

PHILNEWS



JULY 6TH, 2018

ISSUE FOUR

Into the Black: Ute Gulch

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

Just up the hill from Ute Gulch's commissary, six chainsaws throw a cloud of dust into the skyline, a skyline dominated by thin black spires marking places where green Ponderosa pines used to stand proud.

The Black, as the area scorched

by the Ute Park Fire is colloquially known, is aptly named: dark ash covers the earth, recalling the shared mental images of No Man's Land from the first World War. At first glance, there's not much to see. The woods around Ute Gulch are no exception. The camp was one of the closest to the center of the burn area, and most of the trees around

the gulch burned.

Given that so much of the forest, including the scrub and grass below the canopy, burned to a crisp, the camp is at risk of flooding when monsoon season hits. This prompted the Conservation Foreman, John Celley, to take a fireteam of his best and brightest into the Black for flood prevention work.

"The main goal is to fell the trees so that they'll end up with their trunks pretty much level. Then we'll cut their limbs off so the trunks are closer to the ground. We'll kind of scatter those limbs in the immediate area of the trunk to get some ground cover," Celley explained to his team before they began. In just a short time, they'd be cutting their way through the forest.

The further they pushed into the surrounding area, the more it became apparent that there was more going on in the Black than first met the eye. The Conservation team carried their packs and chainsaws



Peering into the "black," a post-wildfire view behind Ute Gulch on June 21, 2018. Whitney Dumford | MPS Photographer

into an area that, from a distance, looked still and bleak. What they found, however, was renewal.

Grass, young and green as the grass on the Villa Lawn, sprouts its way through the ash. Below Ute Gulch's scorched water tower a trail of grass beams with what could be seen as pride, clashing against the black and white landscape. The sound of birds singing their songs of triumph cut through the silence as

small chickadees claimed a handful of green, untouched trees as their own. The main cabin's radio still broadcasts the voices of the Ranch across the valley, a reminder that this is still Philmont; that this is still HOME.

Inside the raised cabin to the right of the camp's driveway waits a message for the Ute Gulch Staff: "Welcome Home. Love, Ute Gulch 2017."



The power of renewal shows itself as new blades of grass emerge from beneath the ash-covered ground behind Ute Gulch. Whitney Dumford | MPS Photographer

Chief Scout shows support

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

Michael Surbaugh, the BSA's Chief Scout Executive, visited Philmont Scout Ranch to show his support for the staff after the Ute Park Fire. He addressed the staff over lunch, touting his appreciation for Philmont as it recovers from the events of early June that set its opening back several weeks.

This is the second year in a row Surbaugh has visited Philmont. While at the Ranch, he handed

out certificates of recognition and patches to Philmont staff who were also first responders during the Ute Park Fire and thanked them for their service. Before handing out the certificates, he spoke about the challenges Philmont and the Boy Scouts of America have faced this year.

"It is great to be here at this time," he said. "I've had a chance to talk to a number of groups here at Philmont and express my deep and undying appreciation for everything you've done to give

kids a future here, at what is our iconic property in the Boy Scouts of America."

Surbaugh drew a parallel between the decisions made by Philmont's management during the fire and the decision made at the National Scouting level to include young women in Scouting. Hard decisions require hard choices to be made, he claimed, and he supported Philmont management's decisions wholeheartedly. So too

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Chief Executive Michael Surbaugh shows off his new Philmont staff shirt during his visit to the Ranch. Jess McClelland | MPS Photographer

A Tale of Two Taylors

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

A seasoned, rough looking man sauntered onto the Closing Campfire Bowl's stage, his cowboy hat naturally perched atop his head, his feet protected from the elements by a pair of Crocs. Rod Taylor, a country music star just recently retired from Philmont's Ranching department, and his son Ry, an indie musician recently signed to a label, came back to their roots to perform at Philmont for the staff.

"I'm gonna do every song I know about moisture," Rod joked in his opening.

Rod Taylor, for those unaware, is a Philmont legend. Working as a genuine cowboy for Philmont for decades, he was a staple in both the Ranching Department and the music scene for the camp. His music is available for purchase in the Tooth of Time Traders.

Ry Taylor is shaping up to be a musician to rival his dad's legacy, with one album released already and more on the way. This father and son duo put their skills on

display during their concert, a benefit concert organized by the PSA to support Philmont Fire Recovery efforts.

The two performed their own music and covers of popular Philmont songs. Later on during the concert, the Taylors featured one of Philmont's resident musicians: Ellyn Washburne.

Though she originally was only tasked with helping with the Bowl's AV setup, Ellyn Washburne, Activities Assistant Manager and Philmont's Musicologist, quickly found herself performing with both Ry and Rod Taylor during Night Rider's Lament and Wagon Wheel.

"Oh, I enjoyed playing with them! It was very casual, so I wasn't very nervous," Washburne said. "It was pretty laid back. I guess their whole concert was laid back, like 'Oh, what should we play next?' kind of a thing. It was entertaining and pretty chill."

The "laid back" feeling of the concert was largely due to Rod and Ry's on-stage chemistry. The family duo who, despite their years of being musicians, had

only played together twice before the concert, managed to make the stage feel like an intimate hang-out with a pair of old friends. Their quips and one liners often sent the audience into fits of laughter and smiles were worn far and wide.

From jokes about how maybe using lighters during slow songs probably isn't the best idea in the current climate to updating their MySpace pages to half-strength Gatorade, Rod and Ry warmed the hearts of the staff that listened to their music and felt their love.

