

**SPECIAL  
EDITION  
FREE!**

# LA COCA RACHA

May 2022  
Pueblo CO  
Aztlán

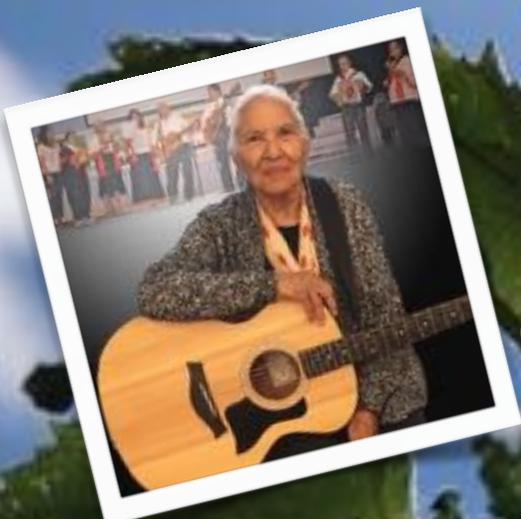
## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Chicano Movement Archives Hall of Fame Induction
- Cinco de Mayo Cruise
- Rita J. Martinez Youth Conference

# CINCO DE MAYO EDITION

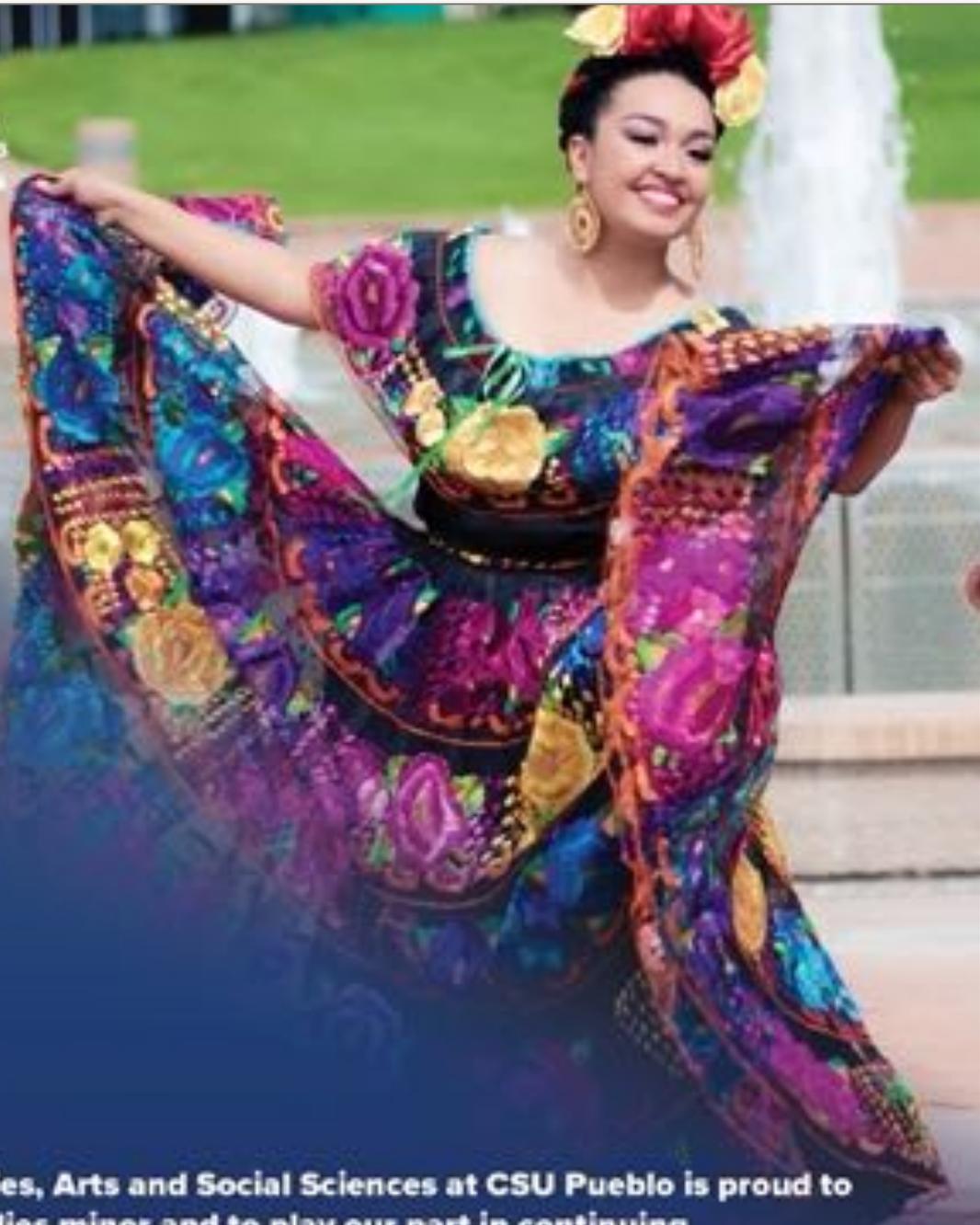
*Rising with the Sixth Sun*

Dedicated in memory  
of  
Sra. Ruth Coca  
&  
Anthony Armijo





COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO  
College of Humanities  
Arts & Social Sciences



PRESENTE

**50** 

**YEARS**

— OF —

CHICANA &  
CHICANO STUDIES,  
INSPIRING LEADERS,  
AND CONTINUING  
EL MOVIMIENTO IN PUEBLO

**The College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at CSU Pueblo is proud to offer the Chicana/o Studies minor and to play our part in continuing El Movimiento in Pueblo!**

Many thanks to our faculty for the valuable Chicano Studies instruction they provide to CSU Pueblo students:

Professor Judy Baca, coordinator of Chicano Studies; Dr. Jackie Stroud, full-time Chicano Studies faculty; Dr. Katie Brown; Dr. Danilo Leon; Christine Mendias; Dr. Victoria Obregon; Dr. Derek Lopez

Congratulations on 50 years of Chicana & Chicano Studies!

Leticia Steffen, Dean of CHASS

Juan Morales, Associate Dean of CHASS

Trisha Pocius, Assistant to the Dean and Associate Dean of CHASS

## MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Chicano Movement Archives founders to be honored at CSUP Library



José Esteban Ortega

MAY 3

## Colorado Chicano Movement Archives Wall of Fame induction

5:30 p.m.. Colorado State University Pueblo Library.

Three founders of the archives are to be inducted posthumously. They are: Jose Esteban Ortega, Juan Federico “Freddy Freak” Trujillo and Rita J. Martinez. Plaques recognizing their contributions will be mounted on a third-floor Wall of Fame at the library. Each family will be recognized in a short program. Refreshments will be served.

**José Esteban Ortega** was many things in life — a mailman, a musician, a Marine, a father, public speaker, and a community leader — and one of the first donors to the Chicano Movement Archives. His contribution included posters, flyers, documents, photographs, audio recordings and bound editions of La Cucaracha newspaper.

His enthusiasm was contagious whether he was leading a march, talking about his experiences in the movement, or jamming on the guitar. He was a teacher who gifted the university with a wealth of Chicano intellectual property.

He was a proud Marine who became a mail carrier who loved GTOs. He was a founding member of La Gente, was active in El Partido La Raza Unida, the United Mexican American Students at CU Boulder, and was president of the United Postal Workers local. He served on boards and executive staff for numerous organizations including La Clinica de Valle in Rocky Ford, UMAS, La Cucaracha, the Pueblo Neighborhood Health Centers. He helped organize Cinco de Mayo activities in Pueblo for more than four decades.

**Juan Federico “Freddy Freak” Trujillo** became a legend in his own time. As the chairman of the Aztlan Boycott Coors Committee, he carved his niche in the Chicano Movement. In that capacity, he toured the West Coast speaking to union gatherings and other groups about the boycott. In an autobiography, he told of an abusive childhood where he was selling newspapers on the streets of Trinidad and later Denver. A high school dropout and an alcoholic by 21, he learned the printing trade through a rehab program.

For years he was a fixture on the lawns around the university on Boulder campus as a shirtless, shoeless frisbee player. When his three children joined him in Boulder, he enrolled as a student. He became involved with UMAS, the Migrant Action Program and the Coors Boycott. One of his major contributions to the archives is his collection of audio recordings of speakers, concerts and other events.

Though he seldom took photographs, his collection of Brian Sanchez photos is another priceless donation. Legend has it that Sanchez had a religious epiphany and left the movement. When Felipe Roybal heard Sanchez was planning to burn his collection of hundreds of negatives and slides, Roybal offered to buy it, and did. Years later, Roybal died and left the collection to Freak.

Freak’s hoarder tendencies compelled him to compile an impressive assortment of memorabilia including hundreds of political buttons.

**Rita J. Martinez** might best be remembered as the woman who fought the Christopher Columbus myth and won. Through her and other activists efforts over almost 30 years, the Colorado Legislature did away with the Columbus holiday in Colorado and proclaimed Mother Cabrini Day in its place.

Rita was a licensed practical nurse when she took a Chicano Studies course taught by David Martinez, one of the founders of La Cucaracha. Martinez invited his class to a fundraising dance at Brothers’ Two. At the fundraiser, Rita won a colored TV door prize and was recruited to volunteer at La Cucaracha. She was a natural and soon, was in charge of production, layout and design.

From La Cucaracha, she went on to the work with the Pueblo Neighborhood Health Centers, the Boys and Girls Clubs and became the driving force behind the traditional Cinco de Mayo in Bessemer Park.

She often was the go-to person for victims of police brutality and other legal problems. She organized legal defense fundraisers, worked with lawyers, and served as a liaison between families and the courts, usually without pay or compensation.

Before her death, she made an invaluable contribution to the archives, to Chicano Studies, and to the university by helping the advisory group to become more actively involved in expanding the scope of collections.



Juan Federico “Freddy Freak” Trujillo



Rita J. Martinez

## May Calendar Continued



Group photograph taken at the end of 2021's Cinco de Mayo Cruise.

## MAY 5

### Cinco de Mayo CRUISE

As part of this year's modified Cinco de Mayo event, we will be hosting a community cruise. We will gather at Plaza Verde Park at 4:30 PM. The cruise through Pueblo will begin at 5 PM. Participants can include lowriders, car clubs, motorcycle clubs, and anybody else who wants to join this mobile celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Participants can decorate their vehicles for the occasion. We will have a set route that will wind us throughout Pueblo. Cultural entertainment and activities will be held in a drive-through format at designated city parks along the route. Last year we had more than 100 participating vehicles. Let's see if we can top that! Que Viva El Cinco de Mayo!

#### Cinco de Mayo CRUISE

4:30 - 5:00 Dedication to Ruth Coca & Anthony Armijo

5 00 - Plaza Verde Park - Hudson & Ash - Grupo Xochitl Opening Ceremony

5:10 - 5:15 p.m. - St. Anne's Church/Park -13th & Beaumont/ Juan Madrid Ave. -

**Political flyers re: Save the Spanish / Take It Down, CS Archives bookmark**

5:30 - 5:40 p.m. - Mitchell Park - 12th & LaCrosse - Receive a copy of this year's special edition of La Cucaracha

5:45 - 5:55 p.m. - Mineral Palace Park on Santa Fe Dr. - Grupo Omawari

6:00 - 6:10 p.m. - Donley Park W. 15th & Park Ave.

6:15 - 6:30 p.m. - City Park -Zoo Parking lot - Grupo Folklorico del Pueblo

6:40 - 6:50 p.m. - Bessemer Park - Drive by then head to Steel Mill parking lot - Las Estrellas / Cliques - live music and group photo - tents with community resources, food tent.

## MAY 7

### La Gente 33RD Annual Fishing Derby at City Park

La Gente Fishing Derby is back this year after taking two years off because of the pandemic. This year's activities include an overnight campout the night before and a day of fishing in the lake at City Park. The fishing is open to all children on May 7 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. A lunch will be provided.

The first fishing derby was held in 1989 and has gained popular support. The State Division of Wildlife stocks the lake just prior to the event. La Gente volunteers and City Park rangers are on hand to help



Barrv Fox III tries his luck at a La Gente Fishing Derby in 2014



Juan Madrid (1952-2003)

first-time anglers.

According to Dario Madrid Jr., La Gente por La Raza was organized in 1976 by community activists. Their mission was to fight social injustices such as police brutality, housing disparity, and other inequalities in recreation, health and education.

Madrid was the first La Gente director. Dario's brother, the late Juan Madrid initiated La Gente Sports that first year. One of the primary objectives was to get the youth involved in sports. They began with boxing and wrestling teams and have since expanded to include football, softball, basketball. Now, La Gente offers cheerleading, t-ball, soccer, and flag football.

Juan Madrid grew up on Pueblo's Eastside, a predominantly Chicano neighborhood strong in its family values but relatively poor in resources, especially for the youth. Returning from service in our nation's military, he and his wife Elaine built their home in Eastwood Heights, or what is known as the Dogpatch Barrio, where they raised seven children.

Taking advantage of generous offers from private businesses and public officials, La Gente Youth Sports finds a way to field teams every year and to show the youth a world outside of their neighborhoods. Over the years, La Gente Youth Sports has strived to fulfill Juan's dream of providing opportunity to every youngster who wants to take part in sports and do something good for him or her.

In recent years, more than 700 youths have participated in La Gente Sports.

## May Calendar Continued



Photo by Juan Espinosa



**MAY 12**  
**Rita J Martinez Youth Leadership**  
**Conference**  
**Colorado State University**  
**Pueblo**

**Registration: 8 a.m.**  
**Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.**  
**Sessions Begin: 9 a.m.**



Dear Scholars,

Youth leadership conferences have a long history in the Chicano Movement, promoting education, leadership development, and cultural identity. The Rita J. Martinez Youth Leadership Conference Committee in Pueblo, CO, is looking forward to this year's commemoration of overcoming adversity in the Battle of Puebla, Mexico (our sister city) by gathering our next generation of warriors.

As children of the Chicano movement, our access and opportunities were afforded by the doors opened for us to attend colleges and universities by the generations before us who sacrificed, fought, prayed, and died for our taste of liberation. As students, we were reminded of our inherent assets found in the intersectionality of our

identity, the collective knowledge of social activism, and our own self-determination growing up in youth leadership conferences. We were raised not to fit in but to challenge the status quo with our presence.

I remember being dragged to conferences throughout my childhood by Shirley Otero, Rita Martinez, and Eddie Montour. We learned to navigate systems not built for us while never forgetting who we are and our connection to this land.

Students were taught to self-advocate, organize, and create change. Everywhere we were made to feel that we did not belong, we unapologetically carved out our own space. Student organizations like UMAS (United Mexican American Students) and MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) across campuses never forgot to reach back into their communities to serve, and educate.

Chicanxs have a history of race, class, and gender constraints in educational institutions creating the marginality of our scholars. Student walkouts in 1968 led to the First National Chicano Youth Liberation Conference in March of 1969, hosted by the Crusade for Justice. Since then, youth leadership conferences have convened students to unlearn the oppression of "his-story" and reteach the brilliance and beauty of "our-story." As a result, Chicana Studies programs are the work of students and teachers who fought for representation in the curriculum for you. A 2018 study by the Center on Education and Workforce at Georgetown University reported that Colorado is the second most educated state in the nation and has the widest college attainment gap between White and Latino students. This "Rocky Mountain Divide" reminds Chicanxs that our work is far from done.

Know that you have a community behind you ready to take the next watch in your educational journey. Our elders will provide the wisdom and relentless encouragement to give you strength in the moments that feel too heavy to carry. They will help you to unlearn the implicit and explicit messages written in your story and help you write your own narrative. You are the greatest asset to our community and the hope we have in overcoming adversity in the commemoration of Cinco de Mayo. Take it from this sCHOLAR, you were born to stand out. We look forward to learning with and alongside you soon. Until then stay critical or lose consciousness.

In Solidarity,  
 Dr. Velia Rincon | Committee Member

**May Calendar Continues on Page 9**



**TOGETHER WE CAN**  
**TOGETHER WE MUST**  
**TOGETHER WE WILL**

 **Sol Sandoval**  
Paid for by Sandoval For Colorado

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF RUTH COCA

This year's Cinco de Mayo activities are dedicated to the much respected and loved Ruth Coca, of Aguilar, CO, who died on Jan. 8 of this year.

