

PRATOR GUN RANGE - GRAND RE-OPENING!
 Saturday, April 5 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Free hotdogs!
 Ribbon cutting and Clays Shooting Team demo at 11:30 a.m.
 Try out the new trap and skeet lanes - \$13 for a round (shotgun and ammo provided) during Grand Re-Opening
 South from E. Main St. on County Rd. 24.6, 6.5 miles - 42013 County Rd. 24.6, Trinidad. 846-5649



THURSDAY
MARCH 27, 2014
 Vol. 138, No. 62

THE CHRONICLE NEWS

50 CENTS
 TRINIDAD
 COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

MARCH 27
-Vision Loss Support Group
THURSDAY (1:30-3:30 p.m.) OIB (Older Individuals Who are Blind or have Vision Loss) hosts a monthly support group the 4th Thursday of every month at the Trinidad Work Force Center, 140 N. Commercial. Refreshments will be served and family and friends are encouraged to attend. Information: Billie Jo Bacca or Deb Nelson, 719-546-1271.
-Economic Development
PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THURSDAY (3 p.m.) Trinidad and Las Animas County Board of Directors will meet at 134 West Main Street, Suite 23 (Bell Block). Information: 719-846-9412.

Today's Quote

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Albert Einstein

MARCH 28-30
-Bar Ni Grant Fund
FRIDAY DEADLINE: Applications are available for a Bar Ni Ranch Community Grant. Information: Tom Perry at 719-846-8380.
-Math & Science Tutoring
FRIDAY (10 a.m.-Noon) Free math and science homework help will be available for middle school and high school students at Trinidad State Junior College (Library 308), 600 Prospect St. Information: Jenn Swanson, 719-846-5670.
-Prayer Support Group
FRIDAY (6:30 p.m.) Everyone is invited to join the prayer support group at the International House of Prayer, 520 W. Baca St. Refreshments will be served. Information: 719-845-7815.
-Community Gardeners
SATURDAY (10 a.m.) Member meeting will be at the Trinidad Community Coop at the corner of Elm and Maple Streets. Anyone interested in securing a plot in the Community Garden on Linden Street for the 2014 season should contact Earth Mountain Farms as soon as possible. Information: 719-680-0215.
-Philosophy Discussion Group
SATURDAY (12:30 - 2 p.m.) Join this free discussion group at the Lava Yoga Studio, 828 Arizona. RSVP: 719-846-2325 or email: www.lavayogastudio.com. Everyone is welcome.
-Meditation Group
SUNDAY (11 a.m.) You are invited to experience what meditation can do for you. This free group meets at the La Quinta Inn on Tougal Drive. All skills welcome. Information: Noah Simpson, 719-680-0109 or 224-430-4322.

PUBLIC SERVICE
-TMS Parent Pride
MONDAY (6:30 p.m.) The Trinidad Middle School Parent Pride organization will meet in the TMS Library. Information: 719-846-4411.
-CALL FOR ARTISTS
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Submissions will be due for the 13th Annual TALAS Art Show at the Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Information: Lora Nava, 719-680-8596.
-ArtoCade 2014 Workshop
TUESDAY (6-8 p.m.) A fun program for anyone interested in "How to Make an Artcar or Kooky Conveyance" will be held at 149 E. Main St. (next to the Corazon Gallery). Information: Rodney Wood, 719-334-0087 or artcarfun@yahoo.com.
-TDQG Park Organizers
WEDNESDAY (6:30 p.m.) The Trinidad Dog Owners Group meeting will be at the Trinidad Community Center, 1309 Beshoar Drive. Information: Mary Rogers, 719-846-6030.
-Peacock Ball
APRIL 5 (5 p.m.-Midnight) Join in the 11th Annual Peacock Ball to be held at the Sebastiani Gym on Animas St. Information: Lucky's Fetching Finds, 719-846-8578. All proceeds benefit Noah's Ark Animal Shelter.
-Community Blood Drive
APRIL 11 (Noon-4 p.m.) Help save a life! Bonfils Blood Drive will be held in the Pioneer Room at Trinidad State Junior College. Sign-up and information: Bonfils Appointment Center, 800-365-0006 or www.bonfils.org.
-CRCC Scholarships
AVAILABLE NOW: Culebra Range Community Coalition environmental scholarships are available for graduating senior majoring in any field that will benefit the environment. Contact: Tom Perry at 719-846-8380.
-Yonna Parsons Scholarship
APRIL 12 DEADLINE: Scholarships available to high school seniors in the Stonewall Fire Protection District. Information: Charlie Hislop, 719-868-3660.
-Raton PBW Scholarship
MAY 7 DEADLINE: A \$500 scholarship for continuing education is available to any student or person in the work force in Colfax County. Information: Diane Dixon, 575-445-2713.
-Calling all History Lovers
MAY-SEPTEMBER: Anyone interested in volunteering for summer service at the Santa Fe Trail Museum please contact Paula Manini at 719-846-7217. It's a great place to spend a few hours greeting visitors with some hometown hospitality.

