

NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2025



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



<http://mmirtaskforceco.com/>



MMIR Day of Awareness Day Across the State

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, our Task Force, Native Love, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Nahui Ollin Runners from Denver came together in solidarity for the National Day of MMIR Awareness. The day began with a powerful Sunrise Ceremony filled with prayer, followed by a meaningful walk from Durango to Ignacio. The gathering ended with a shared meal and time to connect, reflect, and support one another as a community.



On Sunday, May 4th, 2025, our Task Force proudly partnered with the Haseya Advocate Program for their 7th Annual Day of Awareness Rally in Colorado Springs. This year's event featured a dedicated security team and a motorcycle escort, underscoring the visibility of the cause. We were honored to walk alongside families directly impacted by the MMIR crisis, whose presence brought powerful meaning to the day.



Lunch with Deb Haaland

Several of our Task Force members were able to have lunch with Deb Haaland, former Secretary of the Interior and current candidate for Governor of New Mexico on May 14th. In 2021 Haaland created the Missing & Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered Indigenous relatives.



Our Task Force presented for DIFRC's Seven Stars Collaborative's monthly provider meeting on May 20th. We discussed the work our volunteers do, how others can be involved and shared Colorado specific data and statistics regarding MMIR.

Active Updates

Price: Learned of this 2010 death by law enforcement in May. Added to data base.

Orbitz: Received info from his family that he was killed by law enforcement.

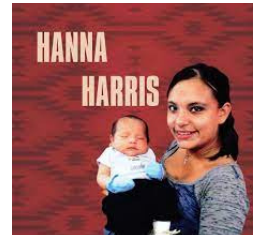
Unidentified: Sent requests for additional info on 4 of the Doe cases in CO

Older MMIR: We conducted research and were able to identify 8 additional MMIR that were added to our data base.

Tafoya: young woman missing from Jicarilla, last seen in Pagosa Springs. Coordinated with CBI to spread word in, even if they couldn't issue MIPA

History of May 5th Day of Awareness

Hanna Harris was a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, went missing in July 2013. Her body was found five days later, and her case highlighted the violence Native women face. Hanna's family, when law enforcement failed to respond, took matters into their own hands. Their search and their grief turned into action, demanding justice for Hanna and all Native women who are ignored, under-investigated, or forgotten. Their advocacy led to the U.S. Senate designating May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Relatives.



Honoring Joseph Talahytewa

On May 4th, we gathered in Colorado Springs to honor missing and murdered relatives.

Joseph Talahytewa was attacked within eyesight of the Take Back the Power mural by Gregg Deal. We gathered in the same spot where three white men attacked him with a 2x4 to pray for him and sing. Thanks to Ralph Left Hand Bull and Bear for helping to honor his life in this way. There has yet to be justice for Joseph.



Outreach Booth

Our Task Force set up an information booth at the Denver Indian Center's Community Dinner on May 30th. These outreach events are always important to make sure our community knows what to do in an emergency and what resources are available.





City of Denver Collaborations

Task Force members, Monycka Snowbird and Raven Payment have been meeting regularly with Denver City Council members, Office of Social Equity and Innovation, Denver Police Department, The Office of the Independent Monitor (the civilian oversight agency for the City and County of Denver Police and Sheriff Departments), Department of Public Safety and the Denver District Attorney to discuss ways to collaborate and address better responses for Denver MMIR. This month we discussed the highest rate of Native unsolved homicides, potential Task Force presentations to DPD cadets and community outreach at events such as Denver March Pow Wow. We pointed out concerns regarding multiple interactions with missing person detectives and lack of responses to families regarding follow up regarding their relatives. We are hoping these regular meetings will improve outcomes of MMIR in the Denver area.

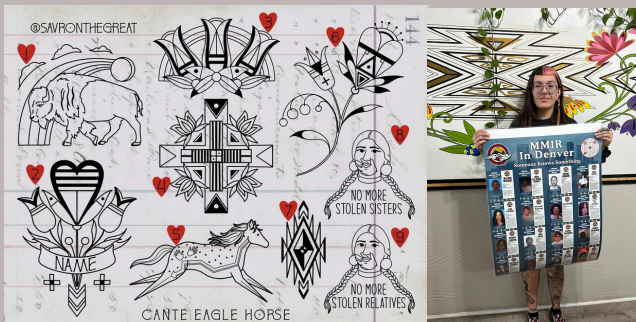
Fusion Center Meeting

Task Force member Daisy Bluestar was able to attend the first Fusion meeting held on May 9th by the Southern Ute Police Department. This was an opportunity to discuss ways that law enforcement, grassroots groups, and other agencies can better collaborate to address MMIR across the four corners region. Fusion Centers serve as focal points in states and major urban areas for the receipt, analysis, gathering and sharing of threat-related information between state, local, tribal, federal and private sector partners. The next meeting is tentatively planned to be held in the Colorado Springs area and we look forward to continuing to collaborate on these efforts to help improve and community responses outcomes for our relatives.