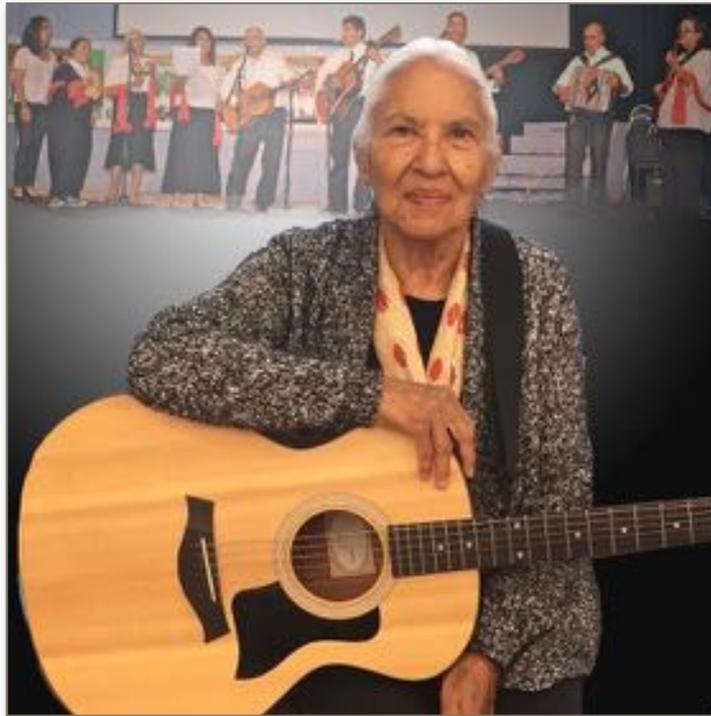
For many years, Sra. Coca and her late husband, Francisco Coca were considered the patriarchs of the extended Chicano Movement familia and their church community. Through their music, La Familia Coca proudly represented the community at events ranging from marches in the streets and concerts in the parks to the halls of universities and, now, beyond.

She resided in Aguilar, CO for most of her life until her death and was the mother of nine children and a loving wife. In addition to Francisco, she was preceded in death by her daughter Priscilla. Her surviving children are sons: Mark, Jonathan (Judy), Adam (Eve) and Nathan (Vanessa), and daughters: Rebecca, Lisa, Judith (Rick Gonzales) and Sarah.

The Cinco de Mayo Committee of El Movimiento Sigue, has dedicated this year's activities to Sra. Coca because of the dozens of times over the past five decades of Cinco de Mayos in Pueblo, they performed or led marches through the streets. In his prime, Francisco was a frequent orator at the gatherings in Bessemer Park.

The following eulogy was written by her daughter Rebecca and was read at her funeral:

Ruth Coca (or Nana as she is so lovingly called by her family) was born in Madrid, NM, on Feb. 1, 1937, to Paul and Trinidad Griego. She grew up in Gallup New Mexico with two younger brothers Rudy, and Asa. She graduated from Gallup High School in 1955, with honors. During her high school years she was in Home Economics Club and participated in the "pep squad" and loved going to the high school basketball games. She also loved learning and was an avid reader. While in high school she worked at the



"five and dime" store as a cashier. At the store she met people from the indigenous Navajo community and was able to learn a bit of the Dene/Navajo language.

After high school she moved with her family to Colorado and later married her husband of 55 years, Francisco Coca. As her family grew and her husband became involved with several civic organizations, she was his strong supporter and a pillar of the family, making sure the kids were well taken care of while he was away. During those years she would make goat cheese from milk of the goats they raised. She enjoyed working in the garden in the summer time and canned and made jelly from the fall harvest. Other hobbies of hers

were reading, soap making and trying new recipes that she would snip out of magazines or get from her recipe books.

She also loved to collect and write down old "dichos" or "sayings" that were passed down from previous generations. She even found time to take courses at Trinidad State Jr. College and get a certificate in Farm and Ranch Management while raising nine children. Whew, how did she do it? I feel tired just reading this!

After her children were a little older she began playing music with her family for funerals, weddings, quinceneras and Cinco de Mayos in Southern Colorado. She also attended many protests throughout the state. Some of these events included:

- The infamous turkey case protests
- Kiko Martinez court cases
- English Only court case

As for the music events that she attended or was a part of, these are:

- Dollars for Scholars Hispanic Foundation telethon for students at CSUP
- She and the Coca Family were honored at the Los Culturales music awards in Alamosa,
- She and the Coca Family were given an award at the Chicano Music Festival Hall of Fame in Denver.
- She was part of a panel of Chicana Women discussing the past, present and future of the Chicano community,
- She and the Coca Family were honored at the Southern Colorado music award at Pueblo Community College in Pueblo, Colorado,
- She was featured in the book "Chicana Activists of Colorado,"
- And most recently she was honored by History Colorado at the El Pueblo Museum with a tapestry marking Colorado's Year of La Chicana.

I asked my siblings to give me a word that would describe mom, and here are a few: pillar, strong, caring, prayerful, worker, warrior, comforter, Adelita, backbone, patient, kind, quiet, and stubborn.

Ruth's proudest moments were living out her Christian faith, supporting her husband in many of his endeavors, raising their nine children, spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren, and being a part of the Chicano community in fighting for civil rights. In that journey she has built many relationships with so many beautiful people.

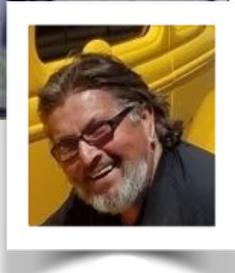
**Sra. Coca's funeral services were an outpouring of love and grief in music, drumming, chanting, prayers and eulogies in Spanish, English, Yiddish and several native languages. She was carried to her grave in a hand-made coffin that easily could have been a museum piece.**





Old Chicano Movement photographs were the subject of Armijo's first murals painted at Plaza Verde Park. Inset: Anthony Armijo.

# Anthony Armijo left a legacy of murals



**By Carmen Arteaga**

Anthony Armijo was born in Greeley, CO but moved to Pueblo early in life and lived on the Eastside. He was born Sept.15, 1946 and died June 12, 2020.

Sadly, Anthony had a difficult childhood. At twelve years of age he was placed at Sacred Heart Orphanage in Pueblo and ran away when he was fourteen. By the time he was fifteen he was placed at the Buena Vista Reformatory for Juveniles. Fortunately for Anthony, he learned auto body skills there which helped him later in life. As an adult he had a huge garage next to his home which is where he used his artistic and auto body skills to restore automobiles.

Anthony began his journey into art in the early 90's. He developed his art by focusing on the fine details of the face. He was able to capture not only the visual likeness but the character of his subjects. Combining the age old technique of line art, with the latest in

layered oils, Armijo was able to bring his subjects to life in a style all his own.

Enter Steve Lucero who was sitting with friends at Prime Time and discussing an organization he helped establish called The Eastside Commission. He was sharing some of the organization goals which included eradicating graffiti on murals and refurbishing old Chicano murals that had been neglected on the Eastside. By good luck Anthony was sitting nearby and overheard the conversation. He joined in and said he was an artist and would like to help. Anthony explained that he could draw portraits especially from photographs. This fit in with the plan and a meeting was set up with the Eastside Commission. Members had old Chicano Movement photographs that we wanted to see if Anthony could use to create a mural. The murals would be on the walls at the handball courts of Plaza Verde Park. Pictures of murals in Chicano Park of San Diego, California were

shared with Anthony to give him an idea of the vision of our project. So in 2012 a relationship was established between Anthony Armijo and the Eastside Commission.

Anthony stated to the Eastside Commission that he had never done murals before. But judging by his finished murals at Plaza Verde Park, you could say that he truly was an exceptional artist. Anthony had thanked Steve Lucero often for getting him started in painting murals. Many of his murals are now around town and are truly exceptional. To name a few, he is credited with doing murals outside the Downtown Bar, Pirates Cove and the Klamm Shell. He's done murals recognizing Veterans and memorializing Isaiah Vialpando.

So, a great big thank you filled with heartfelt gratitude to Anthony Armijo for his tremendous contribution to the Chicano Community of Pueblo.

It's nice to know that he got his start painting the Chicano murals at Plaza Verde Park.

**wic PUEBLO COUNTY**  
The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

WIC provides free healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to community resources. It's free for moms, dads, grandparents, foster parents, and all Colorado families who qualify.

WIC proporciona alimentos suplementarios gratuitos, educación nutricional, apoyo para la lactancia materna y referencias a recursos comunitarios. Es gratis para mamás, papás, abuelos, padres adoptivos y todos los familias de Colorado que califican.

Apply now or learn if you qualify at:  
Solicita ahora o aprende si calificas en:  
[www.coloradowic.org](http://www.coloradowic.org)

English and Spanish Breastfeeding Classes Available  
See our website for dates and times!  
Clases de lactancia materna en inglés y español disponibles. Consulte nuestro sitio web para las fechas y horas exactas.  
<http://www.wicpueblo.org/health/eng>

Call the Pueblo WIC Office for information: (719) 585-4392  
Llámanos a la Oficina de Pueblo WIC para obtener información.

## Isaiah Vialpando Memorial Vicla Motorcycle Run

### May 21

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, the Isaiah Vialpando Annual Scholarship Motorcycle Run will begin at 8 a.m. starting at the Outpost Harley Davidson in Pueblo, 5001 N. Elizabeth Street, Pueblo. Registration is \$15 per person, according to Roberto Cordova, and Melissa Vialpando organizers.

Isaiah Vialpando, a college aged young man, was already a well-known Mariachi performer when he was killed in 2015, in a case of mistaken identity.

Cordova said that the group has hotel discounts at Microtel available. The schedule for the day includes five stops, raffles, auctions, apparel, food plate. The program will include an Azteca Blessing of the bikes by Grupo Xochitl, followed by live Mariachi performance by Diamanté de Pueblo. The public is welcome to attend the send off at the Outpost Harley Davidson.

From 3-5 p.m, the group will have a Vicla Motorcycle Show, Classic Q, 1715 S. Prairie Avenue. The group Bits & Pieces will perform in Concert at Chelsea's at 6 p.m., free of charge.

The proceeds fund Educational Scholarships in the name of Isaiah Vialpando through PHEF. Two years ago the group donated \$1,200 for scholarships, but this year's goal is higher. For information call 719-543-8933.

**May 21, 2022**  
**6th Memorial Vicla Run**  
 Honoring Murdered Mariachi Musician  
**"ISAIAH VIALPANDO"**

**1st Stop Outpost HD 8:00 am - 10:00 am**  
 (Registration, Mariachi's, Aztec Blessing, Procession)

**2nd Stop Klamm Shell 10:15 am - 11:20 am**  
 (Vicla Blessing, Group Photo, Procession 2 next stop)

**3rd Stop Chucks Place 11:45 am - 12:50 pm**

**4th Stop Veteran's Tavern 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm**

**5th Stop Classic Q's 2:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Vicla Show 3pm - 5pm, Food Plate 4 pm - 6pm.**  
**Bits & Pieces Band 6 pm - 10 pm.**  
 Raffles, 50/50, 50/50, Auctions, & Clothing Apparel.  
**PLEASE JOIN THE FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**  
 \*Info: 719-543-8933 - s504fmcordova@cloud.com\*



### Servicios opens Pueblo office

Servicios de la Raza opened a Pueblo office on April 30. Located at 805 W. Fourth St., the Pueblo office will provide bilingual behavioral health services including individual, couples, family and group therapy, case management, and re-entry services for those who are on parole.

For 50 years, Servicios has provided culturally and linguistically responsive, essential human services to the greater Denver-metro community. Since 2018, the agency has been expanding to underserved communities across the state of Colorado.

Servicios will continue to build its connection to the Pueblo community, partnering with trusted organizations like El Movimiento Sigue and sponsoring events including Cinco de Mayo in the Parks and the Rita J. Martinez Youth Conference.

For services and more information, please call 303-458-5851. For more information on the expansion, contact Neva Martinez Ortega at 720-445-6248.

**COLORADO CHICANO MOVEMENT ARCHIVES**

The CCMA comprises 25+ individual collections from Chicano activists and organizations including the papers of Juan Federico "Freddie Freak" Miguel Arguilla Trujillo and Jose Sanchez Ortega, CU-Boulder and Pueblo activists, the Garcia Family Papers, documenting Pueblo UFW, education, and environmental racism; Tina Isabella Papers, CU-Boulder activist; the records of UMAS, CU-Boulder; and the David Marquett Papers, containing a wide sampling of Chicano Movement newspapers. In addition, the CCMA includes an almost complete run of La Cucaracha, the Pueblo Chicano Movement newspaper, now digitized and available at the Colorado Historic Newspaper collection.

Video and audio interviews, as well as transcripts of most of the interviews in this collection, are available in the CSU Pueblo Digital Repository.

Contact our Archivist to donate to the collection: [archives@csupueblo.edu](mailto:archives@csupueblo.edu)

To view the digital collection, visit our website: [www.csupueblo.edu/library/archives-and-special-collections/colorado-chicano-movement](http://www.csupueblo.edu/library/archives-and-special-collections/colorado-chicano-movement)

**• The Aztlán Center •**

Dedicated to the study of Chicano, Latino and Indigenous Peoples and Environments of the Southwest.

The Aztlán Center is located in the CSU Pueblo Library. For more information, please contact the Center's Co-Directors:

**Tom Sanchez:**  
[tsanchez@csupueblo.edu](mailto:tsanchez@csupueblo.edu) | 719-543-2475

**Charlene Garcia-Sanchez:**  
[cgarcia@csupueblo.edu](mailto:cgarcia@csupueblo.edu) | 719-214-7753

To view current grant recipients and research projects, visit our website: [www.csupueblo.edu/library/aztlan-center](http://www.csupueblo.edu/library/aztlan-center)



Other recent deaths of note



**Gilbert Mora, 89, died March 23**

Gilbert Mora, 89, an early supporter of La Cucaracha, died March 23.

Among his other skills, Mora was a woodworker and craftsman who built the first light tables for his brother-in-law Juan Espinosa. The light tables were used to layout every edition of La Cucaracha from 1976 to 1984. He was essential in recruiting the founders of La Cucaracha to Pueblo. As a member of MADA — Mexican American Development Association — he helped organize the first citywide Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the early 1970s.

Born in Pitkin, Colorado, he was the son of the late John Gilbert and Katie Mora.

Gilbert had a combined 36 years of active duty and civil service to the US Army, retiring in 1988 from the Pueblo Army Depot. Surviving is his wife of 53 years, Alice E. Mora, and son, John (Tara), grandchildren Aric, Jenna, Jessica, and Kelli. Brothers, Rufino (Pat), Robert Mora, and sister Deborah (Juan) Espinosa.

Mora, was a longtime resident of Pueblo, but died five days after moving to Greeley. A funeral was held in Greeley on March 30 and he was buried at Pueblo's Imperial Gardens the following day.

**Georgiana L. Archuleta passed away on March 8**

Georgiana passed away after a long battle with an illness surrounded by her loving family. She was 74 years old. She was born on October 16, 1947 in Denver, CO to Louisa and Juan Archuleta. She is survived by her 3 children: Florencio Granado, Louisa Garcia and Martha Saenz; 8 grandchildren.

Georgiana was a leader in her community and spent much of her professional career advocating for families in need. She believed in the importance of community and social activism. She worked tirelessly as a single mom to teach strong values and work ethics to her children and grandchildren. She valued the importance of education and understood the significance of historical and cultural contributions that shaped her community.

**Elizabeth Martinez, writer and activist, dies at 95**

Elizabeth Martínez, a writer and editor who took part in the civil rights movement and was best known during a long life of activism as an outspoken advocate for Mexican American and feminist causes, died June 29 at a hospital in San Francisco. She was 95.

In 1968, Ms. Martínez moved to New Mexico, where she took up the cause of Chicanos, or U.S.-born people of Mexican heritage who wished to maintain a distinct culture of their own. She helped found and edit a bilingual newspaper, El Grito del Norte (The Cry of the North), which became an important voice in the Chicano movement.

She published "450 Years of Chicano History in Pictures," a bilingual book that

was widely used in schools. In a later edition, published in the 1990s as "500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures," Ms. Martínez highlighted social issues that remain pertinent today.



Elizabeth Martinez

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of  
**Jose Octavio Venegas**  
10/25/1945 –  
11/28/2021  
Fights Hard & Loves Harder

EN MEMORIA DE  
**JOSE OCTATIVO VENEGAS**  
Amado Esposo, Padre

**ORONA GARCIA & DURAN, PC**  
Richard A. Orona, Esq. | Patrick Garcia, Esq. | Alicia Duran, Esq. | John J. Matney, Esq.  
Southern Colorado's Premier *INJURY* Attorneys

The law firm of Orona Garcia & Duran, PC, Southern Colorado's premier injury attorneys. Our skilled attorneys work diligently to ensure that our clients achieve their objectives.

215 West Second Street • Pueblo, Colorado 81003  
Phone: (719) 545-9330

**TACO STOP**  
BEST OF PUEBLO.....Best Breakfast Burrito

**A Pueblo Tradition Since 1989**

- ◆ 3639 Baltimore Ave. (719) 299-4188
- ◆ 702 E 4th St. (719) 542-8838
- ◆ 807 E Abriendo Ave. (719) 543-7121



**Remembering Leonard Crowdog, 78  
Born Aug. 18, 1942 - Died June 5, 2021**

By Jacob "Junior" M. Robinson

Growing up in Chican@ Movement, I would always hear stories about Leonard Crowdog from veteranos in Colorado. But, I remember one of the first times I met him, I was in undergrad at CSU-Pueblo. A friend and I traveled to Commerce City to take in Peyote ceremony down my UncleThomas's on Dia De Los Muertos. That night it was snowing and Crowdog had this young man go outside and bring in some snow. Leonard made little snowballs and placed one to each of the women in the tipi. He said "That's only for the women!" And then he started the ceremony. My friend was there with snow melting in her hands. I remember later that night Uncle Carlos Castañeda came in late because they were dancing for the Muertos ceremony at Escuela Tlatelolco. He explained his tardiness and also told Crowdog about Dia De Los Muertos and why this night was important for our people.

