

# PHILNEWS



JUNE 11TH, 2018

ISSUE ONE

## Staff Spirits Soar Despite Evacuation

**Mark Cordeiro and  
Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.  
Staff Writers**

From just outside the large building that was hosting the “Springer Wing” of the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center, there could be seen hundreds of tents, over a thousand staff members, and miles of smoke trailing across the sky. A lone Ranger stands facing the campsites, halfway up the stairs into the Colfax County Fairground’s bleachers.

“I love Corn Hole!”  
First year Ranger Meghan Chiupak laughed at her own exclamation, the sky behind her thick with black and grey smoke clouds snaking across the horizon. It was obvious that Corn Hole, the game where two players try to throw beanbags onto and through ground-level targets, wasn’t the most pressing matter for Chiupak or the other Philmont staffers, but the Ranger’s answer is indicative of the resiliency of every member of staff during that three-day stay in an impromptu camp set up at the fairgrounds.

The Ute Park fire will not soon be forgotten by the members of Philmont’s 2018 Summer Staff,



**Miners Park Backcountry Staff learning about the types of climbing rope and practicing rock climbing knots underneath the bleachers of the Colfax County Fairgrounds.** Ryan Soldanel/MPS Photographer

but neither will they be able to forget their amazing attitude and actions during their displacement. When it could have been easy for the staff to fall into melancholy, they instead held an impromptu rodeo, complete with roping activities and barrel races. When it would have been easy for them to fall into despair, they held

important trainings all over the camp, including First Aid, COPE courses, and other department-specific trainings. When they could have lost hope, they broke out into song and dance during the Backcountry Music Festival.

That’s not to say that the Staff’s time at the “Annex” was easy; in fact, it was far from it.

The truth of the matter is that transporting 1,100 staffers from every department, housing them, feeding them, and maintaining their sanity was nothing less than a monumental feat that every staffer should feel proud of.

“I think it really brought us together as a community, you

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## Wear it Well

**Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.  
Staff Writer**

Clothes make the man, or the woman. Everybody knows that. But that old saying couldn’t mean more than it does to Conor Timoney, Philmont’s Backcountry Wardrobe Specialist. In fact, anyone who knows anything about the importance that living history plays at Philmont will quickly understand that there are few jobs that could play a more important role in Philmont’s backcountry experience than his.

A handful of living history camps, scattered throughout the backcountry, represent various historical time periods and provide period-appropriate programming. Staff members at living history camps pick names and concoct identities for themselves based on research. Those staffers then spend the summer portraying the characters for Scouts to interact with. Accurate period clothing is a vital element of historically accurate program.

“This is my first year at Philmont, but I have enjoyed doing this type of work for as long as I can remember,” Timoney recalled. “Ever since I started doing this type of work, I have enjoyed making and wearing the clothes, as well as understanding the history behind them.”

Tucked in a skinny back office with walls covered in cubby holes stuffed with old clothes, not to mention a huge rack that

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Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer



# Return of the Roving Prospectors

**Mark Cordeiro**  
**Staff Writer**

“The first time I found gold, I was shaking in my boots. All I could manage to say was just ‘Eureka!’” said Bridger Zadina, one of Philmont’s new Roving Prospectors.

During training for Philmont’s Summer 2018 session, there was hardly a more excitement-inducing sentence than “Did you hear that they’re bringing back the Roving Prospectors?”

Starting in 2001, the Roving Prospector has been an on-again, off-again program that saw Staff in interpretive 1900’s Gold Rush-era Prospector gear, roaming around the Backcountry, showing participants how to pan for gold. This year, Zadina and Adam Rosen, both out of California, will be taking up the mantle of Roving Prospectors.

The Roving Prospectors have come back this year because of the experts who will be doing the reenacting this summer. Zadina and Rosen are both seasoned veterans of Gold Rush reenactments in California, among other historical eras of reenacting.

“Because we both came from extensive backgrounds volunteering with the California

State Parks as reenactors, we knew the program really well. We had the materials, we had the techniques, and everything we’re taking on this trek is our own creation,” said Zadina.

The Prospectors have even been hand sewing their own tent for backcountry use. As to why they both got into reenacting in the first place? “We both wanted to be broke,” Zadina said with a laugh.

Much about the Prospectors’ program, locations, and characters will be kept under tight wraps by the other Philmont staff to preserve the authentic nature of finding Prospectors in the backcountry.

“It’s a spontaneous program, which means that it won’t appear on any crew’s itinerary,” Rosen explained.

However, finding them will be well worth the effort.

“We want this to be a consistent thing, and there’s a lot of pressure that comes with that. We’re really shooting to set that bar high for the years to come,” Rosen went on to say.

How do you find the Prospectors? It seems Zadina and Rosen have left behind some neat hints for those motivated enough to find them.

“We’ve laid one Easter egg at base for Crews to find. It’s a really

subtle Easter egg, but if they’re observant, they’ll see it and it might hint to where we might be,” Zadina said.

Those Crews that are infected with Gold Fever and want to find those 1900’s looking, burro riding, gold panning Prospectors had better keep their eyes out. The Gold Rush is back in 2018, and it looks like it’ll be here to stay.