Chokecherry Tattoo Collaboration

Task Force member Danielle Seewalker was able to collaborate with Lakota tattoo artist Canté Eagle Horse, owner of Chokecherry Tattoo, to host a flash tattoo sale where all proceeds benefitted our Task Force. There may have even been a certain legislator that received a new Dakota style floral tattoo! This event raised almost \$2300 for MMIR families. Canté also agreed to display a Denver MMIR poster in their shop as a way to bring continued awareness to this crisis.



In Custody Homicides

There is a significant lack of national MMIR data concerning in-custody homicides of Native people. Unfortunately, the Department of Corrections has been unwilling to share information unless specific details are already provided.

Obtaining public information about Native deaths by law enforcement is incredibly challenging, particularly for incidents that occurred more than a few years ago. Based on the information we have gathered and compared with data from other national tracking organizations, we know that Native people in Colorado are killed at five times the rate of white people on a per capita basis. This rate is higher than any other demographic, and we are aware that we still do not have a complete list of names.

We need the community to speak up and help us demand accountability.



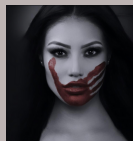
COMMUNITY CALL FOR INFO!

THE MMIR TASK FORCE IS LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN DEATHS THAT OCCURRED WHILE IN CUSTODY IN JAILS OR PRISONS ANYWHERE WITHIN THE STATE OF COLORADO. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR NAMES OF NATIVE PEOPLE KILLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT IN COLORADO.

PLEASE CONTACT US AT
MMIRTASKFORCEOF@GMAIL.COM
IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION

<https://mmirtaskforceco.com>

Ashley Callingbull, Plains Cree actress, model, motivational speaker and MMIR activist shared one of our social media posts! We appreciate her using her platform to continue to call attention to this crisis and that simple share directed thousands of people to our page in June.



Southern Ute Police Chief Barrows, OMMIR director Melody Delmar and Task Force members Daisy Bluestar and Monycka Snowbird met with the NM Assistant Attorney General in Colorado Springs on June 20th to discuss collaboration and information sharing.



Missing and Murdered Indigenous People
When: July 11, 2025

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Indian Village (across from the casino)

Location: Towaoc, CO

Potluck style everyone is welcome to bring a dish.
Walk starts at the fire station down to Indian Village

Guest speakers welcome!

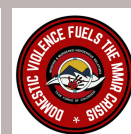
Sponsorship
- Ute Mountain Diabetes

Contact person: Willa Whiteskunk 970-560-4338 or 970-844-3082

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, INJURIES. THIS EVENT IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT.

Arvada Pow Wow

Our Task Force shared a booth with Not Our Native Daughters at the first annual Arvada Pow Wow on June 7th. We had buttons available for donations that were made by Task Force member, Monycka, and we raised \$183 that will go towards search supplies and MMIR families in CO.



May and June Anniversaries

These are the active MMIRs for each month. We will honor and remember our missing and unsolved murders 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**



ALEXIS "LEXI" BROWN OTTER

Height: 5'3"
Weight: 114 lbs
DOB: 1995
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Last Seen: June 27, 2024
Tribal Affiliation: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

ALEXIS WAS LAST SEEN IN LAKEWOOD, CO BUT IT IS UNKNOWN WHAT SHE WAS WEARING AT THAT TIME. SHE IS KNOWN TO REGULARLY WEAR THE HEAVY BLACK JACKET IN THE PHOTOS. SHE HAS SEVERAL DISTINCT TATTOOS INCLUDING "SYDNEY" ON LEFT WRIST, "MACK" ON RIGHT WRIST AND ON HER NECK AND "RHIANNON" ON LEFT SHOULDER.