In March 2003, I was sitting in a Peyote meeting again down my Tio's Thomas and Sharon's. But this time we were sitting in the caboose of the tipi in a snowy Colorado spring. The caboose is sort of like the "back of the bus" of the tipi and it is colder there as you are further from the fire which burns during all night Peyote meetings. Leonard Crowdog and his wife were traveling from South Dakota and arrived a little late so they ended up taking the spot across from us in the caboose. I remember they even made a place for him inside the Tipi but they were humble and refused as they held their seat by us. I remember Jojo Padilla even asked Crowdog to drum for him. And Leonard drummed those four songs still like a young man. In the morning Crowdog was going to pass fireplace to our Tio Thomas and they notarized the paperwork for the fireplace right there in the tipi. I remember how they even wrote in Chicano Veteranos who lost their life in the movement, in solidarity with the American Indian Movement. But Leonard went out to his car and everyone was wondering where he was. I remember he came back in the tipi and interrupted my Tio Thomas, in a good way. He told them to place cedar over the fire. Leonard Crow dog was holding an Eagle bonnet as he blessed it in the smoke. He sat it on the ground in front of our Tio Thomas and he said , "That's for your people!" That moment remains one of the most inspired moments of my lifetime. Sometime around 2004 before I graduated undergrad, My bro Josef, Little Tony and I drove up to Rosebud, South Dakota to take in Peyote meeting with Leonard.

When we arrived in Rosebud that evening, we stopped at Kirk Foolbull's home as he was going to drum for the ceremony. I remember Leonard Crow dog didn't really have any helpers for the meeting. He even asked my bro Josef to take care of the fire. That night it felt like my childhood as we were in a small Rez house in Rosebud, similar to the housing authority houses in Dogpatch. I got to sit right across from Leonard that night. When I sang I placed my Huichol feather arrow in a bandana on my head, in the style of the Huichol Peyoteros. I remember I hadn't done that in years because my "Bros" would just laugh at me in ceremony and tell me to take it out. But that night I felt like singing with it on my head like a deer. In the middle of the night Leonard Crowdog was telling war stories as he looked at us and

**Crowdog Continues on Page 12**

**Join Us Today!**

We offer folkloric dancing, and mariachi lessons to all our students,



**SPECIAL  
1/2 OFF  
FIRST TWO  
MONTHS**

**Grupo Folklorico Del Pueblo**

120 Lake Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81004  
719-582-2682

<https://www.gfdelpueblo.org>,  
facebook [info@gfdelpueblo.org](mailto:info@gfdelpueblo.org).



Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo, Inc.

Supporting  
**PUEBLO**



SCAN ME

(719) 542-5513 (719) 582-6865  
Online Marketplace  
[www.Supportingpueblo.com](http://www.Supportingpueblo.com)

Crowdog Continued from Page 1,

said "And Corky Gonzales was there!" But in the morning as we were wrapping up the ceremony Leonard thanked us for coming all the way to Rosebud. I remember he told me, "Thank you for bringing those feathers from your people down south in Mexico up here to pray with us!"

I was away for years while trying to complete film school and I always wanted to get Leonard's Interview on camera. I'm still sad from those missed opportunities. One of the last times that I saw Leonard in person it was in Pine Ridge at the one-year anniversary of Russell Mean's passing. They honored Leonard there and he shared some good words. We shook his hand and he remembered us. He sent well wishes for our Uncle Thomas. In October 2019 My Tio wore that same Eagle Bonnet as he lead the North Direction in our Four Directions March in Pueblo. The night Leonard passed I text our Tio Thomas letting him know that we were keeping Leonard in Prayer down here in Pueblo, Colorado. My Tio

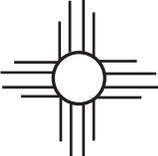
said thanks and that Leonard was going to pass in the night. I felt good that our Tio was there with him and even though those missed opportunities to grab Leonard's Interview are grim. I feel blessed to have had a chance to meet and know Leonard Crow dog around a fireplace with my tios and tias!

**In Loving Memory:**  
**Jesse "Xhuy Ocelotl" Ortiz**  
By Jacob "Junior" M. Robinson

It was the summer of 2012 and I had traveled with my friend Tziavii to McDermitt Nevada for Sundance on the Paiute Reservation. That was the first time I met Xhuy! When I first met him I told Tziavii that I thought he was sweating me. Probably because I went with his niece, even though it was nothing like that at all! But he had this little stingy brim and he was looking me over like a cholo and I walked into his barrio. But Tziavii told him about me, "He's in the same Teocalli as our Uncle Carlos!" Anyway, I just started working the fire crew with my new homie Teko and the



**Accounting  
Bookkeeping**



**Income Tax  
Service**

**AHORA TAX & BOOKKEEPING**

**207 W. Northern Avenue**  
**Pueblo, CO 81004**  
**(719) 542- 2500**

**Ted Lopez**

**Translation**

**Hablamos Español**

**Notary Public**



TOGETHER  
WE  
CAN

Three great reasons to donate to the  
Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation:

Your donation will support:



Scholarships to reduce out-of-pocket tuition costs



Workshops and programs to support student success



Opportunities for students to network with professionals

**Support Pueblo Students Today!**

[COLORADOGIVES.ORG](https://www.coloradogives.org)

<https://www.coloradogives.org/PuebloHispanicEducationFoundation>

<https://www.phed.net>

719-220-1296

225 S. Victoria Avenue, Suite J, Pueblo, CO 81008



Berets I met there. I tried to take care of that Sundance fire the best I could, keeping everything around clean and in order and I remember Xhuy coming back there as he was helping Sundancers, he walked by and said "Good job!" I remember taking in stones for him and the other men Sundancers as he ran lodge. One evening, everyone got together and Daniel and Xhuy wanted to have a workers lodge for all of us. On the last round Daniel asked three different singers to help him with a song. then he asked me, "And you,

I know you Denver boys got some songs!" I don't know why they kept thinking I was from Denver. But I sang one of my bro Cisco's songs in that lodge and when I was done Xhuy spoke to everyone but to me personally. He said, "I wanted to let you know how we're all connected. You see I used to dance with your uncles Thomas and Carlos at Crow Dog's. And I used to dance with Tlaloc too way back in the day. Thank you for bringing my niece so I could see her and thank you for all your help!" They went on to finish their four days of dancing and on that last night Myron Smart ran a Peyote meeting. I got to sit up right next to Xhuy in the Mexica section, and we sang together and I remember that night he gave me his macaw fan to hold, It had like diamonds glued onto the stem of the feathers! That was a good meeting and the next morning Xhuy and them even put on traje and shared danza, after four days Sundancing and all night peyote meeting! Before we left Myron wanted to have one more lodge and share the final pipe with us. Almost everyone had left the days before. So there was only a handful of us around. I went to go start the fire for the sweat and Xhuy came to the fire with the same intentions. He thanked me for starting it and gave me some tobacco. I still have some of that tobacco. I only got to spend those few days getting to know Xhuy but am happy it was at Sundance and a meeting. Tlazo Xhuy...Bless! Keeping you in our good thoughts!

XHUY had this Peyote song that he used to sing in Ceremony.

"Nanahuatzin Nanahuatzin Tietzin Tietzin Huehueteotl x2

Tietzin Tietzin Huehueteotl Tietzin Tietzin Huehueteotl x2

Xiuhtecuhtli Xiuhtecuhtli Xiuhtecuhtli Huehueteotl x2

Tietzin Tietzin Huehueteotl Tietzin Tietzin Huehueteotl-Xhuy



## Prophecy, Past and Present

By James Lujan

I find it ironic, the word 'Prophecy-to foretell the future', when we considered what the Aztec prophecy, the return of the Six Sun is actually saying to us.

We should note, this prophecy was for the period between May 2012 to May 2021, or nine years.

The Nine years in itself, is symbolic, in that it is considered the Completion number. Also, the number nine by some accounts, represents the Brotherhood of Humanity.

Before writing this short discourse on this topic, I was unfamiliar with this particular take, but quite familiar with its assertions. Since I was a young boy, I have not only heard of such prophecies, but have a great interest in them...that somehow, someway, that "peace and goodwill for all humanity was Coming!"

Without going into detail, I am beginning to see that after 73 years on the planet, I am now remembering my own dreaming. For this is the underlying message of the prophecy of the return of Six Sun: "You are not a mortal body, but a Spiritual being dreaming of being in a body, but you have forgotten this for your individualized reasons, but now it is time to Wake Up!"

Part of the Sixth Sun idea, is that you are no longer dreaming what you want to dream, but are being influence by the dreams of others. In a sense you have given away your power to dream and have accepted the dreams of others.

I mean, ponder this, if you could dream your reality, would you dream of wars, killing, mass starvation, and pollution on the planet? I don't suspect many would even consider this possible, Yet, every dream that promotes an autonomous-self, or separation, resulting in such

distortions have created what is known as a 'separate reality' or an illusion.

Again, ponder the idea. Can anyone teach you about the Truth? Can truth really be put into words? For all words are but symbols and symbols mean different things to different people.

And no matter how you spell or shout out the word "Horse", it is not a horse!

When we say this or that word is the truth, we are promoting a Dogma, not Truth itself. And there is great difference, one is real and one is an illusion, or a Dream, even if we accept it, it is still what it is, an illusion.

Nowhere do greater distortions occur than the idea that one religion is truer than another. As far as I know, no true Master teacher ever promoted a religion, but only a way of life, beginning with the idea set forth in the Golden Rule.

In today's world, we have too many people who want a short cut to happiness, to success and think of this path as Truth. If they don't think they know it, they want someone to show them how to get it. Many willingly pay or make large sums of money to pretend they found it.

Even the great Masters who came to teach us these lessons, have been made into super-demigods of sorts. We somehow are taught to believe they are somehow more special than the average human being...believe me, when I say to you, no such being exist that is more worthy than you are to be yourself. For as the prophet has said, "We all live, move and have our being within the Mind of the God."(Acts 17:27-28)

I think it was the prophet Isaiah who gave us an awakening call, almost 800

**Prophecy Continued on Page 14**



**Prophecy Continued from Page 13**

years before the Master Jesus, came back into the world to teach of these things himself.

This is what Isaiah said: "I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is thy victory?"

"O death, where is thy sting?"

1. Corinthians 15: 51-55

Most prophecies have to do with overcoming some trials and tribulations of humanity. To understand, we must first understand the symbols behind the words. For nothing will have meaning to us, but the meaning we willingly give it!

This is why direct experience is a must for every mortal who truly wants to awaken his or her immortality. No one can do it for you, and it must be done for the right reason, least your efforts are wasted by the wayside by haste, desire and greed.

The Master said it this way: "Those who try to save their lives will lose them, but those willingly give them up, shall have everlasting life!"

Over 2000 years ago, some followers of a great Master teacher, asked, "When will the kingdom of God come?"

The Master, whom his followers called Elder Brother, understood that words are but symbols, and that each of them would interpret the letter, according to their own hearts.

The Master smiled, as he looked up, and then down, then all around himself, blessing the moment's richness.

He then said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See it is here!' or 'See it is there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

Too truly understand prophecy, one must undergo the trials and errors of becoming a Human Being. Learning that there is no time, except the here and now. Everything happens in this Now Moment. It is the eternal Now, that is the Fountain of Youth, the Philosopher's Stone, the Ark of the Covenant. The Past is gone and cannot be changed, your future is forever guided by your actions in this Now moment.

Part of the Awakening is to see your neighbor not apart from yourself, but a part of

you, as the prophet said, the Body of Christ is One Body, One Mind, One Heart. All that you do, think and say will indeed affect the whole. Believe it. "To give is to receive."

Perhaps the Master Gandhi, said it best, "Be the Change you want to see in the world."

Few are born with the gift of wisdom awakened, though it has been written that the Truth is written in every heart. The great sage, known as Socrates said, "The worldly experience has a purpose far beyond the seeking of worldly status, wealth and pleasures, but is to perfect thine own soul".

The Renewal Prophecy of the Sixth Sun is this: Everything we think happened in the past, does not exist, only in a dream could these things we call death or evil, exist, therefore it is important, essential even, during the Awakening of the Sacred Heart, not be fooled by outward appearances, but to seek daily, through Silence, and to practice the art to "Be Still and Know," that we may be visited by the 'Spirit of Truth' that has but one purpose, to remind you-who you are!

Perhaps, from that day forth will we diligently practice living accordingly to our nature, to be 'Love in Motion'? And fulfill the words of the prophet: "I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High."

Psalm 82:6

With Peace, J.

**LA CUCARACHA EXHIBIT**  
Colorado State University Pueblo Library

**EXHIBIT DATES**  
Current-July 1, 2022

**VIEW GRAND UNVEILING ONLINE**  
Recordings can be accessed from the CSU Pueblo Library's Facebook Page - @csupueblolibrary

This exhibit features some of the top stories and issues from the era - 1976-1983 - from the pages of La Cucaracha. Visit the first floor of the library to see the current exhibit. Traveling exhibit coming soon!

The panels were designed and coordinated by Juan Espinosa. David Martinez, Pablo Mora, Deborah Espinosa, Elita J. Martinez and Jose Esteban Ortega contributed valuable input. This project is brought to you by Colorado State University Pueblo, from the Colorado Chicano Movement Archives. This project was made possible by the Colorado Association of Libraries, International Library Cultural Exchange, and the Chavez Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy.

To access the digital exhibit and learn more about the history of this important newspaper online, visit our website:  
[www.csupueblo.edu/library/archives-and-special-collections/la-cucaracha](http://www.csupueblo.edu/library/archives-and-special-collections/la-cucaracha)

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO

LA CUCARACHA

# Councilman's Goals for District 4 and Pueblo

## By Councilman Vicente Martinez Ortega

As the District 4A representative to the City Councilman, I have described five goals for myself as your representative.

My first goal is to learn more about our Pueblo city government. I have been going to tours with other Council Members to some of the 28 different city departments; such as The Pueblo Housing Authority, Pueblo Urban Renewal, Waste Water, Community and Public Works, Storm Water, Sales Tax and others. It takes time to learn how these offices work and how the City Council can work with all these different scopes of work.

My second goal is to improve transparency and accountability in City and County Government. What these two organizations do effects us daily in District 4 but it's not always apparent what they are doing. I attend weekly and monthly meetings for City Council, PACOG (Pueblo Area Council of Government) which has representatives from Districts 60 and 70 school boards, Pueblo County Commissioners, City Council, Mayor, and members of the Pueblo Community. Asking as many questions, as possible, at these meetings allows us to have more information about how our governments work for and with us.

Also with transparency; I will have community town hall meetings, like the most recent one at Zaragoza Hall, which promote citizen questions to a direct City Council member and Pueblo's Mayor, Nick Gradisar. These town halls will happen once a quarter in District 4.

My third goal is to promote community-led groups to collaborate with other groups and organizations for greater impact. For example, after folks spent time together with children painting rocks to spread around Pueblo, (Pueblo Rocks Friday's 12-2 pm at Ray Aguilera/Bessemer Park), the group attended the Bessemer Food Pantry (second Friday of each month, at Steel Mill Museum of the West) right after they convene on those Fridays. My aim is to connect those smaller groups with other groups, for greater community impact.

My fourth goal is to support the Revitalization of Northern Avenue. There is a Pueblo Urban Renewal project layered on top of the superfund site, in Bessemer. Tax Increment Finance (TIF) is a state tax that is collected from this specific area, to invest back into the specific



Councilman Vicente Martinez Ortega

area. We now have one of these projects in Bessemer and surrounding areas such as Eilers, the Grove, the Blocks that can be used for facelifts to the business properties, help infrastructure and some of the buildings that can enhance our South Side. Do we need another grocery store closer to the steel mill? Hopefully these kinds of reinvestments can help bring in, not just one, but a number of grocery stores for more access to better foods.

My fifth goal is to get reelected next year. Any real change means I have to be on the Pueblo City Council more than two years. We will need at least six years to see results, so I will run for District 4 again, in 2023, to be of service to this community.

I want to let you know that we have community clean ups scheduled for May through the middle of June. If you want to participate, please email or

text me to be a part of the community clean up events. 719-568-8038 or VMartinezOrtega@pueblo.us

It's an honor to serve the city of Pueblo and the Bessemer District. Let me know what you need, what you are thinking and how I can help. Remember, you can always speak directly to the City Council (second and fourth Mondays of the month at City Hall) by coming at 5:30 p.m. to sign up and speak your mind. Let me know how I can speak about your concerns, as your representative.