**Roving prospectors Bridger Zadina (left) and Adam Rosen (right) spend time in their tent at the Colfax County Fairgrounds. The two historical interpreters continued their training and practiced their performances while at the fairgrounds. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer**

# The PSA: 45 Years of Great Service

Welcome HOmE Philmont Staff! HOmE meaning “Heaven on Earth” and your new HOmE away from home. Whether you are a member or not, some of you may be asking, who and what is the PSA? We are the Alumni Association of Philmont Staff, past and present, that was founded in 1973. Our Mission Statement is: The PSA is a non-profit organization that unites the Philmont Staff – past, present and future – for the purpose of serving the adventure, heritage, and experience of Philmont and the Boy Scouts of America. But I like to think we are just more than a mission statement. I like to think we are THE Philmont Family.

Then, some of you may ask, well, what does the PSA do? Let me give you a few highlights of who we are and what we do:

~The PSA currently has over 3,500 members and these members give back in to Philmont in these ways:

We provide scholarships for current staff enrolled in a college, university or educational institution. In 2017 we gave out \$65,000 to 65 Philstaff. Raise your hand if you

~We give scholarships for youth pioneering their Philmont Experience through Rayado Treks, ROCS and STEM treks. This year we gave \$10,000 in these scholarships to ~25 youth.

~For former staff, we provide opportunities to go on summer, autumn & winter treks as a PSA

crew.

~ We help host fun events during the summer for that will consist of Backcountry Music Festival, Salsa Nights, and Brat Day Cookouts, etc.

~For Philmont, we have raised over 3 million dollars over the course of several years & multiple capital Campaigns for the staff dining hall, the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center and Baldy Pavilion, and provided the new bathrooms for PTC in Dining Hall II and provided new furniture for Backcountry camps.

~Currently we are in the midst of raising money for the brand new National Scouting Museum and our brand new PSA Building that is next door to the new museum. So far we have raised over \$1 million for this campaign. Please stop by and visit us, we are here for you.

Basically you can say we’ve done great things for Philmont for the past 45 years. We would like to have you join us. You, the 2018 Philmont Staff are the next generation that cares about High Adventure and cares about Philmont. You are the generation that will teach the next generation the importance of being outdoors, hiking, camping and coming to Philmont. We need you and to help us support Philmont for another 45 years and beyond!

Thank You!

Dollie O’Neill  
Executive Director  
Philmont Staff Association

## The Toilet Paper: Upcoming Activities

Things to do around Base, June 10 – June 16, 2018  
See the Activities Staff in the S<sup>3</sup>AC for more details!

611 Monday	612 Tuesday	613 Wednesday	614 Thursday	615 Friday	616 Saturday
Foosball Tournament, 7:30pm @ SSSAC	Pool Tournament, 7:30pm @ SSSAC	Ping-Pong Tournament, 7:30pm @ SSSAC	Movie Night, 8pm @ Baldy Pavilion	Rod Taylor Concert, 8:00pm @ Closing Campfire Bowl	Dodgeball Night, 8:00pm @ Baldy Pavilion



**R.W. Hampton discusses his journey to fame and his Philmont experiences between songs at the staff opening campfire on May 29th. Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer**



# The Ranger Mile: Close to Home

## Jenny Washburne Associate Chief Ranger

Greetings 2018 Philmont staff! Welcome to the Ranger Mile: a column in which Rangers have the privilege of sharing with you some of their favorite trails and destinations (and how to get there) over the summer.

As John Muir said, “We need wilderness because we are wild animals. Every man needs a place where he can go crazy in peace,” and we hope to inspire you to get out and see some of these amazing places for yourself. This week, though, we’re taking a moment to reflect on more than just the backcountry we call home, and remember what makes it home in the first place.

On the night of the 31st, I know I wasn’t the only one craning my neck around to stare at the glittering hills behind Base Camp and wondering, “Is this really happening?” The smoke billowing up everywhere was like something out of a nightmare. This is home. I know those hills. And then the next day in the parking lot was even worse, when

we piled up our things and headed away with the sight of Philmont under a huge tower of smoke in the rearview mirror. It was like watching part of your own home burn down... because, well, we were. No matter what department you work for, all 140,177 acres of Philmont is a home for us, and we’ve each got our favorite places in it. It’s hard to see parts of that home go up in smoke, and even harder standing by wondering what the damage looks like, what areas need help and what areas are totally gutted. But a home is more than a specific area.

In fact, one of the first definitions Merriam-Webster gives for “home” is ‘The social unit formed by a family living together.’ If that doesn’t define Philmont, I don’t know what does. We spend a lot of time in the backcountry, especially as Rangers, and we love it, but it’s the people that make Philmont what it is. If you didn’t know that before, you should know it by now, whether you found out while watching the Wrangler show in the Springer Arena, visiting the SSSSSAC (South Springer Silver Sage Staff

Activities Center), or seeing that long police line cleaning up our Springer Jamboree site the morning we packed up—each department working together, doing what we do best, each gear finely tuned and turning together.