Together, the two embodied the Philmont spirit with their humor and talent.

To end the campfire, Rod and Ry invited everyone stand for the ultimate classic song: The Philmont Hymn.

"You guy are going to have a great summer, even though it's been pretty weird already," Rod said in closing. "You're going to get out there and have some stories to tell. You'll just love it."

The concert, which was shared on Facebook Live, is available to watch on Philmont's Facebook page.



June 15, 2018. Rod and Ry Taylor performed a benefit concert at the closing campfire bowl to help raise funds for the reparation efforts at Philmont. Nick Castelli | MPS Photographer



The GIS team looks at a map of Philmont's burned area, which they created based on a variety of data. Alex Zarynow | MPS Photographer

Mapping Out Philmont

Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.
Staff Writer

Everything that happens, happens somewhere. Here at Philmont, there is a team dedicated to the task of dealing with the "where" of the Ranch's operations, using the tool of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). With GIS mapping technology, geographic coordinates serve as the link between a map display and the actual spatial phenomena.

During the recent Ute Park fire, for example, the U.S. Forest Service was regularly providing officials of Philmont Scout Ranch with data that was generated by aerial flyovers, tracking the progress of the fire's containment.

"The data we received has a lot of power, and we were able to use GIS and to learn valuable things about the burned area," said Anthony Stephens, one of three GIS analysts at Philmont. "We can overlay other data on top of the burn zone to examine the overlap of watersheds, campsites and property boundaries that fall into the affected area.

GIS can be used to store, analyze, and display many types of data, with geography as its unifying framework.

A lot of data can be referenced in some way to a geographic point on the earth's surface. For example, we all live at a point on the earth's surface. We all work at a point on the earth's surface. We all spend money at different points on the earth's surface. Each point has an x/y coordinate, so once that coordinate is defined and verified on a map it can be used for a variety of purposes. It can be displayed, analyzed and stored for later use, which is primarily what GIS is used for.

"It's an exciting time to be working with GIS at Philmont," said Anika Berger, another GIS analyst. "There are new projects every day that range from making small maps of working areas for the TSI efforts, to creating a large, professional quality map of the Ute Park Fire for ESRI, a yearly GIS conference."

One of GIS' most recent projects was to create a map of the burn area that showcased

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Spotting Wildlife while at Philmont

Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.
Staff Writer

There are probably few things anywhere that will bring out the wild in you better than sighting wildlife on a hike. Fortunately, you're very likely to spot some type of wildlife during a visit to Philmont. PhilNews recently caught up with Charley Walton, the Environmental Education Coordinator in the Conservation Department for advice on what wildlife can be seen at here and how different types deal with wildfire.

It should come as no surprise that the best time to encounter birds and mammals is in the early morning hours, when the surroundings are cool. Reptiles and insects are most commonly seen during the heat of the day. You can find—or often hear—some animals best at night, such as owls and coyotes. Just as much fun, if you are observant, is the evidence that animals have recently been in your area, such as rub marks on trees or tracks in the dirt or sand.

Most of the animal species at Philmont are not aggressive, but it is important to remember that you should always be vigilant when you suspect that animals might be near. Perhaps the best advice for interacting with animals is to keep your distance from the big ones and to not touch the small ones. If you leave them alone, chances are very good that they will leave you alone.

It is also important to remember that although the Ute Park Fire had a serious impact on the area, most animals are very hearty and can still be found around the Ranch.

“The vast majority of animal species in our backwoods are able to recognize the danger of an approaching fire and know to leave an area when these conditions present themselves,” Walton explained.

He added, “It’s important to remember that wildlife in the desert southwest, and many other parts of the world, have had a

relationship with fire far longer than modern civilized humans have.”

A wide variety of mammal species may be spotted at Philmont. Some of those are carnivores, such as the skunks, black bears, bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, foxes and raccoons; others are big, like the elk, mule deer and antelope that can also be found across the Ranch.

Common birds that can be seen at Philmont represent some of the most beautiful in the country, including meadowlarks, orioles, mountain bluebirds, northern flickers, hawks, bald eagles and more.

“Birds have the potential to be especially resilient in the aftermath of a fire,” Walton explained. “Given their ability to fly, birds have it easy when it comes to finding new habitat that provides appropriate food and

shelter.”

Reptiles at Philmont mostly include a variety of snakes and lizards. Walton said that although reptiles may initially seem to be particularly susceptible to wildfire because of their small size, they are actually quite capable of coping with it. Watch for lizards and snakes basking in the sun, or to find some special amphibians, ask around for the location of the neotenic salamander pond near Baldy Town.

There are a number of bodies of water on Philmont that contain fish. Walton said that trout “require water that is cold, clear and relatively free of contaminants,” which makes it easy to find them in the high-altitude streams and rivers around Philmont. Keep an eye out for brook, brown, cutthroat and rainbow trout species while hiking along the Rayado River,

the North and South Fork Cito, the North Fork Urraca and many other cold and clear waterways across the Philmont backcountry. And before you attempt to fish in the area, know that New Mexico enforces a very strict set of fishing laws. Make sure you have an appropriate license and that you observe the letter of the law before you drop a lure in the water. Violations of these laws carry with them stiff penalties... yes, even at Philmont.

It should be no surprise that with such varied landforms and ecosystems at Philmont, there comes a huge variety of plant and animal species that can be found. Keep your head up and ears open while hiking and recognize that the land and its inhabitants have been busy with life far longer than we’ve been building the trails and staffing the camps that allow us to enjoy this wild land.

