

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2025


<https://www.facebook.com/MMIRofColorado/>

<http://mmirtaskforceco.com/>

## May 5th is National Day of Awareness for MMIR

Our Task Force will be organizing two events with our community partners the weekend before the National Day of Awareness. We would like to formally invite everyone to attend both rallies.

**May 3rd** will be a Prayer Walk in Ignacio  
**May 4th** will be a rally in Colorado Springs. The rally in the Springs needs over 100 people to carry signs for all Colorado MMIR.

If you are unable to attend either rally, please look at the “what you can do” section on our website for other ways to help bring awareness.

## MMIR Event at CU Denver

Two of our Task Force members, Daisy Bluestar and Lynnette Grey Bull, attended the MMIR Awareness event at CU Denver in March. They were able to connect with Melody Delmar, Director of OMMIR, Jolene Holgate of DIFRC and Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Coalition, and activist Mattee Jim after their presentation regarding their work in New Mexico.



### 4TH ANNUAL MMIR WALK/RUN

Everyone is Welcomed!

**Saturday, May 3, 2025**

**BEGIN: ROADHOUSE PIZZA COMPANY**  
6:00 A.M.  
123 CO-172, DURANGO, CO 81303

**OPENING SONGS AND PRAYERS**

**END THE WALK AT UTE PARK BY 3:00 P.M.**  
356 UTE STREET, IGNACIO CO

**3:00 P.M. - Meal Gathering**  
Upon arrival of walkers and runners!

**We invite you to attend the 4th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Awareness event!**  
Resource Booths Welcome | Set up at 1:00 | Ute Park

Bouncy House - Guest Speakers - Education

Register with QR Code

Daisy Bluestar/daisybluestar2003@gmail.com

## National Day of MMIR Awareness



**Wear red or ribbon skirts**  
**Bring hand drums**  
**All jingle dress dancers invited**

**Rally Route:**  
**Meet at Acacia Park,**  
**walk to City Hall then**  
**end at the Take Back**  
**the Power mural**



### WHY WE WALK

- 4 out of 5 Native people will experience violence in their lifetime
- More than 1/2 of Native women will experience domestic violence or sexual assault
- 96% of this violence is at the hands of a nonNative perpetrator
- CO has over 110 MMIR cases
- Over 9000 Native people are missing or murdered nationally
- Practice this song to sing while we walk:  
<https://youtu.be/c5OHb2J5st0?si=vXZiuj8XIWz5OXp8>



**Haseya**  
 advocate program

## Task Force Collaborations

Our Task Force is always open to collaborate with other organizations and individuals working in MMIR spaces.

In March we met with Mark Pooley, Investigative Support (AI/AN) Director at the Center for Human Identification at University of North Texas. Mark works nationally to bring advance technology to Tribal and Indigenous communities and provide resources to investigations regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. We sent him information on some of our older cases where DNA research may be helpful in finally getting answers.



We were excited to also meet up with Tasha His Law, from Wačíyanpi, a Native-led, grassroots organization located on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Wačíyanpi means "to be dependable, reliable, and trustworthy." We have been sharing information regarding all South Dakota - affiliated MMIR with them since the beginning of the year. We look forward to continuing to partner with them.



## Active Updates

**Fairchild:** vigil held March 8th

**Lays Bad:** contacted tribal victim services & Pooley for confirmation

**Denver PD:** sent numerous updates to correct on almost a dozen of their cold case database

**Sierra:** was able to coordinate with family, CBI and Windsor police to get the MIPA issued 5 months after the report was filed

**Lil Bit:** Info sent to the Doe Network to compare possibilities nationally. Search held on April

**Older MMIRs:** conducted extensive research and were able to identify over dozen names in March that we had not previously been unaware of.

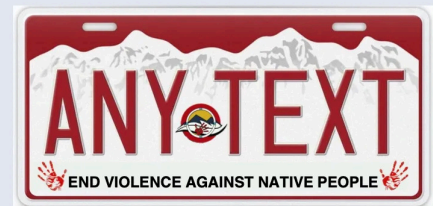
**Doe, Houle, Blee, Standing Bear:** info sent to Center for Human Identification at University of North Texas for additional DNA testing/comparison.