Home’s not just us, either; Home is the whole family, spanning 80 years and thousands and thousands of staffers. Over the last few days, our phones were jammed with Philfriends in other parts of the country checking in, seeing if we were OK, asking

what they could do to help. Social media was packed with people sharing news and encouragement. It’s true, a big part of our home in the backcountry is going to need a lot of work for anyone to camp comfortably there again, and this summer is not going to be easy. But the team is assembled and we’re prepared. We have work to do and we’re ready to do it. Much of our backcountry might have some damage, but Home is doing just fine.



Philmont’s skies from behind the Ranger Office on May 31, 2018.  
Joel Neuhart/Associate Chief Ranger

## History Lives On

### Mark Cordeiro Staff Writer

The interpretive staff of the Abreu and Beaubien camps received a special visitor on May 28th: James A. Abreu, PhD, the great-grandson of the man who originally owned a great portion of Philmont’s land, including the land where the Abreu and Beaubien camps currently reside. Dr. Abreu came to Philmont sporting dozens of historical photos and documents related to Ramone Abreu, the ancestor in question, for the staff to study, along with an array of stories from the years and decades before Philmont was ever a twinkle in Waite Phillips’ eye.

Dr. Abreu has been studying his family’s genealogy throughout his entire life, tracing his family origin all the way back to the Viking ages. Throughout his studies, he’s forged friendships with long-lost family members, sharing his

history with them. However, he’s never forgotten his Philmont roots, recounting stories of how he used to visit the ranch with his family and camp on their ancestral land as a child.

“I grew up being the oldest son,” Dr. Abreu explained. “I was always in touch with my extended family, so I would always hear their stories at the campfire, at the barbeque or in the living room. They’d show me the pictures or the bible with peoples’ names in it. Eventually, in college, I asked my grandmother ‘Who are all these people in the pictures?’ and began writing them all down.”

Now, he’s shared his expertise with Philmont’s interpretive staff, some of whom will be portraying his direct ancestors. Rachel Cordeiro, the Camp Director of Abreu, will be portraying Gertrude Abreu, Dr. Abreu’s great-grandmother.

“I think his visit makes it more real,” Cordeiro said “A lot of times, the other camps don’t have real people they’re interpreting, they’re making up their own characters. It’s easy to fly off the handle and be a super goofy person for the campers. Being a real person comes with a lot of responsibility. That is somebody’s grandpa, somebody’s uncle, somebody’s family and you don’t want to do a disservice to their memory.”

Cordeiro and the rest of her staff talked with Dr. Abreu for almost an hour and a half, learning a great deal more about the historical figure they will portray for Philmont’s participants this summer.

“I think the grounding point of meeting Dr. Abreu is going to help my staff feel more authentic,” Cordeiro concluded after the meeting.

“I hope they just keep our story as part of their historical memory,” Dr. Abreu said after speaking

with the staff. “This is a rich, rich history. It’s the history of New Mexico, it’s the history of the United States. My family has a really cool connection to this land that I hope they take with them after they’re gone.”



James A. Abreu, PhD, the great-grandson of Ramone Abreu, met with Staff to discuss the history of the Abreu family. Harry Oakes/MPS Videographer

## MARKETING AND PHOTO TEAM

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Elizabeth Harper

**PhilNews Writers**  
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Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.

**Photography Managers**  
Clay Helfrick  
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**Photographers**  
Nick Castelli  
Whitney Dumford  
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Thomas Meade  
Ryan Soldanels  
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Harry Oakes



# Staff Spirits Soar Despite Evacuation continued



The Governor of New Mexico, Susana Martinez, visits with staff members at the Colfax County Fairgrounds. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer

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know?” Chiupak continued. The amber sun had gone red, setting behind the smoke, looking less like a natural disaster and more like the trademark of some Tolkien-type villain. Still, Chiupak and the rest of the staff were unfazed. She stood, smiling over the camp and its staffers with the full faith in Philmont’s permanent status as one of the most amazing experiences for Scouts anywhere.

For most Philmont staff members, the first indicator of the challenges they would face were the grey plumes of smoke that weather forecasters estimate towered more than 20,000 feet over the skies. As darkness fell on the night of Thursday, May 31, orange balls of light took the place of billowing smoke and wasted no time cutting a fast-moving swath that threatened not only structures on the camp, but several private residences in the area as well. By morning fire authorities warned camp officials that the fire presented enough of an air quality threat that the staff were asked to evacuate.

True to the spirit of Scouting, however, it was not long before

all staff members were present and accounted for and loaded onto busses. The Spirit of the Great Scout had taken hold and buses were filled with song and merriment as they wound their way to Colfax County Fairgrounds. It wasn’t relevant that the songs being sung were by rockers long dead, not to mention being sung by staffers who hadn’t even been born yet when those lives ended, chances are good that the enthusiasm they were being sung with would have done them proud anyway.

One bus in particular was no doubt heard long before it arrived at the fairgrounds, Queen’s masterpiece, Bohemian Rhapsody, pouring from the windows accompanied by falsettos that would have made Freddie Mercury proud.

Almost a thousand Philmont staff members quickly got to work erecting a tent city on the grounds of the Colfax County Fairgrounds. But to call this just a respite from a potential disaster would have been an exaggeration, since it would have taken a flood of Biblical proportions to dampen the spirit that pervaded the grounds. The spirit of Scouting was so thick you could have cut it with a knife, a

Philmont knife, of course.