*Perfect Image*  
Hair Salon

**Owner: Pauline Maese**  
**2219 W. Northern**  
**719-566-1555**

**HAIRCUTS**

**WOMEN**

**MEN**

**CHILDREN**

- Color (foil)
- Fades
- Low light
- Highlights
- Fades
- Perms
- Facial waxing

**WALK-INS**

**WELCOME**

Tues.— Sat.  
8 am -5 pm  
(later apps available)

50<sup>TH</sup>

ANNIVERSARY

Boys & Girls Clubs of

Pueblo County

is grateful to our community

partners who have helped bring us

into our fifth decade, celebrate

with us!

bgcpckids.org

# TRIO

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO

### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

# 1

#### TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (SSS)

Educational support and assistance to include: free tutoring, academic course selection, and resources to help you be successful on campus. (719) 2111

# 2

#### TRIO VETERANS UPWARD BOUND (VUB)

Assistance to veterans transitioning into higher education through academic skills building, career exploration, and college access support (719) 548-2824

# 3

#### TRIO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (EOC)

Assistance with FAFSA application and locating scholarships. Completing admissions applications for college and vocational/technical programs. Locating apprenticeship programs. Assistance with getting federal student loan out of default. Help with federal student loan repayment options. Referrals to GED programs. Transfer guidance from a two-year to four-year college. (719) 549-2457

# 4

#### UPWARD BOUND

Upward Bound (9-12 grades) provides intensive academic support, advising and a 6-week summer program. UB Advisors have small caseloads and meet one-on-one with participants on a weekly basis. Participants visit numerous college campuses and receive intensive career exploration and college access support (719) 549-2457

# 5

#### EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

Educational Talent Search (6-12 grades) provides academic support via referrals and tutoring and one-on-one advising (min. 2x year). Participants also have opportunities to attend campus tours, receive college access support, and participate in a diversity of career exploration activities. (719) 549-2538

## LEARN MORE



SCAN ME

[www.cspu.edu/CSU/TRIO](http://www.cspu.edu/CSU/TRIO)

# Pull-out section

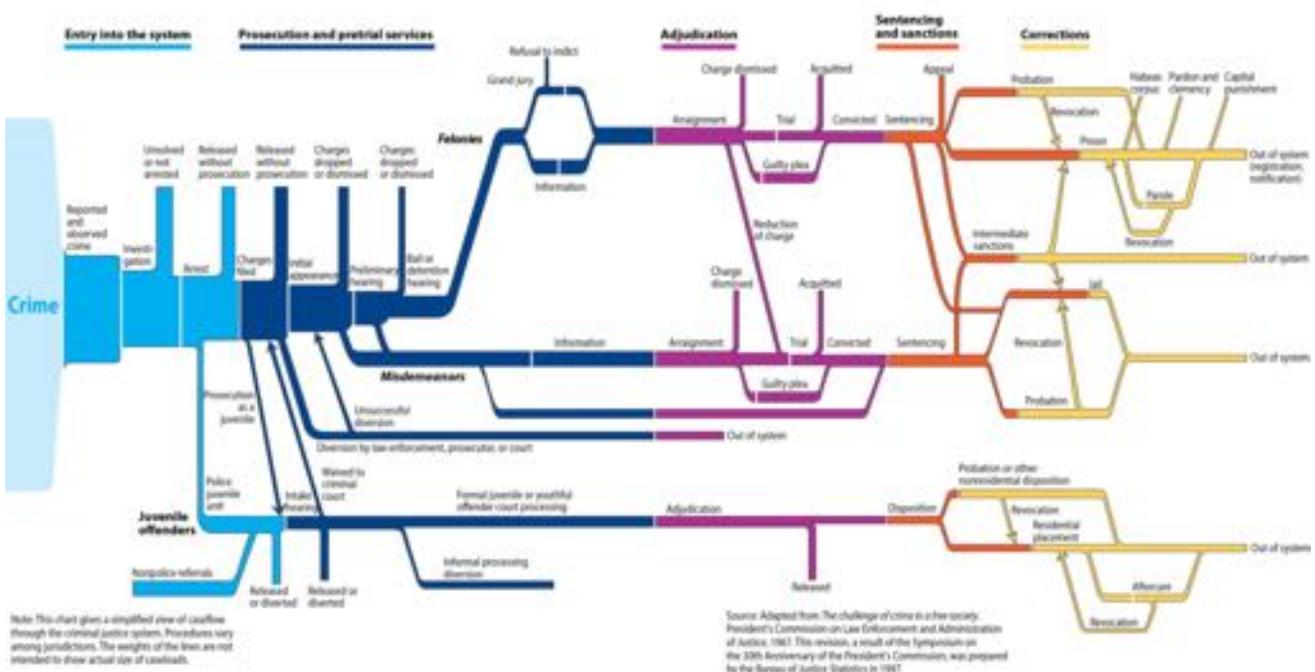
# PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

## What is the Criminal Legal System?

Some people call it the “Criminal Justice System,” but we will refer to the police, the courts, jails/prisons, probation and parole as the Criminal Legal System. There are thousands of members of our community that are directly impacted: in the 10th Judicial District alone there are 2,701 people on probation.

Here is a map of the system:

What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?



## What is Public Safety?

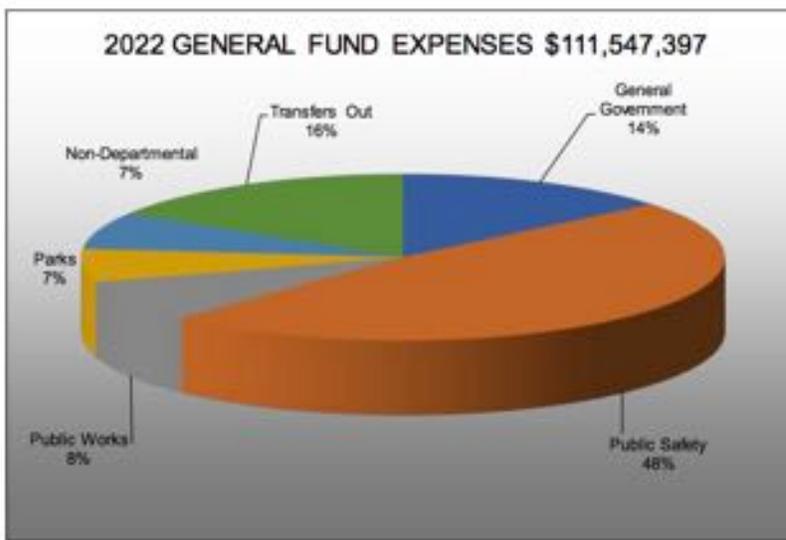
### Root word meaning of safety:

"freedom or immunity from harm or danger; an unharmed or uninjured state or condition,"

Fire Departments, Disaster Preparedness, Police, are all tasked with protecting the public and public property.

48% of the City's General Fund Expenses go to Public Safety.

According to the 2022 Annual budget, the police budget was \$32,469,619, the fire department's was \$21,066,881.



**PUBLIC SAFETY =\= POLICE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY =\= JAIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY =\= COURT**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY =\= FINES**

**PUBLIC SAFETY = HOUSING**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY = HEALTH CARE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY = JOBS**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY = COMMUNITY**



27 kills = the 27 critical incidents over 10 years by Pueblo County law enforcement officers. Of those killed, 19 had Spanish-surnames.

<https://county.pueblo.or/district-attorney/critical-incident-team->

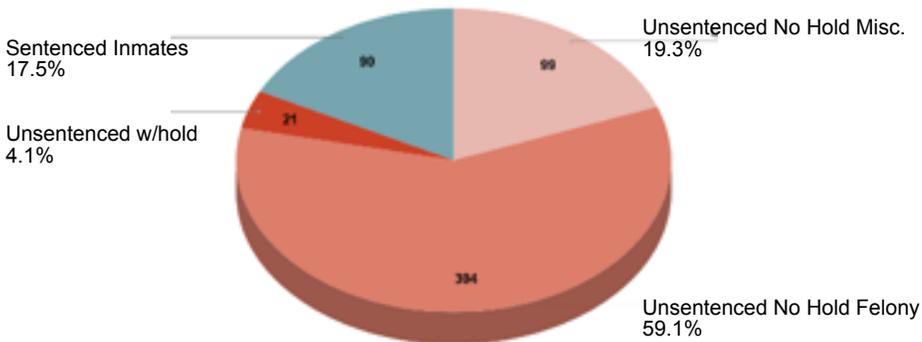
THE PUEBLO COUNTY JAIL

**Do jails increase Public Safety?**

In the Mayor's State of the City speech, he expresses disappointment about having to let too many bad guys out of jail, and that they couldn't get locked up for tech violations due to the pandemic. So, who is really in jail then? Is it these dangerous bad guys that are a threat to public safety?

According to data from the jail dashboard, in the first three months of the year (Q1 2022), there were 514 total inmates reported. The chart below shows how many are sentenced versus unsentenced. It also shows how many people are incarcerated over no-hold misdemeanors and felonies. This means that they are NOT a danger to society or a flight risk, and they could get released if they could afford bond.

**Sentenced vs Unsentenced Jail Population, Q1 2022**



[www.etymonline.com/word/safety](http://www.etymonline.com/word/safety)

Pueblo City Budget:

<https://www.pueblo.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3762>

Jail Data Dashboard:

<https://ors.colorado.gov/ors-jaildata>

State of the City speech:

<https://youtu.be/m8Egxo7nPD0>



**78 are Homeless**



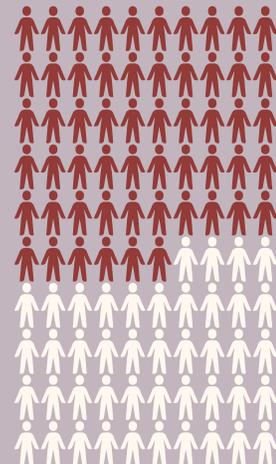
**8 are awaiting competency evaluations**



**9 are in on Municipal Charges**

**56% are Hispanic**

286 Hispanic, 228 Non-Hispanic



# Incompetent plea causes long court delays and jail time

By David James  
davidmjames78@gmail.com

There is a problem now of a backlog of people declared incompetent to proceed (ITP) who are being held in jails because of a lack of space at Colorado Mental Health Institute Pueblo. I have been involved with the system at CMHIP since 2007. I was in Boulder County jail for 10 days before I came to CMHIP as ITP.

I was considered ITP from 2007 to 2009. My experience with the ITP system is that if you want to plead guilty and not take medication, they will say you are ITP. They will only say that you are competent to proceed if you decide you want to stay at CMHIP instead of going back to prison.

In 2009 they finally said I was competent to proceed because I said I would rather stay at CMHIP than go to prison.

I went back to Boulder County Jail for 7 months and then I had my plea. I was free to choose whatever plea I wanted at that time, but I was threatened that I would have to take medication even if I pled guilty and went to prison, so I said I figured I would just plead NGRI (not guilty by reason of insanity).

This could be one of the reasons there is such a backlog: because people don't want to be at the facility and would rather go back to jail, and it takes a long time to restore them to competency.

The staff at CMHIP are all very professional; the main problem is a lack of empathy about side effects from the medication. They are doing what they learned to do in school, and are just doing their job, and are all very nice.

People are given electroshock; people are given such a high dosage of medication that they are drooling all over themselves and do's have the energy to do anything except



David James

I was on 800 mg of Clozaril from 2007-2009. I would black out from it when I was walking and fall to the ground. I would be talking on the phone and black out and drop the phone. I was very tired and agitated; I could barely write.

I am on 250 mg now. I still have problems with dexterity and with writing.

Its true that the medication can help with disassociated thinking. However, the doses are much higher than they should be, in my opinion.

It's very frustrating to talk to a psychiatrist about your side effects and have him say that there's no problem because you can tap each of your fingers on your thumb and if you can do that there's no problem.

There is a problem, and that is that maybe they don't even see you as fully human, at least that's what it feels like sometimes.

It's true that if you commit a crime that you have to face a consequence of some kind. So if you plead NGRI then you really have less rights by default than if you were a civil patient.

The problem is: what if you are arrested and you didn't do anything wrong and you're considered to be ITP. Why should you be forced to take medication at that point?

lie on their beds and lie down on the grass when they go to the yard. It's hard for people to focus on participating in the psychological groups because their thinking is slowed down from the medication.

My suggestion for speeding up the ITP process would be to put a cap on the length of an ITP inpatient status of six months. That should be plenty of time. And if after that time someone still wants to plead guilty, they should be given that right, and the right to refuse to take medication.

And if there still isn't room, maybe people should be able to take an ITP course at the jail they are at.

Why not come up with a series of videos explaining the consequences of pleading guilty to a crime, the alternative of CMHIP, and some brain science or something. Why not hire a psychiatrist or two at each county jail in Colorado?

I would also like to see required reading be assigned for people majoring in psychiatry or psychology, specifically *Toxic Psychiatry* and *Your Drug May Be Your Problem* by Peter Breggin, M.D., *Becoming Anna* by Anna J. Michener, *The Myth of Mental Illness* by Thomas Szasz, and my essay *Schizophrenia, Antipsychiatry and Anarchism* (email me for the link.)

Also required should be screenings of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *Girl, Interrupted*.

There are many resources available for people who are having human rights difficulties with the mental health system at [www.mindfreedom.org](http://www.mindfreedom.org).

There is also a drop-in center here in Pueblo called *Friendly Harbor*, which is a good place to go to hang out with others who have mental health issues.

Available on Prime Video

## Documentary film explores injustices in Criminal Legal System

You're more likely to go to prison in the United States than any other country in the world, so in the unfortunate case it happens to you, this is the *SURVIVORS GUIDE TO PRISON*. Narrated by Academy Award® winner Susan Sarandon, the nonstop film chronicles the stories of two men who spent decades behind bars for murders they did not commit. With additional narration by activist celebrities like Patricia Arquette, Jesse Williams, Ice T, RZA, Busta Rhymes, Tom Morello, Macklemore, B-Real, Deepak Chopra, Warren G and more joining forces to change this broken system, the "Survivors Guide" exposes a failed "punishment model." Gripping testimony from inmates, guards, staff, police, analysts, lawyers and reformers lend further credibility as documentarian Matthew Cooke examines the system cell by cell and by contrast, the dramatic programs proven to work.

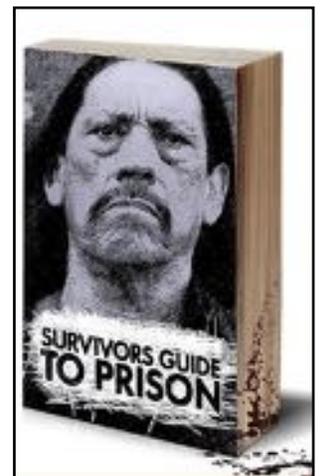
### CAST AND CREDITS

#### Actors

Bruce Lisker, Reggie Cole, Danny Trejo, Deepak Chopra, Patricia Arquette, Danny Glover, Cynthia Nixon, Ice T, RZA, Busta Rhymes, Tom Morello (Rage Against the Machine), Russell Simmons, B-Real, Macklemore, Quincy Jones, Q-Tip, Warren G, Chuck D, Brandon Boyd (Incubus), Jesse Williams

#### Producers

Steve DeVore, David and Christina Arquette, Gina Belafonte, Adrian Grenier, Robin Garvick, Matthew Cooke, Danny Trejo



## Passing of time, commitment, leaving a legacy for others to follow

By Dave Martinez

With the passing of time, no one lives forever.

In the recent past two years, two of *La Cucaracha's* pillars of the Pueblo community have passed on to new dimensions; Rita J. Martinez, a prolific committed community organizer, and Juan Federico Miquel Arguello Trujillo (aka "Freddie Freak"), a genuine collector of contemporary Chicano history.

Rita discovered *La Cucaracha* through a Chicano Studies class at the present-day CSU-Pueblo. Already degreed and working in Nursing, she craved more education about her history, society and current causes that applied to her life. Her interests and thirst for learning brought her to the office of *La Cucaracha*, in Bessemer at the time, where her no-nonsense discipline, eagerness for learning and adept eye-hand coordination quickly lead her to learning print media "paste-up" production and soon accepting the volunteer assignment and responsibilities of "Production Manager" for *La Cucaracha's* monthly editions.

Meanwhile, Freddie Freak's life took him from Trinidad and ultimately to the CU campus in Boulder, before he decided to continue his community activism by moving to Pueblo to assist *La Cucaracha* as a "Distribution Manager," responsible for developing a route for the distribution of each edition at over 100 various distribution sites in local businesses and store fronts, as well as dealing with mail subscriptions' logistics, that at one time rose to more than 350 issues mailed monthly to subscribers in 36 states and six countries outside the United States.

From their "CUC" beginnings, and after the passing of eight years of regular publishing coming to an end, both Rita and Freddy continued on with important community work in Pueblo. Rita grew to be the principal organizer in many activities and quickly established herself as the force behind the celebrated Cinco de Mayo and Dies y Seis de Septiembre celebrations. With growth she led the opposition movement to the hypocritical Columbus Day recognition and removal of the ignominious statue that celebrates genocide of Native Americans and other

Mestizo victims of color.

Meanwhile Freddie Freak, an avid hoarder of contemporary historic memories, organized his button collection, audio and video tapes of community activities, and other valuable contemporary historical items. Then he worked with the CSU-Pueblo archives to expand their collection of contemporary Chicano history memorabilia to preserve authentic documentation for future students and historians.

Because of their personal idiosyncrasies, work ethics, strengths and commitments to the Pueblo and the greater Chicano community, the passing of both Rita J. and Freddie Freak leave huge voids in future historic Chicano activities in Pueblo and throughout Colorado.