A THOUSAND WORDS

Colorful flags wave in the breeze over the Purgatoire Riverwalk.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 03/26/2014. Chilli ditch: Priority #7 -- Appropriation date: 04/30/1862.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
 Release 0.42 AF
 Inflow 42.42 AF -- 21.38 CFS
 Evaporation 9.0 AF
 Content 17,922 AF
 Elevation 6,180.68
 Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call:
Ninemile Canal: 05/10/1887.



EDUCATION

School leaders strive for two-way communication with community

By Steve Block
 The Chronicle-News

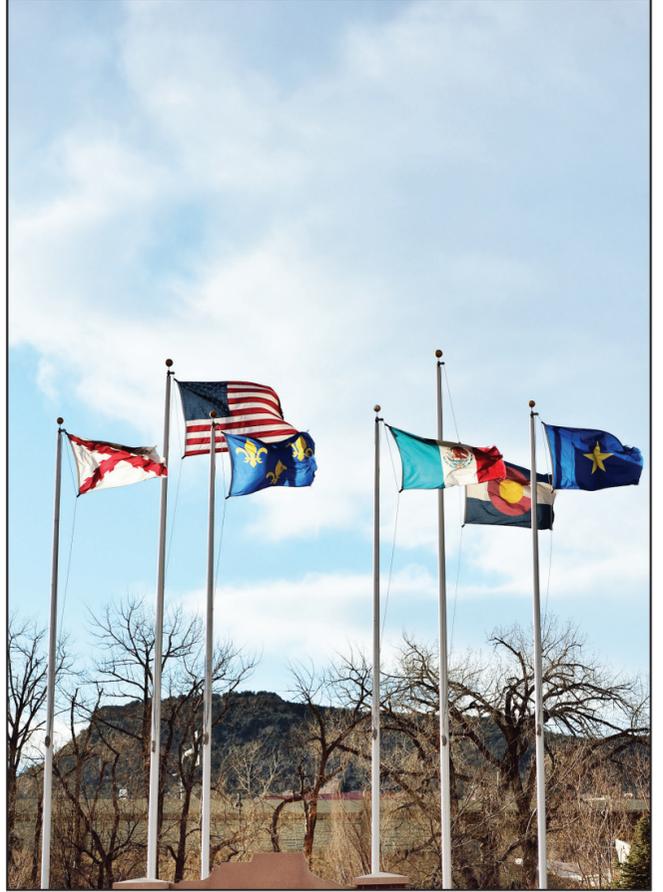
Good communication is the best way to make positive things happen. That was the message delivered at a school board retreat held at Trinidad Middle School on Tuesday.

Bill Cordova, the school district's business manager, said he was a strong believer in getting factual information to the public. "The key to making good things happen is good communication with the public at all levels about the decisions that the board makes in the interests of educating the kids of this district," Cordova said. "That's for starters, but keeping our communications going is another critical piece, because that keeps the whole system functioning in a positive direction. That keeps us from using our time unnecessarily. Conversely, we want the public to communicate with us. We don't want it to be all one way. I don't believe we're all-knowing in terms of education. We're doing the best we can for the kids of this community, but the communication has to go in both directions. If the public has something that they're concerned

about, or the parents are concerned about, we need to hear that so we can respond to those kinds of things. Maybe they would come up with something that we're not aware of, and it's important that we learn about that. So we need to keep that flow of communications going. We want the public to know at all times that we're operating aboveboard and we're in the best interests of the kids of this community. That's our objective. We have enough history, but we have to learn from our history. This is an opportunity to demonstrate that we have gone through a learning process, and what we're going to do is going to be in the best interests of the kids of this community and this school district. That's the bottom line."

Cordova said the kids of the district are accomplishing positive things and need to be acknowledged for what they had done. He said that the more emphasis that was placed on the students' positive accomplishments, the easier it would be to influence them in a positive way as they move toward becoming responsible adults.

Board member Patrick Sandoval said community members were well aware of all the chal-



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

... a thousand words

lenges the district faced, but he said it would be more constructive for all concerned to focus on recent positive accomplishments by the students, such as the Knowledge Bowl team making the state tournament and the high school cheerleaders' fine performance in a national competition.

Acting Superintendent George Dasko said there were many positive things going on in the district, and he said the district's administration had to communicate those things to the public.