Practically every square inch that wasn’t taken up by tents were covered with hastily assembled ensembles of practically every kind. As evening fell, name the pastime—fantasy card games, traditional board games, and music—covered the ground. There was even a cello producing heavenly sounds for respite from the stressful events that engulfed everyone. This doesn’t even count the multitude of activities going on inside the fairground structures, including mini talent contests, and even an impromptu movie night.

Joel Wiggins of College Station, Texas, one of Philmont’s “Black Mountain Boys,” used the time he had, along with his cohorts, to complete the NRA training they had started while at the Ranch.

“We even had a little time to practice,” Wiggins said. “Being out there on that field for a couple of days might have been an inconvenience for some, but it was good study and practice time for us. It was only after we got done with our training that we took advantage of the time to join in the games and other activities that were provided to us.”

Unconventional training

centers were scattered across the fairgrounds. Think of rock climbing, and most people would consider being stuck in a fairground as being as far from an optimal location for practice as can be, but for Anna Marie Alewine, of Piedmont, SC, three days at the fairgrounds was simply a matter of improvising and adapting.

“Once we found the undersides of the risers, we knew that we had the perfect spot to practice our climbing skills,” Alewine said. “Good rock climbing means safety first, so the metal of the risers gave us something solid to practice on, and once we had that, we were good to work.”

But as everyone knows, all work and no play makes Johnny—or even Anna Marie—a dull staffer, so once she and her fellow cliff-hangers were finished they took the opportunity to enjoy a multitude of card games as well as music, with many providing instruments and Anna Marie singing.

“We were very fortunate to have so many very talented people along with us,” Alewine explained. “It makes a difficult situation a lot more bearable, and maybe even enjoyable to deal with.”

According to security staff

member, Jack Dittmar, “Whenever you start moving this number of people around, especially under the conditions we were doing it, there is the potential for problems,” he said.

“Fortunately, we have a great team to help handle things,” he continued. “But I also have to give a lot of credit to the entire staff for the lack of problems we encountered. Believe it or not, our biggest concern when all the little groups started was the potential for conflicts between what they were doing, but it didn’t take long before potential conflicts became friendly competitions, which was a very good thing to have happen. That not only made the event fun, but made our job easier.”

Susana Martinez, the governor of New Mexico, flew in on the second day of the evacuation to visit with staff. She walked around the grounds, greeting everyone and asking about the logistics it took to erect the impromptu tent city.

Martinez was impressed by the coordination of the staff in evacuating quickly and efficiently. She spoke to several members of upper management as well as groups of seasonal staff.

Fortunately, it doesn’t take much to make a Philmont staffer member happy, especially when he or she has been without a real bed, a hot meal and clean clothes for a couple of days. True to form, when Steve Nelson made an announcement in front of the crowd assembled on the rodeo risers that everyone would have showers soon, the structure could barely tolerate the cheers and thunderous pounding of thousands of happy feet.

Kitchen crews were the first group to be returned to camp (who made a wonderful Chinese dinner to welcome everyone back), and less than an hour later the last of Philmont staff members passed through the gates to tunes of We Are the Champions.

Faced with either good or bad, the Philmont spirit prevails.



# Wear It Well

## continued

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holds still more clothes and accessories, Timoney spends his days in the Backcountry Warehouse working to make sure that everyone who does play a role in some aspect of the history presented at Philmont is dressed to fit the part. It doesn't matter whether it's a dress to fit a woman who lived on the prairie in the 1850s or a man on the move in the 1950s, Timoney will make sure they're dressed as if they walked straight out of that time period. And he will do practically anything he can to make that happen, from working with a supplier to making pieces himself.

Timoney got his first tastes of historical interpretation as a youngster in his native Pittsburg, Kansas. From the beginning he gravitated to the Civil War era, but soon found himself working with clothing from just about every era of American history.

There is only one field of costuming where Timoney does not attempt to do the work himself: arms and armament. For that, he works with a gunsmith

and other experts to get what he needs.

"In fact, I have several people who I work with here who are experts with all sorts of tools and machines, from an anvil to a sewing machine, to make sure that everything is period accurate," he said.

According to Timoney, there are sometimes situations where providing a costume is a collaborative effort between himself and one of the many suppliers he works with in the course of a given day.

"To really do my job well, it's critical to understand that there is no detail that is too small and I enjoy dealing with that level of detail," he explained. "Further, I need to do my best to make sure that nothing is missed so that someone who is looking at a costume, for example, doesn't come across a cloth or accessory that hadn't been created until after the time the actor is portraying."

Timoney is frank to admit that sometimes the most important part of his job has nothing to do with the actual making of the clothes. Instead, getting period



**Conor Timoney, Philmont's new Interpretive Wardrobe Specialist from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, mends a sleeve that will be worn by staff at one of Philmont's many backcountry camps. Conor looks forward to using his knowledge of history and extensive interpretive experience to bring new life to old costumes.** Shane Mrozek/MPS Photo Manager

pieces of clothing and accessories are a matter of getting donations of clothing at the right time and in the right size.