Hopefully, as their legacies grow, younger generations will pick up their torches and carry them on to continued growth and commitment for the future of all oppressed people.

*QUE VIVA Rita J. Martinez & Freddie 'Freak' Trujillo!*

## Juan's World

By Juan Espinosa

### Two PhDs are better than one

Nothing sweeter than the first taste of fruit from a tree you planted yourself. Suddenly all the hard work of digging a hole, planting, nurturing, watering and waiting is over.

That's kind of how I feel about Dr. Victoria Garduno. She planted herself in my Chicano Studies class at Centennial High School two decades ago and this year, received her "fruit" a doctorate degree in Leadership Education Administration from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Over my 14 years in the classroom, I had hundreds of students and my goals for them were simple ones — a high school diploma and a Chicano/a who knows their history and is proud. If they went on to college, that was even better.

The fact that Victoria not only went to college, but achieved a doctorate is not surprising to me. She was a better than average student and as president of MEChA at Centennial, I saw her take a leadership role. I don't know much about her personal life, but I do know it took 21 years because it was not easy.

From high school to a bachelor's degree took six years. Her master's degree took another seven years, and her doctorate another nine years. She always had at least one job, was a mother to Milagro

and partner to Herio Rosales Llamas and still found time to be active in Chicano Movement activities.

Kudos, congratulations on a job well done.

Recently, a most unexpected development has given me a new perspective on PhDs, I was nominated and will be awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado at ceremonies on May 4.

The award caused a dilemma for me as editor of this edition of *La Cucaracha*. I received two unassigned stories about my PhD for this edition. One from David Martinez, a cofounder of *La Cucaracha*, who nominated me.

David's story was a 1,000-word summary of my almost five decades as a journalist. It didn't feel right to have a long story about me in a publication I'm editing, so I told David, thanks but no thanks.

The second story about my PhD came a few days later from Victoria. She had taken time away from planning the Rita J. Martinez Youth Leadership Conference, and end of semester deadlines, to write a story about my award.

For a split second, I weighed my dilemma — which of the two stories would I run?

Then the obvious hit me. The story was about two PhDs earned by two people who crossed paths long ago. Victoria was generous in her praise.

"I stepped into his Chicano Studies class at Centennial High School and became who I am today. Juan's teaching was the catalyst that opened doors for my future by gifting me the knowledge of my past," she wrote.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattered, I'm flattered when Victoria writes, "His dedication to his students is what set the example for my teaching."

I may have gifted her knowledge of her past, but judging from the title of her dissertation, her knowledge has surpassed my gifting: Validation and Resiliency of Mexican Migrant Farm Workers Students in Institutions of Higher Learning.

In her conclusion, Victoria bestowed another gift, "Today, as I hold space as a Chicana in academia and hold my doctoral degree, I am proud to say Juan's influence was part of what motivated me along my journey."

We are all role models, let us strive to be good ones.

Letter to the Editor

## Joe Garcia passed over for CU president

The Latino Leadership Institute (LLI) stands with Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO) in outrage that Joe Garcia, Former Colorado Lieutenant Governor, was not selected as a university president finalist by the University of Colorado system (CU)'s Board of Regents search committee. We agree this is a primary example of how top-caliber Latino leaders are excluded from key leadership roles time and time again.

An outstanding candidate and Colorado leader, Garcia currently leads the state's largest system of higher education as Chancellor of the Colorado Community College System. A graduate of CU-Boulder with advanced degrees, including a doctorate, from Harvard University, Joe has built a career committed to equity for all students in higher education. He is the former Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Over 30% of K-12 Colorado students are Latino with the total number of Latino students increasing by over 33,000 students from 2011 to 2021 (Colorado Department of Education, 2021). Garcia is a model of leadership and a pillar of the Colorado higher education system, exemplifying the leadership that many institutions of power and influence have voiced their commitment to advancing. The CU Board of Regents search committee's failure to include Joe Garcia leads us to conclude that there is a need for accountability to ensure meaningful reflective leadership.

Theresa M. Trujillo

**NOW SERVING PUEBLO!**



Individual, Couples & Family Counseling  
Mental Health & Substance Misuse

Behavioral Health Inquiry Line: 720-410-7108  
805 W. 4th Street, Pueblo, CO 81003

## Las Comadres, CSUP home visit sessions connecting local families and university

Colorado State University Pueblo, The People's University and a Hispanic-Serving Institution since 1933, has been educating Pueblo's leaders for many generations. Many of Pueblo's Chicanas now mothers and grandmothers are also proud graduates of CSUP. These proud Chicana graduates formed a local group called Las Comadres. Their members include former educators, published authors, successful small business owners, corporate executives, past and current city and county leaders. Most of all, they are concerned citizens who have embarked on a project to help Pueblo's youth and their families connect with the CSUP Admissions team to achieve their academic goals.

Tim Mottet, CSUP President and Las Comadres have formed a committee to coordinate small home sessions with interested students, or adult learners, and their families. The goal of these home sessions is to inform families about CSUP opportunities and resources. Dr. Mottet feels it is important that families feel comfortable to seek information about the admissions process, financial aid, and student life. He has agreed to bring a team consisting of an admissions administrator, financial aid counselor, and a CSUP student mentor to ensure families are made aware of all the opportunities available to interested students. One resource which will be discussed is called Colorado Promise, a tuition free program for those who qualify. It is the goal of Las Comadres and the CSUP team that our Chicano community is provided a pathway in the continuity of educating tomorrow's leaders today.

Please help us help the kids, and adult learners in our community, Goals become tomorrow's reality.

For more information please contact:  
carla@cortezconstructioncompany.com or  
Megan Lorenz at (719) 549-2260 or  
megan.lorenz@csupueblo.edu

COLORADO  
**CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
REFORM  
COALITION**

CCJRC is proud to partner with  
El Movimiento  
Sigue to transform  
justice in Pueblo



## Public school inequities Surfaced under pandemic

By Denise Torrez

Our public education system has been scrutinized for decades. For various reasons, education issues have dominated the news lately and although some are student-focused, such as the inequities that surfaced during a global pandemic, some are propagated by political extremists. And who is paying the price? Our kids.

When schools and other entities were shuttered in the spring of 2020, students and parents were suddenly thrust into a home school setting which they were not equipped or prepared to provide. Educators had to quickly learn how to teach remotely. They seemed to manage as best they could, but students and parents were often scrambling for reliable internet service, school supplies, and the inevitable time away from work that many parents had to figure out.

During the 2020-2021 school year, students were split between in-person and remote schooling, or a combination of both, none of which equaled a normal school year with set standards and curriculum. Regardless, most students returned to a brick and mortar building in the fall of 2021. As an educator with 30+ years experience, I'm used to the summer learning loss that occurs over summer break. This learning loss occurs due to a lack of continued practice with skills that were taught/learned. However, upon

---

*The students had not experienced learning loss, they had experienced teaching loss; meaning because of the strange circumstances of the pandemic, they were not taught what they normally would have had they been in a classroom setting continuously for the prior 9-18 months.*

---

returning to school, many educational leaders were using the term inaccurately. The students had not experienced learning loss, they had experienced teaching loss; because of the strange circumstances of the pandemic. They were not *taught* what they normally would have had they been in a classroom setting continuously for the prior 9-18 months. The recommendation of many educators to allow adjustments to curriculum to fill those teaching gaps fell on deaf ears and educators were expected to just barrel forward with the next year's curriculum despite the special circumstances. So, a second grader is now expected to master 2nd grade skills despite the fact that they did not complete kindergarten (school went remote in March of 2020) and their first grade year was far from normal.

Many parents now have to make the tough decision of whether to keep their children back a grade so they can fill in those gaps or let them advance to the next grade hoping they catch up. It's an unfair decision that could have been avoided had we given the students the proper time to recover what was lost during the pandemic. Of course we had no prior experience in educating under such strange and unpredictable circumstances, but as educators we are supposed to know how children learn and develop. The lack of applying that knowledge as guidance in going forward is a travesty for which we will be paying for years to come.



## Mobilizing for a Livable Climate

In Pueblo, in Colorado & the World, we're acting for clean air and water, healthy neighborhoods, and bold climate action against polluting industries in our communities.

**JOIN OUR MOVEMENT!**

<https://www.mothersoutfront.org/join-our-movement>

**Twitter:** @MOF\_Colorado

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MothersOutFrontColorado>

### **Some of our projects:**

- Stop Nuclear Power in Pueblo & Colorado
- Close Xcel Coal Fired Plant #3 & Transition to Renewable Energy
- Support Electric, Accessible



# HECHO EN

## Making macrame feathers

By Cynthia Ortiz Fuentes



Cinco 2022 is here! Made it through some trying times but challenges continue on. As always...Stay active, try new things, share your skills and gifts with others, and reach out and support others who work for justice and peace. Doing those things help make each day better.

The directions for this edition are for macrame feathers. Macrame is another personal favorite craft and feathers symbolize several traits. Protection, honor, blessings, power, are some of them. Different colored feathers naturally mean different things. Learn the basics, and create feathers to reflect your personal style and traits.

Instructions are for a 6" feather (depending on thickness of cord). Increase feather length by cutting center (spine) longer and adding more cords to spine.

Materials needed:

- 9 ¼ yards of cotton cord
- Sharp scissors
- Fine tooth comb (wire pet brush works best)

Spray fabric stiffener (can use a mixture of ½ white glue and ½ water brushed)

Ring, stick, or cord to mount

feather onto

Optional:

Feather paper template (design shape of finished feather)

Tape to hold down feather while knotting.

1. Cut pieces of cord. Cut one 20" long and cut 40- 8" long.

2. Fold 20" cord in half and tie onto ring (stick or cord) using a larkshead knot. See pic. This will be spine of feather.

3. Using 8" cords folded in half (all 8 " cords will be folded in half) lay it (horizontally) across and under spine (pic blue cord). Take another cord (yellow cord) and insert ends into the loop of the top horizontal cord and pull through. With the ends of the second cord, pull it through the



first loop. See pic!

4. Repeat with all remaining 8" cords and then tie an overhand knot with spine cords.

5. Untwist each cord and comb out. Repeat on both sides.

6. Spray on stiffening spray (or brush with glue/water mix). Be sure to lay on plastic or wax paper to avoid sticking. Let dry.

7. Trim to desired shape. (Use template if you choose)

Ideas: try different types of cord, yarn, jute, hemp, strings. Cotton is personal choice. Nylon doesn't fringe well. Embroidery floss makes nice earrings (see photo). Mix colors and experiment with painting ends. Mount several feathers onto branch. For large feathers, add felt to back to hold shape.



**Keep creating and  
! que viva Cinco de Mayo!**



# Chicana/o Studies takes one step forward, two steps back

By Dr. Ramon Del Castillo  
Independent Journalist



Being victorious in small battles should be celebrated but we should never assume that it translates into winning a war; in this case for La Raza, culture wars continue to plague our communities — causing angst, fear, conflict, and anxiety. The newest battle consists of a trilogy of issues that will determine part of our future fate: Chicana/o Studies, HB19-1192, and Critical Race Theory. We should never lose faith that victory is possible.

The battle over Chicana/o Studies has a long history in the culture wars, against conservatives whose ambition is to control what Americans are taught in public schools. Americans carry an incessant fear about losing power and control over marginalized communities, especially as these communities grow in numbers and political power. Chicanos carry *amor*, *carino*, *humildad* and *lucha* in their hearts, and are ready to take their place in history.

As I testified to the Colorado State Legislature in 2019, the research findings of several national programs, including the Mexican American Studies (MAS) in Tucson, Arizona several years ago, demonstrated effectiveness for student matriculation towards high school graduation and entrance into colleges and universities, not only with Chicanas/os but with students from the dominant culture. Conservative pundits argued that the curriculum caused harm and conflict between various groups. They attempted to destroy it through the legislative process in Arizona, but were not successful as the courts eventually ruled that “the state showed discriminatory intent.” (<https://www.npr.org › sections › 2017/08/22 › federal-jud.>) That was a tremendous victory.

Let me shed some light visible at the end of the tunnel. In 2019, the State of Colorado passed the most progressive piece of legislation in the country regarding the teaching of Ethnic Studies and/or Multicultural Studies in its public school curricula from K-12. The development of curricula meeting the specific provisions of HB19-1192 will include Chicana/o Studies, augmented with the history and culture of Latin American countries. Summarized below, this law is an old revolutionary idea that has garnered steam. Its preamble reads: Concerning the inclusion of matters relating to American minorities in the teaching of social contributions in civil government in public schools, and, in connection therewith, establishing the history, culture, social contributions, and civil government in education commission to make recommendations to include the history, culture, and social contributions of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals within these minority groups, the

contributions and persecution of religious minorities, and the intersectionality of significant social and cultural features within these communities, in the teaching and content standards for history and civics, and making an appropriation.

Issues pertaining to the aforementioned groups will also be seen through the lenses of intersectionality, or namely, the idea that there can be several forms of discrimination operating simultaneously. If this law is implemented correctly it will unveil some of the hypocrisy and outright lies that have been fed to American students since the inception of public education. But it will paradoxically offer healing for those same marginalized groups that have been isolated, invisible, and whose group memberships have been blamed for many of their purported deficiencies.

Don't be surprised if La Raza's historical and intergenerational trauma surfaces after

been suppressed in the American national consciousness since the founding of this country. Supporters argue that CRT shines the limelight on those who have used White Supremacy to control the curricula in public schools since at least the development of public education and believe it needs to be confronted. Literary scholars refer to the process of controlling the story as the Master Narrative, a stranglehold on truth; when in reality this version of the truth is used to justify the current social arrangements.

CRT challenges historians, educators, public policy pundits, and right wing politicians to treat CRT as a tool of analysis to examine history as told by the those in power. What terrifies its opponents is that CRT has a commitment to Social Justice; challenging citizens to struggle in order to eliminate racism and other forms of

subordination while empowering groups that have been subordinated (Solórzano and Delgado Bernal, 2001). We would not be in the quagmire we are in if there had been some semblance of truth written about and shared in classrooms regarding America's incessant racist history that was transformed into an ideology. Why didn't educational gurus call out White Supremacists and their historical fallacies to the carpet? Seldom have People of Color scholars occupied power positions to change the paradigm falling prey to incrementalism and the lack of representation in educational systems. Now that the dominant paradigm is unable to avoid the inevitable collision with social change, those who are threatened by CRT have taken to the streets inventing an



alternative perspectives are developed and taught in public schools. Historical trauma caused by Spain's colonization of Mexicanos in the 15th century augmented with further colonization caused by the Mexican American War in 1946-48, has laid dormant for years. This has caused undue pain in our communities, as the tentacles of colonization dismantled cultures beyond the comprehension of Western man. Some of the trauma was temporarily relieved during the Chicano Movement, but still needs spiritual healing. It continues to traumatize our children. When this is added to youth dealing with the current pandemic and deteriorating social conditions, our communities have a lot of work to do in order to maintain the mental health of our families and communities.

The most contentious issue that completes the trilogy is Critical Race Theory (CRT), a movement that studies and attempts to transform the relationship between race and power by examining the role of race and racism within the foundations of modern culture. It unmasks the white fragility and guilt that has

alternative scenario to instill fear in White people.

CRT has a commitment to Social Justice; a critical race theory in education challenges us to envision social justice as the struggle to eliminate racism and other forms of subordination while empowering groups that have been subordinated (Solórzano and Delgado Bernal, 2001). It could open the doors to racial dialogue, ameliorating past and contemporary racial tensions, somewhat of a quixotic dream. Engaging in racial dialogue would not be an easy task, especially if it is authentic as those who enter the circle confront their hidden prejudices, conscious and unconscious biases, and come face-to-face with systemic racism that was manufactured by white supremacists then embedded into the structures of American society. The dialogue about race and racism should remain on the radar screen as the bold and the brave enter into unknown territory that exists in the minds and hearts of those that pretend to be superior to others.

The reckoning has arrived.

Personal Column

# Media won't change view of Pueblo, let's prove them wrong

By **Natashia Gebre-Zion**

Swastikas filled downtown Colorado Springs after a BLM protest, but, the media didn't stereotype the city at the foot of Pikes Peak as an antisemitic town.

Now, imagine being told each day you come from a town filled with crime, gangs, and violence. These are just a few of the prejudices people in Pueblo, Colo., experience on a day-to-day basis.

When out of town, Pueblo citizens often avoid stating they are from Pueblo, because of the responses they receive.

"It sucks most of the time when Pueblo gets brought up in conversations, I have to defend it or say it's not that bad," stated Emiliano Madrid, a media communications student at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Madrid continued to explain that it's sad that Pueblo has such a bad reputation when all cities have the same problems.

The media and outside residents love calling Pueblo a crime filled town. However, African Americans, Hispanics, Chicanx, Indigenous tribes, and other diverse cultures don't have to worry about coming face to face with swastikas in town that makes them keep their color inside the lines.

Rather than swastikas, Pueblo has many public walls adorned with murals. Murals that symbolize beauty, strength, and culture. Recently, there was a mural that was completed that showcases Pueblo's support towards Ukraine.