The Wildlife Window



A bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) patrols the trails near Sioux Camp after dusk. Each bobcat has uniquely identifiable spot patterns which can be used to estimate population distribution and demographics.

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Ranch Leadership: Making a Difference

Dave Kenneke
Director of Ranching

On May 22nd, I penned a small article for the Banquet Edition of the Phil News entitled “MAKING A DIFFERENCE.” It came out a little behind schedule because we all have had a pretty major event pop up in our lives— was that only a month ago? In many ways, it seems like a lifetime.

In that first article, I talked about how a person’s attitude at the beginning of the summer can make a difference in how they approach things for the entire summer— how you MAKE A DIFFERENCE by going the extra mile when you are cold, tired, thirsty, hungry — that extra mile being what defines the kind of person an individual truly is.

It has been my great fortune to be a part of Philmont summer staff for periods spanning four decades. They have all been wonderful, inspiring and unique. That being said, and intending them no dishonor, over the course of the last three weeks, I have had the privilege to witness group of individuals come together as a team, pulling in

the same direction regardless of personal differences, ideologies, egos and agendas for a common unifying goal: taking care of our HOmE in a manner that is epic in proportion.

Please take a moment and recognize that the team you are a part of — the 2018 Philmont Summer staff — is something that is so truly special. You are part of something that will be remembered as legendary.

In that earlier writing, I mentioned irksome tasks, and how being friendly or offering a helping hand can make the difference. That still holds true! As our minds and muscles are taxed in labors that many did not expect but have welcomed, remember that no matter what role you are fulfilling these days as a member of the team, you are making an impact every moment, and that impact will be significant today, tomorrow, and for the generations that follow.

With respect and admiration to every member of this team. Thank you for MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Dave

Mapping Philmont continued

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factors that affect burn severity, such as vegetation type, slope, aspect and the fire regime. After an analysis of these variables, the team found that within the severely burned areas, aspen and mixed conifer forests on south-facing slopes were reduced from their original coverage the most.

“Investigating these influential variables can help to identify areas more susceptible to fire in the future, and could potentially be considered for mitigation efforts,” Berger explained.

In addition to creating maps of important areas, such as the burn area, the GIS team has also had time to take their skills into the community. Along with the staff of Zastrow and Seally Canyon, they lead an orienteering and GPS lesson at the Bobcat Ranch near Eagle Nest. Thirty children



The GIS team uses special software to take the data they collect and create maps from it. Alex Zarynow | MPS Photographer

between the ages of 6 and 18 from the Pueblo of Sandia attended and learned to use GPS units to navigate a disc golf course that the staff had set up for them. For the second part of the program, the participants were tested on their ability to use waypoints, take a bearing and follow a map.

“With more than 140,000 acres of land, Philmont Scout Ranch is a unique place,” said Stephens. “There is no other Boy Scout camp that comes anywhere close to the size of Philmont, which is both an advantage and a disadvantage. That size allows us to present programs to Scouts across all of that acreage. Each year we host more than 22,000 Scouts in our camp’s backcountry, as well as adults for leadership training. Naturally, this means that we have to manage and maintain a lot of property and facilities, which can be very difficult, in terms of both quantity as well as complexity.”

GIS helps to organize the extensive data on the status of vital structures on Philmont property, such as the red roofs and campsites. Part of the GIS staff’s regular duties includes using a GPS to take inventory of campsite features or mapping the trails newly built by Scouts during their conservation work.

Further complicating Philmont’s need for information

is the fact that Philmont boasts more than 80 trail camps and 36 staffed camps, as well as all of the support properties where equipment is kept and maintained. This makes keeping up with the status of these properties critical to Philmont’s ability to run smoothly.

“We have to keep up with what is happening in the field and present the important data to upper leadership,” said Xavier Franczyk, GIS coordinator and the final member of the GIS team. “Decision-makers need up-to-date and reliable information about what is happening in the field, and the information presented by a meaningful map is perfect for this application.”

Before the Ute Park Fire was completely contained, the GIS team was able to provide information to those who were creating a backcountry work plan. Especially compared with the past, that’s nothing short of phenomenal.

“GIS gives decision-makers the ability to use a lot of information presented in a much more digestible format,” said Franczyk. “As a tool, it allows us to examine spatial phenomena that would not be visible without the ability to process large volumes of data.”

What is a Scout? A Message from Paul Salopek

Paul Salopek, the man who is walking around the world, reflects on what a Scout is and how stories play a part in the Philmont experience, both for staff members and for Scouts

What does ‘Scout’ mean, after all, but pathfinder— explorer— one who goes ahead to break new trail, to find a way forward for the rest of us. This is exactly what good storytellers do: without visionary stories— the kind that guided everyone from American Indians (vision quests) to the Found Fathers (revolutionary ideas about organizing free societies) to the Greeks (myths) and Sufi poets (the timeless

poetry of Rumi)— without such stories we get lost. We risk losing the ends to ourselves— the inner stories we tell ourselves about who we are— and to each other. This isn’t some abstract exercise: The practice of close observation and clear powerful storytelling are lifelong skills that will help Scouts better shape their educations, careers and personal lives. We are storytelling creatures. We are submerged from birth (lullabies) to death (eulogies) in stories. Unless you pay attention to shaping your own, you’ll be a follower, not a groundbreaker in the world. Hence the training and journaling you’re going to offer. It is a tool for clarity— both

physical and moral. Being a good storyteller requires being a good listener and observer. These are both qualities of the good hunter. The hunter is the Alert Man and Alert Woman: awake to the finer details of the world that others, sleepwalking through life, often miss. A storyteller goes out into the world, scanning the horizons constantly for deeper truths— in art, in science, in life experience— and comes back with unique goods: not an antelope or deer, but with a story that nourishes others (and herself) for life. We live on stories as much as we live on air and food. Without them, we are not fully human. Be a hunter. Bring back the goods.