"There are times when I will be working to find just the right piece of clothing when someone will just come in and donate it," he said. "At other times, I will be asked to outfit someone who was hired late in the season, but I will still need to make sure that that person has the right thing to wear. Regardless, it's a challenge, but it's one I live for every day."



**Timoney models one of the interp coats he's worked on.** Clay Helfrick/MPS Photo Manager

**During the Evacuation: Andrew Puckett from Lincoln, CA and Noah Berkebile from Saint Cloud, FL work together to set up their tent at the Colfax County Fairgrounds.** Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer





# The Wildlife Window: New Era of Research-Based Management

**Chambers English  
Wildlife Specialist**

Philmont's Conservation Department has partnered with Furman University in a new monitoring and management program for the wildlife that help make Philmont's wilderness experience so spectacular. With the support of the Philmont Administration, Casey Myers, Philmont's Wildlife Biologist, and Dr. Travis Perry of Furman University have established a permanent 100 square kilometer grid of 25 remote camera locations to collect data on the animals which roam the mountains and canyons of North Country. Unique characteristics like scars and antler growth will help identify and recount individual animals for population estimates. Animal-friendly hair traps will pull hair samples from the paws of bears and mountain lions to augment these efforts through genetic analyses. The high-tech approach to wildlife management will give Myers a year-round view into the habits and trends of game and non-game species alike, further advancing the Ranch's goals to make responsible stewardship decisions for wildlife and their habitat.

Even before the Ute Park Fire ignited, bears in the study area - some with cubs - have been recorded out and about frequently at midday in search of food and water. The blaze reduced habitat for bears and other wildlife in what was already to be a stressful year, displacing animals and increasing the likelihood of conflict with both other wildlife and humans alike. Be alert, stay together while on hikes, and follow bear protocol to keep yourself and our wildlife safe. Should you come across research equipment like cameras or traps, please respect the work of our Wildlife Biologist and avoid tampering with the site.

*Stay tuned this summer for photos from our backcountry research grid in the "Wildlife Window!"*



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A stylized sign for "Russell's One-stop". The sign is shaped like a shopping bag and contains various items like a milk carton, a bottle, and a box. Text on the sign includes "Coin-Oper. Laundry &amp; Car Wash", "Cree-Mee Drive-In 9AM-9PM", "ALL WEEK", "Ice Cream &amp; Hamburgers", "Full Service Grocery", and "CIMARRON" written vertically on the right side.

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# The Puzzle Page

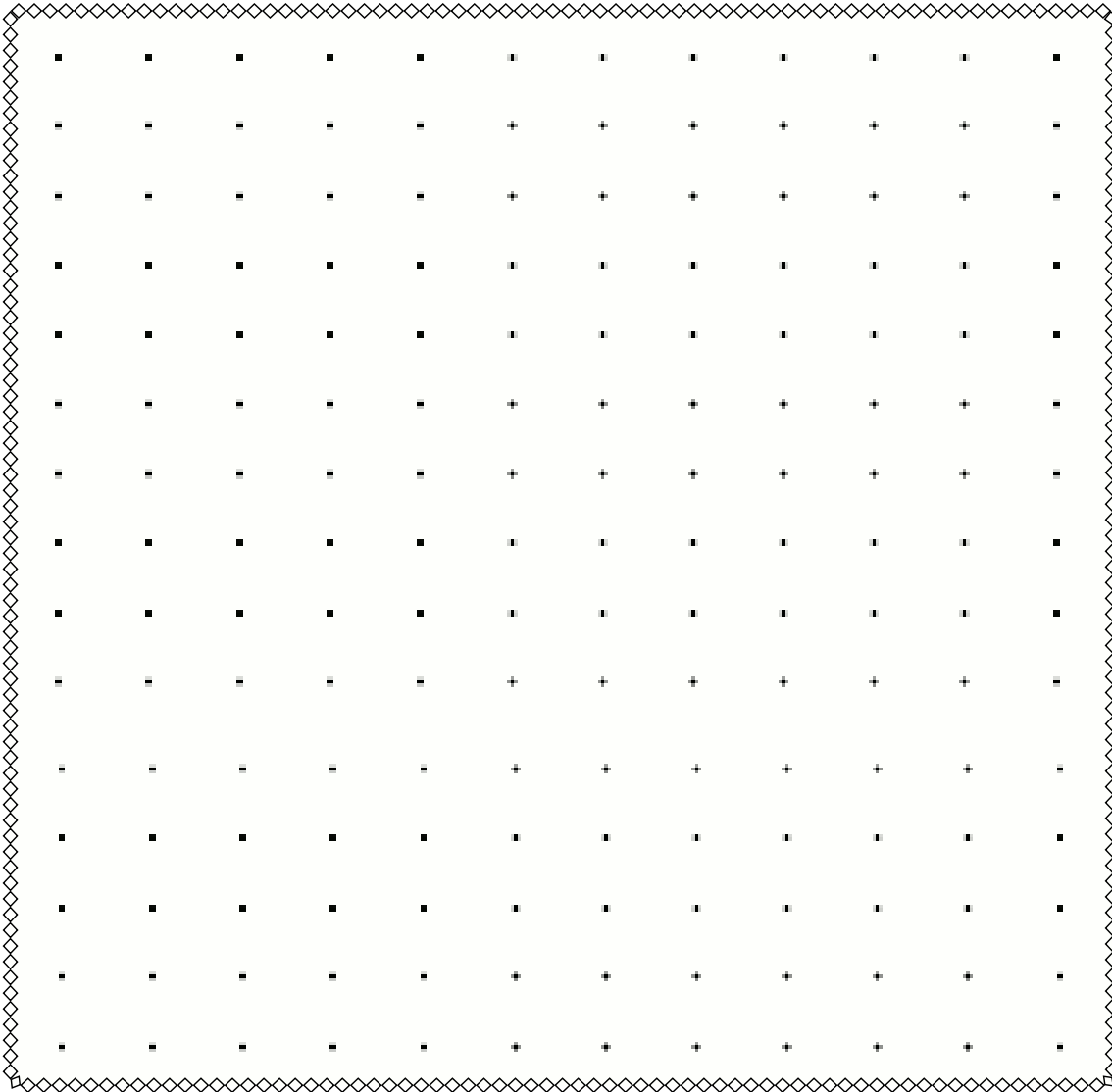
Grab a pen and play some games, either by yourself or with friends!

