

# Aqua Easter egg hunt goes wet, wild and colorful

Tim Keller — For the Comet | Posted: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:40 pm

RATON – The air temperature outside the Raton Regional Aquatic Center Saturday morning was in the upper 30s as children rushed across the parking lot and through the double glass doors. Inside, around the pools, it was bathing-suit weather, warm and humid enough to fog camera lenses as parents began taking pictures.

The 3rd annual Aqua Easter Egg Hunt drew 120 kids, from toddlers through high school age, for the opportunity to hunt and gather brightly colored plastic Easter eggs in pools of varying depths. The gathered eggs were traded in for prize bags, but the motivation Saturday morning was clearly the splash and the chase.

When Raton Parks & Recreation Jared Chatterley blew his whistle, a loud burst of joy filled the cavernous building as kids scattered and scampered to fill baskets and bags with bright plastic eggs. Most of the eggs floated atop the water but others were weighted to sit on the pool's bottom or to float suspended at varying depths.

Aided by his staff of six, plus volunteers from Raton High School's FCCLA and National Honor Society chapters, Chatterley ran the Aqua Easter Egg Hunt in four successive waves based on age, with small children going first in the big wading pool. By the third wave, kids were swimming ten feet deep to scoop eggs off the pool bottom.

The whole event lasted just over an hour, plus the time that many parents spent getting their kids' pictures taken with the Easter bunny in the lobby. The pool stayed open all day for swimming.

Chatterley and his Parks & Recreation staff chalked up another success. "A highlight for me," he said, "was a family walking out the door and thanking us, then adding that, for them, the event was a 'must do' every year."



Aqua Easter Egg Hunt - Raton Aquatic Center 2015