Teachers Wanted in

Red River, NM



Teaching positions available for 2018-19 school year at Red River Valley Charter School in Red River, New Mexico (near Cimarron and Philmont).

Red River Valley Charter School serves students in grades Pre-K through Eighth.

Qualified applicants must be licensed, or able to apply for reciprocity in the state of New Mexico.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to kimberly@redrivervalleycs.com

Staff Sickness: A Simple Solution

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

Each summer, without fail, staff members who get sick refer to their ailment as the PhilPlague. As the summer gets further along, and whispers about the PhilPlague start again, the Infirmary's Associate Chief of Medical Services, Stasha Beermann, wants to set the record straight.

"We're not considering it so much a PhilPlague as people aren't washing their hands and they're working outside," Beermann said.

Especially with so many staff members out working on timber stand improvement projects, it's super important for the members of the battalions and work crews to look after themselves and their health. It's not uncommon to see battalion members walk into the dining hall still covered in dirt, and that could be part of the problem.

"They'll put on hand sanitizer, but when they put it on, they don't put on enough for it to stay wet for 30 seconds and then scrub their hands," Beermann explained. "The process of scrubbing your hands while the alcohol is starting to evaporate off, that's what cleans off all

the dirt if you don't wash your hands properly."

Though not everyone realizes it, there is a right way to use hand sanitizer to make sure it's as effective as possible. Otherwise, using hand sanitizer doesn't do much.

"What they do is they put a little squirt, smear it around a bit there, but really all they did was they sanitized all the dirt that was still there, and then they get sick," said Beermann.

Beermann continued, describing the symptoms that those who have come to the Infirmary often exhibit: feeling nauseous, vomiting, a lack of appetite, a fever and chills. These ailments are easily avoided by

proper self-care, specifically through hand washing and hydration.

Beermann left a short list of things to do to avoid getting sick, especially while working outside:

Wash your hands well, whether with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

Don't leave your food uncovered for extended periods of time. You don't want to ingest dirt.

Stay hydrated! Getting dehydrated can lead you to get sicker.



Tan Battalion continues their TSI work near Lovers' Leap, clearing trees around the road. Ryan Soldanel | MPS Photographer

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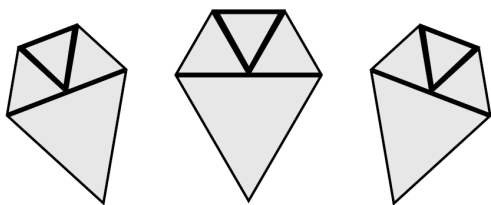
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The view from Little Horse Mesa in Sugarite Canyon State Park. Ellyn Washburne | Musicologist

The Ranger Mile: Sugarite Canyon State Park

Jenny Washburne
Associate Chief Ranger

As we continue the 5 days on, 2 days off schedule, many Philstaffers find themselves hunting further and further away from Philmont to find cool hiking destinations that aren't currently closed by fire restrictions. At only 56 minutes from the Ranch, Sugarite Canyon State Park may be one of the closest of these destinations. Whether you're looking to hike, climb or relax and read a book by a lake, Sugarite Canyon offers a close, inexpensive getaway for day trips or an overnight.

Sugarite is nestled in the basaltic old lava flows just north of Raton, on the New Mexico/Colorado border. The park has around 14 miles of trail all told, which is enough to fill a whole day with exploring. However, most of these trails are short loops out and back to see various points of interest, which comes in handy if you don't have time to see the entire park. It's a choose-your-own-adventure sort of place.

If you'd like to visit the top of

Little Horse Mesa (tallest point in the park at 8,320 feet), it's up to you whether you'd rather start near the Soda Pocket Trailhead and hike one mile up and back to see the view, or stretch your legs and take the Opportunity Trail + Ponderosa Ridge Trail for a 6-mile loop. If you do this loop, you can check out Lake Maloya on your way, as a small section of the Opportunity Trail overlaps with the Maloya Lake Trail at one point.

Maloya Lake is a beautiful, 130-acre manmade lake that has served as Raton's water supply for many years. Because of this, swimming is prohibited. However, kayaking, canoeing, sailboating, and fishing are all allowed. Fun fact: during the winter, people often go ice fishing here. There is also a smaller lake named Lake Alice; the two are connected by a two-mile (one way) trail known as the "Lake to Lake Trail." If you are spending time near Lake Alice, definitely also check out the Coal Camp Interpretive Trail. This one is about 2 miles roundtrip, and features the remains of an old coal mining town (called Sugarite) and some old mineshafts

that were in operation during the early/middle 1900s. A quaint little museum in the Visitor's Center explains the history of the area.

Last but not least: if you're interested in rock climbing, Sugarite's cliffs offer some good traditional climbs (especially on the caprock around Little Horse Mesa). Note that bolting is not allowed. For information on route locations and tips, check online.

As you can see, Sugarite offers several points of interest as well as neat views and a chance to enjoy a lake, all under \$20 and just an hour from Philmont. Even includes close proximity to Denny's. On your next set of days, take advantage of the opportunity!

If You Go:

-Day Use Fee is \$5, staying at a campsite is \$10. Reservations are available but not mandatory.