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## Banquet Issue Solution

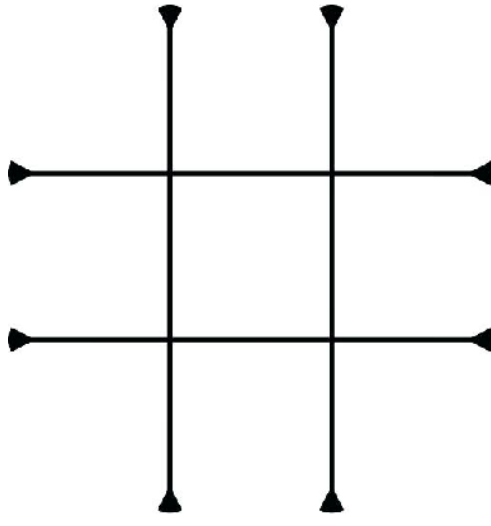
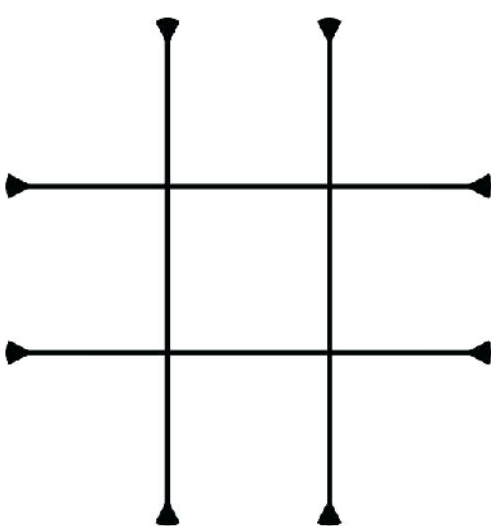
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8	5	7	3	1	4	9	2	6
9	8	2	5	6	1	7	4	3
1	7	3	8	4	2	6	5	9
5	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	2



## The Dot Game

- 1) Grab another person to play the dot game with.
- 2) Take turns connecting the dots horizontally and vertically (NOT diagonally).
- 3) Whenever one of you completes a box, put your initials inside the box.
- 4) The person with the most boxes at the end wins!

## Tic Tac Toe





# Chaplain's Corner: Climbing the Mountain

## Pastor John Lampley Protestant Chaplain

My favorite fable is set in a place much like Philmont. It begins by telling of an Indian village on a wide open desert in the Southwest. A few miles across the desert is a high mountain, towering up out of the desert.

One day, the Chief gathered all the young boys that were not yet braves to him. He said; "It is time for you to all climb the great mountain. Tomorrow morning, start right after breakfast, and go each of you as far as you can. Then when you are tired, come back; but let each one bring me a twig off a tree from the place where he turned back."

The next morning, away they went, full of hope, each feeling that he surely could reach the top. But soon the first returned slowly back, and in his hand he held out to the Chief a leaf of cactus. The Chief smiled and said, "My boy, you did not reach the foot of the mountain, you did not even get across the desert."

Later, a second boy returned. He carried a twig of sagebrush. "Well," said the Chief, "You

reached the mountain's foot but you did not climb upward."

The next had a cottonwood spray. "Good", said the Chief, "You got up as far as the clear springs."

Another came later with some buckthorn. The Chief smiled when he saw it and said: "You were climbing; you were up to the first slide rock."

Late in the afternoon, one arrived with a cedar spray, and the old man said, "Well done. You went half way up and reached the forest."

Before sunset, one came with a switch of pine. To him the Chief said, "Good, you went to the high forest; you made three quarters of the climb."

The sun was down when the last finally returned. His hand was empty as he approached the Chief, and the other Indian boys began to laugh and tease that he had not even tried the climb.

But his face was radiant, and he said: "Great Chief, there were no trees where I climbed; there were no twigs, but I saw the shining sea far away."

