

OVER THE PASS



"They taught me to do things the right way, not the wrong way. They taught me how to be respectful and honest, and I taught the same to my kids."

— Joe C. Garcia, retired laborer (Raton)



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

"What did you learn from your parents?"

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Hard work, honesty and respect. Growing up, they taught me to respect others, and I watched how hard they worked."

— Teddy Barela, housekeeper, Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Trinidad (Raton)

"The glass is always half full. When cattle prices were low, my dad found two calves that had been struck by lightning. I remember my dad said, 'There's 400 dollars I won't lose.'"

— Clayton Nelson, designer and builder of collector firearms (Trinidad)



"I learned to be honest, to work hard, and to rely on my family, to never lose sight of them because there's no one else like family that will always be there for you."

— Christopher Foerch, massage therapist, Awaken Salon & Spa (Trinidad)



"I learned that God is great and that you have to take care of your elders. You take care of family."

— Janice Stuart, retired Samsonite test technician, Pueblo West (Trinidad)



"Integrity is important. So are honesty and respect. I learned history, too. My grandfather worked in the coal mine here at Brilliant."

— Deborah Tafoya, Walmart quality assurance, Los Lunas, NM (Raton)

THIS SPORTS

Summer Girl's Basketball program enjoys great success

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Girl's basketball isn't just something that happens during the winter months. It requires an ongoing effort by players, parents, coaches and dedicated sponsors that continues all year long, and this summer's girl's basketball program showed why the Trinidad Mighty Miners girl's teams are so consistently successful.

Over the past four years the Miner's have made the state tournament each year, made the final four with a 25-2 record, and haven't had fewer than 16 wins during that span.

This year there were 35 girls from the eighth through twelfth-grade classes at Trinidad High School participating in the off-season program. George Dasko, high school girl's head coach, said players from other school districts had participated in the program in previous years, but this year they were all Trinidad girls.

"We had 35 games for the Trinidad High School girls, and 11 games for the Trinidad Middle School girls, all on the road, for two weeks, with the girls staying in dorms at Adams State University in Alamosa, and dorms at Mesa State University in Grand Junction," Dasko said. "We spent \$11,877.027 on the program this year. Donations go a long way to helping us fund this program. Some community members always give us money. J & J Motors donates to the program every year, plus they provide a van for transportation. The First National Bank, Cooke Motors, Phil Long Toyota, Bob and Earl's Cafe and many other local donors sponsor the girls. The girls put on bake sales, car washes and three on three basketball tournaments to raise funds themselves. Parents and grand parents are involved in supporting the program. It's always a very enjoyable time for everyone who's involved. Volunteer coaches also work with the girls."

He said Trinidad has a very strong tradition of offering support to its young people in all of their endeavors.

"This community always offers strong



Photos courtesy of George Dasko / THS

These are the students who participated in this year's girl's summer basketball program. Top row, left to right, Gabbie Perez, Amber Mitchell, Jade Sanchez, Shay Choat, Kayla Torres, Brittnee Coberly, Casey Lafon, Carlee Garison, Devon Sandoval, Katy Rael, Cameron Gomez, Savannah Mitchell, Tiana Gonzales and Jamie Vallejos. Middle row, left to right, Isabella Cordova, Frida Ochoa, Mariah Casias, Julia Holden, Adrianna Bachicha, Justice Dionisio, Jessalyn Guzzo, Danielle Lamorie and Katlynn Hamman. Bottom row, left to right, Keirstin Garrison, Destiny, Maldonado, Kaylee Chavez, Ally Garduno, Jessie Vallejos, Sarah Choat, Gianna Vezzoani, Brianna Massarotti, Victoria Bachicha and Haley Chavez. Coach George Dasko is pictured in the inset.



support to its young people in everything they do," Dasko said. "We genuinely appreciate their ongoing support."

While most of the program's support is generated locally, there are also some big contributors from out-of-town donors with well-established local roots.

"We received a \$2,500 check from the Tercio Foundation, LLC, of New York City in support of the program. That helped us out a lot, and we want to thank them for their very generous donation," he said.

The Mighty Miners high school girl's basketball teams have made many trips to the state tournament during Dasko's 20 year tenure as head coach, and have appeared in the Sweet Sixteen multiple times, along with a Final Four appearance just a few years ago. The girl's hard work, yearlong dedication and the support of the community that just loves to watch those girls play hoops helps make that success possible.

State lawmakers: Cuckoo species protections not needed in Colorado

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP) — Two federal lawmakers are asking the government not to designate special protections in Colorado for the yellow-billed cuckoo.

Republican congressman Scott Tipton, a representative for western and south-central Colorado, and Sen. Cory Gardner wrote a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saying land restrictions for the yellow-billed cuckoo could harm growth and development, The Daily Sentinel reported.

They said protections could also interfere with efforts to eradicate tamarisk and other invasive species.

The lawmakers cite the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, which has said the state is on the outskirts of the species' habitat and that protections wouldn't sig-



Yellow-billed cuckoo / Associated Press

nificantly contribute to survival.

The city of Grand Junction in western Colorado expressed concerns over possible protections as well. Officials say a critical habitat designation would negatively impact downtown development.

"We fully recognize the good intentions of the Endangered Species Act, but this issue represents yet another instance in which it would behoove (the Fish and Wildlife Service) to pause and consider whether the proposed action would in fact result in more harm than good," the letter says.