-Check for closures before you go. Park is currently open, but with all fires prohibited.

-Maps are available at the Visitor's Center and also online.

-They have a lot of bears here. Please follow all bear procedures.

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The Chaplain's Corner

Father Edward Erb Protestant Chaplain

"Chaplain Down. Send a dozen medics!"

Well, that's not quite what happened, except the Chaplain Down part. We were carrying supplies down the staff trail to Black Mountain Camp on Father's Day. My hand was getting wet from something in the plastic crate I was carrying, and not stopping, I looked to see what was leaking. Should've, could've, didn't stop to look. And down I went. Smack onto my knee and slid down the mountain - only about 5 feet, but that was enough.

In what seemed like seconds the two first-aiders going down the trail were on me. In true professional manner, Arizona and J.T. assessed the situation, and looking at my knee said, "You're not going anywhere!" It would be a good hour until a crew from Infirmary could arrive. Arizona and J.T. stayed with me, keeping me calm, and warm (the wind on Black Mountain can be very cold even in bright sunlight.)

When the Infirmary crew arrived, I think I heard someone say, "Oh, my! I've never seen anything like that!" Again, as

professionals, they first made sure I was comfortable (as comfortable as could be) and just as I have experienced in any of my doctor and hospital experiences (I serve part-time as a Hospice and Hospital Chaplain), they checked and rechecked my 'vitals,' radioing back to Base Camp. It had nothing to do with lack of confidence in their training, I think it was just a matter that others at Infirmary knew this was going to be an unusual situation and wanted to be sure of every detail. So another Suburban was sent up Beaubien Road. Infirmary advice was to have several staff lift me, set me on crutches and walk me the short distance to the drop off. The Radio Room heard in the background from where I lay, "Patient not happy with that suggestion!" So the ambulance was sent with more crew and a gurney supplied with this huge rubber tire. And up the trail we go.

"Gee," I said, "when I've seen processions like this, there are usually six pall-bearers - and you're doing it with only four!" (Gotta keep a sense of humor in bad situations.) I wish I could name all of the crew there but I know I would miss some of

the most important figures, my apologies. And so I simply say, "Thank you all, gals and guys."

I want to commend all in the Infirmary, many of whom I have gotten to know in the past weeks, so it was like, no it was, a bunch of friends both concerned and caring for me. We would not have been able to work together and become such a tight-knit staff as we have become. And when you are facing death it is a comfort to know the people who are caring for you.

It's my prayer that none of you or our in-coming Scouts will ever get to know them, except at recheck. But know they are there when you need them. Some of them we won't see after this week as they rotate out and others will come to take their turn. So make sure to offer your own thanks, and, as the PSA sticker says "Maybe we'll have to come back one more summer."

If nothing else - I hope I gave them a gift - a story, a new experience, a training they might not have gotten with our 'hiatus' this month, and perhaps a joke or two.

"Patient not happy with that suggestion!"

Chaplain's Bio: Pastor Wally

Greetings from the Chaplains' Corner of the Ranch!

I am Chaplain Wally Mees, born Walter H. Mees, Jr. on Sept. 3, 1946. After a typical childhood in San Gabriel, California where I was sent to Philmont in 1962 for Junior Leader Training and attained the rank of Eagle in about 1963, I attended California Lutheran University, whose claims to fame are that the Dallas Cowboys once practiced there during the summer and the women's volleyball team won the NCAA Division 3 national championship in 2015. I majored in philosophy, played in the band and sang in the Concert Choir. In my senior year, the band tour took us to the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Following college, I lived in Japan for two years, working with a Lutheran missionary and

earning my keep teaching English conversation to students ranging from half my age to twice my age or more. Due to the societal reticence in Japan, only mitigated by a cup or six of sake, my best conversations took place at night on the local commuter train with a "salaryman" who had had a bit too much to drink and thus was able to use his ten years of English study more freely. Those were delightful and educational chats.

Coming back from Japan in 1970, I journeyed east to "a place where everybody knew my name," the Lutheran seminary connected with Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Why did they know my name? Because my great uncle had been president of the place for 30 or so years.

Those four years went quickly

by and soon I was back in California serving first one, then another Lutheran congregation on the west side of Los Angeles. I retired from the second one after 34 years, in 2016. Summer last year found me serving for the first time as a chaplain at Philmont. I liked it so much that here I am back for more.

Besides theology, my interests are reading mysteries and history, playing and repairing clarinets, a capella singing, and many things Scouting. I have a wife and son. My son was on staff here in 2006. This is my sixth trip to Philmont and second year on staff; and I ask God to give me many more. Please drop in and say hi (almost) any evening at 7 p.m. at the Protestant chapel.



The Chief Scout Executive shakes the hands of Philmont staff members who are first responders. Alex Zarynow | MPS Photographer

Chief Scout cont.

Continued from page 1

does Surbaugh believe that the inclusion of women in Scouting is the best decision that they could make.

"I think it's interesting for all of us to be here at Philmont during this period in our history," he said. "Sometimes, you have those challenges that you're faced with that you don't anticipate, and you can prepare for them for as much as you're able to. You have contingency plans, you can have secondary plans, you can have a

lot of plans, but oftentimes when the situation happens, you have to react in ways that you didn't plan."

Surbaugh was also proud to show off a gift he's been waiting a long time for: his first Philmont staff shirt. For much of his life, Surbaugh's goal was to work either at Philmont or at Sea Base, but instead he ended up as the Chief Scout Executive. When he finished talking, he raised his brand-new greens into the air with a grin.