## License Plate Bill Update

We found out on April 30<sup>th</sup> that this bill will not be moving forward this year due to the significant budget deficit for the state of Colorado. Many bills with a fiscal note died in Appropriations this session, even though this specific bill had a minimal financial impact and would have brought desperately need awareness. We were told no license plates bills would be approved this year. We were able to confirm that 2 Representatives, Velasco and Garcia will sponsor this bill again next session that will start January of 2026. We are hoping to spend the rest of this year working out the artwork!

### SUPPORT HB25-1036

Creation of a MMIR License Plate for the State of Colorado



The purpose of this bill is to create a dedicated funding stream for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives by establishing a specialized license plate. Proceeds from the sale of these license plates will directly support the Office of MMIR at the Department of Public Safety to create initiatives aimed at providing resources for missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, enhancing investigation efforts, and improving culturally competent victim support services.

This bill seeks to honor the lives of Indigenous individuals who have gone missing or been murdered in the state of Colorado and to ensure that their families receive the support they deserve.

After this bill passes, there will be a call for design submissions with the final selection on Indigenous People's Day of 2025.

Please contact your representative to ask them to support HB25-1036

Find Your Legislator Here:  
<https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator>

## Lead Photo in this article is From the MMIR Rally in Colorado Springs

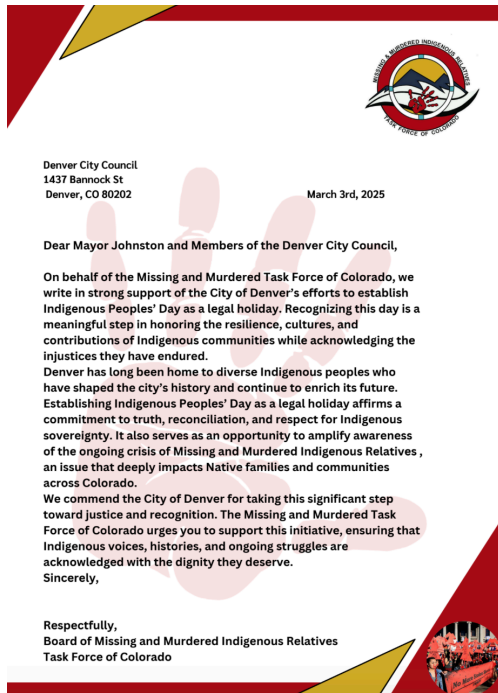


THEGUARDIAN.COM

'A slap in the face': activists reel as Trump administration removes crucial missing Indigenous peoples report



# City of Denver Indigenous People's Day



Co-Chairs of the Denver American Indian Commission, Shannon Alcott and Task Force member Raven Payment, approached Denver City Council about implementing Indigenous People's Day as a legal holiday. Our Task Force was asked to submit a letter of support for this initiative that passed on March 24th.

## Pow Wow Outreach

We set up an information table with our partners at Haseya Advocate Program at the Colorado College Pow Wow in Colorado Springs on April 5th. We talked with potential volunteers, told people about the license plate bill and showed families how to download missing person toolkits.



## Vigil for Marcie Fairchild

Marcie Fairchild was reported missing May 29th 2024 and it took more than four months before Denver Police Department finally issued the Missing Indigenous Person Alert. Our Task Force contacted her family and supported them during searches and flyer posting. Together we researched Marcie's last whereabouts and who she might have been with in the hours leading up to her disappearance. Marcie's remains were found in Denver on October 24th but her identification and notification to her family was not until February of 2025. Our Task Force was humbled to be invited to stand with them for her vigil on March 8th. We were joined by Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives, staff from the Denver Indian Family Resource Center, Naui Olin Runners and Denver Councilmember Stacie Gilmore. Denver Councilmember Paul Kashmann sent his chief of staff as Marcie was found in his district. Her family and our community will continue to demand answers until Marcie gets justice.



