**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

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**TODAY’S EVENTS**

**11 a.m.**

- **TMS Library. Information:** 719-846-4411.

**2 p.m.**

- **La Quinta Inn on Toupal Drive. All skills welcome. Information:** Noah, 719-846-5670.

**3 p.m.**

- **Discussion group at the Lava Yoga Studio, 828 S. Nettleton Ave., everyone is welcome. Information:** lavayogastudio.com.

**4 p.m.**

- **Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:**
  - **MAY 7 DEADLINE:**~Raton PBW Scholarship
  - **AVAILaBLE NOW:**~TDOG Park Organizers
  - **FRIDAY DEADLINE:**~CALL FOR ARTISTS
  - **THURSDAY (3 p.m.):**Community Gardeners
  - **FRIDAY DEADLINE:**~Community Gardeners
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  - **FRIDAY DEADLINE:**~Community Gardeners

**5 p.m.**

- **School board members and administrators will meet at the Middle School on Tuesday for a board retreat to discuss multiple issues.**

**6 p.m.**

- **Santa Fe High School seniors:** Should contact Earth Mountain Farms as soon as possible with the harvest so it can be delivered at a school board retreat.

**9 a.m.**

- **New School Year:** School board members and administrators will meet at 134 West Main Street, Suite 308, Trinidad State Junior College (Library 308), 600 S. Nettleton Ave., Trinidad, for the district’s first board meeting of the year. The district’s business manager, said he delivered at a school board retreat the final report of the district’s financial audit

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**NEWS**

**EDUCATION**

School leaders strive for two-way communication with community

By Steve Block

Good communication is the key to a successful relationship. With that in mind, Trinidad School District leaders are working hard to establish a two-way communication channel with the community.

“Communication is critical,” said District Superintendent Dr. Bill Cordova. “We need to hear from the community what they want and need from us.”

The district has implemented a number of initiatives to improve communication, including:

- **Weekly updates:** The district sends out weekly updates via email to keep parents informed about school events and important announcements.
- **Parent meetings:** The district holds regular parent-teacher conferences to discuss student progress and address any concerns.
- **Community forum:** The district holds monthly community forums to gather feedback and ideas from community members.
- **Social media:** The district has a strong presence on social media, including Facebook and Twitter, to share important information and updates.

The district is also working to improve communication with students.

- **Student government:** The district has a student government that meets regularly to discuss student concerns and ideas.
- **Teacher feedback:** The district solicits feedback from teachers to ensure that the school is meeting the needs of students.

By Tim Keller

RATON — The first impression was immediate, as Niklas and Pietro, two 19-year-old exchange students from Denmark, stepped off a plane at Denver airport on January 19. U.S. Customs Papers arrived five days later.

“We have small cars in Europe, public cars,” he says.

Lenz traveled from his home in Rand, Germany, on an exchange program. He was one of several German students that gathered in the hallway leading to our host brother is RHS freshman Kevin Fanelli. “I never thought I would have a brother like this,” Niklas said.

Kevin Fanelli. “I never thought I would have a brother like this.”

Niklas, whose father Middle School on Tuesday for a board retreat to discuss multiple issues.

**A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**

Exchange students enliven area high schools

By Tim Keller

The Chronicle-News

School board members and administrators realize the value of enrolling a partner of the Month on the school’s website.

Teddy Lenz, third from left, and Petro Pacos, fourth from left, enjoy the company of their Raton classmates.

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**THE WEATHER**

**WEDNESDAY**

- **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**THURSDAY**

- **Morning:** Mostly cloudy, with a high around 65. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**FRIDAY**

- **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**SATURDAY**

- **Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

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**Andrews**

**WEDNESDAY**

- **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**THURSDAY**

- **Morning:** Mostly cloudy, with a high around 65. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**FRIDAY**

- **Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.

**SATURDAY**

- **Sun:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. The wind will be calm and the sky will be clear.
Exchange students enliven area high schools

In Terni has 1,500 students, and Niklas’s school has fewer than 300 students. Pietro’s school is a small town. “We didn’t get to see much of the country for a time,” says Niklas Lenz at Raton High School. When he and Pietro Paciosi, at left, arrived in America, they were surprised to find New York City and Hawaii, and especially about Los Angeles. Niklas had spent his four days in NYC two weeks ago. Italy provides its own trip to NYC for all of its ETCS students in America get trips together, he thought. “When we think of America,” says Pietro Paciosi, “we think of New York City, the Statue of Liberty, the whole bigger world out there.”

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“In Europe,” Pietro says, “you’re all alone, being friendly and sociable. We say hi and they say hi. But if you stand in my school hallway without saying hello, I think something is wrong. Everyone says hello, and people walk through the halls without saying hello. Even some teachers don’t say hello, they didn’t like it when my mother, but I don’t remember it being this way.”

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 a soccer goalie, but here in America, nothing is too easy.

“Here,” says Niklas, “I have a choice of playing soccer or baseball, and you have to choose. In Germany we played both sports and study very hard and take our education seriously.”

“I notice that here many teachers miss class. In Italy, teachers take school very seriously. They work even hard and take our education seriously.”

“More often than not, they’re standing in the classroom. In Germany, they’d laugh. The lighter workload here may afford them more time for enjoyment: More often than not, they’re standing in the classroom. In Germany, they’d laugh.”

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“All teenagers should live in another country for a time,” says Niklas. “These kids have opened our eyes and our minds. We learn that there’s a whole bigger world out there.”

“When we think of America,” says Pietro, “we think of New York City, the Statue of Liberty, the whole bigger world out there.”

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“For the visiting students, the best thing about ETCS is how involved we get in these kids’ lives. We become their second family. “I notice that here many teachers miss class. In Italy, teachers take school very seriously. They work even hard and take our education seriously.”

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“They’re kids should do the same chores you expect of your own kids. If you take away your own kids’ phone, you’ll be sure they do the same. They’re part of the family. A host family with no children at home encourages to take a pair of exchange students, creating new friendships. The visiting students usually immerse themselves in school sports and other community activities, and host families cheer from the stands.”

“These kids are all alone, being friendly and sociable. We say hi and they say hi. But if you stand in my school hallway without saying hello, I think something is wrong. Everyone says hello, and people walk through the halls without saying hello. Even some teachers don’t say hello, they didn’t like it when my mother, but I don’t remember it being this way.”

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“The teachers are strict! If you put your head down on your desk, they will send you to the office.”

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