**Don't miss the dedication of the
PSA building or its
accompanying events!**

July 6

~Rayado Trek 50th Anniversary Program @ Rayado-Kit Carson Museum's Carmax Dining Hall,
7:30-8:30 pm

July 7

~Building Dedication Ceremony and Open House
@ Museum Plaza, 9:30 am-11:30 am
~Silver Sage Program @ PTC Assembly Hall,
7:00pm-8:00 pm
~Tom Munch Concert @ PTC Closing Campfire
Bowl, 8:15-9:15pm

Russell's Variety Store

Fishing Tackle, Camping Supplies, Books and Media,
Devotional Items, Gifts, Jewelry, Apparel, Southwest
Blankets, Bajas, Stationary, Hardware, Craft Supplies,
Domestics and Housewares, Plus Lots More!

Scouts Welcome!

31083 Highway 64
Cimarron, NM 87714
575-376-2502

Monday—Saturday 9 a.m.—6 p.m.

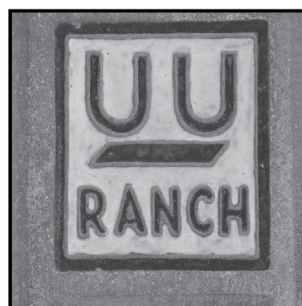
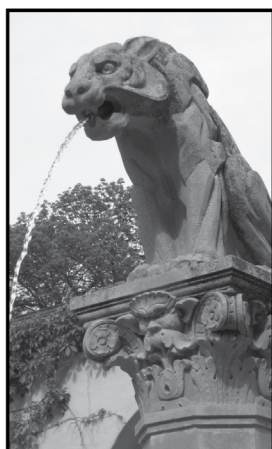
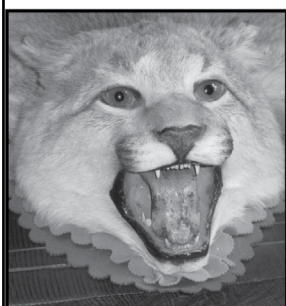
Sunday 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Tour the Villa Philmonte!!

16 Guided Tours a Day.
(45-60 minutes long)

Make your reservation at:

575-376-1136



On the hour and half hour:

8:00—11:00 am

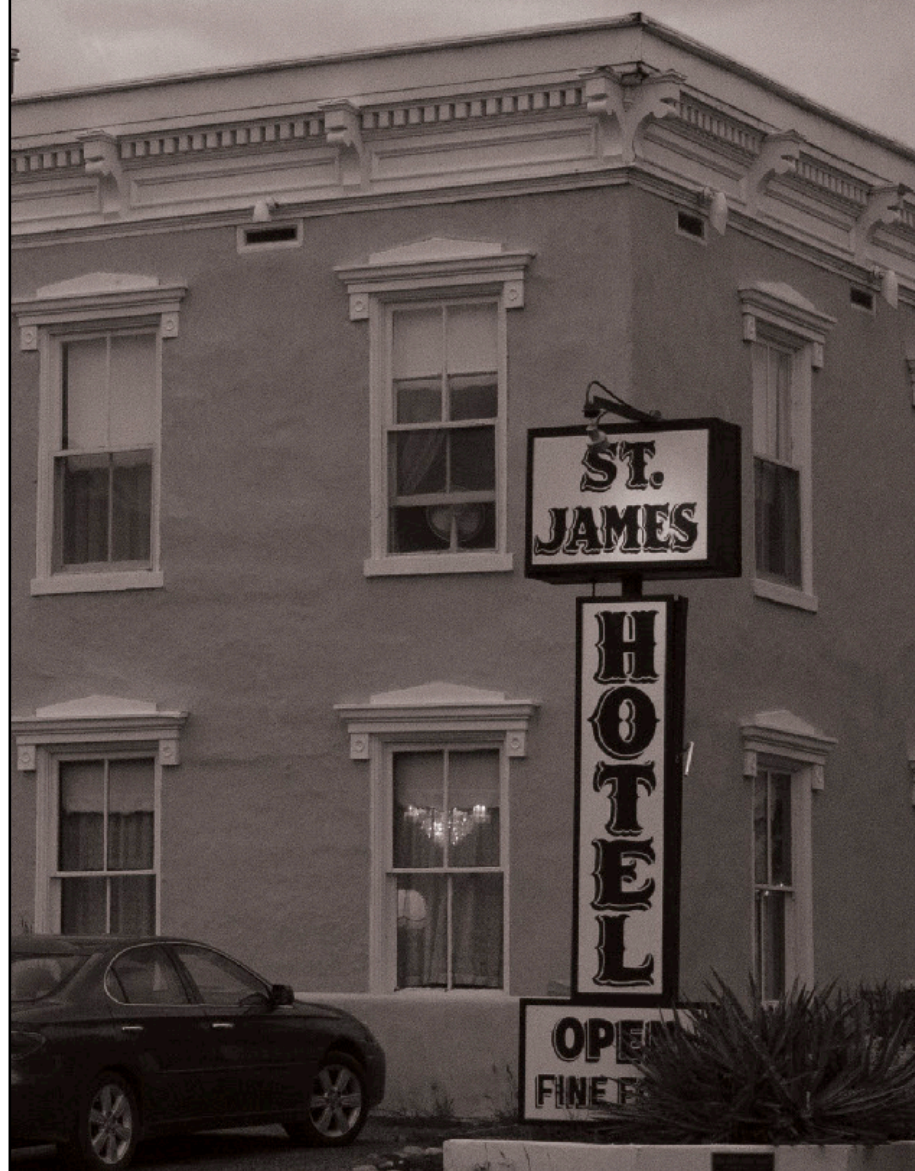
12:30—4:30 pm

(The 11:00 am and 4:30 pm tours are often
abbreviated
to accommodate meal times.)