"I think we need to develop a culture where we're happy for the success of others," Dasko said. "Sometimes people aren't happy for the success of others, but we have to be. We have to be happy that that group succeeded or that that group succeeded. We have to build that culture that my group is happy that you're group is successful, and not just be concerned with our own little group."

Dasko and Cordova both noted that Trinidad School District No.

One had been doing a good job of educating local students for a very long time, and it was time to let the community know about the accomplishments of Trinidad alumni.

"We've had kids who have gone to Harvard and Princeton, but do you ever see a picture of them anywhere?" Dasko said. "After they're gone for three or four years, it's like they never existed."

Dasko said it was long past time for the district to establish its own Hall of Fame as a way of honoring the accomplishments of Mighty Miner alumni in business and other professions.

"We figured a good place to start would be to put their pictures up in the hallway leading to our new administration offices in the Park Street School," he said.

Board member Paul Montera said another possibility would be to feature an Alumnus or Alumna of the Month on the school's website, with a brief biography and a

Continued on Page 2 ...



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

School board members and administrators gathered in the library of the Trinidad Middle School on Tuesday for a board retreat to discuss multiple issues.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Exchange students enliven area high schools

By Tim Keller
 Correspondent
 The Chronicle-News

RATON - The first impression was the huge vehicles, SUVs and pickup trucks. "The cars here are huge!" Niklas Lenz remembers thinking as he walked from the Denver airport on January 13. Pietro Paciosi arrived five days later. "We have small cars in Europe, sports cars," he says.

Lenz traveled from his home in Kassel, Germany, an urban center of 200,000 people that draws shoppers and visitors from throughout hilly central Germany. Paciosi's journey began from his home in Terni, Italy, population 113,000, an industrial city in the mountainous middle of the country, one hour from Rome and two hours from the Mediterranean Sea.

Both boys are spending the spring semester as juniors at Raton High School, living with local families through exchange-student programs administered in the U.S. by Education Travel & Culture, Inc., better known as ETC. Local coordinator Pennie Brown has placed seven students from Italy, Germany, Japan and Korea currently in families and high schools in Raton, Maxwell and Clayton, N.M.; La Junta, Colo.; and Amarillo, Texas.

"It was a culture shock at the

beginning," says Niklas, whose Raton host mom is Sandy Fanelli. Pietro agrees. "It was strange, like a dream," he says. But both have become comfortably immersed in their American lives. Pietro's host mom is Pennie Brown's mother, Sheila Tafoya, and his host brother is Raton High School senior

Anthony Brown.

"We have made many great friends, but none so close as our host brothers," says Niklas, whose host brother is RHS freshman Kevin Fanelli. "I never thought I would have a brother like this." Although they fly home to Europe in June, Niklas and Pietro

both expect to see their host families again, both in Europe and in America. In fact, Pietro is already planning to return for a Tafoya family wedding.

The boys chose America over several other possible countries.

Continued on Page 10 ...



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Niklas Lenz, third from left, and Pietro Paciosi, fourth from left, enjoy the company of their Raton classmates.

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WEATHER WATCH

Thursday: Patchy blowing dust before 9am. Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a W-NW wind 20 to 25 mph.

Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 54. N-NW wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27. N-NW wind 5 to 10 mph becoming SW after midnight.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near

65. SW wind 10 to 15 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 38. SW wind 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday: Patchy blowing dust after 3pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Breezy, with a SW wind 15 to 25 mph. **Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 32. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

EDUCATION

Trinidad Middle School Third Annual Health Fair

At the Third Annual Trinidad Middle School Health Fair held on Wednesday, March 19, 11-year-old Tyler Mattorano, right, from Hoehne, rides through a course wearing goggles that simulate the sensation of driving while impaired. Hundreds of people filled the Park Street Gym and Cafeteria to visit the various booths that featured health and wellness products.



Photos by Bruce Leonard / The Chronicle-News

Exchange students enliven area high schools

... Continued from Page 1

"Movies make America very interesting," says Niklas, "and very big." Pietro says, "I talked to a girl in my town in Italy who was placed in Arizona last year. That made me choose America." Thrown together into the foreign culture, the boys frequently complete each other's sentences during an interview, and then sometimes correct the other. They've grown close and it shows.

"In Europe," Pietro says, "we are all used to being friendly and affectionate. We say hi and we hug. If a student in my school passes without saying hello, I think something is wrong. But here, people walk through the halls without saying hello. Even some teachers don't say hello. I thought they didn't like me, but I discovered that it's not personal. The other exchange students in other places in America tell me it's the same for them."

At home, Pietro is an avid rugby player, and he and Niklas both compete on soccer teams. In Raton, Niklas has joined the high school golf team, though his only experience in the sport is playing some rounds of miniature golf at home. Pietro loves trying new things: He's already joined the school tennis and track teams and speaks of playing baseball and basketball, too, although all four sports are entirely foreign to him.

