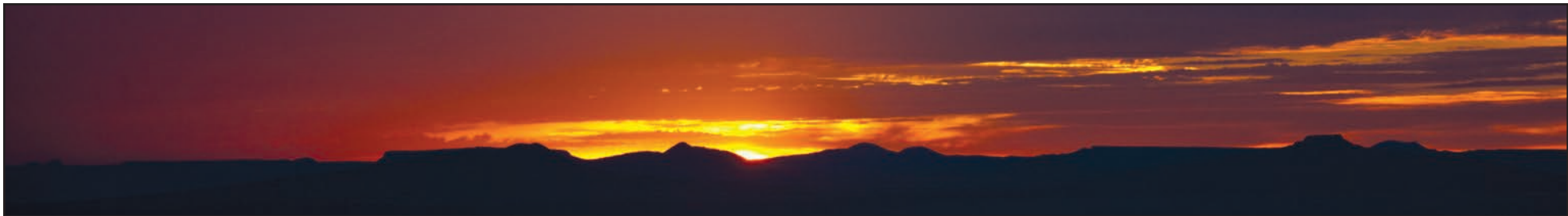


# PHILNEWS

JULY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

ISSUE SEVEN



Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

## The flood of '15: Philmont comes together

*PhilNews Staff*

### Part I: Past Floods

Fifty years ago, on June 17, 1965, the Rayado River rose to a height of 11.5 feet, and a flow rate of 9,000 cubic feet per second.

There are a few distinctions between the Rayado River Flood of 1965 and the flash flooding

in 2015 – for example, in 2015 it occurred in one night, however it occurred over a period of days in 1965 and the flooding in 1965 occurred during Scatter when Philmont employed only around 375 staff and no participants were on the Ranch, while the 2015 flooding occurred when the Ranch was fully operational.

Both summers began extremely wet and with heavy rainfall. In June of 1965, staff encountered difficulty with Scatter-- they

were forced to approach camps on foot through elevated streams and vehicles were swept down river. After arriving at their camp with supplies limited to only what they could carry, the 1965 Fish Camp staff discovered that they did not have keys or any way to get into the cabins.

“I told Phil [the Camp Director] that I had a solution for the problem, and before he could ask me what it was I kicked in the door to the kitchen, at which

time Phil’s face turned from blue to red in a second. He proceeded to tell me the whole Fish Camp story from beginning to end and was sure that we were all going to be fired. As it turned out, that kitchen door didn’t matter much,” Program Counselor Darrel Kirkland said.

Fish Camp staff shared a dinner of six pork chops and one can of green peas, before retiring to take turns watching the river rise. Camp Director Phil Yunker

watched full grown pines floating by, and observed as water ate away at the cabin foundation and eventually swept away the kitchen and pantry. Yunker and his staffers promptly left for Beaubien. Later, although splitting the Fish Camp staff up to disperse among camps was discussed, Yunker and his staffers went on to create the Apache Springs staff camp.

“We decided that we would

*Continued on page 10*

### Dream team at Dean Cow

Marie Reynolds  
*PhilNews*

“A crew came in saying ‘we’ve been walking through chest-high water,’” said Cassidy Harris, a program counselor at Dean Cow rock-climbing camp.

During the flood on June 27th, trails into and out of New Dean were flooded, and many crews were re-routed to Dean Cow as it was not hit as hard. However, the force of the water in Dean Cow was enough to wash away the blue metal container with all their climbing gear, their ‘boom box’ of flammable items,

*Continued on page 3*



### Living the motto of the Boy Scouts: Be prepared

Mark Anderson  
*Director of Program*

The summer of 2015 has presented many opportunities for each of us to demonstrate in this special place we call “HoME”, our commitment to the Motto of the Boy Scouts, “Be Prepared.”

The training that we have taken part in throughout the summer, has prepared us to meet the challenges of the summer. It has allowed us to continue to deliver experiences that will last a lifetime every day to the daily arriving crews and the weekly groups of PTC participants and families

*Continued on page 2*

# NEWS AND PHOTO TEAM

## NPS Manager

Bryan Hayek

## Assistant NPS Manager/Photography Supervisor

Cassidy Johnson

## PhilNews Editor

Patrick McNeill

## PhilNews Writers

Kate Johnson

Caleb Wong

Marie Reynolds

## Photographers

Erin Irwin

Doyle Maurer

Josh Galemore

Tyler Sanders

Sean McElligott

Justin Gilliland

Leanora Benkato

## Photo Lab Lead

Jaime López

## Photo Lab Techs

David Kellogg

Neal Simmons

## Lead Marketing Specialist

Dominic Baima

## Marketing Media Staff

Marcos Palacios

Taylor Hill

## Lead Videographer

Kreable Young

## Videographer

Mitchell Thomas

# July 24-July 30

Friday, 24	Saturday, 25	Sunday, 26	Monday, 27	Tuesday, 28	Wednesday, 29	Thursday, 30
<b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Carson Meadows (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>6 p.m.</b> Meteorology and climate change training - Baldy Pavilion <b>6:30 p.m.</b> PIYO/Zumba - SSSAC TV rooms <b>8 p.m.</b> Salsa night - Baldy Pavilion	<b>6:30 a.m.</b> Insanity - SSSAC TV rooms <b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Hunting Lodge (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>8-10 p.m.</b> Christmas in July at the ToTT Snack Bar	<b>6:30 a.m.</b> Yoga 1 - SSSAC TV rooms <b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Dean Cow (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>6 p.m.</b> Off ranch adventures seminar - Baldy Pavilion <b>9 p.m.</b> Bible study at Protestant Chapel porch	<b>6:30 a.m.</b> Yoga 2 - SSSAC TV rooms <b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Ute Gulch (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>6 p.m.</b> Nature writing/literature of the American West seminar - Baldy Pavilion <b>8 p.m.</b> Tortilla making workshop - SSSAC kitchen	<b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Chase Ranch (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>4 p.m.</b> Self defense class - Yoga room <b>5:45 p.m.</b> Western night - PTC <b>6 p.m.</b> Off ranch adventures seminar - Baldy Pavilion	<b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Zastrow (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>9 a.m.-5 p.m.</b> Haircuts by Ruben - SSSAC <b>6:30 p.m.</b> PIYO - SSSAC TV rooms <b>6 p.m.</b> Nature writing/literature of the American West seminar - Baldy Pavilion	<b>8 a.m.</b> Daily Hike - Zastrow (meet in front of SSSAC) <b>11 a.m.-2 p.m.</b> Bratwurst! - Baldy Pavilion <b>5:15 p.m.</b> P90X - SSSAC TV room <b>6 p.m.</b> Philmont history seminar - Baldy Pavilion <b>9 p.m.</b> Bible study at Protestant Chapel porch

## Why all this rain?

Amanda Adams

*STEM Educator*

Remember when you were soaked on the trail, it was hailing and you were in lightning position for hours and your entire crew was wondering if it would ever stop? You were sitting there thinking to yourself “monsoon season isn’t until July! Why is this happening to me?!”

The reason that monsoon season started so early this year is the onset of an El Nino summer. But what is El Nino?

### Lets break it down:

El Nino is a warming of the Pa-

cific Ocean which happens when the trade winds die down. This isn’t quite a set cycle, but it seems to happen about every 2 or 7 years. No one quite knows why the trade winds stop but when they do it causes a large pool of warm water near Indonesia to stop moving around the ocean. This in turn, allows this large pool of water to heat up as it bakes in the sun all day. When the water gets closer to the temperature of the air, the winds die down even more and the water continues to warm—this is called a positive feedback loop. In the case of the ocean warming

up, this is an increase in average temperature by three to five degrees Fahrenheit, which doesn’t seem like much but an increase of only one degree is enough to declare an El Nino event.

Now, why does a warm ocean cause more rain?

We have the sun to blame for that one.

