

SPORTS

OUTDOORS

Raton welcomes spring with Climax Canyon trail run event

By **Tim Keller**
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Just in time for spring, Raton's inaugural Climax

Canyon 5K Trail Run will arrive on Saturday morning, April 12, with registration closing on April 9. The 10 a.m. mountain race offers four divisions, with men's and women's sec-

tions each divided between those on either side of age 40. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome.

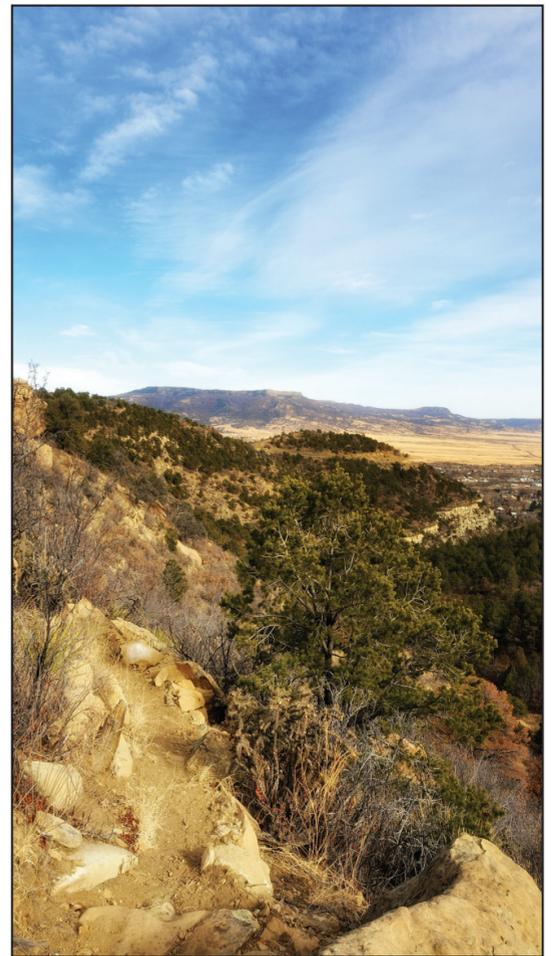
Completed little more than a year ago, Climax Canyon Nature Trail begins at the western end of Apache Avenue, the site of Raton's annual City of Bethlehem Christmas displays. From the trailhead, the narrow winding path climbs to the top of the Rocky Mountain ridge that hugs Raton, tracing an east loop and west loop that, when combined, total just more than three miles in length.

"The event is unique in that it's not your average 5K but a 5K trail run," said Jared Chatterley, director of Raton's Parks & Recreation Department, which sponsors both the trail and the run. "There are few places where you can be downtown and, within four blocks, be in a wilderness setting, hiking a beautiful nature trail with no sign of the nearby city. We've created this 5K run to help alert more hikers and runners to the trail."

Regular trail hikers have generally encoun-

tered, on average, only one other person or small group during each three-mile hike. The east loop allows hikers to limit themselves to two miles; adding the high sunny west loop provides a scenic view and an extra mile.

Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run registration is available through April 9 in person or online at ratonrecreation.com. The parks office is open Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Raton Aquatic Center in Roundhouse Memorial Park; the phone number is 575-445-4271. A \$25 registration fee includes a T-shirt with the new race logo, and all proceeds will support the September 13 Master of the Mountains (M.O.M.) Adventure Relay, an event that was well attended and well received last year. Since the Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run is being organized by the same people who put on M.O.M. last year, outdoor enthusiasts from throughout the region can expect that the Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run will be a runaway success.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Raton's municipal Climax Canyon Nature Trail weaves a beautiful three-mile loop up and around the mountains that hug the city's western boundary. The inaugural Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run celebrates spring with a race on Saturday, April 12. Registration, online or in person, closes April 9.

EQUINE REGULATIONS

Protect Colo. horses: EHV-1, biosecurity, brand-inspection updates

Special to The Chronicle-News

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – This time of year typically kicks off horseback riding, jackpots, horse shows and a number of other horse events, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture reminds horse owners that there are a number of steps to take to protect their horses this season.

Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1)

On March 26, 2014, the State Veterinarian's Office was notified by the Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory that a Larimer County horse tested positive for EHV-1. CDA is investigating the positive case and has placed the facility where the horse is stabled under quarantine. The horse is undergoing treatment, and others it may have come into contact with are being monitored but are not showing clinical signs of the disease at this point. At this time the affected horse is the only horse showing any clinical signs of disease and is recovering.

"The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact, but it can also spread through the air, contaminated equipment, clothing and hands. This certainly highlights the importance of practicing basic biosecurity practices," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. "Equine event organizers should continue to practice routine biosecurity practices that are effective in prevention of EHV and other horse diseases

as well. There was very limited movement from the affected facility, so the risk to other horse owners or event organizers is very low, essentially the same as before this index case."

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable. EHV-1 is not transmissible to people. It can, however, be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death.

For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on "Animal Health."

Basic Biosecurity

Basic biosecurity practices can reduce the risk of exposure to diseases. Key points of a biosecurity plan include isolating new animals and those returning to the home premises, supplying clean feed and water, implementing infection-control practices for visitors and personnel and avoiding movement from various locations if possible. Especially important is the isolation of any sick horses. Horse owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarians if sickness appears in their herds.

"Effective biosecurity practices lead to fewer health problems for animals and contribute to a longer and better-quality life for the horse," said Dr. Roehr. "When you're traveling with horses, some-

thing as simple as a clean water bucket that you don't share with other people's horses can greatly affect disease movement."

For more information on equine biosecurity methods, visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/equine/downloads/equine05/Equine05_is_Biosecurity.pdf.

Brand Inspection

State statutes require a "brand" inspection upon transfer of ownership of horses and may be required when they are transported.

"The Department typically sees an increase in the number of horses bought, sold and transported to various equine events this time of year. It's important that brand inspections be obtained to protect the equine industry," said CDA's Brand Commissioner Chris Whitney.

The Division of Brand Inspection's primary responsibility is to protect the livestock industry, including horses, from loss by theft or straying; a key component of that responsibility is to inspect horses and verify ownership before sale, transportation beyond 75 miles within Colorado and transportation out of the state.

Residents get more information about brand inspection requirements and find their brand inspector by visiting www.colorado.gov/ag/brands.



Photo courtesy of Derek Navarette

TOURNAMENT PLAY

Hoehne Elementary girls basketball team performs well

By **Derek Navarette**
Special to The Chronicle-News

The Hoehne Elementary girls' basketball team recently competed in a youth tournament in Cheraw, Colo., coming in second.

The team consists of students from the fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The team had a record of three wins

and one loss in the round-robin style tournament.

In this very competitive tournament, Hoehne was able to defeat Cheraw and two teams from Fowler Elementary. Hoehne's only loss came in a hard-fought battle with a tough Rocky Ford team, which eventually won the tournament.

Hoehne jumped out to an early lead in the contest, but was unable to get

the victory, losing by nine points.

The girls represented their school and community well and competed at a high level. They will be looking to enter more youth tournaments throughout the spring.

The team also recently completed its season in the City of Trinidad Youth Basketball league, compiling a record of 9-0.



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