrine of Prior Appropriation. This means that the historic claims to water in the area determines the current ownership. Philmont's water rights dates range from 1860 to 1925. Water rights are taxed as property.

The rights are governed

according to a "use it or lose it" principle. The right holder must prove the need for the water by using it, but only needs to use a fraction of it in order to maintain the full right. Water can also be sold or transferred to different areas to denote use.

Of the 2,800 acre-feet of water 1000 of that is stored in Eagle Nest Lake. These rights, in particular, are worth about one million dollars. However, the amount of water Philmont is allowed to use is directly related to the level of the lake. So if the lake is low due to lack of rainfall, Philmont only receives a percentage of its full right.

Philmont also draws water from other sources. The reservoirs at Rayado, Urraca, Cito, and Ponil contain the other 1,800 acre-feet of Philmont's water. This water is then used in various areas of the ranch.

200 acre-feet of water is treated

for domestic use such as drinking.

Most of the drinking water comes from the Urraca Reservoir, which holds 50 acre-feet of water. From the reservoir the water drains into two storage tanks. The water is micro-filtered to remove 99.99 percent of contaminants. The filter used to treat the water lasts between five and seven years and costs about \$80,000 to replace. Each filter can treat up to 240 gallons per minute.

During the height of the summer Philmont can use 200,000 gallons of treated water per day. This increased use correlates directly with the increase in heat. So as the days get hotter, people need to be more aware of their water use. This is not isolated to drinking water but showering and washing as well.

To conserve water this treated water, people need to be more conscientious about

their water use. This may mean a conscious change in habits. Taking fewer and shorter showers can save several gallons of water.

One way to conserve water when showering is to only turn on the water when rinsing. When first getting in the shower, turn on the water and get completely wet. Then, turn off the water before lathering up with soap or shampoo. Running water for the entire shower may feel good, but it's wasteful.

Also, people are encouraged to take the time and monitor the sinks and toilets in the bathrooms.

When turning off faucets or flushing a toilet, wait a few seconds to ensure the water was indeed shut off. If not, turn the knob of a faucet harder to turn the water off or with a toilet/urinal, hit the handle again to hopefully disengage the valve.

If there is a leaking faucet or a toilet that is continuously running

water, notify the maintenance department for repairs. The sooner the issue is addressed, the more water can be conserved.

When doing laundry, only wash full loads of clothes. An easy way to ensure the washing machine is full is to share loads with a friend. This is also a good way to save money - sharing water and sharing the cost of the load. Making the most of the water used can preserve it for longer periods of time.

These small changes in everyday habits can help conserve several hundred gallons of Philmont's water. It's important to remember that water is not a guaranteed resource. It can be lost. So it's up to everyone to do their part and protect the most vital element to our survival as humans.

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. Hand-written 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.

In the Nick of Time

By Garret Franklyn
Staff Writer

When William Selander, the Male Tent City Manager, heard the screams from across the Olive Garden, there was a moment of confusion; when he heard the word “choking,” he knew what to do.

“I was in the back getting some food for people, and I hear over our radio [someone] freaking out,” the 21 year old said. “Chris, our manager, he was losing it.”

Selander, who was a host at the restaurant, originally approached the commotion out of curiosity. But when he arrived and saw a woman’s face purple from suffocating, things changed.

“I had tunnel vision on his lady,” he said. “I was focused on her 100 percent.”

The woman’s nephew had been applying the Heimlich maneuver for the past two minutes to no avail. Selander began by checking her airways, but as he did so her muscles seized and her jaw closed on his fingers, leaving a scar. He then began to apply the Heimlich like the woman’s nephew did before him, but she passed out in his arms.

So he began CPR.

“On the first compression, I heard four ribs crack,” he said. “That’s how I knew that was where I needed to be.”

After 12 compressions, the woman wheezed and removed what it was that had been choking her: a breadstick. His deed done, Selander left the woman in the care of the newly-arrived paramedics.