When the sun heats up the ocean and the land, they cool at different rates, so when the ocean is already a little hot, it cools down more slowly. At the same time, the land is cooling at a separate rate. This confluence of

hot and cold air is what causes thunderheads to build against the mountains.

### What does this mean for us?

An El Nino event typically lasts anywhere from five months to two years. For the southwest, an El Nino winter means a wet winter, but for the north winter will likely be cold and dry.

The El Nino we are experiencing now began around March and it is unknown how long it will last.

Maybe the monsoons will stop, or maybe it’s time to invest in a better rain jacket!

## From page one: Be prepared

despite the unusual weather and the ever changing situations that have presented themselves.

In the opening Banquet Issue of the PhilNews, I quoted E.L. Matthews who wrote, “Unless a person has prepared themselves for their chance, the chance will only make a person look ridiculous. A great occasion is worth to a person exactly what their preparation enable that person to make of it.”

As I visit different parts of the Ranch, I am reminded just how much each of you care about this special place and how much you want each guest to connect in a powerful way. I can hear it in your voices and see it in your actions. As I observe you in action, I can see how you are seeking to improve each day as you review what has happened and prepare

for those that you will impact tomorrow.

Waite Phillips wrote, “Regardless of ability no one individual can accomplish and complete anything worthwhile without direct or indirect cooperation from others.” Our ability to work together as a team with a singular mission is truly a special part of serving on the Philmont Staff. We are truly “experience oriented”.

As I reflect on the summer, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each of you for all that you do to allow the experience to touch the lives of each guest and to each of your fellow staff members. I am so proud to share this occasion with you and look forward to the remaining time we have together in this place we call “HoME”.

## Professional Scouting

If you’re looking for a profession with a purpose, we hope you’ll consider a career with the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA employees thousands of amazing individuals that work collectively to instill character, leadership, and life skills in young people.

For those interested in learning more about Professional Scouting, a recruiting and information reception will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 30, at the Villa Philmonte Pool Garden. Heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served, so plan to come for dinner. Several Scout Executive (CEO’s for local councils), as well as representatives from the regional and national offices of the Boy Scouts of America will be in attendance

to answer questions about professional Scouting.

If you are interested in attending the reception or want to learn more about professional Scouting, feel free to contact Chris Sawyer at Camping Headquarters, [575-376-1131](tel:575-376-1131) (office) or I-Camp your name and department. An invitation is not required, but please RSVP so we have an accurate count of attendees.

**The Pro-Scouting  
Interest Reception  
will be held at 6 p.m.  
on Thursday, July 30,  
at the  
Villa Philmonte  
Gallery**

# Continued from page 1: Dean Cow

and there is now running water where a dry creek bed once was.

According to the Dean Cow staffers, Jeff Shortridge, a Backcountry Manager, almost immediately brought them borrowed climbing gear, so Dean Cow was only without program for one day following the flood.

“It was so great of him to do that. We unofficially named our new creek ‘Shortridge Creek,’” said program counselor Jessi Kauffmann.

The loss of gear slowed climbing program down for a little while, but Dean Cow staffers kept spirits high and got as many participants to climb as they could.

“We only had enough gear to have one crew climbing at a time, and advisors could not climb. We got more gear shortly after that, so it wasn’t bad,” said program counselor Michael Sieja.

Program at Dean Cow includes climbing and rappelling on the side of the canyon, a traverse climbing wall, showers, and an

evening game of Cow Ball.

“Cow Ball is volleyball with less rules. People get really into it here, especially us. We get a little ridiculous and dress up and stuff,” said P.C. Harris.

Dean Cow is a little out of the way from other camps and is one of the smaller climbing programs at Philmont.

“This is a calmer environment than larger climbing camp, Cimmaroncito. We take the time to get to know the kids and we have fun with them. I think we are underrated a bit, people don’t really seem to know about Dean Cow or how to get here. It’s really a great place to be,” said P.C. Kauffmann.

The atmosphere in the main cabin of Dean Cow is relaxed. A kitten named Bill lounges as everyone sits down to each lunch as a family, showing their team dynamic.

“We have a fantastic staff. Everyone gets along really well and we get to rock climb everyday. We see kids who have never rock climbed before and we see them



Nikolai Long of Crew 709-G-2 climbs up the boulders at Dean Cow as his crew mates wait in “the pit” on July 16, 2015. Long said the only climbing he had done before was the spar pole at Pueblano. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

get that feeling of overcoming something they thought they might not be able to do,” said P.C. Johnathan Clementi.

For the Dean Cow staff, no matter the circumstance, helping people get up the rocks and conquer their fears is their number one goal.

“The people are my favorite part. I like the program here because we actually get to talk to the kids more and help them do something that is kind of scary. A lot of times people have never climbed before. They are nervous, but we are able to talk them through it. Advisors are usually

really grateful when they see one of their crew members do something they have never done before,” said P.C. Kauffmann.

“They get more confident in themselves because they realize they can do something they didn’t think they could,” said P.C. Harris.

GET YOUR ADVENTURE GEAR HERE!

**TOOTH OF TIME TRADERS**  
OFFICIAL STORE OF PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

RUGGED GEAR. PROVEN APPAREL. PHILMONT SOUVENIERS.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
7 AM - 6:45 PM

SHOP ONLINE AT  
**TOOTHOFTIMETRADERS.COM**  
OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE OF PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

EXPRESS  
**ST. JAMES HOTEL**  
in  
Cimarron, NM

*Fine dining since 1872!*

**ST. JAMES HOTEL**

**KOWBOYZ**  
*Just Good Ol' Western Wear*

*At the Railyard*

HOME OF THE  
**\$99<sup>00</sup> BOOTS**

**Vintage • Used • New**

Free parking • Open 7 days a week • 505.984.1256 • [www.kowboyz.com](http://www.kowboyz.com)  
345 W. Manhattan at Guadalupe, Santa Fe, NM 87501

# Making history at Metcalf Station

Marie Reynolds

PhilNews

The North Ponil Canyon sits in quiet beauty as Scouts from across the nation listen in awe to the words of the railroaders at Metcalf Station, Philmont's newest staff camp located halfway between Dan Beard and Indian Writings. A pause in the show brings the canyon to complete silence, allowing only the sound of five strikes to a railroad spike that echoes intensely in the canyon walls.

The year is 1907. Theodore Roosevelt is president, there are 45 stars on the American flag, and in the North Ponil Canyon of New Mexico, running through Cimarron up to Ponil Park, lies the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway and Metcalf Station.

Just as Camp Director Tucker "Captain Rusty" Baker said to the Scouts, the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway was a real company that functioned from 1907-1927. Approximately 100-200 railroad workers, ranchers, and cowboys lived in the exact area Metcalf Station sits today, and crews set up camp in places where people built their homes and shanties.

Metcalf's program includes railroad track construction using ties from Crater Lake and Pueblano, blacksmithing, Morse code and calligraphy, surveying the tracks, and nightly campfire.

Above the inside of the Post Office doorway hangs a sign that reads "Make History". The staffers, or rather railroad workers, live out this sentiment in all aspects of their jobs, while also passing it onto the crews who come through their camp.

Program counselor Patrick "Pete Steele" Navin said, "When we spike the rails with Scouts, that is really cool. When

we were fixing the track from the flood, we were doing gandy dancing; using work songs to get the rhythm together."

Gandy dancing is a term used for railroad workers and their use of work songs to produce synchronized movements when maintaining and building railroad tracks.

The flood on June 27th produced some major structural damage at Metcalf, along with being an intense experience for the staff. One of the biggest damages was to the railroad: the bending and loss of ties from their one year-old railroad.

According to Program Counselor Trevor "Lee Calahan" Lombardi, the tie plates in the railroad were too big for the railway, which allowed for leeway on the inside of the track. When the water came through, it was so forceful that it pushed the railroad ties in different directions, making the rails bend inward enough to where the pump cart, one of Metcalf's main attractions, became inoperable.

The flood took about 40 railroad ties with it; some were found downstream at Indian Writings. Since the flood, Metcalf staff, with the help of Scouts doing program, have replaced approximately 12 of the ties.

P.C. Navin said, "We're getting there. For about a week we couldn't use the pump car, but blacksmithing wasn't really affected at all, which was good. We did have to reline the rail to get the gauge back to 56 inches or so, which is when we did the gandy dancing."

C.D. Baker said, "We always need more hands on the track. There is always maintenance work that needs to be done that isn't very glamorous, like moving debris that piled up from the flood."



The Metcalf Station staffers Trevor "Lee Calahan" Lombardi, Tucker "Captain Rusty" Baker, Patrick "Pete Steele" Navin, and Ben "Cliff Schultz" Herries, perform a campfire show on the Metcalf Post Office porch on Tuesday, July 14. The Metcalf boys perform songs and skits during their show.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Directly after the flood, crews of maintenance workers, chaplains, and volunteers from around the ranch came to help get Metcalf and surrounding areas up and running again, and even though there will always be more work to be done, the Metcalf staff continue to coach and inspire Scouts with their unique history and program.

More than 400 feet of rail has already been added this summer, making the track 1100 feet long. Because Metcalf is only a year old, it's plans for the future are bright.

Baker said, "We are doing a lot of positioning now; building a body of knowledge and flushing out the program more to the point where we can hand someone a document that says 'this is how we did it' so you don't have to reinvent it like we did in 2014."

According to Baker, the future of Metcalf looks a lot like a "railroad jubilee." In five years, the south spur of the track should be finished. The plan is to have a depot with a ticket and a waiting room modeled exactly



Eric Longoria from Troop 803 of Hockenessin, Delaware works on the railroad at Metcalf Station on Wednesday, July 15. Crews that work on the railroad have to move four 250 pound rail ties before they can begin to set spikes into the track.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

after the 1910 Santa Fe Railway depot blueprints. A general store and telephone poles with an inbound and outbound direct line to the line shack at the end of the railroad will also be constructed.

As of now, Metcalf has become a one-of-a-kind experience for everyone who passes through.

P.C. Navin said, "The spikes and ties that participants are building will be here for a long time. We are recreating what was here 108 years ago so we



Metcalf Station program counselor, Trevor "Lee Calahan" Lombardi, organizes the tools necessary for working on the railroad track as part of Metcalf's program.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

will still be able to hear the sounds and see the sights from 1907."

# Ranger Mile: The heart of Philmont

**Kieran Meyer**  
Ranger Trainer

This year, Philmont's central country offers some of the best hikes on the ranch. Through dense ponderosa forests, hikers are accompanied by the sights of wildflowers in bloom and the sounds of streams flowing down ordinarily dry creekbeds. You're likely to see mule deer absurdly close to the trail (like most trails at Philmont), but if you're lucky you might see a rattlesnake lazily slither away after a meal or a wild turkey flutter down from the trees.

I won't spoil the whole central country for you. Instead, I'd like to focus on a hike I recently did that truly spoke to me.

I recently hiked from Cito Turnaround through Cathedral Rock Camp to Ute Springs Camp. Though the camp is a touch close to the road, it's still exceptionally pretty and many of

the campsites are within earshot of two streams that easily soothe weary campers to sleep.

The next morning I hiked to Ute Gulch Commissary, up through Aspen Springs Camp and Cimarroncito, and ended at Webster Parks. This is where it grew exciting for me.

At the eastern edge of Aspen Springs is a group of truly massive rocks sparsely covered in lichens and moss. They make for a perfect spot for lunch, especially if you scramble up to get a better view from the top. It may not be much more than the tops of pine trees, but there's something mesmerizing about watching them sway in the breeze.

The hike west to Cimarroncito climbs gradually, and through the ponderosas you'll see a field and on the edge of the field an old chapel. Continue hiking along to the main cabin and the climbing gym. Just behind the gym you'll see a trail loaded with water bars climbing gradually up the hill,

almost like stairs. Follow it.

As you climb past several of Cito's campsites, take a look around. You'll notice the terrain change ever so slightly. The forest floor grows greener, and you'll notice flowers unseen before. There's more underbrush, more downed trees, and even the dirt starts to look a shade different in places. Continue following the trail and look southeast when you get a chance. One of the most unique views of Tooth Ridge can be seen from that trail, especially as you get closer to your destination: Webster Parks.

This trail camp is an unexpected treasure at the base of Cito Peak. Campsites place people around the fringe of a small, vibrant meadow. Outside of the campsites, downed trees and dead branches litter the ground, making it easy to stick to the trails. From Webster Parks you can head south to Hunting Lodge or north to Sawmill Canyon.

The true beauty of this camp is



Philmont staff hike past Cathedral Rock. Erin Irwin/PhilNews

how untouched it seems. When I first saw the meadow from the trail I didn't realize that I was looking at a camp. It wasn't until I walked into a campsite before I understood where I was.

That night before going to bed, I walked through the meadow and sat down in a small grove east of my tent and I closed my eyes. The wind whistled through the branches; frogs croaked off

in the distance. I reflected on the past couple days of hiking as goosebumps began to form on my legs. It reminded me of how impressive this pile of rocks really is, how so many people can make so little impact on a landscape and preserve it for another generation.

It never ceases to amaze me how truly stunning Philmont is.

**The Porch Catering**  
*good food in cimarron*

Begins June 1, 2015

The Porch has been offering a healthful way to eat in Cimarron since 1997. Vegan? Vegetarian? Gluten- or lactose-intolerant? We'll work with you. Here's how to make it work for you! Your place is ours!

**Friday lunch 10-2**  
**Sunday brunch 10-2**

**Special orders**

- Take out dinners—casseroles, soups, salads
- Desserts, pies, cookies
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Baked goods—breads, croissants
- Party trays—meat/cheese, fruit, veggies
- Sack lunches & picnics
- More? What do YOU need?

**Special events**

- Summer Sunday brunch
- Holiday parties, birthdays, weddings
- Wine dinners
- Art openings
- Group breakfasts or lunches
- Club meetings

FREE WIFI AVAILABLE

**the Porch**  
market & deli  
636 East Ninth Street  
376-2228  
theporch@qwestoffice.net

**Schwenks**  
*An Historic Establishment*

**Antique & Vintage Items**  
**Art - Furniture - Ranch Décor**  
**Scout Memorabilia & More**

Open Monday-Saturday & Most Sundays  
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

575.376.2044  
Located across from the St. James Hotel, Cimarron, NM

**Russell's Sundries**  
*"For all the little things you forgot to pack."*

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

**Monday - Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**Terra Java**

Fine books, movies, collectibles

100 N Washington Street  
Cimarron, NM 87714  
(505) 426 - 4410

Popularly acclaimed,..

"The coolest store in Cimarron!"

Come in and be amazed!

Open Late

# Rising to challenges at Dan Beard

Marie Reynolds  
PhilNews

Dan Beard, located next to the Valle Vidal and amidst the burn country of the 2002 Ponil Complex Fire, is a backcountry camp where Scouts leave feeling like they can accomplish anything as a team. Dan Beard is home to a Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (C.O.P.E.) course, made up of nine events targeting the eight goals of C.O.P.E.: communication, teamwork, self-esteem, trust, decision making, problem solving, planning, and leadership.

With the recent flood on June 27th, Dan Beard and their program were not directly affected by the water damage. However, their team had to work together, using many of the skills they teach to Scouts, to accommodate all of the itinerary changes and crews lacking gear and food.

Program counselor Jacquelyn Kovarik said, "We weren't directly affected but everyone around us was. A lot of crews were sent here from Rich Cabins and Cook and Horse canyons. For a week after we got crews with itinerary changes from the flood. It was pretty crazy. We have a creek

here for the first time in years and Cook Canyon is in our area of responsibility, which was hit pretty hard. The day after the flood we had to go and hike all of the crews in Cook Canyon here because of their itinerary changes. One crew lost all of their boots and another had lost all of their packs, including food. The four people [Dan Beard staffers] that were here cooked dinner for more than 30 people that day! We keep getting letters saying 'thank you' from crews, some that are even signed by all the Scouts, and that is really cool."

Kovarik attributes much of Dan

Beard's staff's ability to overcome the challenges brought by the flood to the skills they learned during their C.O.P.E. training in the beginning of the summer.

"Our team here is so weirdly good together. We haven't stormed at all. Our training week consisted of a bunch of different team building activities and that really helped us. I kind of wish that all backcountry camps did C.O.P.E. as part of their training because by the end of the first week I felt like I knew everyone so well. I think we work so smoothly because we are a team building camp," Kovarik said.

Using the same skill set, Dan Beard staffers provide crews with a challenge course experience they will never forget. Because Dan Beard is fairly secluded and small compared to the other challenge course camps, they have less crews coming through and are able to get to know the Scouts on a more personal level.

"Sometimes it's sad to see them go. They really like us and like being out on the course. They get so into it and we are able to

see how they team build and grow. I love it. It's cool to see crews outside Dan Beard, like in Base Camp, and they remember you. Some sessions go more successfully than others and you just feel like you actually changed a crew's life."

Dan Beard sees crews that are on anywhere from day two to day ten of their treks, but C.O.P.E. sends the same message of personal strength and ability to all crews who complete the course.

Program Counselor Ian Gent said, "Even with crews who are on a later day, they still benefit from it [C.O.P.E. challenges]. They still learn those skills and can bring those into everyday life after Philmont."

According to Gent, communication is the most important part of what they teach because it leads into all the other C.O.P.E. goals. Dan Beard staffers facilitate growth and provide crews with the tools they need to overcome the challenges that lie ahead not only in Philmont's backcountry, but in life after their treks.



Above: The scouts of Troop 803 of Hocknessin, Delaware try to stay balanced on the stationary log at Dan Beard's COPE course on Tuesday, July 14. Dan Beard program counselor, Ian Gent, said that Troop 803 completed the stationary log challenge in a way that he had never seen before. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Right: The scouts of Troop 803 of Hocknessin, Delaware, try to support each other while on the stationary log at the Dan Beard COPE course on Tuesday, July 14. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Above: Will Rotsch, a scout from Troop 803 of Hocknessin, Delaware, is thrown into the air during Cookie Machine, a COPE course game at Dan Beard, on Tuesday, July 14. The crew members yell, "chocolate cookie," while they move Rotsch up and down their man-made conveyor belt. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



Left: The scouts from Troop 803 of Hocknessin, Delaware play the Human Knot, a COPE course game at Dan Beard, on Tuesday, July 14. The crew members must work together to untangle themselves without letting go of their selected boots. Erin Irwin/PhilNews



# CIMARRON WEST

## EST. 1989

### Quality western wear for the whole family!

Check out our competitive pricing on:

#### HATS

- Felt & Straw

#### BOOTS

- Western & Work

#### JEANS

- Levi's & Wranglers

#### HANDMADE BELTS

BY CASEY JEFFERS

#### SHIRTS

- Pearl Snap
- Button Down
- Western

#### TACK

- Spurs
- Headstalls
- Ropes

#### MOCCASINS

#### BULLWHIPS

Monday to Friday

Saturday

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**NEVER TRY ON ANOTHER MAN'S HAT,  
COME GET YOUR OWN!**



Connect to Past,

# PRESENT,



and future Philmont staff with the...

## PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION

Look forward to:

*High Country* magazine, year-round events, PSA water bottles and other items, books about Philmont history and lore, Seasonal Staff Scholarships, and more!!!

**It's just \$15.00 for a year's membership!**

I-Camp this form to the PSA or stop by our office next to the Beaubien Room at PTC.

**SIGN UP NOW!!!**

**[www.philstaff.com](http://www.philstaff.com)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_

MailingAddress: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

MARK HERE FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION (through July 31): \_\_\_\_\_

# Impacting lives at Ponil

Marie Reynolds  
*Philnews*

“Your cabin’s a movin’ and the river, it is too,” sings the Ponil staff during their nightly Cantina show. Scouts, advisors, and visiting staff listen intently, clapping along to the clever lyrics and upbeat tune, though it tells about a scary experience. “Karl Grab Your Cat” was written by the Ponil staff in regards to the recent flood that swept their main cabin, and Camp Director Karl Hubbard, off the ground.

“The song is annoyingly good and embarrassing,” said Hubbard, “It [the flood] was catastrophic, but you can either be upset about it or you can do your job and make the most of it. My job is to run this camp regardless of what happens, so until it’s not, I am going to try to do the best I can.”

On June 27th, the rushing floodwater that came through Ponil produced some major structural damage – from cabins and corrals to red roofs and bridges – but thankfully no one was injured within the camp.

“I’m so glad we got lucky and didn’t have any issues with participants, because we would not have been able to help. We were too busy trying to get ourselves out. Crews were all fine, and were about ten feet above water line at the time we checked on them,” Hubbard said.

Teams of volunteers from Base Camp, conservation, maintenance, the ranger department, and work crews went out to Ponil to provide assistance.

Hubbard said, “We’ve had a lot of support from the ranch and visiting staff who would come and see what they could do for us, which was awesome. After a few days of everyone helping out, there wasn’t much more we could do.”

With an event as serious as the flood, the Ponil staff had to come together in order to keep everything running for the Scouts.

Shooting Sports Program Counselor Ephraim Moore said, “Any kind of stressful situation is



Karl Hubbard greets the crowd of Scouts and advisors while surrounded on stage by Brian Ellis on guitar, Tyler Munchow, Erich Schick on cajón, and Becca Garland on guitar at the beginning of the Ponil cantina show on July 16, 2015. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

going to pull people apart and pull them together at the same time. We had to work harder together, and sometimes that can create tension or strain, but also an intimate knowledge of how we work as individuals. We each have our own responsibilities to Ponil, and we each took care of those roles during the flood. Within those roles I think people got closer. In other aspects I feel like I lost touch with people as I only saw them at meals for a while, but Karl is very good about rotating us around and he feels it’s important that everybody knows each other and works together.”

C.D. Hubbard said, “Our staff is amazing, I got lucky. Some are still pretty stressed about stuff and it manifests through physical exhaustion. We have to be cognizant of that while we are working. My A.C.D (Assistant Camp Director) and I can always work harder, so we are here to pick up the slack.”

Even with the setbacks, Ponil staffers continue to go above and beyond in providing Scouts with the best Western Lore experience they can offer. Ponil’s many programs include their trading post, commissary, showers, cantina,

horseback riding, branding and roping, horse shoes, cowboy action shooting, chuckwagon dinner, and the nightly [7:30 p.m.] cantina show.

Moore said, “Ponil is the oldest site at Philmont, it used to be Base Camp when Philmont was the Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp. It’s unique because we have the most amount of program and are able to introduce kids to things. A lot of kids will come back through and be shooting sports staff or wranglers, depending on their interactions with the staff and how their program is delivered, which is awesome.”

The history that surrounds Ponil allows the camp to offer a lot of different opportunities, giving the staff more time to interact and build connections with Scouts.

Hubbard said, “Even though it’s the same program everyday, it’s a different crew, so its always a different experience. It’s always a unique interaction. Many of the kids are not experienced with guns and when they hit a target their face lights up and you can tell it made a difference in their trek. I hope they find something they enjoy. If all it is is that they



Backed by a cheering crew, participant Ben Wright attempts to consume a spicy pickle and its juice in thirty seconds to win the Pickle Challenge at Ponil’s cantina as his ranger, Zach Porterfield, keeps time on July 16, 2015. Only three Scouts have been able to complete the challenge this summer though CD Karl Hubbard says that several participants try to each week. Wright was not able to eat the pickle within the time limit. Photo by Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

enjoy shooting a gun for an hour, that’s fine. We just made their day a little bit better and that’s what we are here for.”

The incredible team dynamic of the Ponil staff is apparent in all of their operations, but it shows even more so during their cantina show.

Moore said, “We didn’t want it to be like any other campfire. We did our best to design it in a way that would be unique to us.”

Portraying the history of Cimarron with hilarious skits and songs like “Ain’t No Rest for the

Wicked” by Cage the Elephant and “Bad, Bad Leroy Brown” by Jim Croce, Ponil’s cantina show is one everyone can thoroughly enjoy and interact with.

At the end of the evening, during the after show, staffers sing “Hallelujah” to wind down the night. The crowd has trickled down and sweet harmonies fill the room as each person sings along. Scouts listen, tears coming to their eyes, and once again Ponil has left a significant impact on every individual in the room.



# Here comes the sun: Indian Writings

Marie Reynolds  
*Philnews*

Ten-foot tall sunflowers and green grasses paint the land surrounding Indian Writings. Scouts throw atlatsls, tour the rich history of petroglyphs, and excavate in the nearby archeological site. Amidst this beauty, however, lies the memory of the flood that rushed right between their main cabin and atlatl range in the early morning of June 27, 2015.

“It was an experience that happens and you learn from it. It was something that none of us had ever been through before and no one could have predicted it,” said Indian Writings Archeologist Quincy Kennedy.

Indian Writings staffers remain in high spirits: focused on the future and giving participants the best experience they can offer.

Kennedy said, “There is no hesitation when it comes to storms now. There was a big lightning storm the other day and the first thing we did was get up and check on the crews. We all have hasty bags packed and ready to go with more essential stuff. Before, we thought it would be a routine check, not a rescue mission.”

The night of the flood, there were 13 staff members at Indian

Writings: seven Indian Writings staff and six extra staff members from Work Crew November, the wandering North Country conservation crew.

Program Counselor Kellie Looper was managing the radio, keeping contact with Unit 2, Mark Anderson, while also keeping track of everything happening outside the cabin.

She said, “Because we had those six extra staff members, we were able to get people out of the water. Had there been only seven of us, we would not have been able to do it. We are so thankful to them.”

According to the Indian Writing staff, Work Crew November played a crucial role during the flood, leading to a story that will forever be remembered.

Archeologist Kennedy said, “We have an inflatable orca, given to us last year as a joke by a ranger liaison. I was in the atlatl range setting up a mini infirmary and checking on kids. I see these two conservation guys with bags full of supplies, carrying the orca down to the river. At this point the river is 50-70 meters wide still. I couldn’t believe it, but they started crossing the stream, hanging onto the orca as a life raft. It was crazy. They had to kind of forge and

swim through it, but they brought us the supplies that we needed for the infirmary: sleeping bags, towels, hot water, and we were able to help the kids.”

According to P.C. Looper, it took about four hours for the river to get down to a manageable level.

“It changed procedures for a little while, but we could run most of our programs because none of them got hit. Besides all of our bridges, there was no structural damage to the camp. Even though we only have five or six bridges, we have replaced 15-20 in the last two weeks because the river is still not down all the way,” said Looper.

In the days following the flood, there was an influx of volunteers helping to take care of maintenance and boost morale.

“There was a lot of silence right after the flood when things quieted down, but the amazing thing was that two days later, 25 volunteers from base camp filling up three suburbans came to help clean up all the debris, trash, and build bridges. We got everything done in one day that would have taken us about two weeks to complete. That was something unexpected, but we were very happy about it,” said Archaeologist Kennedy.

Program at Indian Writings is

running as usual, and Scouts are having just as impactful an experience.

“We took about 24 hours to recuperate, but crews kept coming. You know, the show goes on,” said Kennedy.

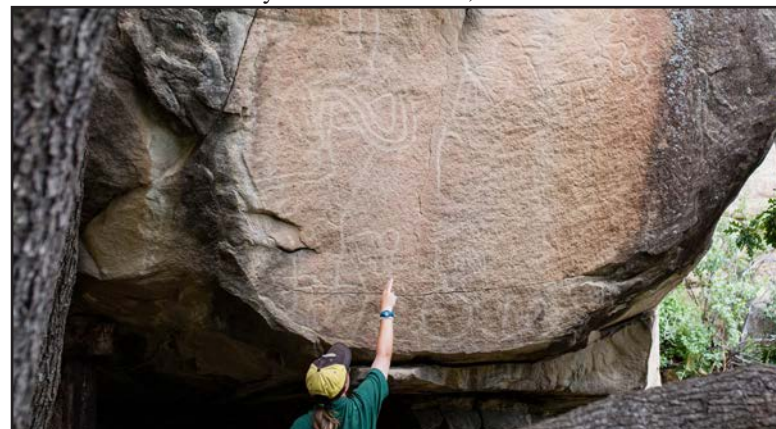
Indian Writings is known for their high rate of returning staff, largely because each staffer is

so knowledgeable of the area and subject of their camp. Of the Indian Writings staffers, four have degrees in archaeology, two are working on their degrees in archaeology, and one is working on a degree in geology and minor in archeology.

“We have an amazing staff here. We are all archeology nerds, so it’s easy for us to get the Scouts excited about the history. It’s a lot

of fun. The most rewarding part is seeing the Scouts learn, ask questions, and get excited about our program. We are all definitely closer than we ever could have been because of the flood experience. When the crews come in and they are wet or cold, we can make them cheer up or laugh because we are all so close, and that is amazing to see,” said P.C. Looper.

Each night at Indian Writings, the evening program is hiking to the top of the mesa behind the cabins to look at the oldest site on Philmont property, a petroglyph dating back to 330 A.D. There, they watch the sunset over Little Costilla. It is a unique experience for an equally special camp that will inspire visitors for years to come, rain or shine.



Indian Writings program counselor, Kellie Looper, points to the petroglyphs during a tour. There are some petroglyphs that are clearly visible and others that can hardly be seen and whose meanings have been lost. Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Coin-Oper.  
Laundry &  
Car Wash

Cree-Mee  
Drive-In  
9AM-9PM

CIMARRON

ALL WEEK

**Russell's**

One-stop

Ice Cream  
&  
Hamburgers

Full Service  
Grocery

**Mercantile Outfitter**

Shirley Dale

x t x

THE  
OUTFITTER

PO Box 511  
129 East 12th Street  
Cimarron, NM 87714  
(575)-376-9128

**ROCKS ORE MINERALS**

**SHEILA PARK**

MINERAL SPECIMENS  
CRYSTALS    FOSSILS  
ROUGH ROCK    JEWELRY  
HANDKNAPPED KNIVES  
sheilaminerals@gmail.com

**575-224-9121**  
444 E 9th Street  
Cimarron, nm 87714

## Continued from page 1: '65 flood

rather go home and quit rather than break up our staff. We were very close to each other after we came down from the flood, and all felt a very close bond," Kirkland said.

The staffers were given an ax, packs and food to blaze a trail to the Apache Springs site through wilderness and snowdrifts. "To us the trail was a great adventure," Kirkland said.

The damage from the Rayado Flood was devastating, but the Ranch's response was inspiring. Joe Davis was Philmont Director of Camping from 1965 to 1975. When the Rayado flood hit, just two days into the season, Davis planned to reopen the Ranch for participants in one week. Philmont was closed from June 18 to 25, 1965, and crews were diverted to council camps. In a time before the Conservation Department, 65 rangers cleared trails, reported hazards and built new trails where necessary. By June 25, Philmont was open to crews.

If you're interested in more information about the Rayado



Photo of 1965 Rayado flood. Photo courtesy of the Seton Museum

River Flood of 1965, there is an exhibit in the Seton Museum and several articles and personal accounts in various issues of High Country, the Philmont Staff As-

sociation's publication. Today, just as 50 years ago, Philmont is still providing wilderness adventures that last a lifetime.

### Part II: Flash floods explained

What is a flash flood? Many of us view flash flooding as an unpredictable force of nature.

"A flash flood is a rapid flooding of low-lying areas to include normally dry washes and arroyos, as well as rivers, creeks and small streams. In New Mexico, heavy rain associated with strong, slow-moving thunderstorms can result in walls of water in areas of complex terrain," said Kerry Jones, a Warning Coordination Meteorologist and former Philmont Training Center staffer, noting that intense rain, slow movement of storms, and mountainous terrain with sharp elevation changes are all factors in the development of flash

floods. "The heavy rain can be miles away from people and infrastructure, but hours later have devastating impacts. The heavy rain does not physically have to be at your location and often isn't," Jones added.

Jones' office indicated that the wall of water that swept through trails and campsites in the Ponil Creek area was at least 10-12 feet deep. These estimates are created by observing how far debris has been spread from the water. Jones said Philmont is "located in an area that is unfortunately not well-sampled by radar." The three closest radar stations are each about 150 miles from the Ranch. Some parts of New Mexico have no radar coverage at all. Radar systems provide estimates of rainfall intensity and the amount of rainfall that has likely

occurred, but only for locations within about 125 miles of the radar. Philmont is outside of that range. As a result, gauged reports and weather spotters are critical and anecdotal reports mentioned as much as three to seven inches having fallen.

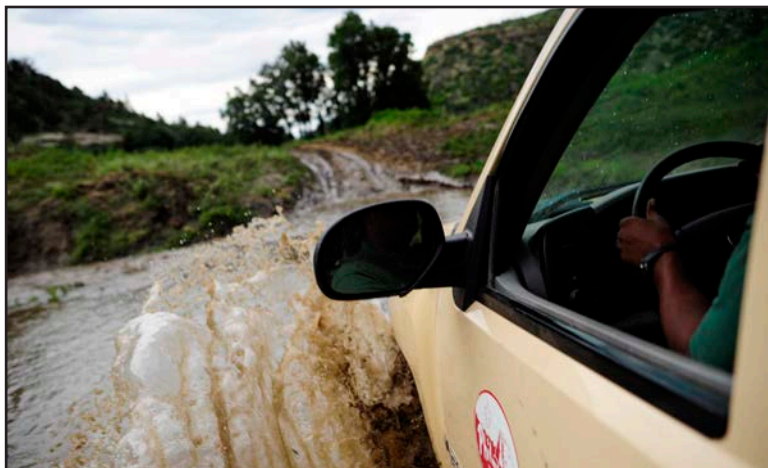
Around 3:15 a.m. on June 27, 2015, torrential rain affected the Ponil and Indian Writings areas, saturating the soil. That cluster of storms weakened and moved south, but additional rain fell from slow-moving thunderstorms a short time later to the north and west of the Ponil and Indian Writings areas. "With above average precipitation leading up to the 27th, the ground was pretty well saturated, so when the second and even third rounds of rain hit, it fell on ground that couldn't hold any more water



Top photo: Flood water washed away part of the road during the 1965 flood. Below: 2015 flash floods washed away part of the road to Indian Writings. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Logs and other debris pile up around the Ponil Chuckwagon area after flash flooding that occurred early Saturday morning. Cassidy Johnson/PhilNews



Backcountry Manager Stephen Alexander, of Lubbock, Texas, drives through high water crossings in the North Ponil Canyon. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

and it just flowed over the surface,” said Recreation Resource Manager John Celley.

“There is definitely a connection with El Niño in setting the stage for what has been a very active start to the 2015 monsoon season in New Mexico,” Jones said. El Niño is part of a cycle of natural climate variability whereby ocean-atmospheric interactions result in above average sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. In New Mexico, wetter than normal conditions are more likely during El Niño events. Vegetation that is still scrubby and sparse in the burn scar of the 2002 Ponil Complex Fire may have failed to impede the storm water runoff as well.

Although parts of the equip-

ment for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauge on the Ponil Creek were damaged during the flood, the last recorded height for the river was 5.4 feet, with a flow rate of 937 cubic feet per second. Cimarron Rayado Water Master Alfred Chavez estimates that the river reached a height of 12.7 feet and a flow rate of 7,500 cubic feet per second. The gauge is located in the Ponil Creek between Six Mile Gate and the Chase Ranch Headquarters, downstream of the staffed sites affected during the flooding.

The intense flash flooding damaged hillsides, trails, and campsites. Floodwaters pushed a cabin at Ponil 17 feet from its foundation. Meadows and campsites were buried under boulders, dead trees and mud; bridges were

washed away; trails were made impassable by deep new gullies. “You’re looking at a tremendous amount of water in a short amount of time in a small area, so you’ll see those big rocks and mudflows where stuff was pushed out of those little side canyons,” Conservation Director Robert Fudge said.

“This isn’t just about the river rising up into your campsite, it’s about water coming down from above in large quantities carrying debris with it... Some of the campsites that received a lot of damage and some of the trails that were heavily damaged were not down at water level. It’s that you saw the hill failing because of the amount of water that was running through it.”

“Entire pocket canyons deposited every rock that they had onto the floor of the canyon. We’re talking 20 foot tall piles of rock have been deposited in canyon bottoms, large boulders and trees just rushing down the canyon bottom,” Field Manager Zach Seeger said.

Despite flood damage, crews are still hiking through damaged areas. “We’re trying to prioritize what trails, what hiking routes do we need right now, what keeps a trek from being able to continue right now. We’ve also been out to



A bridge is displaced in middle Ponil canyon due to the flash flooding that occurred on Saturday, June 27. Cassidy Johnson/PhilNews

all the camps at this point to see how many campsites were flooded, how many are left, is that enough to meet the need coming up,”

Recreation Resource Manager John Celley said.

“It’s easy to get crews moving again, but that doesn’t mean that we’ve replaced what we’ve lost, or that we’re in a position to do it well for the long-term. You close a trail and maybe crews can continue getting places, but that web of trails and campsites is what also makes us prepared to reroute crews in the event of a disaster. Just because we aren’t using something today doesn’t mean that we don’t have to replace it,” Fudge added.

“It’s going to be difficult to change the landscape. So, in response to that, we’re just trying to plan ahead and identify other areas that maybe haven’t experienced flooding yet, where there’s a risk, and preemptively move some campsites. We’re also going around to ensure there’s a good form of communication about where we have seen flooding, where is it safe to camp, where is it safe to cross the river. We’ve been pretty busy running around, wading every body of water, looking for the lowest crossing, the places where people maybe still have to get their boots wet, but they’re not going to get knocked over,” said Celley.

“It’s challenging. A campsite that’s high on the top of a ridge is exposed to lightning and other storm weather, [but] a campsite at the bottom of a valley is exposed to these landslide flood events, and that leaves you with the middle, which is a canyon

wall. Some of it is small changes such as helping tweak some campsites. Maybe the fire ring and bear cable survived just fine, but we want to make it clear that the tent area, should be the uphill part, not the part that’s immediately adjacent to the water. We plan to improve the education crews get. Preparing people with the skills and information so that they ask themselves, is this safe to do it, am I camping in a low area ... even municipalities and big cities have a really hard time estimating, when they have a storm surge type event, what’s going to happen. That’s a really difficult thing to model,” Director Fudge added.

Jones suggested the cost of a new radar station for Philmont would likely be excessive. However, he did discuss the possibility of satellite technology improving to a point where rainfall estimates could be made for areas like Philmont. “We have to look at this as not throwing our hands up; we can and must harness new technologies,” Jones said. Alert rain gauges strategically placed on streams designed to send warning alerts are another possibility, they are “Something that has been done in New Mexico successfully since the devastating wildfires in 2011 and 2012,” according to Jones. He also said that protecting life and property and minimizing risk from flash floods is a mission which will require combining resources and expertise. “It’s going to take teamwork; it’s going to take awareness.”