Now the old man's face glowed, too, as he said aloud and almost

sang: "You have been to the top. It is written in your eyes, and rings in your voice. My boy, you have seen the glory of the mountain. You need no twigs for proof."

Here at Philmont, we have many opportunities to climb mountains, and you know that there is great satisfaction in reaching the summit. And we all practice good outdoor ethics, so we don't bring back physical mementos or artifacts! We know that the memory of the journey we carry with us in our spirit. But you don't have to literally climb a mountain to realize the satisfaction of a great accomplishment.

The hard work that you do each day comes from your commitment to the task you have undertaken. And you likely will not have anything tangible to demonstrate how well you did your job. But your reward is the time you get to spend with others, and to know that you have made a positive difference in their journey. So stay strong and focused, enjoy your pilgrimage, and change lives.

Ever Upward,  
Pastor John



Philmont staff gather at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new National Scouting Museum on May 29, 2018. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer



The staff of Pueblano prepares to perform at the Backcountry Music Festival in Baldy Pavilion on June 4, 2018. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer

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# Meet the Chaplains

## Father Edward Erb (FrEd)

The Rev'd Edward Erb (aka "Fred") will celebrate his 20th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church on June 17th. For those of you who don't know, yes, we are Protestant, even though I am technically called "Father Ed." But to make life less complicated for other Protestants, I go by "FrEd." Episcopalians are very, very similar to Lutherans, we just took Martin Luther and translated him into English way back at the time of the English Reformation. So, yes, we are a part of the Church of England. And if you saw the Royal Wedding, the preacher, Michael Curry, is our Presiding Bishop.

I was never a Scout growing up. But our oldest son came home from the first week of school with a paper announcing a parents meeting about this brand new thing for first-graders called Tigers. So I said to Philip, "I'm all game if you're interested." I went to the meeting, came home a den leader. 30 years later, I'm still a Scouter, Philip is a Cubmaster, and our grand-daughter is the first female Tiger in Northeast PA! Huzzah! Our other son, Andrew is an Eagle Scout.

I am the rector (priest) at Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale PA – in the far, far northeast corner of PA. If you watched The Office about Scranton, keep going north and east. Our main claim to fame is Highlights for Children Magazine



**Father Ed (or "FrEd"), one of the Protestant Chaplains.** Ryan Soldanels/MPS Photographer

whose editorial offices are right next door to my Church, and where my wife has worked for 19 years. After 25 years of not being a den leader, she is back into it, as the Pack at our Church doubled in size in September! And in 2016 I took over the role as Advisor to Venture Crew One (a sister unit to Troop One – see below).

Philmont has been a special joy to me. A long story made short, I was invited to PTC for Religious Relationships in 2002; discovered the Chaplaincy program, and was here for the whole summer of 2005. I returned for 2 weeks in 2008. Then was an Advisor to our Troop's Cavalcade in 2012, while our Scoutmaster led the Venture Crew on the same trek backwards. (No, the horses didn't go backwards!) And here I am again for five weeks.

Our Troop One (The Oldest Continuing Troop in America – one year younger than BSA! We have to stress 'continuing' as there are other Troop One's, but they had to halt for a bit during wars.) By the way, our Council has Dan Beard's cabin which will be reconstructed at our local Council camp. Come and see us in a few years at Goosepond.

My most recent work has been being granted permission to write new Religious Emblems books for Protestants based on the Sacraments – Baptism (grades 1-3), Communion (grades 4-6), Confirmation (grades 7-9), and rather than 'Marriage' per se, I did Relationships for High Schoolers. They are currently in review for publication. P.R.A.Y. has been gracious to work with us in developing these materials.

For many years, I was an organist and choirmaster, and still enjoy my classical music. I am an Appalachian Trail section hiker, a bicyclist (leading Troop members on century rides – 100 miles in a day), a skier, canoer, a cook, a gardener, and well, more, but that gives you an idea. Oh, and I have a theological library of almost 3,000 books, and growing. My Venture Crew of which I'm the Advisor, has self-defined as a High

Adventure group, which grew out of the Extreme Team of our sister unit, Troop One. Interested in a Roller-Coaster Challenge in July? Or a Century bike ride in August? Appalachian Trail weeks? 10 days canoeing down the Delaware River next summer? See me!

FrEd (aka "Father Ed")

## Elder Scott Ferrin (Doc)



**Elder Scott "Doc" Ferrin dressed for the coming monsoon season.** Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer

Elder Ferrin, who goes by Doc in informal settings, is the LDS Chaplain for the next 3 years, and the Branch President of the local LDS congregation during the summer. When he's not chaplaining (yes I verbed that noun) he's a professor at Brigham Young University at the McKay School of Education and the J. Reuben Clark Law School. If you think of yourself as a kind person, please don't ask him about BYU's last football season. Doc came to Philmont in the early 70's for a trek, and that makes him older than Ranch Dressing. He has also brought three crews to Philmont for Cavalcade, having figured out that he appreciates a sitting-down job better than carrying his own pack. He's also attended the PTC three times, and his claim to fame is twofold at Philmont: 1) He is David Ferrin's husband, and if you've met her, you get it. She's the world's coolest past School of Management Professor at Boston University who is now a kindergarten teacher in Provo, Utah. 2) He is Lee Ferrin's Dad, who was on staff here for several seasons and a Camp