Please Join Us  
In Remembering



**Saturday  
March 8th  
@5pm**



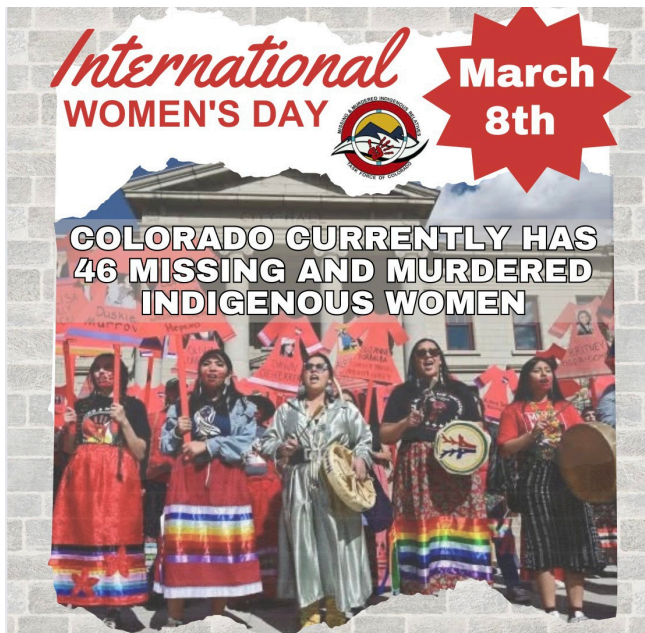
**Parking &  
Gather @  
Garland Park**

**Candlelight Walk To Vigil Sight**

Marcie Dee Fairchild








## OMMIR Advisory Meeting

The OMMIR Advisory Board held their quarterly meeting on April 11th and our Task Force provided updates on the MMIR License Plate bill, our upcoming events, specific MMIR updates and our work. You can review previous meetings here:

<https://dcj.colorado.gov/community-volunteer-advisory-board>



### 4CORNERS K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE

THIS TRAINING IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS, TECHNIQUES, AND SAFETY STRATEGIES NEEDED TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN SEARCHES FOR THEIR MISSING RELATIVES.

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WHAT: 4 CORNERS K-9 SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

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WHERE: SUN UTE COMMUNITY CENTER | 390 MOUACHE DR, IGNACIO, CO

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WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025  
11:00 A.M - 3:00 P.M

4 Corners Search and Rescue

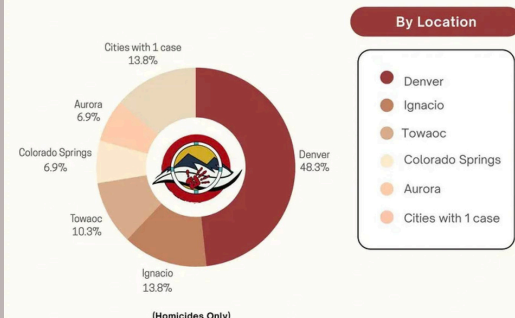
Scan QR Code for Registration

## Denver Cold Case Database

Our Task Force first pointed out discrepancies in Denver Police Department's Cold Case data in 2023 and they were addressed again in early March when we realized the changes had yet to be made. CBI helped advocate for the corrections and as of March 11th, almost all of the updates have been made with the remaining information still being investigated. Many of these Relatives were missing photos or were misidentified as not Native.

<https://denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Police-Department/Crime-Information/Cold-Cases>

### UNSOLVED MMIR CASES IN CO



## Search for "Lil Bit"

Our Task Force participated in a community led search for "Lil Bit" in Aurora. They were able to canvas the Flying J Truck Stop and talk to staff regarding the scenerio that was reported to Aurora Police Department. There have not been any leads on her possible identity. since her murder was reported.