What the media fails to mention about

Pueblo. It that its citizens have always stood up against police brutality social injustice and inhumanity. This is a community that supports diversity and is a true symbol of equality. A city filled with activist, artist, and leaders who have carried their stories through generations, despite government entities trying to strip them of their history.

To this day, Chicanos and other diverse groups have to fight for equal representation in media. Today, only 5.2 percent of Hispanics/Latinos are represented in film roles, and the majority of those roles are typecast as gangsters or drug addicts. This same representation isn't just brought out in fictional films, but in the media made by other Colorado sources. A viral video by TikTok user Clouydydaykat went viral after she dubbed the "I hate Canada audio," with, "I hate Pueblo." That video has over 31 thousand likes and two thousand comments that agree with how bad Pueblo is.

People often will believe whatever they see in the media. Brendan Vigil, told of a comment from a teacher while attending a public school in Aurora.

"She heard my brother and I had family in Pueblo, and approached me saying, 'Do we need to place you in a different course for you to understand the material?'"

Vigil continued by

sharing his positive experience while attending Colorado State University-Pueblo. He said different professors have put in effort to show their compassion and care for both the students and community.

Matthew Garcia is a media communications professor at CSUP and has brought in community leaders like Carmen Arteaga who has contributed to the mural projects of Pueblo, and Deborah Martinez-Martinez an author and publisher in the Pueblo. Garcia continues to teach his students about the beauty of Chicanx history and the importance it carries in society.

Garcia also brings our different cultures by letting his students share about diverse figures that play an important role in the community.

Media and teaching both require strong ethics and values. Professionals in these fields should not hold a bias or be prejudice. That alters the way a community and child in that community view themselves.

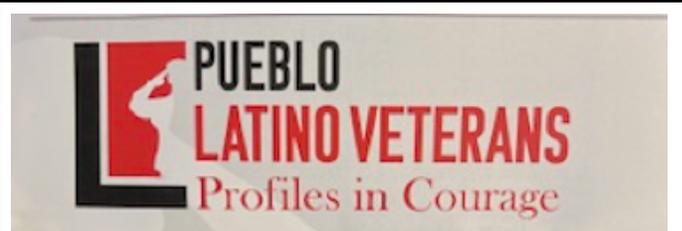
Pueblo, you are a community that is filled with art, strength, and history stop criticizing yourself to benefit media companies and start proving them wrong.

"Congratulations to La Cucaracha — longtime newspaper giving us a real alternative picture of our community!"



1015 Fir, Pueblo CO 81001  
 Phone: (719) 546-1377  
 Fax: (719) 546-0723

Email: [cortezconstructioncompany.com](mailto:cortezconstructioncompany.com)



The Pueblo Latino Veterans Profiles in Courage  
 NOMINATION PROCESS  
 Deadline June 1, 2022

The Pueblo Latino Veterans Profiles in Courage Awards honors Hispanic veterans who:

- are from the city and county of Pueblo
- served honorably in the military either in combat or non combat
- length of time served
- their selfless acts
- service to their church, community, family, or to military/veteran groups or organizations.

**Nominations** are being accepted at: the Latino Chamber of Commerce, 215 S. Victoria until June 1 at 5 pm.

Nomination forms are available from the Latino Chamber and Committee Members: Chris Robles (719-252-8971), Nick Romero (719-242-7588), Antonio Serna (719-214-3211), George Autabee (303-519-6285) or by email: [lpicawards@gmail.com](mailto:lpicawards@gmail.com)

*The Awards Ceremony is scheduled October 1, 2022 at the Pueblo Convention Center*  
 Tickets \$45 Contact Gloria at 719-334-1503  
 (Sponsorships also available. Contact Gloria)

# Que Paso? No Spanish classes at Central High

*Que paso con los clases de español en Central High?*

What happened to the Spanish classes at Central High?

That's the question parents and students have been asking for two years. They say that in a school where Chicano students make up 74 percent of the population it is common sense that Spanish would be taught. Instead, Italian and French classes are offered in the school and Spanish is an online option.

"Equity and quality is completely lacking for Central High School students to learn Spanish," said Gloria Gutierrez, chair of the Save The Spanish committee. Students (STS) who wish to learn Spanish are being denied the opportunity to learn from a live teacher after the discontinuation of Central's Spanish language program."

In March of this year, the group held a rally at the school to reaffirm its commitment to continue the campaign. The dispute began on April 2, 2019, when CHS Principal Dustin Mehess cut the Spanish program telling concerned parents and students that the change was due to low enrollment," according to Ms. Gutierrez.

A Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) request revealed that student enrollment for Spanish was 109; Italian was 90 and French was 64 as well as 90 students taking the Spanish online class.

According to Ms. Gutierrez, "We formed a committee to ask why Spanish with a live teacher was not being offered at a high school with 74 per cent Hispanic student body.

"The STS committee members, Central Alumni and community members contacted District 60's Board of Education members. Board members responded 'the principal has full authority to make programmatic decisions for their building.'"

Carmen Arteaga, another STS committee member, said that a board member replied to her letter of concern and said it was due to budget and that Spanish would be taught in a digital format. "However, Italian and French would continue to be taught with live credentialed teachers," Ms. Arteaga said. "With no input from parents, community members, or business leaders, Principal Mehess determined that the Spanish program was expendable. 'Expendable' is

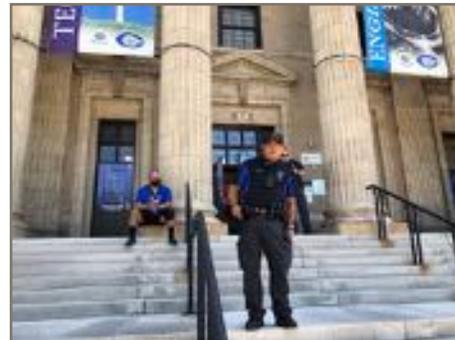
*"With no input from parents, community members, or business leaders, Principal Mehess determined that the Spanish program was expendable," Carmen Arteaga*

my interpretation of her actions at a school with a predominantly Hispanic student enrollment and in the Bessemer area with a large population of Hispanics."

The March 2022 rally at the school drew television and newspaper coverage. As a result, renowned professor emeritus of foreign language acquisition, Stephen Krashen of the Rossier School of Education at University of Southern California, wrote a letter in The Chieftain Opinion page.

"Studies show that developing the first language has clear benefits and no drawbacks," Rossier wrote. "It results in better English, more school success and a better chance to benefit from the wisdom of both cultures."

The Spanish advocates are asking the general community to support them. "Please join us in overturning the decision to



(Above) Police were called to Central High School in May 2020 when a handful of students, parents and teachers demonstrated on front of the school. (Below) Gloria Gutierrez, chair of the Save The Spanish committee, addresses the demonstrators.



eliminate the Spanish Program at Pueblo Central," Ms. Gutierrez said.

They are not asking that Spanish replace either Italian or French, but that it be reinstated as a live class with a credentialed teacher.

"We urge the District's Board of Education to do the right thing for our students — equity for Spanish — reinstate the full Spanish program with a credentialed Spanish teacher. Show our community that you do value diversity, heritage, traditions and culture," said Ms. Gutierrez.

## Celebrate Fiesta Day 2022



**2022 Fiesta Queen**  
Colaly Quiroz

**Fiesta Court:** 1st Attendent-Victoria Perez, Second Attendent-Tressa Torres, Third Attendent-Milagro Obregon, Miss Congeniality-Delicia Apodaca

**Upcoming Events**

**2022 Fiesta Queen Pageant**  
Saturday, June 11, 2022, - Deadline April 30th  
April@fiestacommittee.org

**2022 Noche de Fiesta**  
Saturday, June 18, 2022  
Colorado State Fair Grounds - Livestock Pavilion  
Featuring Shelly Lares & Colorado Allstarz

**2022 Fiesta Parade**  
Sunday, September 4, 10:00 a.m. 2022  
Northern Avenue, Pueblo CO  
Contact: Ken Bueno  
kbuenoo.csfiestaparade@gmail.com

# Critical Race Theory debate in public schools

By Denise Torrez

As was experienced in the first half of 20th century America, public schools have become institutions surrounded by heated debate. At the heart of these latest debates is the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT).

First, let's dispel the myth that CRT is taught in K-12 schools. This is rarely the case. The only exceptions are college-level courses that are offered to high-achieving high schoolers.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, critical race theory (CRT) is the legal analysis based on the premise that race is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit people of color. Critical race theorists hold that racism is inherent in the law and legal institutions of the United States insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans. In simpler terms, it's a way of understanding how American racism is embedded in and has shaped public policy.

So why have extremist groups turned it into a sort of white guilt curriculum that they want to shield their children from? It all may be traced back to the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020. Many activists were

heard calling out systemic racism when speaking out against injustices or inequities. Many Americans were hearing these terms for the first time and did not take the time to fully understand their meaning.

The narrative got hijacked when right wing pundits transformed it into a divisive discourse that pits people of color against all white people. Suddenly, some parents were accusing schools of making their white children feel guilty for the atrocities experienced by BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color) throughout American History. Some of these groups have even spearheaded school board recalls and run school board candidates on the platform of ridding the schools of CRT. The buzz phrase of Critical Race Theory has also entered into gubernatorial and congressional elections.

The connection of CRT to the American History that is taught in US public schools is quite a stretch. However, it has had some extreme consequences. Progressive educators have been pushing for *Culturally Relevant Curriculum* for years. This concept includes honoring students' home culture, language, and traditions as well as including the history of marginalized people that was often overlooked in most history textbooks. It includes exposing children to authors of color and developing pride in oneself.

Sounds very benevolent, right? Unfortunately, the narrative has been overtaken and transformed into a sort of demonization of true, unfiltered history. Many parents have spoken out saying, "My child should not have to feel uncomfortable about something they did not do." However, when presented correctly, kids have the ability to both empathize and separate what they do now versus what was done in the past. They can learn about slavery, the Longest Walk, and Ruby Bridges as immoral blights in American History without personalizing it. In addition, perspective matters. We've often heard that the story is distorted because it is told from the perspective of the victor. Isn't it time to change that and teach the good, the bad, and the ugly? AKA, the truth?

Many of us were denied the teachings of our own people because it wasn't included in mainstream American curriculum. We had to take separate courses, like Chicano Studies, to learn our own history even if it happened right here on these same lands. Our heroes were chosen for us; our people were vilified and their accomplishments minimized.

My hope is that this CRT hysteria is squelched and we can infuse the history of ALL of our students in an asset-based curriculum that uplifts and celebrates all people of America. This is going to be a long journey, but our kids and their education are worth it.

## Elections Have Consequences. Vote!

Update your voter registration at [GoVoteColorado.gov](http://GoVoteColorado.gov)

K-12 Public Education  
Health Care Access  
Safe Communities  
Union Jobs  
Clean Air & Water  
Fair Elections & Voting Rights  
Modern Infrastructure





La Cucaracha is an independent newspaper that produces this Special Edition for El Movimiento Sigue, a nonprofit organization based in Pueblo Colorado. Comments and inquires may be sent by email to: [lacuc2407@gmail.com](mailto:lacuc2407@gmail.com)

The four-page insert section was produced by Rebecca Robles

Editor: Juan Espinosa  
Contributing editors: David Martinez, Deborah Espinosa and Deborah Martinez Martinez

Business Manager: Deborah Martinez Martinez

Contributors include:  
Carmen Arteaga  
James Lujan  
Ramon Del Castillo  
Denise Torrez  
Natashia Gebre-Zion  
Cynthia Ortiz Fuentes

# COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM



**OUR MISSION:**  
TO SERVE, EDUCATE,  
AND EMPOWER FARM  
WORKERS

**OUR VISION:**  
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF  
LIFE FOR FARM WORKERS  
THROUGH EDUCATION

## Honored to Serve Our Community

*"Our Service  
Speaks For Itself"*

*We provide a dedicated  
reception center  
to the families we serve at  
no additional cost.  
"The Zaragoza Hall"*



The McCulley Family  
Velvis — Joseph — Little Joe — Franklin — Yanera  
Tamisha — Petra — Charles — Juanita



# Angelus CHAPEL

FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

*se habla español*

1101 E. Evans, Pueblo, CO 81004 Ph. 719-544-4368

# Community Navigator Program Launches To Help Underserved Small Businesses

By Jacqueline R. Armendariz Unzueta

The Chicano/a identity embraces the truth that colonization detrimentally impacted global society. Indigenous wisdom is key to healing the damage wrought by colonization.

A new Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) has opened in Pueblo to help the region's small businesses to decolonize the wealth. This federally funded effort is working to help the region's small business community access money, or capital. This program's mission is to also provide training and counseling at no cost to underserved sole proprietors and micro-businesses throughout Southern Colorado.

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) grant-funded Navigator consortium is spearheaded by Southern Colorado Economic Development District — a nonprofit headquartered in Pueblo serving a 12-county area. SCEDD is working to help the region's small business community access money, or capital. This program's mission is to also provide training and counseling at no cost to underserved sole proprietors and micro-businesses.

Edgar Villanueva eloquently wrote about the impact of colonization with specific regard to the systems around access to money in his book "Decolonizing Wealth," where he stated: "Wealth is used to divide us and control us and exploit us, but it doesn't have to be."

He explained that colonization has three elements to its practice: divide, control, exploit and offered that the steps to decolonization are, in turn: connect, relate, belong. Villanueva proposes this work could lead our world toward healing its divides and restoring balance.

As La Cucaracha celebrates the Rising of the Sixth Sun as its theme this year, the small business community is invited to consider its role in embracing this new energy which represents an opportunity to participate in a shift of human consciousness. This shift in consciousness includes a new prosperous future for Southern Colorado. Small businesses are a part of that movement.

The Navigator program aims to increase access to resources – including money – for small businesses, while building connectivity, collaboration and communication among the region. The six additional members of the

consortium strengthen the effort: Pueblo Corporate College, NeighborWorks Southern Colorado, Boyd's Bookkeeping & Administrative Services, Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo, Inc., Pueblo Arts Alliance and Digital Hart Media. The Navigator Program is also continuously building strategic partnerships across the board, which include nonprofit lenders such as the Colorado Enterprise Fund and Energize Colorado.

The Navigator Program is here to help our small businesses access money and take a holistic approach to help them grow.

Small businesses interested in assistance may sign-up online by visiting: [www.scedd.com/community-navigator-pilot-program](http://www.scedd.com/community-navigator-pilot-program) or calling SCEDD at 719-545-8680.

*Editor's note: Armendariz-Unzueta is a CNPP co-director based in Pueblo. The CNPP is funded through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.*

## A prosperous Southern Colorado belongs to us all.

This year's La Cucaracha theme of "The Rising of the Sixth Sun" is a beautiful testament to the profound impact of human consciousness.

The Southern Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) invites small businesses to seek our Community Navigator Program assistance to help them be part of the continued shift in consciousness toward our region's prosperity.

**Sign up for no cost small business training, counseling or help with loans & grants today!**



[www.scedd.com](http://www.scedd.com)  
121 W. City Center Drive, Suite 200, Room 200B  
Pueblo, CO 81003 | 719-545-8680

*Program funded through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.*

# The Garcia Futures Project presents MYLIFE ACES

Do you have a child in middle school or high school? There is information to guide them in successfully transitioning to high school and preparing for life after graduation/GED.

The Garcia Futures Project, along with MYLIFE committee volunteers, have created a 10-part series providing this critical knowledge on making good choices to choosing a career path after high school and many more subjects in between.

Retired Judge Dennis Maes, and a former school board member states "There can be no greater investment than providing the resources necessary for our children to succeed in life. The MYLIFE ACES Series through the Garcia Futures Project is an outstanding supplement to our educational institutions."

With over 30 diverse speakers and highlighting over 18 Colorado public colleges and business career opportunities, this series called MYLIFE ACES (Multicultural Youth Leadership Initiative For Excellence Academic and Career Exploration Series) is available 24/7 and offered as a public service to our students, our parents, and schools. No cost to you!

**Series 1 My Life's Journey**

A guide to creating your path into your future; helping you to develop self confidence;

believing in your abilities and talents, taking advantage of concurrent enrollment and beginning your journey to a happy and successful career. Features My Colorado Journey and Concurrent Enrollment Series 2 My Character

The importance of maintaining your integrity and character, giving back through volunteering and making decisions to create the foundation for the future. Featuring United States Air Force Academy and Better Business Bureau.

**Series 3 My Choices**

Understanding how decisions and choices you make may impact your future. Featuring Adams State College and Google.

**Series 4 My Diverse World**

The importance of diversity, inclusion and equity in today's world. Features University of Colorado, Metropolitan State University and Colorado State University and FirstBank careers.

**Series 5 My Educational Journey, Part 1**

Introduction to the college admission process, including forms of financial aid and scholarship opportunities. Features CSU-Pueblo and Xcel Energy Career paths.

**Series 6 My Educational Journey, Part 2**

Explore career and technical education courses; what is important when applying for scholarships; and programs you can participate in to give you support in the completion of your career choice.

Features Pueblo Community College, Centura Health and Xcel Energy.

Series 7 My Career Pathways, Part 1 Trade schools, apprenticeships, military, on-the-job training---all options after graduating from high school. Learn the importance of a well written resume and what should be included. Features Evraz, Google, and the Apprenticeship Training Center.