Director at Abreu. If you've never heard Lee laugh, a thing she does often, you've never had the chance to capture the definitive sound clip to use as your ring tone. His other claim to fame is that for decades of his life, the Arizona Dept. of Motor Vehicles thought his middle name was Elvis (it's Ellis—don't judge) and he doesn't even really like Elvis that much. Elder Ferrin is sure that horses are proof that God loves his children and wants them to be happy. He was a firefighter with the Forest Service in Cibola National Forest here in New Mexico for a couple of seasons, and a river guide on the Salmon, Green, and Colorado rivers, and has had sundry other jobs to stay ahead of the bill collectors and process servers. He's also a pilot and loves horses, flying when he can afford it, hiking, running, old pickup trucks and Jeeps (yes, it's beginning to sound like a country song), reading compulsively, all things outdoors, Philmont, and the people that inhabit its sacred environs, and Bolivia—really. If you need to fill your daily quota of corny lawyer and other jokes, he can help. Don't dawdle though or he will recite cowboy poetry. He also believes that Vicente Fernandez and Patsy Cline are what God intended when he created music.

## Pastor John Lampley

It is great to get back to Philmont for my sixth season as a Chaplain. It is a real privilege to be a part of the chaplaincy here, working with a wonderful group of people, all with the common mission of changing lives.

To those who I don't know yet, I have been married to my wife Claudia for 36 years and have 3 grown children. Both my sons are Eagle Scouts, and former staffers at Philmont. My daughter is a former District Executive with the BSA, and currently teaches 8th grade. I now have a son-in-law, a 2-year-old grandson, and a granddaughter on the way! I am excited that they both may be able to one day enjoy Scouting and Philmont as participants and staffers.

As you can see, I started training



**Pastor John Lampley at a young age.** Photo provided.

for Philmont at a very early age.

I currently serve on staff at a Presbyterian church in Hendersonville, NC as a Licensed Professional Counselor and as Director of Nurture and Discipleship. I also serve as Scoutmaster for Troop 628 and as Chairman of our District Committee.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking and backpacking and skiing. I currently compete in the Sports Car Club of America in the Formula Vee class.

I am so grateful for the friendships I have made here and look forward to meeting new friends this summer.

Ever Upward,  
John Lampley,  
Protestant Chaplain



**Pastor John Lampley, a Protestant chaplain on his 6th year at Philmont.** Nick Castellia/MPS Photographer

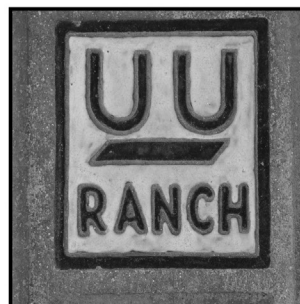
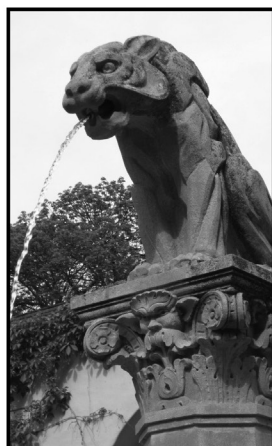
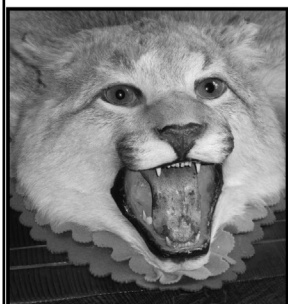


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## **Submissions to the PhilNews are welcome anytime!**

If you would like a chance  
to contribute to the  
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story ideas, and/or creative writings to the  
PhilNews Editor at

npsphilnewsdepartment@gmail.com.

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- Handicap accessible bathrooms at PTC Dining Hall
- Funded early years of Cabin Restoration
- Donated dollars to flood restoration projects.
- Raising funds for new PSA building and Museum Expansion Project

Benefits of PSA Membership

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# PHILMONT STAFF PHOTO CONTEST

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

## Categories

- Staff Activity
- Camper Activity
- Porch Views
- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Philmont Skies
- Plant Life
- Portraits
- Humor
- Black and White







Upper Left: After the evacuation of base camp on June 1, 2018 the Rangers and Wranglers held a human rodeo at the Colfax County Fair Grounds. Clay Helfrick/MPS Photo Manager



Middle Left: The new National Scouting Museum just after sunset on May 31, 2018. Jessica McClelland/MPS Photographer



Bottom Left: Sam Anderson and Mike Nyhart take a music break between training sessions at Colfax County Fair Grounds. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer

Bottom Middle: PhilNews writer Mark Cordeiro posing for photographers during a lighting session on May 28, 2018. Jessica McClelland/MPS Photographer

Upper Middle: Staff gathers around the bearmuda triangle set up on the Villa lawn to learn proper bear and wildlife procedures. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer



Center: Musicians dressed in interps pose behind Baldy Pavilion as they prepare to take the stage for the backcountry music festival. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer



Below: On June 4, 2018 at the Backcountry Music Festival and Open Mic Night Annie Anderson and Jack Siebert from Beaubien pose pre-show for a photo. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer

