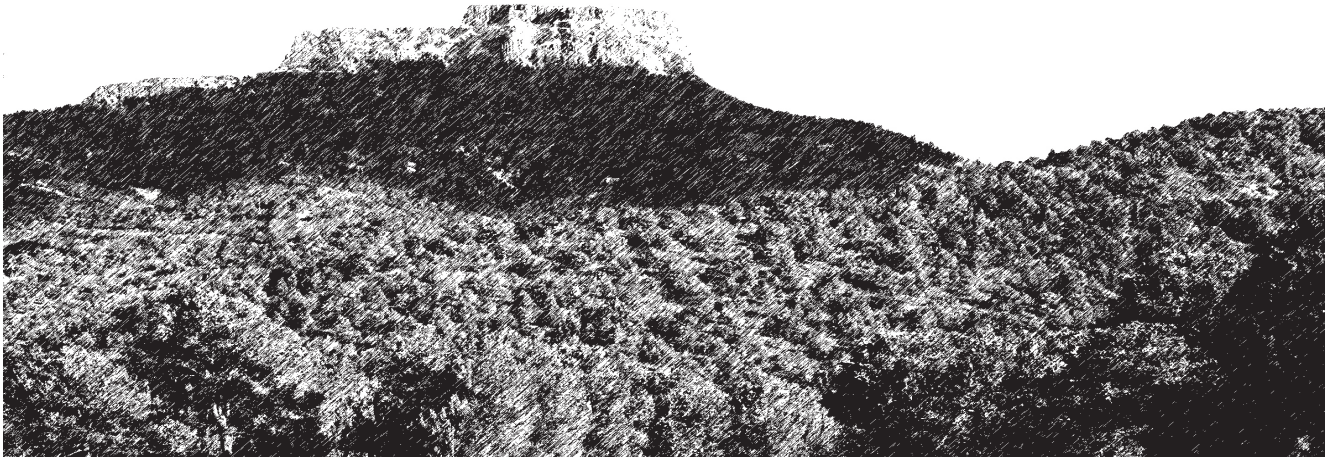


# OVER THE PASS



## TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

By Tim Keller  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

Question of the Week:

### “What do you like best about summer?”

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

“Long days, and not having to drive home in the dark.”

-Kerry Medina, co-owner, El Raton Movie Theatre (Raton)



“Baseball. I’m usually at all the Little League games. My son plays for the Yankees. My nephew played for the Albuquerque Isotopes, the Dodgers’ AAA team. We’re a baseball family.”

- Jackie Ortiz, loan officer, A&A Loans (Raton)

“Santa Fe Trail Days is the highlight of summer, but summer jobs are good, too, because they keep us out of trouble.”

- Kay Lynn Espinosa, TSJC GED student (Trinidad)



“I can get up super early and just go skate without having to worry about school.”

- Nicholas Lapa, Hoehne HS junior (Trinidad)



“I like the heat. You can come out and enjoy the summer, but this year it’s been too much wind, almost every day.”

- Leroy Valerio, retired coal miner (Raton)



“Not being in school and being with my friends. We hang out together. We like to go to Skateland.”

- Pheona Valdez, TMS 8th grader (Trinidad)

## BASEBALL

# Triggers roll through 3-game winning streak

By Adam Sperandio  
Correspondent  
The Chronicle-News

After dropping two out of three games against Santa Fe earlier in the week, the Triggers took on the Raton Osos in the Raton Pass series. After managing to win a meager 14 contests all of last season, Raton has significantly improved this season. According to Triggers manager JD Droddy, the Osos are a different team and are capable of beating anybody on any given night. The Triggers (15-13) are sitting in second place in the Pecos North behind the division-leading Santa Fe Fuego. Everybody in the Pecos League is chasing the first-place Alpine Cowboys in the Pecos South. The team sports a 24-10 record. The Cowboys will mosey into town for a four-game series at Central Park starting on June 26.



The Battle for Raton Pass started on Wednesday night in Raton, with the Osos decimating the Triggers by a final score of 16-4. The Osos started fast, jumping out to a 16-run lead before the Triggers’ bats woke up. Jeff Lyons picked up his second loss of the season on the mound, and red-hot second baseman Johnny Bladel went ice cold at the plate, going 0-5 in the contest and striking out twice. Right fielder Sammy

Carter led the team offensively, going 3-4 with a triple, one RBI and two stolen bases.

After Thursday night’s rainout at Central Park, Trinidad retaliated against the Osos on the road on Friday evening, defeating Raton in decisive fashion by a final score of 19-5. Will Leonard connected on his third home run of the season, and newly acquired shortstop Chris Escobar continued to impress, driving in seven runs while going 4-6 on the evening. The Triggers jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the top of the third before a four-run rally by the Osos in the fourth and fifth innings got Raton back into the contest. However, five runs in the eighth inning for the Triggers, led by Jamie McMillan’s two-run home run, sealed the deal for the Triggers. Pitcher Mike Mullen earned the win, going four innings, allowing four hits and not giving

up a single run. The Triggers’ offensive fireworks continued on Saturday night as Trinidad defeated Raton by a final score of 18-12. The real story of the game was the offensive play of Bladel. After containing Bladel for the first two games of the series, Raton’s pitchers could no longer keep him in check, and Bladel caught fire Saturday night, going 6-6 with a home run — his sixth on the year, all of them in the last 10 games. He also drove in four runs. Bladel is batting higher than



Photos by Adam Sperandio / The Chronicle-News

Johnny Bladel, above, connects on his sixth home run of the season against the Raton Osos on Saturday night. Bladel has been red hot as of late and is batting higher than .500 on the season. Triggers middle reliever Daniel Sharp, left, throws an off-speed pitch in Saturday night’s action at Central Park. Sharp struck out three batters in one inning, helping the Triggers defeat the Raton Osos, 18-12.

.500 on the season, contributing greatly to the Triggers’ position in second place in the Pecos North. The Triggers were also happy to welcome infielder Michael Morris back into the lineup. The captain went 4-5 on the night, driving in four runs.

Bladel’s hot streak continued on Sunday night. The Pecos League MVP candidate went 2-4 with three RBIs and a home

run as the Triggers defeated the Las Vegas Train Robbers by a final score of 8-7. Kevin McGovern picked up the win for Trinidad, going five innings while giving up 11 hits and striking out 11 batters. He also went 1-2 from the plate with two RBIs. The Triggers will be out of town tonight and tomorrow night before coming home on June 19 for a two-game series against Santa Fe.

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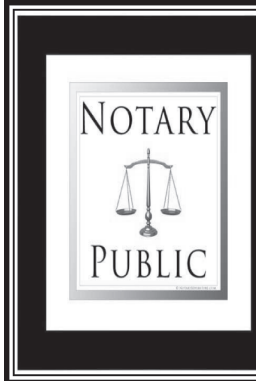
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