PLEASE CALL LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFORMATION 303-980-7300

**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**



Clarinda Blackburn

DOB: 04/09/1982
Murdered: 05/14/2024
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Northern Arapahoe

"Glendale Police responded around 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday to 6305 S. Forest St. for a report about an "unresponsive" person. When they arrived, they found a woman, identified as Clarinda Blackburn, unconscious. She had obvious "blunt force" injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene."
 This tragedy happened after multiple attempts to contact law enforcement for help and even direct police contact.

PLEASE CONTACT THE GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFO (303) 253-1511 CASE 2024-01661

**MISSING
INDIGENOUS
PERSON
COLORADO**



ZACHARY LEE BEGAYE A.K.A. ZACK LIGHTSTAR

Height: 6'00"
Weight: 170 lbs
DOB: 1997
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Last Seen: June 2021
Tribal Affiliation: Diné (Navajo)

Last known to be in Southwest Colorado possibly around February 2023.
 Missing from Mexican Water, AZ in 2021. A formal report has not been filed due to jurisdictional issues but Southern Ute, Durango & Navajo Nation police departments have been notified.

IF SEEN PLEASE CALL: (971) 720-2307

**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**



Marcie Fairchild

DOB: 01/23/1968
Murdered: 2024
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Cheyenne & Arapaho

Marcie left her home after getting home from work in the early morning hours of May 29th. Her text messages confirm she left to meet with a male acquaintance at the Super 8 Wyndham Hotel, 703 E 36th. She was last seen walking near Parker Road and Peoria. Skeletal remains were found October 28th near Cherry Creek Drive South and South Holly Street and were forensically identified as Marcie on February 7th. Her remains were found approximately 4 miles from where she was last seen walking and 6 miles from the hotel.

PLEASE CONTACT THE DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFO 720-913-6653 CASE # 24-319663



**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**




AGNES "JERRI" FOLAND

DOB: April 1964
Murdered: 06/16/2002
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Swan Lake First Nation

On June 16, 2002, Colorado Springs Police officers checked the vacant field near 1000 Lemnar for transients regarding a trespassing complaint. As officers entered the camp, they observed two tents had been set up. In front of one of the tents, they observed Michael Larson "Whiskey Mike" age 37, who had been stabbed to death. Inside the tent, officers found Agnes "Jerrri" Foland, age 36, also stabbed to death. The victim's were well known by the unhoused community as being generous & often invited people to share what food and drink they had. They maintained an elaborate tent site that referred to as home.

IF YOU HAVE INFO: CONTACT COLORADO SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE# 02-20105

**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**



Dale Timothy Weasel Head

DOB: 08/30/1954
Murdered: 06/21/1986
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Blackfoot

On June 21, 1986, 31-year-old Dale Weasel Head was found deceased near East Colfax Avenue and Grant Street.

He had suffered from blunt force injuries. Anyone with information regarding this case, is asked to please contact the Denver Police Department.

If you have any information contact the Denver Police Department: (720)913-2000 Case# 8601-59676

**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**



Margaret Goggles

DOB: 10/17/1941
Murdered: 06/22/1983
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Northern Arapahoe & Shoshone

Margaret Goggles was found murdered in an alleyway near 21st and Lawrence Street in downtown Denver, Colorado on June 22nd, 1983. She was 42-year-old. No one has ever been charged in her murder.

A truck driver discovered her body in the alley and reported it to Denver PD. Margaret was unhoused at the time but would stay at an unoccupied home near 22nd and California, not far from where she was found. Cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma over her entire body.

We are choosing to use additional photos to honor her even though they are outdated.

PLEASE CONTACT DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFO (720) 913-2000 CASE 83-838794

**MURDERED
INDIGENOUS PERSON
- UNSOLVED -**



Debbie Charging

DOB: 12/21/1958
Murdered: 05/24/1992
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Tribal Affiliation: Hunkpapa Sioux Tribe & 3 Affiliated Tribes

On May 24, 1995, 33 year old Debbie Charging was found stabbed to death in an alley located near Stout and Champa Streets. Debbie Charging was a member of the Hunkpapa Sioux Tribe. Anyone with information regarding this case, is asked to please contact the Denver Police Department. Debra Marie Finley was born in Dallas, Texas to Edward Flys Away and Joann McDonald. Charging and Peabody are both married names.

PLEASE CONTACT THE DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY INFO 720-913-6010 CASE 9205-12405