### Part III: Flood of '15, how Philmont came together

As the rivers swelled, the rising water swept away the belongings of many crews. Philmont replaced lost gear at no charge to those participants through the Tooth of Time Traders (ToTT), backcountry trading posts, and outfitting services so they could continue their trek.

"It was four separate crews that lost almost everything," Outfitting Services Manager Sam Spalding said. "We prepared a bunch of backpacks with gear in them like tents, bear bags, [and] bear rope for anyone that needed it. We ended up bringing a lot of the stuff to Logistics throughout the day to send out so crews had what they needed."

Over the course of several days following the flood, ToTT staffers, including those who were not on-shift, stayed late to re-equip participants and staff.

"Our staff was happy to help. They worked late. They stayed because they knew they were part of the solution. Extra ToTT staff came in to work after-hours because they wanted to help," said ToTT Manager Shelly O'Neill. "We outfitted crew after crew after crew. A ToTT staff member would become a gear buddy and they would work with just that one member of the crew to go through the store and get everything they needed."

Socks, shoes, clothing, headlamps, stoves, fuel bottles and many other essentials were replaced by the ToTT and Outfitting services.

"Everything that you could have imagined to go out on the trail was replaced," O'Neill said.

Outfitting Services distributed 20 tents, 120 meal bags, and 14 internal-frame backpacks free of charge. Because elevated water levels covered many items in mud, Outfitting Services also cleaned gear they received before returning it to crews or the Security Office.

"We can always replace gear, but keeping people safe is our number one priority. All staff put forth their very best efforts for which we are proud," Chief Ranger Eric Martinez said.

Early in the morning of the 27th, rangers in the backcountry moved their crews to higher ground out of harm's way.

In addition, 18 Rangers at base camp were dispatched to various locations across the north country such as Indian Writings, Pueblano, Head of Dean, Metcalf Station, Greenwood Canyon, and Rich Cabins.

The next morning at 7:30 a.m., Associate Chief Ranger Colin Bows-



Crews sit outside the Ponil staff dining hall that is also working as the new "Ponil Office" on Sunday, June 28. Cassidy Johnson/PhilNews

er and Martinez walked through the Ranger section of the male staff tent city to recruit volunteers from multiple departments to help mitigate flood damage and recover lost gear. More than 40 staffers, including some on days off, searched for participants' gear, provided emergency repairs, and addressed critical needs at affected camps and surrounding canyons. Staffers continued to go into the backcountry on subsequent days to clear debris, redirect participants, check the status of trails, according to Associate Chief Ranger Bowser. On the following days, ranger teams walked along the creek from Metcalf Station to 6 Mile Gate turnaround and from New Dean to Chase Ranch to recover participant gear and program equipment lost in the flood.

"I woke up at 12 to the worst thunderstorm of my entire life," Work Crew November member Benton Harkey said. "I've never been in such intense lightning before."

Harkey was sleeping inside the cabin at Indian Writings when he was awakened by a storm that would soon turn into the worst flood Philmont has seen in recent memory.

Alongside Indian Writings staff, Work Crew November sprung into action, grabbing flashlights and rain gear to check on crews at their campsites in the rain before the river swelled.

When the flash flood came down the North Ponil Canyon, Work Crew November and IW staffers searched along the river for unaccounted participants. They were able to locate and treat three participants on the scene for hypothermia by improvising blankets out of tents that washed downstream.

"They were in rough shape, beaten up and bruised and bloody. We didn't have anything to warm them up, so Quincy and Jacob set up a mini-infirmary," Harkey said.

The fourth participant, a 13-year-old boy from crew 624-K, remained unaccounted for until late morning when his body was located downriver by a search-and-rescue team. His crew chose to continue their journey with an altered itinerary after a layover at base camp. They concluded their trek with a memorial service on the Tooth of Time.

"Philmont is deeply saddened to have lost a young man on the cusp of a great adventure but is so proud of the incredible acts of leadership, heroism and selflessness by all staff and participants affected by the flood," said Associate Director of Program Chris Sawyer.

Kirk Davis, of the neighboring CS Ranch, said this was the first time he had experienced a flood of this magnitude in years. Davis brought his own backhoe over to Ponil to clear large debris from the camp.



Indian Writings staff members Kellie Looper, of Craig, Colorado, and JJ Stevens, of Taos, N.M., share a moment on the cabin porch of Indian Writings. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

"We actually came down Cimarron Canyon about 9:30 that evening," Davis said of the night before the storm. "It looked cloudy, but I was shocked that this happened."

Although devastating, Davis said the '65 flood was much more substantial.

"I made it through the '65 flood, so that was our benchmark flood," Davis said. "This is a smaller drainage. The '65 flood got the whole county."

Work Crew November relocated five campsites at Indian Writings to higher ground before moving on to clear debris and repair bridges at Ponil. Currently, Work Crew Charlie is focusing its effort on the North Fork

and Middle Fork trails leading up to Cyphers Mine from Hunting Lodge.

"North Fork, Middle Fork and Cito [trails] are a big issue," Associate Director of Conservation Richard Eldridge said. "We've built one bridge on the Middle Fork so far, and the majority of our efforts on the Middle and North Fork Cito was undamming the river, just tearing out all the dams so that water levels can get lower, as well as creating drainage features in the tread of the trail."

The North Fork trail is currently closed to hikers.

When the infirmary first received calls for medical attention, they responded quickly and professionally



Standing with CD Karl Hubbard in the Ponil dining hall, Mark Anderson and Kevin Dowling remind Ponil and Work Crew staff members to call their families if they haven't yet after the events related to the June 27 flood. Anderson and Dowling visited the Ponil complex to check on the staff's well-being, encourage and thank them and provide support. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Nicolai Johansen, an international staff member from Denmark, directs Chris Heden, CD of Indian Writings, where to place the new bridge. Heden, Johansen and other staff spent a major part of the day after the flood replacing bridges that were destroyed in the disaster. Josh Galemore/Philnews



Ponil PC Kylie Tucker washes the clothes of other Ponil staff members on Sunday, June 27 following the flash flooding that occurred early Saturday morning. Cassidy Johnson/PhilNews

to the situation, according to Chief of Infirmiry Services Nate Lay. Some infirmiry staffers voluntarily worked on their days off to treat patients in base camp. Several staffers hiked into Ponil and Indian Writings to treat patients, while others in base camp provided treatment recommendations over the radio to camps they could not reach immediately.

All participants and staff treated by the infirmiry in the aftermath of the flood have been released; no patients were transferred to area hospitals.

Comptroller Steve Nelson handled requests for information from the media and served as a point of contact for family members looking for information regarding loved ones.

"Monday was a crazy day with lots of media calls and lots of parents' phone calls," said Nelson. "We talked with them through what our procedures are, how they go through hazardous weather training, and how we monitor the weather 24/7." Because Philmont is a wilderness environment with endless variables, it is a challenge to assure parents about crews' preparedness said Nelson.

In response to the flood, former Philmont staffers have contributed more than \$20,000 in donations to the Philmont Staff Association. In addition, the PSA coordinated care packages which were sent to different camps and departments across the ranch. Notes of encouragement, candy, socks, toiletries, and other amenities were included in the packages to boost morale and replace lost items.

The morning of the flood, Logistics became the de facto situation room. The Logistics radio room is the hub for communications between base camp and coordinated search efforts. The entire Logistics staff was called in with extra staffers placed on ra-

dio duty and telephone switchboard, while others worked to create alternate routes for crews with help from the Conservation Department.

"[Logistics] was locating where crews were, accounting for people, making sure the staff had the resources they needed, making sure they were safe," Lundgren said. "There was a whole group of people in the SAR room at Logistics that were putting together action plans. So there was a lot of information that was coming across the radio that they were utilizing to put together teams to respond."