“I went back to work,” Selander continued. “I still had



Will Selander is the Male Tent City Manager. He put his Scouting knowledge to use when he aided a woman who was choking at Olive Garden. AL GERMANN/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

food and vomit on my hands.”

Selander credits his quick thinking to his training here at Philmont, which prepared him for the events that eventually unfolded that day.

“Ronnie Fye [Health Lodge Tent City Manager] taught me in 2010 how to properly administer

the Heimlich and CPR,” he said.

But more than that, it wasn’t simply a matter of training or a matter of doing a good deed. It was both, with some luck mixed in.

“I was in the right spot at the right time,” he said.

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Trail of Courage: Right Decisions, Right Now

The Philmont Trail of Courage encourages Scouts and staff to live healthier lifestyles. Everyone is encouraged to make the following pledge:

I Pledge to-

1. Become personally fit: mentally, physically, and socially healthy and understand the challenge of peer pressure, bullying and being socially accepted.
2. Eat a nutritious diet which provides six basic nutrients: protein, fat, carbohydrates, water, vitamins and minerals. Eating a variety of foods will provide your body with the nutrients needed for good health.
3. Exercise, using a fitness program that matches your lifestyle and may vary with the seasons of the year:
 - Aerobic exercise to benefit the cardiac, circulatory and pulmonary functions and provide endurance.
 - Strengthening exercise to the muscular system since every activity you do requires some muscular strength and endurance.
 - Flexibility is needed to permit any joint to move through its full range of motion.
 - Body composition which is the proportion of your body that is fat or muscle. While a certain amount of fat is necessary to sustain life, too much fat can lead to obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.
4. Be tobacco free- Smoking and Smokeless
 - Smoking triples the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and pulmonary function. If you stop, within two weeks your body begins to heal and within a few years your lung capacity will double.
 - Smokeless tobacco increases the chance of gum disease and oral cancer. The nicotine in smokeless tobacco is as addictive as smoking.
 - Tobacco use increases cancer exposure and hastens its growth. More than 4,000 chemical compounds have been identified in cigarette smoke such as arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde and others.
 - Tobacco use damages the body's ability to fight infections.
 - Tobacco has been shown to raise the risk of stroke with its debilitating results.
 - Nicotine which is found in all tobacco products, is an addictive drug that makes it very difficult to quit using them.
 - Each year cigarette smoking causes nearly 500,000 deaths in the USA alone, which is more than all the deaths caused by illicit drugs, car crashes, homicides and suicides combined.
5. Live free from drug and alcohol habits.
6. Learn the seven cancer danger signs: Nicotine being a carcinogenic may have an influence on any of these cancers.
 - Change in bowel or bladder habits could be a sign of colorectal cancer.
 - A sore that does not heal on the skin or in the mouth could be malignant.
 - Unusual bleeding or discharge from the rectum or bladder could mean colorectal, prostate, or bladder cancer
 - Thickening of breast tissue or a lump in the breast is a warning sign of breast cancer. A lump in the testes could indicate testicular cancer.
 - Indigestion or trouble swallowing could be cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, or stomach.
 - Obvious changes to moles or warts could indicate skin cancer.
 - Niggling cough or hoarseness that persists for 4-6 weeks could be a sign of throat cancer.
7. Live the Scout Oath and Law: I will do my best to educate my friends and family to become personally fit and to understand the dangers of tobacco products, illegal drugs, and alcohol.

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 are 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: The Shopkeeper

By Katie Sill
Staff Writer

With 24 summers and 16 years of full time work experience under her belt, Shelly O'Neill has invested more than half her life in Philmont Scout Ranch. As the Director of the Tooth of Time Traders (ToTT), O'Neill travels around the country to find new merchandise for the store.

Most staff members would recognize O'Neill as the facilitator of FISH training. O'Neill implements the principles of FISH – Have Fun, Being There, Make Their Day and Choose Your Attitude – both at work and in her daily life.

