

WEEKEND

ANNUAL TRAIL RUN

Raton again welcomes spring with Climax Canyon event

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

RATON – A new rite of spring, Raton's 2nd annual Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run arrives Saturday morning, April 25, with registration available all week both online and in person at Raton Regional Aquatic Center. The 10 a.m. mountain race offers men's and women's sections each divided between those on either side of age 40. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome, and the event t-shirt is included with each registration.

Completed two years ago, Climax Canyon Nature Trail begins at the western end of Apache Avenue, site of Raton's annual City of Bethlehem Christmas displays. From the trailhead, the narrow winding path climbs 400 feet to the top of the Rocky Mountain ridge that hugs Raton, tracing an east loop and west loop that, when combined, total just over three miles in length.

"The event is unique in that it's not your average 5K but a 5K trail run," said

Jared Chatterley before last year's inaugural event. Chatterley is 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 encountered, 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 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 575-445-2413. The \$25 registration fee includes a t-shirt with the event logo; proceeds support the September 12 Master of the Mountains (M.O.M.) Adventure Relay.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



Raton trail will be filled this Saturday

Located entirely within Raton's city limits, Climax Canyon Nature Trail, above, climbs through pine and gamble oak for a three-mile loop enjoyed by hikers and dog walkers. Saturday's 2nd annual Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run will fill the trail with walkers and runners in an event sponsored by Raton Parks & Recreation Department. Completed two years ago, Climax Canyon Nature Trail, left, climbs 400 feet from Raton's westernmost houses to the top of the ridge above Goat Hill. The west loop is high and open to the sunshine, with great views to Raton and beyond. Participants in Saturday's 2nd annual Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run will enjoy this view near the halfway point.

AGRICULTURE

USDA reminds farmers to certify conservation compliance by June 1

U.S. Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16, 2015 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds farmers that the 2014 Farm Bill requires producers to file a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form (AD-1026) with their local USDA service center by June 1, 2015, in order to become or remain eligible for crop insurance premium support.

Most farmers already have a certification form on file since it's required for participation in most USDA programs such as marketing assistance loans, farm storage facility loans and disaster assistance. However farmers, such as specialty crop growers who receive federal crop insurance premium support, but may not participate in other USDA programs, also must now file a certification form to maintain their crop insurance premium support.

"USDA employees are working very hard to get the word out about this new Farm Bill provision," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "While many producers will not need to take action, we want to help make sure that those who are required to act do so by the June 1 deadline. We want all eligible producers to be able to maintain their ability to protect their operations with affordable insurance."

Producers should visit their local USDA service center and talk with their crop insurance agent before the June 1, 2015, deadline to ask questions, get additional information

or learn more about conservation compliance procedures. Producers that file their form by the deadline will be eligible for federal crop insurance premium support during the 2016 reinsurance year, which begins July 1, 2015. USDA will publish a rule outlining the linkage of conservation compliance with federal crop insurance premium support. Go to <http://go.usa.gov/3WY5J> to view a copy of the rule.

The Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form is available at local USDA service center or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/AD1026form. When a farmer completes this form, USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff will outline any additional actions that may be required for compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions. USDA's Risk Management Agency, through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, manages the federal crop insurance program that provides the modern farm safety net for America's farmers and ranchers.

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has implemented many provisions of this critical legislation, providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

GREAT OUTDOORS

Free fishing events set for kids in Southeast Colorado

Colorado Parks & Wildlife
Special to The Chronicle-News

LAMAR, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife is hosting several free fishing clinics for boys and girls in the lower Arkansas River Valley. The events are for children under 16 years of age and will cover tips and tricks for all kinds of fishing. Participants will also learn about types of flies and lures, water safety, fish identification and strategies for catching more fish.

A limited number of free fishing rods and fishing tackle will be available at each event but those with fishing equipment are encouraged to bring their own.

No registration is required. Anyone 16 years or older who wishes to fish after the events will need a valid fishing license. Fishing is limited to children only during the event. Participants should bring snacks, water, a lawn chair, sunscreen and hat.

For more information call 719-336-6600.

For more news and information about Colorado Parks and Wildlife go to: <http://cpw.state.co.us>

SCHEDULE OF FISHING CLINICS

■ APRIL 24 at Shalberg Pond, Sheridan Lake, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

■ APRIL 26 at Leonard Huddall Pond, Las Animas, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

■ MAY 2 at Turk's Pond, South of Two Buttes, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

■ MAY 3 at Jackson's Pond, Eads, Noon - 4 p.m.

■ MAY 16 at North Gateway Park, Lamar, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

■ MAY 23 at La Junta City Pond, La Junta, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

■ SEPT. 12 at La Junta City Pond, La Junta, Noon - 3 p.m.



New Hours as of April 20
Now Open 7 days a week 6 am to 3 pm

Bueno's Restaurant

~ We appreciate your business ~

Available Evenings for
Banquets and Parties
Call to RSVP

Rich or Carol Clafflin 719-846-3851



SCCOG Early Learning Center

1225 Rosita Ave. • 719-846-0568

We are now taking 2015-2016 enrollment applications

- Infant/Toddler Programs
- Free Preschool (School District #1 & Hoehne)
- After School Care
- Summer Session begins June 1, 2015
- Fall Session begins September 8, 2015

Interested parents may call 845-0568 for more information. The Early Learning Center accepts Colorado Child Care Assistance Program funding (CCCAP) and offers free pre-school programs to qualifying students.

The Earth Day Green Gala

Saturday, April 25th

11 am (after the Comcast Clean-up) to 7 pm
In front of

The Trinidad Community Food CO-OP
Elm St. and Maple Ave.

Hosted by: Trinidad Food Co-op, Terra Firma Recycling, Purgatory Watershed Partnership, and Earth Mountain Education Farm

- Kids Creation Station •
- Community Bike Ride at 2 pm •
- Educational Water Activities •
- Pet Vaccination Clinic •
- Tree Planting at Los Ninos Park •
- 1-2 pm Water Treatment Plant Tours •

Featuring: Planet O! at 3 pm

Sponsored by:

La Quinta • Drop City Liquor • Tami-T's Honeybees • Faragosi Farms • Little Stinker Septic Service • Grow Generation • Trinidad's Higher Calling U • Noah's Ark • Mario's Burritos

Taste of Spring

April 24th, 2015
Reception 4 pm to 9 pm

Meet the Artists

514 West Main Street Trinidad CO