Series 8 My Career Pathways, Part 2 Discusses what employers are looking for in an employee and how to interview successfully. Features Otero College.

Series 9 My Mind, Body, and Soul. Part 1 Guidance for a healthy mind, body, and soul. Series 10 My Mind, Body, and Soul. Part 2 Guided yoga and relaxation exercise.

Please share this resource with others and encourage your child's school to show this to all students. It is an equitable way to make sure all have access to critical information. Available to you by accessing [www.mylifeaces.org](http://www.mylifeaces.org) For more information email: [contact@garciafutures.org](mailto:contact@garciafutures.org)

## Senior Resource Development Agency, Inc.

*Impacting Lives since 1971...*

The mission of SRDA is to provide programs and projects that enhance the quality of life for the community of Southern Colorado. SRDA provides opportunities for inter-generational programs and develops the resources which enables seniors to live independently.

**Joseph H Edwards Active Adult Center**  
230 N. Union Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81003

**719-545-8900**

SRDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and private donations are accepted through our website at [www.srda.org](http://www.srda.org)

Trust the #1 Medical Alarm preferred by doctors, hospitals, and professional caregivers.

**No contract, cancellation, or service call fees**

PHILIPS  
**Lifeline**  
Affiliate

Lifeline of Colorado Springs  
**719-522-9779**

# Take down Columbus statue protest every last Sunday of each month



May 24, 2022



May 24, 2022



Nov. 28, 2021



July 25, 2021



Nov. 28, 2021



July 25, 2021



April 25, 2021



The journey from exploitation to empowerment through the voices of the people who marched, organized and struggled for justice, with the hopes of instilling equality into our society for future generations.

# EL MOVIMIENTO

THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO  
and Pueblo

Second floor of the PCC Library in the Davis Academic Building.  
**Free admission.** Call **719.549.3305** for tour hours and information.



## Lowrider that led 2021 Cinco de Mayo Cruise lost in garage fire

The 2021 Cinco de Mayo Cruise was led by this beautifully restored Chevy lowrider belonging to Taciana Torrez. With great pride, the custom car built by her father Macarrio Torrez, made what turned out to be its last ride through the streets of Pueblo with more than 100 lowriders, motorcycles, and decorated cars and vans trailing behind. After the day's celebration, the Torrez family joined other members of El Movimiento Sigue for a late dinner. When the family got home later that night, they found the garage where the coveted lowrider was parked fully in flames. The garage and all the vehicles parked inside were a total loss. The community has come to the support of the family and they are in the painful process of recovering their losses.



Health Solutions is focused on Whole-Person Care

- Behavioral Health
- Medical
- Substance Use

[www.Health.Solutions](http://www.Health.Solutions) | 719.545.2746

**There is no more important social justice issue than Healthcare.**

**The tragedy is that few if any realize this.**

Nothing has eroded the fortunes of our living generations more than the cost of healthcare. Our children and future generations are tacitly harnessed at birth to become financial slaves of the current health insurance industry. Sadly, the industry that impoverishes and fails us, has become institutionalized and is supported and protected by our governmental representatives who perpetually serve up platitudes about reforms that never materialize. Reforms must be built and implemented locally.

A Rand study in 2006 described the reality of healthcare in the US: *“The bottom line: all adults in the United States are at risk for receiving poor health care, no matter where they live; why, where, and from whom they seek care; or what their race, gender, or financial status is.”* I would amend this statement to say all persons in the United States and add to that, no matter what health insurance you have.

Our children must be rescued, and they have no advocates other than us. We must understand and fix the problem.

El Movimiento has no value unless it leverages our experiences with injustice to provide tangible leadership in transforming our society.

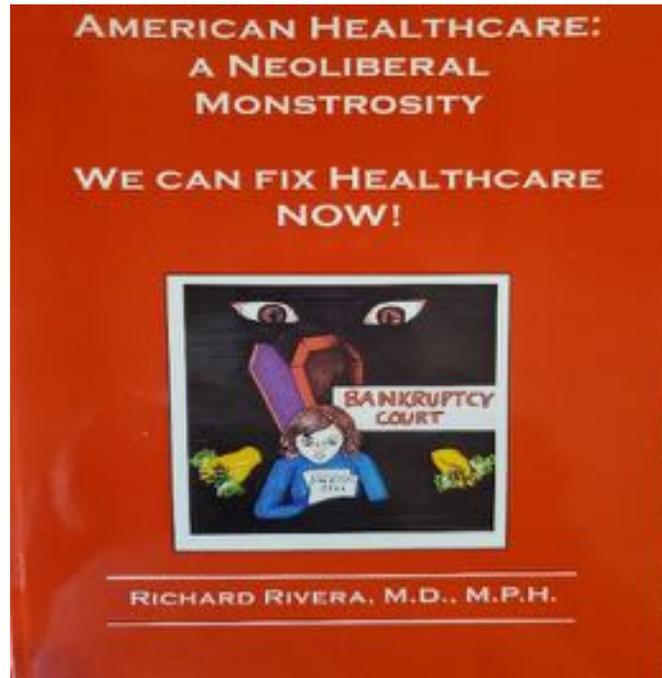
I have authored a short book entitled, *Healthcare a Neoliberal Monstrosity*, that will provide a framework for understanding and fixing our healthcare system.

**Neoliberal, in short, describes our healthcare system where profits trump health.**

Please visit our website:

<https://wefixhealthcare.com>

Richard Rivera, M.D., M.P.H.



RICHARD RIVERA, M.D., M.P.H.



## TIME CAPSULE

From the pages of La Cucaracha 40 years ago

### Atomic Vet Knows Terror Of Radiation's Effects

"At first it felt great.

I felt good that I was lucky enough to see it. Then, it was something great, but now, I'm sorry to have seen it because half my lung is cut off. I've got three tumors in my heart and I'm just living day to day,"\* said Abraham J Arguello March 6, 1982.

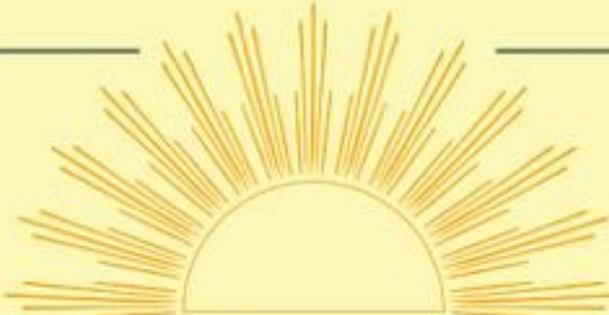
A delight that turned to despair. Such is the tale of a Chicano veteran now waging the biggest battle in his life survival from cancer, which he attributes to fallout from atomic bomb tests he witnessed during a tour of duty with the U S Army some 30 years ago. Arguello is presently under medication to impede cancerous growths in his body, a curse he maintains was induced by his exposure to high levels of radiation he experienced while serving as a jeep driver during three tests of atomic weapons near Desert Rock, Nev., in 1951. Arguello's story is similar to that of other 'atomic veterans,' a tragic tale of a father of 13 children whose life has been scarred by tremendous pain and suffering.

### Peltier Appeals Murder Conviction Based on New FBI Evidence

FARGO, N.D.—Lawyers representing Leonard Peltier, the American Indian Movement (AIM) member convicted in the 1975 killings of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation, want a new trial for Peltier on the basis of "massive government misconduct" in the handling of Peltier's prosecution. as revealed in recently released FBI files Peltier was convicted in April, 1977, and given two life sentences after the agents were slain in the community of Oglala on the South Dakota reservation. He is incarcerated at Marion Penitentiary in Illinois, a maximum security federal prison Throughout his trial and imprisonment, Peltier and his numerous have contended that the government framed him for the two deaths. New evidence has emerged that U.S. attorneys and other government officials suppressed evidence, perjured themselves, and produced false documents to "get" Peltier.



**Michael Salazar (center) from Target Warehouse donated a pallet of water for national water day to El Mofimiento Sigue to use for Cinco0 de Mayo activities this year.**



# Feliz Cincode Mayo

from Pueblo City-County Library District

<p><b>Tracy Beach Author Talks</b> 6 p.m., Thursday, May 12 Pueblo West Library</p> <p>4 p.m., Saturday, May 14 Barkman Library</p> <p><b>Street Art Festival featuring Matte Refic</b> 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 21 Lucero Library</p>	<p><b>Summer Reading Kickoff</b> 6 p.m., Friday, June 3 Grome Park</p> <p><b>On the Trail of the Jackalope: How a Legend Captured the World's Imagination and Helped Us Cure Cancer</b> 2 p.m., Saturday, May 28 Giodone Library</p>
--	--

**LET'S CONNECT!**






[pueblolibrary](https://www.pueblolibrary.org)
[pueblo\\_library](https://www.pueblolibrary.org)
[@pueblolibrary](https://www.pueblolibrary.org)
[PuebloLibrary](https://www.pueblolibrary.org)

[www.pueblolibrary.org](https://www.pueblolibrary.org)



**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY**  
Ideas • Imagination • Information

# Pueblo Recycle Works beats the dump for large items

Last month my partner and I decided to get rid of our 30-year-old couch. Although I loved the couch, I couldn't repair the tears in the cushions any more. It was too damaged to donate or give to a family member, so out it had to go.

But go where? We've seen the ads in the Cucaracha for the Pueblo Recycle Works, and we have used their services before for an item, but this time, we only considered "the dump." So off we went after loading the couch in the back of our pickup. We arrived at the dump to discover that the fee was \$30 for the couch but the fee was doubled because we had not covered it with a tarp or blanket. We drove back home, covered it, tied it down, and tried it the next day. Good one. It only cost \$30, but we got a flat so it was still an expensive way to discard.

Then when I contacted Pueblo Recycle Works for an ad for La Cucaracha, and complained, "Why didn't you tell us that the load had to be covered?" he replied that "the dump" was operated by Waste Connections. The Recycle Works is funded by the Landfill Tipping Fee and the City of Pueblo and is at 1595 Stockyard Road (off Joplin Avenue from the Eastside).

So here is how Pueblo Recycle Works. They are open Thursday & Friday 1 am—6 pm and Saturday & Sunday from 10 am—2 pm.

Large items, like couches, require a \$10. voucher purchased from the office at 211 E. 'D' Street and there is a limit of four items per year. People can also discard a mattress, recliner chair,

washer, dryer, stove, clean toilet or sink, or other household furniture, tables. No freezers and refrigerators at this time.

Last time I bought new tires, I paid \$10 each for the tire disposal! At the Pueblo Recycle Works, I can pay only \$1—one dollar!—to dispose of tires (not the rims) but only nine tires per year. This service is for City of Pueblo residents only—take a valid ID or recent utility bill with a city address when you go to buy the voucher. Call phone: 719-553-2748 for your questions. Community can take washers,

dryers, stoves, with metal to Dionisio Metal & Iron for metal recycle, at 700 S. Portland Ave, Pueblo, CO 81001, or American Iron & Metal Co., Inc., 1801 S. La Cross Ave. These are metal scrappers so they pay for your metal items.

Gente, learn from my mistake. Check out the City-run Pueblo Recycle Works before you go to "the dump." Maybe next year, they will advertise with La Cucaracha and give the details.

Complete information at [pueblo.us/2236/large-item-andtire-drop-off](http://pueblo.us/2236/large-item-andtire-drop-off)



## PUEBLO COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE AND PUBLIC TRUSTEE OFFICE

The Treasurer's Office is responsible for the collection of all real estate, personal property, manufactured housing and state assessed taxes. The Treasurer is responsible for the safe and secure investment of county funds.

The Treasurer's Office also serves as the Public Trustee. The Public Trustee is responsible for Releases of Deeds of Trust, Foreclosures of Deeds of Trust, and Tax Escrow Accounts for Land Purchase Contracts.

We are located on the first floor of the Pueblo County Historical Courthouse. Our office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except Holidays.

# UNSILENCED

## INDIGENOUS ENSLAVEMENT IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY

An installation by artist jetsonorama at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center



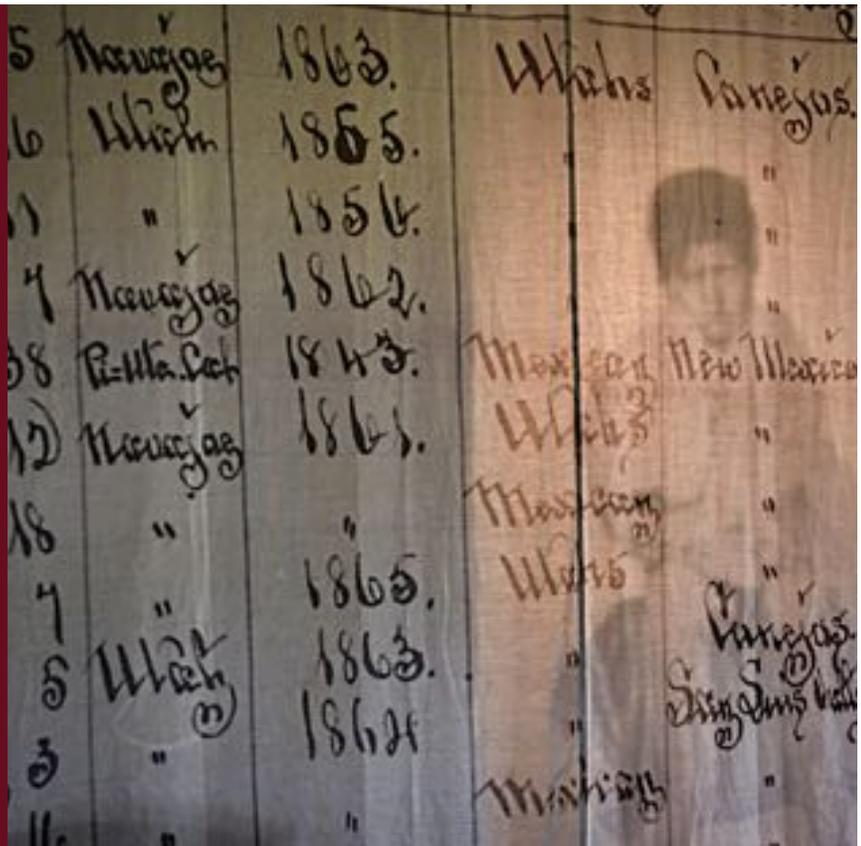
History Colorado



Open daily 9 am-5 pm

29477 CO-159 | Fort Garland, CO | 719-379-3512

[www.FortGarlandMuseum.org](http://www.FortGarlandMuseum.org)



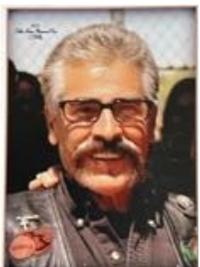
**LATINO VETERANS PROFILES IN COURAGE COMMITTEE**

**215 S. Victoria, Pueblo, CO 81003**

**Contact: Gloria Gutierrez, Chair, 719-334-1503**

*Six Pueblo Latino Veterans were awarded 2021 Profiles in Courage Awards by the Latino Veterans Profiles in Courage Committee of the Latino Chamber of Commerce, according to Gloria Gutierrez, committee chair. Awardees were selected based on nominations showing honorable discharge from the military, examples of service to country, church, community, family, veterans and other organizations.*

**Elena M. Allen, U.S. Army, Imagery Specialist.** Nominated by Jeremiah Blaha. Ms. Allen served four and a half years in the Army. Ms. Allen learned valuable skills in the military as an Imagery Specialist. She received the following medals and citation ribbons, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon, Army Services Ribbon Overseas Service Ribbon, CIA Certificate of Appreciation. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Ms. Allen enrolled in the CSU-Pueblo Teacher Education Program with an emphasis in mathematics. She maintained an excellent grade point average and was inducted as a member of Phi Alpha Theta. Devoted to her students, Ms. Allen has received recognition and awards for her work in the community. Participating in the Unity of Pillars City Wide Safety Summit, Elena continually devotes her time and energy to the betterment of children's lives in the greater Pueblo community. Prior to its closing Ms. Allen served as a volunteer for the adult suicide line here in Pueblo. Currently, Ms. Allen is working as a mathematics instructor at Pueblo East High School. Ms. Allen remains dedicated to her students. She has found a way to continually serve her country and her community.



**Vences Arellano, U.S. Air Force,** Nominated by Larry Alvarado. Mr. Arellano is an honorably discharged Air Force veteran having served from Aug. 14, 1962 to Aug. 9, 1966 serving as a Medical Administration Specialist. While serving his country Mr. Arellano earned

the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Vences, known as Vinny among his friends, continues to serve the Pueblo community and his church, the Sacred Heart Cathedral. He has loved and cared for his family including his wife of 50 years, Viola Martinez Arellano. Mr. Arellano took the responsibility of raising his

two grandsons and adopting his two great-grandsons because as he says "it was the right thing to do." Mr. Arellano is well-known for building handicap ramps for people with special needs, especially for veterans. He has built 35 ramps and provided supplies and donated his labor. He is especially proud of providing a complete bathroom remodel and walk-in tub for an Afghanistan Veteran who lost both legs. Mr. Arellano is very active with kids groups including weekend campouts for kids of all ages; including feeding them, playing games like football and working with Special Olympics as well. Since 2010, to the present, Mr. Arellano works selflessly on renovations for the Medal of Honor Drew Dix Park. He and his veteran friends raised over \$2,000 for the park project.