### MURDERED INDIGENOUS RELATIVE COLORADO

#### "LIL BIT"

NICK NAME, REAL NAME UNKNOWN

Height: 4'11"  
Weight: approx 130 lbs  
Age: 30-35  
Hair: Black (extremely long)  
Eyes: Brown  
Last Seen: July 2024

**PLEASE CALL DETECTIVE HARRIS AT 720-850-2762 IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION**





# March and April Anniversaries

These are the ongoing MMIRs for each month. We will honor and remember our missing and murdered relatives by sharing their flyers on social media throughout the year, marking the anniversary of when they were last seen or taken too soon.

## MISSING INDIGENOUS RELATIVE COLORADO



**PLEASE CALL JICARILLA  
APACHE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT WITH ANY  
INFORMATION  
575-759-3222  
CASE #M5001003**



## MELISSA MONTOKA

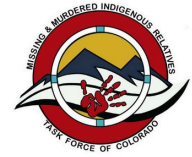
**Height:** 5'7"  
**Weight:** 155 lbs  
**DOB:** 1958  
**Hair:** Brown  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Last Seen:** March 9th, 2001  
**Tribal Affiliation:** Jicarilla Apache

Melissa was last seen in Dulce, NM on 3/09/2001 at a St Patrick's Day Party at the Apache House of Liquor. She reportedly was followed out by her boyfriend, whom she was trying to leave. Melissa was known to stay at a residence in the Coyote Park area of Archuleta County Colorado. Her boyfriend is deceased and their residence had an arson fire shortly after his death. NamUs #MP8420

## MISSING INDIGENOUS PERSON COLORADO



**IF YOU HAVE SEEN HER OR  
HAVE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CALL DETECTIVE  
MALAFRONTA WITH  
GREENWOOD VILLAGE PD AT  
303-486-8264**



## KIM LERTJUNTHARANGOOL

**Height:** 5'3"  
**Weight:** 105 lbs  
**DOB:** 1998  
**Hair:** Brown  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Last Seen:** 03/20/2021  
**Tribal Affiliation:** Laguna Pueblo

Last seen at a light rail station in Greenwood Village wearing a grey nirvana hoodie and a black backpack.

## MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSON - UNSOLVED -



**IF YOU HAVE INFO:  
CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS AT  
720-913-STOP OR DENVER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT AT 720-913-2000,  
CASE# 2002-14515**

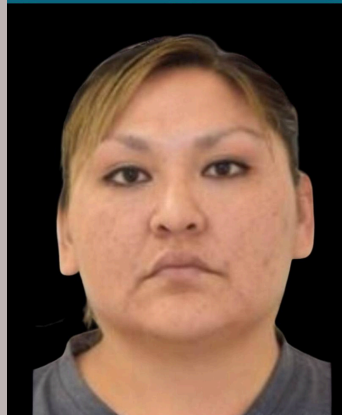


## RAINA LANSING

**DOB:** 10/10/1971  
**Murdered:** 03/27/2002  
**Hair:** Black  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Tribal Affiliation:** Southern Ute

On March 27, 2002, 31 year old Raina Lansing was found lying near the rail bridge on 20th and Chestnut Streets. Upon further examination Raina's fatal injuries were consistent with blunt force trauma and puncture wounds. The kind of puncture wounds has not been clarified publicly. Raina was born on October 10th, 1971. She was from Cortez, Colorado. She had three children and ten siblings. She was once married under the last name Senasinsella. She previously lived in Aurora and Denver, Colorado.

## MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSON - UNSOLVED -



**PLEASE CONTACT THE CORTEZ  
POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH  
ANY INFO AT  
(970) 565-8441  
Case #12000646**



## Geraldine Castilleja (Israel)

**DOB:** 03/21/1986  
**Murdered:** 04/14/2020  
**Hair:** Brown  
**Eyes:** Brown  
**Tribal Affiliation:** Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe

On April 14, 2020 Geraldine Castilleja Israel was killed in a hit and run accident on U.S. Highway 160, mile marker 491 in Cortez, Colorado.