The boys enjoy the intimacy of a small school and a small town. "We didn't get to choose where we'd be in America," Pietro says, "but they try not to put you in big cities, because America is not big cities — it's towns like Raton." Raton High School has fewer than 300 students. Pietro's school in Termini has 1,500 students, and Niklas's

school in Kassel has 2,500 students.

Asked to compare American and European schools, they roll their eyes in unison, and then break out in laughter. "School is much easier here!" They become animated, completing each other's sentences. "We study very hard and take our education seriously. We are more polite to our teachers. The teachers are strict! If you put your head down on your desk, they will send you out."

Niklas attends classes from 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Pietro attends from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with only one 15-minute break at a snack bar. Each studies his national language plus four others. They have daily oral exams in all classes.

In America, each is taking classes in English and Spanish, and the U.S. State Department requires that they take U.S. History. Their other classes are varied and include algebra, foods, art and weightlifting.

"I notice that here many teachers miss lots of days," Pietro says. "In Italy, teachers take school very seriously. They work even when they are sick." Niklas notes another contrast. "Kids wear slippers and pajamas here at school! In Germany, they'd laugh at you and you'd be sent home."

The lighter workload here may afford them more time for enjoyment: More often than not, they're seen smiling around the school. They laugh easily and are popular with other students.

ETC local coordinator Pennie Brown suggests that the exchange-student program benefits the local students as much as the visiting students. "After spending time



I have always imagined that
paradise was a kind of library.
— Jorge Lenz



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Pietro Paciosi, at left, says, "I like trying new things." A rugby and soccer player at home in Termini, Italy, he's spending his semester in America competing in tennis and track. He hopes to try baseball and basketball, as well. Niklas Lenz, below right, recently shot a "hole-in-two" in his new role as a member of the Raton High School golf team. The soccer player from Kassel, Germany had previously tried only miniature golf. Pietro and Niklas, above, are required by the exchange-student program to take English and U.S. History while at Raton High School. At home they each study four languages in addition to their own.

with them, it starts to feel like our own lives are sheltered. These kids have opened our eyes and our interests. We learn that there's a whole bigger world out there."

A working ranch wife and the mayor of Folsom, N.M., population 57, Brown is passionate about the exchange program and her students. Her husband, Ryan, asks what she's doing on her phone in bed at 9:30 at night. "I'm texting my kids! The best thing about ETC is how involved we get in these kids' lives. We become their second family."

Brown encourages host families to make visiting students their own. "These kids should do the same chores you expect of your own kids. If you take away your own kid's phone, you should treat these kids the same. They're part of the family." A host family with no children at home is encouraged to take a pair of exchange students, creating instant siblings. The visiting students usually immerse themselves in school sports and other community activities, and host families cheer from the stands.

"These kids are all really sharp," Brown says. "They and their families undergo an intense application process. After passing various exams, including one for English proficiency, the kids are interviewed and screened. Pietro and an Italian girl I have at Maxwell High School each took tests for three days in Italy, then the Italian government subsidized much of their costs."

And those costs are steep, ranging from \$4,000 to \$30,000 for a semester, according to Pietro — a prohibitive expense that may explain why Brown says no area students have taken advantage of semesters in other countries. Though expensive, students get their money's worth, including

room and board from the host family. All ETC students in America get trips together to Hawaii and New York City. Niklas had his four days in NYC two weeks ago. Italy provides its own trip to NYC for all of its students in America: Pietro will join Italian students there in May.

"When we think of America," says Pietro, "we think of New York City, the Statue of Liberty, high school and lockers — all things we don't have. We don't have lockers in school." Niklas jumps right in. "We have lockers in Germany."

Pennie and Ryan Brown host barbecues at their Folsom home for her seven scattered international students. "I'm their mom, teacher, financial manager and sometimes their therapist." She laughs. In her second year with the program, she says, "It's really fun. I wish I had known something like this sooner."

She can bring more international students when she finds more host families. She invites interested families to call her at 575-447-4368. The 120-mile radius she can serve encompasses most of The Chronicle-News' readership area, all the way to La Junta, where she recently placed a girl from Italy.

"All teenagers should live in another country for a time," says Niklas Lenz at Raton High School. When he and Pietro Paciosi return this summer to the land of small cars — their homes in Germany and Italy — they'll take rich stories to share with their friends and family about America, New York City and Hawaii, and especially about Raton, N.M.



Local coordinator Pennie Brown has seven teenagers from Italy, Germany, Korea and Japan placed with local families and schools from Amarillo, Texas, to La Junta, Colo., with most at New Mexico schools in Clayton, Raton and Maxwell.



PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats, Irish poet (1865-1939)