EXPRESS ST. JAMES HOTEL

— in —
Cimarron, NM

Fine dining since 1872!



The Puzzle Page

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

Sudoku

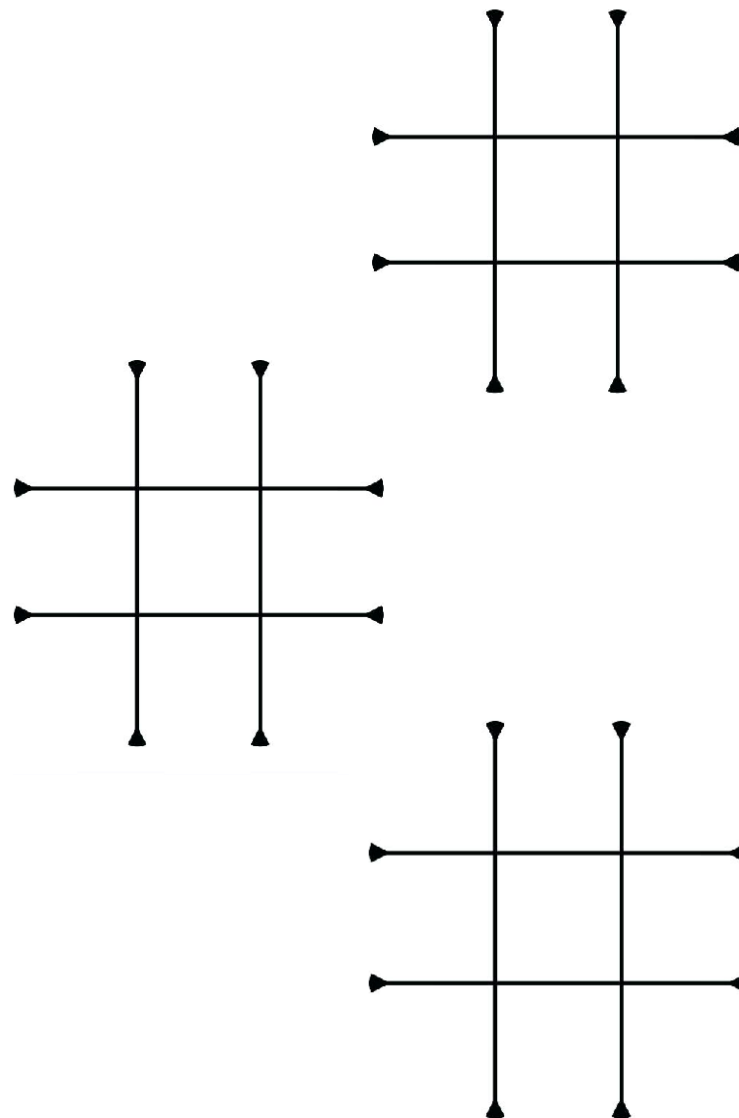
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Issue 3 Answers

Q P S W J T G E I S
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Tic Tac Toe



For the Aspiring Photographers at Philmont

Michael W. Michelson, Jr.
Staff Writer

If digital SLR photography has accomplished one thing, it is to make more people into enthusiasts of what previously had been an area reserved for a select few: photography. Photography has enjoyed a growth spurt in past years, at least in terms of the numbers of people who practice the art, as serious hobbyists or pseudo-professionals. When a photographer is presented with many choices of subject, such as at Philmont, it is easy to get overwhelmed by all the options.

Sometimes it's hard to tell whether some photographers are actually good photographers or are just lucky enough to keep snapping away until they come up with something halfway decent. In fact, it's stepping beyond either of those and getting that rare image that ticks all of the boxes that we should strive for, as well as being prepared to take advantage of a photographic opportunity when it presents itself.

It is coming from that humble position that several Philmont photographers offer a few tips to those who find themselves in

the enviable position of finding themselves at Philmont, one of the most beautiful places in the world that can be photographed, with just a few tips for improving your photography. These tips are not based solely on technical skills because, after all, photography is an art form, and sometimes the best thing you can do to is trust your instincts.

This is a short list of photography tips from Philmont Photography Manager Clay Helfrick, and photographers Whitney Dumford and Jess McClelland.

Know your gear. No soldier ever went into battle without knowing the capabilities of his weapon. The same is true of a photographer, who knows how to use what he or she has to deliver the best shots.

"The best camera for your use is the one you have with you," Helfrick said. "Don't get ready to take a picture and worry about a nicer camera you wish you had. Instead, take what you have with you and concentrate on making it do what it can do well."

Know your subject. Good photography is based upon capturing

fleeting moments of natural history. The more you know about your subject, the better you can anticipate what your subject is going to do and you can prepare for it.

Further, Helfrick pointed out, "Don't 'spray and pray,' which means taking hundreds of pictures in hopes that you will end up with a few good pictures. There's no reason to go on a seven day trek and come back with 1,200 pictures in hopes that you will have some good ones."

Be patient. It is not an uncommon occurrence for your "perfect shot" to be one you never anticipated, McClelland explained. More often than not, when that "perfect shot" happened, it happened when and where you never expected it to.

