

Raton welcomes spring with Climax Canyon 5k

By Tim Keller — For the Comet | Posted: Thursday, April 23, 2015 12:00 pm

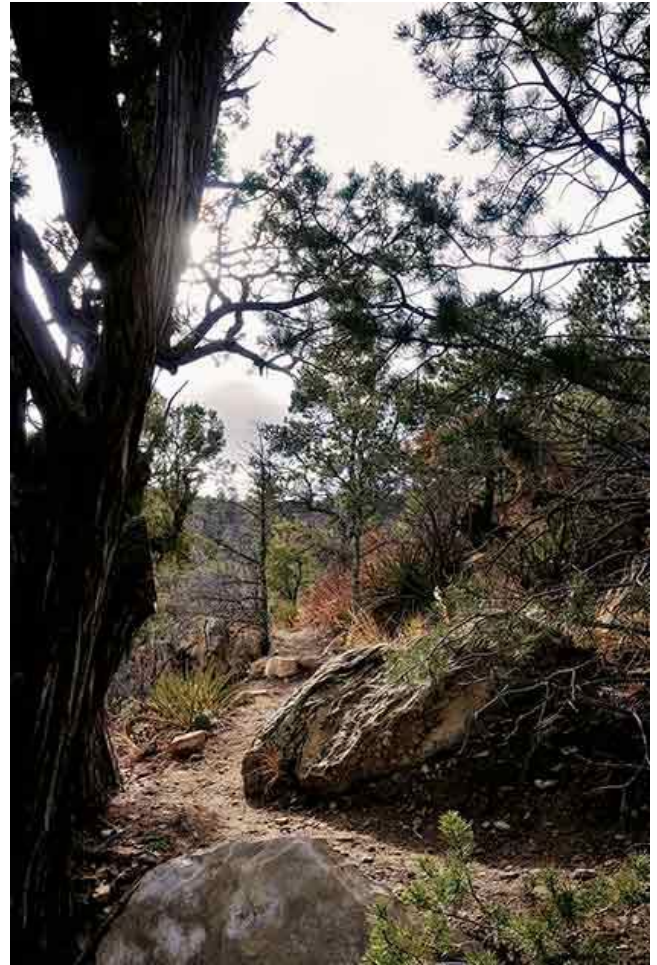
RATON – A new rite of spring, Raton’s 2nd annual Climax Canyon 5K Trail Run arrives Saturday morning, April 25, with registration available all week both online and in person at Raton Regional Aquatic Center. The 10 a.m. mountain race offers men’s and women’s sections each divided between those on either 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



Climax Canyon

Located entirely within Raton’s city limits, Climax Canyon Nature Trail 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.

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 Sept. 12 Master of the Mountains (M.O.M.) Adventure Relay.