"She encourages us to have fun with each other and customers at work," said Hugh Brewer, trading post clerk.

One way O'Neill initiates play is by bringing her two sons—Cullen, age 9, and Cameron, age 7— to work at the ToTT. Many of the Trading Post staff members enjoy the company as it adds excitement to their daily routine. Cullen helps behind the badge counter while his brother Cameron makes ice cream cones in the snack bar.

"Working alongside the staff has taught them a strong work ethic," said O'Neill.

The rule is Cullen and Cameron can stay as long as they



Shelly O'Neill chats with an advisor who is getting ready to hit the trail on Thursday, June 28 in the Tooth of Time Traders. O'Neill had just returned from a trip to Colorado to select gear for next year's inventory. AL GERMAN/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER

are working. If they become a disturbance they have to leave the store. The threat of being sent home doesn't stop them from causing mischief and playing games with the staff. O'Neill said that if it was up to them, her staff would do nothing but play all day.

"They definitely keep things interesting," said Adventure Gear Specialist Michael Leary, smiling. "They keep me on my toes."

For the boys, summer is a time of socializing and friendship. Once Philmont is open for the summer Cullen and Cameron are introduced to

people from across the country. These staff members serve as both role models and friends throughout the summer.

"Philmont offers them opportunities they wouldn't have anywhere else," said O'Neill. "It's all they've ever known."

But while Philmont might be the only place they've ever known, it certainly won't be limiting their life experiences. As a mother, O'Neill is able to provide a one of a kind environment for her children. For those who know about the magic of Philmont, Cullen and Cameron are living the dream.

Attention All Philmont Staff!!

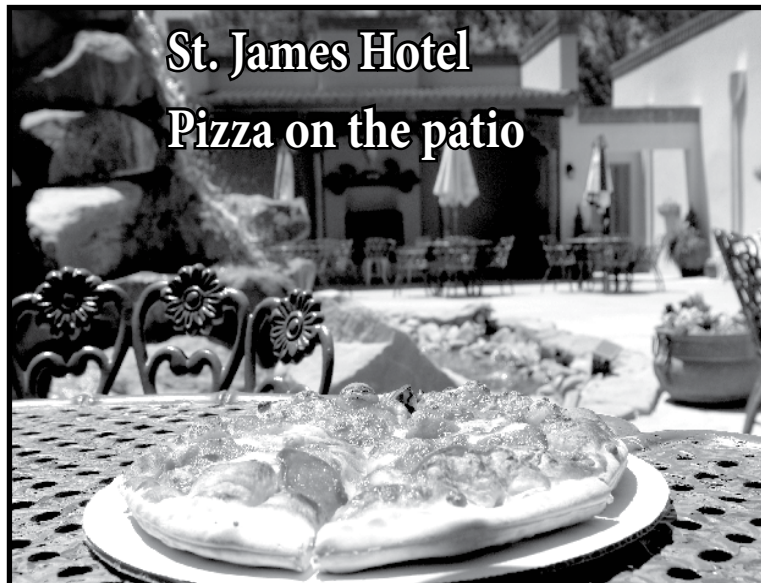
The Villa Philmonte will be hosting a night full of singing and music on Saturday July 21st.

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

All instruments are more than welcome including any musical genres.

If you would like to sing and need accompaniment please let us know and send us a copy of the music as soon as possible.

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LYNN DECAPO/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



RACHEL TAYLOR/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



Conservationist Ryan Prothro hones her skill with a chainsaw during training on Sunday, July 1 behind the Conservation Office. MATTHEW PROKOSCH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



The staff kitten at Clark's Fork sits on a burro on Wednesday, June 27 at the Clark's Fork horse corral. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER



Nate Telford (left) and David Spitznagel arm wrestle during the "Brodeo" on Wednesday, June 20 in Baldy Pavilion. "You ready for this bro?" Telford said. ERIN NASH/PHILNEWS PHOTOGRAPHER