In the following days, Logistics evaluated and augmented itineraries as needed to safely route crews through the backcountry.

Ponil's infrastructure was particularly disturbed during the flood. The river swept away the camp director's cabin porch and moved the cabin 17ft downstream until it crashed into a tree. The underground propane tank was ripped from the ground and ruptured. Electric lines were damaged and water became non-potable. The Maintenance Department quickly responded to ensure the camp was safe and could return to normalcy as soon as possible, according to Facilities Superintendent Dave Kenneke.

"We had members of the department during the midst of the flood that were already out in the field trying to assist with whatever efforts necessary to ensure the safety of our staff and participants," Kenneke said. "We had folks that were up there during the middle of night, throughout the course of the next 72 hours, and the remainder of the next week."

Thanks to the Maintenance Department, within four days after the flood crews could once again feast on chuck wagon dinners after propane service was restored, and staff members could use electricity again. By the end of the



Leo Martinez secures a chain between a backhoe and a large metal grill basin which was washed downriver from the Ponil Chuckwagon area and deposited in a debris pile during the flash flood of June 27. Martinez said he had never seen flooding of this magnitude in decades of living in Cimarron. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

week, participants and staffers could enjoy root beer from the cantina tap thanks to the restored water system.

When staffers and friends of Philmont came together, the Maintenance Department accomplished many things in a short amount of time.

"It's been a great team effort all across the board with our carpenters, electricians, plumbers," Kenneke said. "We had folks that are normally assigned to base camp-type maintenance jobs that were involved in some aspect of [repairs], and that's what's really rewarding to me. For all the devastation, the quality of staff that we have and their devotion and commitment to all that is Philmont was heartening to see."

Now that the Maintenance Department has addressed critical needs, they will continue to work to restore Ponil throughout the fall.

"We'll have to continue with debris removal," Kenneke said. "There will

be a lot of red roofs that need to be replaced and/or relocated. We'll probably go through and replace water lines and some valves. There will also be some new construction to rebuild the Ponil office building in a new location."

"Whenever something like this happens, there's a certain amount of post-traumatic stress," Chaplain Elder Anderson said. "They need to get their feelings out. Coming to terms is really a personal thing. Verbalizing it is great therapy."

Chaplains are currently assigned to visit Indian Writings, Metcalf Station, Ponil, and Rich Cabins two to three times a week for the rest of the summer to support their emotional and spiritual needs.

"A visit is spending an hour or so with them and talking to the staff, seeing how they're doing, asking them how repairs are coming and how the

camp is coming," said Elder Anderson.

At base camp, staff members and participants can visit any of the chaplains after 8 p.m. every Saturday night for support or at any other time.

"Saturday night the light is on for anyone who wants to come and talk because we know there are others out there who are struggling," he said. "In an effort to get to them, we're making an open invitation for them to come to us."

Waite Phillips once said, "What is really important is what you learn after thinking you know it all." For more than 75 years, Philmont has delivered wilderness adventures that last a lifetime. This place known by many as HOmE teaches people the lessons of the wilderness: to be flexible, to make good decisions, and to overcome challenges.

## Programmer Wanted!

Know anyone seeking practical programming experience? Philmont is seeking an individual interested in spending a year at the ranch maintaining and upgrading database-driven website modules that:

- Register and confirm 22,000 participants in summer calendar
- Streamline year-round administrative and interdepartmental operations
- Enhance facility and program marketing interactively to public.
- Design and manage 2,200+ individual hiking itineraries.

Suggested Competencies Include:

- **Hardware:** VPS - Unix/Ubuntu OS
- **Database:** MySQL
- **Languages:** PHP - Laravel framework, Javascript & jquery, HTML, CSS (bootstrap 2.0)

Send your resume to:

Bryan.hayek@scouting.org  
or see Bryan at NPS

## Richly Blessed: Excerpts from Anna Washburne's account

There was water everywhere and the stream was roaring. Fortunately the staff tents were above water (although by the time the storm was over, it was a close call). Our two tent staffers were having a merry time in there, and until that big lightning flash were even shouting things like "bring it on!" Seeing the hail, they quickly sobered. We left them to put on their rain gear and returned to the cabin. It had been determined that we would form teams to hike to the meadows to check on Scouts.

Both teams were unable to cross the roaring stream crossings → the amount of water and hail was unbelievable... it was very surreal.

Eventually the waters went down a little. A team was able to get a makeshift bridge across to the Scouts who were separated from us. They were quite cold but full of adrenaline and good spirits. Soon all were safely across.

After keeping a roaring fire going all night it was hard to find wood that wasn't wet. That morning as we gathered wood an incredible pink sunrise beamed out over the meadow.

Another team then went down to check the South meadow, with whom we had no contact whatsoever. Glory be we discovered the Scouts high and dry happily getting their breakfast and sitting around their tents.

All in all, I'm just incredibly thankful the right people were in the right place at the right time, especially in that South meadow. The more I reflect, the more in awe I become.

## Staff Submissions

A Note from the North Ponil

"So many have been asking us how we're doing, if there's anything we want, need, anything anyone can do. This is how it is tonight, sleepless again, in the wonderful moonlight:

Twisted + frayed;  
Stretched + Torn;  
Knotted + spliced;  
Holding it together

by holding on to each other;  
Healing, in our mountain canyon home.

We thank all of you for continuing to be there for us and everyone affected. Hold on to each other.

-JJ at Indian Writings

## Philmont Ski/Winter Job Fair

The 2015 Winter Job Fair is being held Tuesday August 4th and Wednesday August 5th at the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center. Hours for the 4th will be from 10AM to 6PMpm. Hours for the 5th will be from 9AM to 1PM. Staff looking for winter employ-

ment opportunities in the ski resort industry are encouraged to attend and meet with employment representatives from the following resorts. Please contact Chris Sawyer if you have any questions regarding the job fair or your resume / cover letter.



## Yvonne's Crossroads of Style



Manicures, Pedicures  
Cuts, Perms,  
and Coloring

Yvonne Enloe  
(575) 376-4533  
P.O. Box 373  
Cimarron, NM 87714

Tuesday - Thursday  
9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.



- Nambé
- Indian Jewelry
- Kachinas
- Navajo Rugs
- Sand Paintings
- Pottery
- Artifacts
- So Much More



**Santa Fe Trail Traders**  
100 S. Second St., Raton  
(575) 445-2888  
800-286-6975

# Games

## Word search

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

Gems and Mineral (8)

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

Instruments (8)

## Sudoku

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

Difficult

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

Medium

## Solutions

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

Issue Six medium solution

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

Issue Six difficult solution



**Above:** A boy at PTC tries to button a jacket wearing oven mitts during a Disability Obstacle Course at PTC. The scenario is supposed to simulate what it is like for someone who has diabetes, arthritis, or muscle dystrophy to do everyday tasks. The event was put on at PTC in order to raise awareness about how it is to live with a disability in hopes that it will lead to councils focusing more on accommodating their own scouts with disabilities. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

**Left:** Christian "Spider Monkey" Bout, member of Troop 30 from Chattanooga, Tenn., climbs "Don't Eat the Corn Nuts," a new route at Miners Park. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

**Below:** PTC kids play wheelchair basketball during the Disability Obstacle Course. The event was put on at PTC in order to raise awareness about how it is to live with a disability in hopes that it will lead to councils focusing more on accommodating their own scouts with disabilities. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

**Right:** The view at Inspiration Point, on Urraca Mesa. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

**Below, right:** Conservationists put up tools and speak to scouts after they've finished their work on Sunday, July 12, 2015. Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

**Below:** Scouts listen to the Urraca campfire. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

**Bottom right:** Conservationists put up tools and speak to scouts after they have finished their work on Sunday, July 12, 2015.