**Posthumously - Joseph M. Autabee, U.S. Air Force, WWII.** Nominated by Tom Autabee.

Joseph M. Autabee served his country from June 1943 to October 1945. His service included 20 air missions as a turret gunner on bombers from England delivering their payload to many targets in Germany. He served with the Army 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Second Air Division, 448<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, which sustained heavy aircraft and air crew losses. Mr. Autabee was awarded the Good Conduct Medal (Army) 2 Air Medals, European African Medal Eastern Campaign Medal, Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII. After his military service, Mr. Autabee served for 35 years as Foreman at the Pueblo Army Depot.



**Posthumously - Henry R. Dominguez (KIA), U.S. Army, Korean War.** Nominated by Joe A. Dominguez. Henry Dominguez was born in Barela, Colorado and resided in Pueblo prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army. He

was the youngest of his brothers and enlisted on his own because the thought he could make a difference! He completed his training to become a Combat Infantryman and deployed in support of the Korean War. PFC Dominguez was a soldier of K CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment/2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. On Sept. 16, 1950, while in a battle with the enemy, 23-year old PFC Dominguez made the ultimate sacrifice and identified as Killed in Action (KIA). PFC Dominguez was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart and earned numerous awards and medals.



**David J. Jiron, U.S. Marine Corps.** Nominated by Iesha Jiron. Mr. Jiron served in the Marine Corps from 1988 to 1996, serving in Desert Shield Desert Storm from 1990-1991. While

serving in the Marine Corps he received the following awards: Sea Service Deployment with 2 Bronze Stars, National Defense Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, SW Asia Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal. Mr. Jiron has dedicated his post-military service to helping his fellow veterans and veterans organizations; Commander of American Legion Post 2 (2015 through 2018), Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 2018-2019, Jr. Vice Commander for State of Colorado DAV 2016 and 2017, Sr. Vice Commander for State of Colorado DAV 2017 and 2018, Certified Veterans Service Officer for the State Colorado since 2013, helping veterans obtain benefits. Mr. Jiron has accumulated over 2500 volunteer hours and in April 2019 he spearheaded the opening of the DAV Chapter 2 Office after almost 50 years of not having a location to offer services. Dave continues to serve his fellow veterans by representing them at National and State conventions and many events and celebrations throughout the city, and state of Colorado.



**John H. Martinez, U.S. Marine Corps.** Nominated by Marisa Oliva and Melissa Fluke. Mr. Martinez served his country from October 1968 to October 1971. During the Vietnam War he was assigned to Da Nang, Vietnam with

the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. In July 1969, he was engaged in armed combat against VC and North Vietnam forces sustaining a wound on his right arm from a grenade explosion. Mr. Martinez received medical attention in Da Nang, Yokosuka, Japan, Navy Hospital, and finally, Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Aurora, Colorado. After a few months of hospital care he returned to active duty in December 1969. Awards and decorations earned by Mr. Martinez are the National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Meritorious Unit Citation, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. Martinez was born in Trinidad but lived most of his life in Pueblo. After completing his military service Martinez was married for 47 years and for 30 years he coached children from the Eastwood Heights neighborhood in volleyball, T-ball, 16 and under girls fast pitch softball, football, soccer and baseball. Mr. Martinez currently serves on the Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team on the Honor Guard for Pueblo veterans internment ceremonies.



**FREE PUBLIC K-12 CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Mission**

To provide students a challenging, high-quality, diverse K-12 learning environment that develops lifelong learners.

- Small classroom sizes
- Challenging curriculum
- Student support services
- Advanced middle school option to earn high school credit
- Only CDE recognized “Early College” school in Pueblo
- Early College Program (ECP) CHPA pays tuition, fees, and books
- Laptops are provided for ECP and online students
- Most high school students with Associate Degrees in Pueblo  
Students start as early as Freshman year.
- Over 90% of our high school students earn guaranteed transfer college credit.
- Bus services available
- Mariachi Program



**Currently Accepting Applications for Fall 2022**

**Please call 719-744-0819 or**

**Fill out an application online: [www.chpa-k12.org](http://www.chpa-k12.org)**



### Lowrider Magazine Super Show

The Broadmoor World Arena, Colorado Springs, CO, will be the scene of Colorado's LowRider Magazine Super Show on July 23, 2022, according to organizer Robert Espinosa.

The event will feature Paul Rodriguez, Kid Frost, and Dennis Gaxiola with music by N 2 Deep, BrownBoy, Loonies, Kid Frost, bikini contest, and a car hop competition.

Espinosa said the car show is indoor/outdoor with 400+ of the best cars in the country. There will be \$10,000 in cash prizes for cars.

This is a family event, he added. Tickets are \$40 for adults and kids, 10 and under, are free. There is a Kid Zone. The entry fee covers the concert, car show and other activities.

For Vendor/Registration information, call Robert Espinosa 719-406-7838.

### Fiesta Queen

The 54th Colorado State Fair Fiesta Queen is Citlaly Quiroz, currently a student at Morgan Community College in Ft. Morgan, Colorado. Originally from Fort Morgan, she was crowned queen at the 2021 virtual fiesta queen pageant in June 2021.

As the student government president at MCC, Ms. Quiroz pressed to make the college an hunger-free-campus. Her first step was to organize Thanksgiving care packages and meal kits for families in need.

As president of MCC's Multicultural Club, Ms. Quiroz helped to create a video with interviews of Native American/Indigenous students. The goal for Native American and Indigenous History Month was to foster a greater awareness about Native and Indigenous history and culture.

The video is a continuing effort to create a platform where students can share their stories through original spoken word poetry or relating their experience with existing poetry. The project is meant to amplify the voices of students in different regions of Colorado. The video will be available by the end of May on her YouTube Channel: Lolly Quiroz.

She will graduate from MCC in May 2022 and transfer to Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. Her goal is to work as an attorney and continue to advocate for the Latino community.

The 2022 Fiesta Queen competition will be held June 11, at 1 pm at the Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference center. The \$5. tickets are available at the door. The Queen and her court also receive scholarship funds.

### Missions of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Down To Earth Media LLC, is producing a five part documentary series titled "A Story to Tell" on the Missions of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Conejos, CO, according to Rick Vigil, founder and producer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the oldest parish in Colorado. Down To Earth Media is producing a documentary on the restoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe after the destructive fire which happened on the eve of Ash Wednesday in 2016, 90 years after an Ash Wednesday fire that gutted the original church in 1926.

Two of the latest documentaries have been completed titled, "La Mision de San Miguel" also known as "St. Michael of the Mountain" and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/>

VyHtzXZeJfU .and "La Placita de San Rafael" <https://youtu.be/jbE9bx4wo5w>

A variety of shorts film trailers are available to view including the opportunity to purchase copies on DVD of the completed documentary version in Down To Earth Media, LLC website <http://downtoearthmedia.org>

### Chicanas: Nurturers and Warriors

"Chicanas: Nurturers and Warriors" is an IAmDenver documentary film produced by the Denver Office of Storytelling in 2021 and was shown in Pueblo on Apr. 27 and May 5, according to Charlene Garcia Simms, coordinator for the Pueblo viewing opportunities.

"When I saw this Denver documentary in October, I immediately knew we had to screen it in Pueblo," she said. Ms. Garcia Simms is an Archivist and Co-Director, Aztlan Center, CSU-Pueblo.

"The video explores what it means to be a Chicana and features some remarkable women who have made transformative political, social and cultural contributions to Denver," she added.

According to Ms. Garcia Simms, the film chronicles what it is to be woman born in this country with strong Mexican and Indigenous roots and a life dedicated to social justice. "This sweeping history spans centuries and is told like never before," she said, "with personal stories of triumph that are guaranteed to inspire and empower."

"I hope this documentary encourages groups in Pueblo to produce a similar documentary about inspirational Chicanas in Pueblo," said Garcia-Simms.

For questions email: Charlene Garcia Simms, documentary coordinator, at [charlene.simms@csupueblo.edu](mailto:charlene.simms@csupueblo.edu)Multicultural Fair.

### Pueblo's Multicultural Festival

Pueblo's fourth annual Multicultural Festival will be on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Mineral Palace Park, according to organizer Javier Quinones of Mad Fresh Productions.

The Festival features Mexican, Irish, Russian, Asian, Islands, Philippines, Turkish, Native American, Aztec, African and more.

According to Quinones, there will be live bands, an open dance floor, cultural arts and crafts. This event has nine of Pueblo's best food trucks and over 40 vendors.

The Multicultural Festival is Free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chairs and join in on the fun. Event starts at 11am and ends at 7 pm.

At last year's event, people from Colorado Springs and Denver attended and sales were brisk, according to some vendors who sold out on products. For information, call Quinones at 847-863-2852 or email at [javier4il@hotmail.com](mailto:javier4il@hotmail.com)

### Freddie Freak Clean-Up

During 2020, the Chicano Community lost Juan "Freddie Freak" Trujillo. Freddie came from the Boulder era of built Chicanos who gave their all for the Movement. One of his favorite pastimes was to go fishing at Runyon Lake.

As a living memorial to Freddie, El

Movimiento Sigue, with the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District and Mothers Out Front, organized a Freddie Freak Clean-up day in September 4, 2021,



according to Jamie Valdez, coordinator.

People from all walks of life came together to honor Freddie's legacy by cleaning his favorite place. Freddie's family from Denver attended with many others. EMS volunteers received a "Freak" t-shirt while cleaning the Lake trails.

The June 2022 event date has not yet been set but please watch for it on the EMS Facebook page.

### Ray Aguilera Still Serving Bessemer

The Pueblo Poverty Foundation, started by Councilman Ray Aguilera, was quite successful in 2021, according to the Foundation Board of Directors. The December Bessemer Extravaganza served about 960 students and 500 families with Christmas stocking, books and 24,396 pounds of foods and toys.

The group continues to support the Vocabulary Challenge at Minnequa and Columbian Elementary Schools. The Challenge winners were treated to a trip to Elitch Gardens in Denver.

Other students from the Bessemer schools were treated to a trip to the pumpkin patch, ice skating and wowing. Kindergartners and First graders received a trip to the Pueblo Zoo and City Park Rides.

To support the Pueblo Poverty Foundation, donations can be made to P.O. Box 3274, Pueblo, CO 81005.

### Mothers out front support Take It Down

"We're proud to co-sponsor these demonstrations because we recognize the connection between colonialism/columbus and the continuing exploitation presently wreaking havoc on our climate and local environment as well as the importance of doing better than we previously have. We need to employ seventh-generation planning so we can leave them a world in which all people can thrive. That starts with removing symbols of oppression and white supremacy like this Columbus statue that darkens the entrance of Pueblo's main public library branch with the shame of exploitation, slavery, rape, and genocide."

Mothers Out Front



## Encanto tells story of the magic of family dynamics

### By Rachel Chapman

Disney's *Encanto* focuses on family dynamics, the discussion of vulnerability and all the magic it takes to make a family work together. Disney approached their 60<sup>th</sup> animated movie, *Encanto*, with a fresh style of representation.

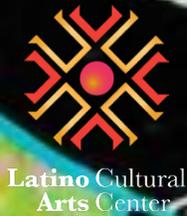
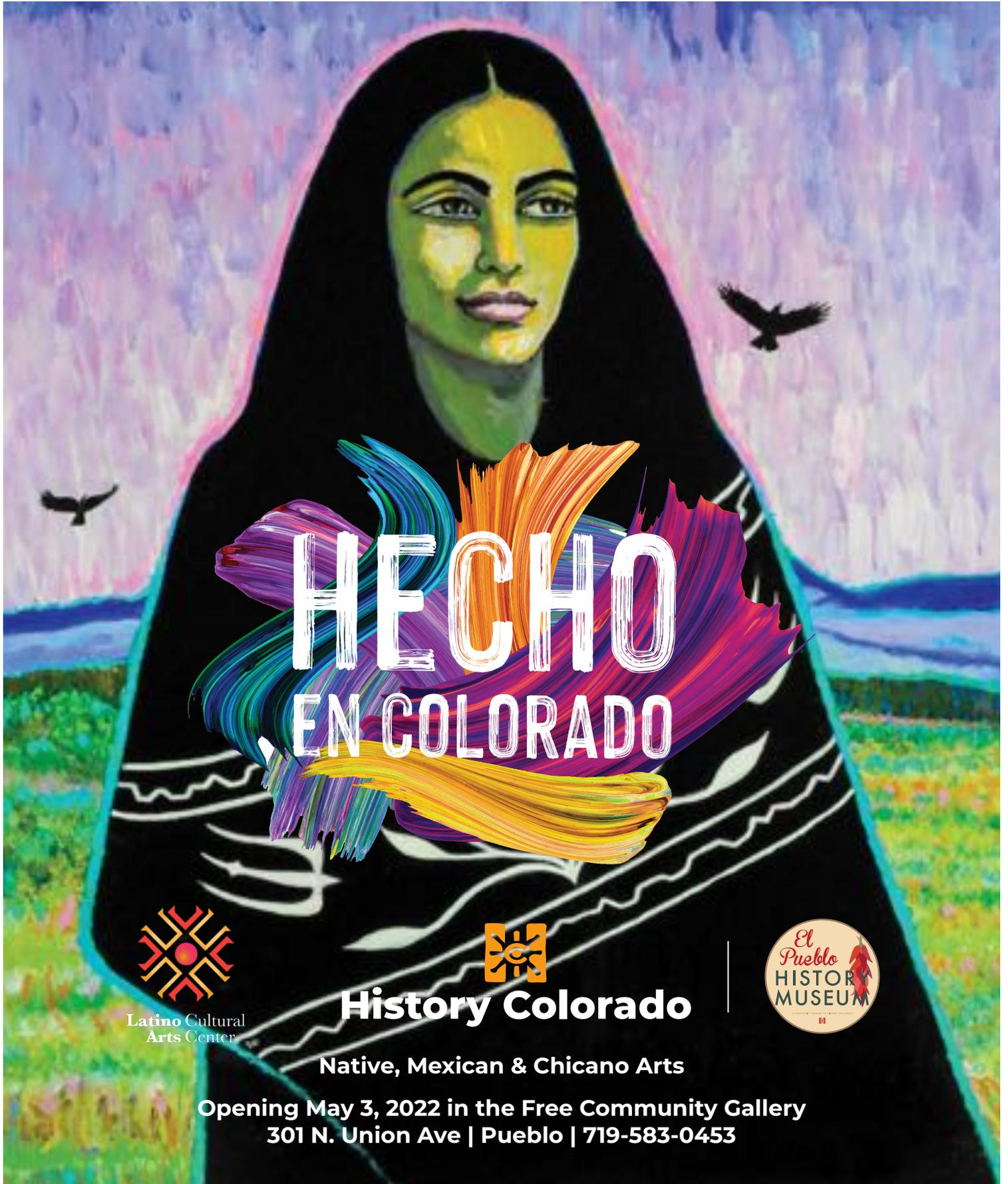
*Encanto* takes place in the mountains of Colombia focusing on a multigenerational family, the Madrigals, in the charming, high spirited house the Madrigals call Encanto. Each family member is granted a magical gift except for one, Mirabel. *Encanto* takes on the journey of Mirabel's strenuous efforts of warning her family of a pending doom that would change her family forever.

With a well-rounded cast directed by Jared Bush and Byron Howard, the magic happens for *Encanto* with leading woman Stephanie Beatriz, voiced as Mirabel Madrigals, who has credit already for portraying a non-stereotypical gay, detective on woman on Brooklyn Nine-Nine. The comedic genius of John Leguizamo leading his voice for Bruno Madrigals brings a relief to a serious situation that the Madrigal family encounters. Bruno is also a big figure in getting Latinos represented on the movie screen. Without leaving the new generation

behind, Latino music artist Maluma gives his voice for the multiple love interest of the young women of *Encanto*. The cast reflects the people who are being seen on the screen which provides an emotional connection from actor to animated characters. *Encanto* has an intimate feeling of love and belonging.

*Encanto* does an excellent job of capturing the colors of Columbia's culture from the village houses to the characters' clothing. A step further in capturing the culture and the characteristics of Columbia was the different hair styles and hair textures. Along with different skin tones, when introduced to Maribel's uncle Félix. I was shocked that Disney would make a character who has dark skin tone — showing that Disney is starting to understand and acknowledge the complexity of non-European cultures. Columbia has its own history of slavery, as well, as the current situation where Columbians are forced from their homes due to violence. *Encanto* was targeted for large audiences of people, of course, because Disney is a multibillion-dollar corporation. That should not take away from representation for non-European cultures, *Encanto* provides a loving movie that feels personal for Columbians and people of cultures with the same history.

**Share *La Cucaracha* with your friends by email or texting this PDF file to them**



Latino Cultural  
Arts Center



**History Colorado**



Native, Mexican & Chicano Arts

Opening May 3, 2022 in the Free Community Gallery  
301 N. Union Ave | Pueblo | 719-583-0453