Pay attention to composition. Right along with being patient to get just the right shot is to never be afraid of experimenting, especially when it comes to composition, Dumford explained.

"It's been said that 80 percent of a good picture happens even before you push the shutter release. Think before you shoot."

Cameras can see in a way unlike the human eye, and camera

settings can create endless creative possibilities.

Years ago, Ansel Adams was asked if he had ever taken a picture that he wished he had never released. He replied, "Oh, heavens yes. But those were what happened when I was having the most fun." If Ansel Adams wasn't afraid of making a mistake with his photography, why should you? Bottom line: Have fun and the shots will happen.

Photography is fun, and you shouldn't forget it. And when you are stressing out about settings, composition and other aspects of good photography, chances are good that the fun won't

happen. Instead, you should make it your point to have fun and enjoy the process.



MPS Photographer Alex Zarynow practices shooting during all-staff training. Ryan Soldanel | MPS Photographer

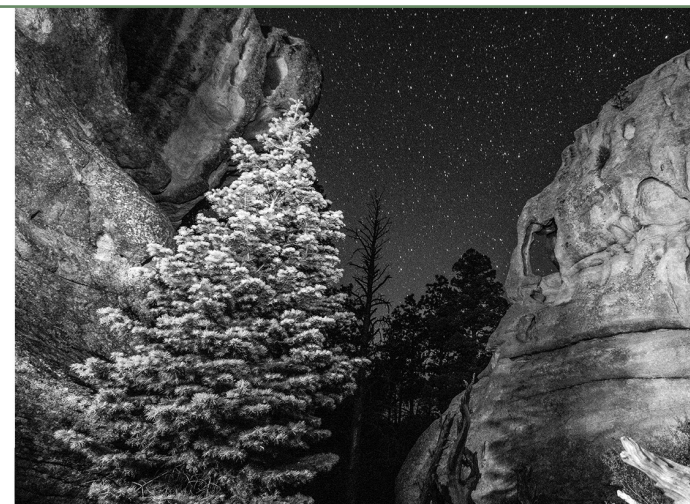


PHILMONT STAFF PHOTO CONTEST

Hey Philmont staffers! It's been a unique summer, so we added a few new categories! Keep taking photos and enter them in the Staff Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted from July 9th to July 30th.

Categories

- Staff Activity
- Porch Views
- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Philmont Skies
- Portraits
- Humor
- Springer Break
- Philmont Recovery Corps
- Wildcard



PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



<NAME>
 <Address>
 <City, State Zip>
 <Email>

ID# <ID>
 Renewal <Date>
 <Annual Member>

What is your birthdate?

Address change? *Please make corrections above.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year \$32 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years \$80
	<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal 1 Year \$15 <i>For current Philmont staff</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Family 1 Year \$40 <i>Add'l family member</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$595 <i>First payment: \$50. Balance can be paid over 12 months.</i>
\$ _____ Total Membership Renewal	

DONATION? <i>All donations are tax deductible.</i>	\$ _____ 2018 Annual Fund
	\$ _____ Rayado/ROCS Scholarship Fund <i>In honor of</i> _____
	\$ _____ Seasonal Scholarship
	\$ _____ Capital Campaign
	\$ _____ 19.73 Club <i>Monthly donation of \$19.73 goes toward the Annual Fund.</i>
	\$ _____ Total Donation

SHOPPING? <i>All prices include shipping.</i>	_____ "I Wanna Go Back" <i>Story of the Philmont Rangers</i> \$16 each
	_____ "The Life & Times of Jack Rhea" <i>by Bill Cass</i> \$17 each
	_____ "Carry On" <i>Joe Davis Biography</i> \$16 each
	_____ PSA Logo Water Bottle <i>32 oz. Nalgene Wide-Mouth</i> \$15 each <i>please select color: _____ Red _____ Blue</i>
	_____ PSA Stationary <i>12-5x7 Philmont map cards</i> \$12 set
	_____ PSA Logo Patch \$5 each
	\$ _____ Total Purchases

PAYMENT <i>3 Ways to Pay</i>	1 Check	2 Credit Card	3 Online
		<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa	
	<i>Payable to Philmont Staff Association</i>	Name on Card	Please go to www.philstaff.com
		Credit Card #	
		Expiration Date _____ Charge Amount	
		Signature _____	
\$ _____ Total Enclosed			

*Please return this form with your payment, unless renewing online.
 Thank you for your continued membership and support!*



Left: Cyphers Mine performs in front of the first-ever Philmont Family Adventure crowd on the evening of June 25, 2018. Clay Helfrick | MPS Photo Manager



Right: On the morning of June 25, 2018 Kathryn Sweeney gives two calves their last bottle feed as they grow stronger and healthier. The two calves were ill after birth and needed assistance from the ranching staff to survive. Sweeney says, "The cows are just like big dogs." Blake Ellis | MPS Videography

Right: On June 25, 2018, Roving Prospector Adam Rosen hunts for gold near the Rayado bridge. Jessica McClelland | MPS Photographer



Left: A member of the Fisher family climbs on the COPE course near Lover's Leap as part of the Family Adventure Program. Nick Castelli | MPS Photographer



Right: On June 29, 2018 PTC Participants have a picnic on the Villa lawn for Western dancing night. Jessica McClelland | MPS Photographer

Left: On June 29, 2018, PTC Family Adventure hits the shooting sports ranges. Pictured is Ben Smith from Los Lunas, New Mexico shooting arial archery. Ryan Soldanels | MPS Photographer