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Father pleads guilty to murder charge



The Pueblo Police Department launched a homicide investigation in January 2024 after finding a child's body encased in concrete in a storage unit at Kings Storage in Pueblo. ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Two children found dead in 2024

Zach Hillstrom
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Pueblo man arrested in 2024 on suspicion of killing his two young children after one child's body was found encased in concrete in a storage container and another was found in an abandoned vehicle in a local scrapyard pleaded guilty to murder on July 10.

Jesus Dominguez, 37, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree murder in connection with the deaths of his two children, 5-year-old Jesus Dominguez Jr. and 3-year-old Yesenia Dominguez, according to court records.

Dominguez and his girlfriend, Corena Rose Minjarez, were initially arrested in

February 2024 and charged with first-degree murder of a victim under 12 years old by a person in a position of trust.

The *Chieftain* was unable to obtain a copy of the plea agreement between Dominguez and the 10th Judicial District Attorney's Office, as the document is currently in restricted status. Tenth Judicial District Attorney Kala Beauvais and Dominguez's primary defense attorney did not respond to requests for additional information.

How the homicide investigation unfolded

The Pueblo Police Department's investigation began in January 2024 after a child's remains were discovered in a Pueblo storage container.

After the body was found but before the victim was identified, police sought the public's help to locate Dominguez's two children, who they said hadn't been seen by family members since the summer of 2018.

At a preliminary hearing in October 2024, Sgt. Steven Jesik of Pueblo's Crime Scene Investigations Unit said Minjarez's mother called police on Jan. 20, several hours before her daughter and Dominguez were set to be evicted from a storage unit in the 600 block of West Sixth Street.

Jesik said the woman told the responding police officer there was a suspicious trash can full of concrete in the storage container and that she had a bad feeling since she had not seen the two children – Dominguez's from a previous relationship – since June 2018.

The trash can was recovered by police, who cut into the concrete and found the badly decomposed remains of a child, later identified as Yesenia, wrapped in layers of trash bags.

Pueblo PD then launched a homicide investigation and Dominguez and Minjarez were questioned as persons

See MURDER, Page 2A

Man killed in police shooting identified

Zach Hillstrom
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

A man who was shot and killed during a confrontation with Pueblo police officers on July 8 has been identified as a 54-year-old Puebloan.

John Michael Jesse was shot by a police officer during an incident in the 0-100 block of Glen Royal Drive and was pronounced dead at the scene by a coroner investigator, according to a July 11 news release by the Pueblo County Coroner's Office.

Police were called to the scene around 11:44 a.m. Tuesday on a report of a domestic disturbance, according to a Pueblo Police Department news release.

Police officials stated the suspect "was making threats to harm members of his family."

When officers arrived, the suspect allegedly pointed a gun at officers and failed to comply with commands to drop his weapon, at which point an officer fired a single shot, killing the suspect.

No police officers or citizens were injured during the incident, according to the release.

The 10th Judicial Critical Incident Response Team is investigating the incident, with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation acting as the lead investigative agency.

This story was updated to add a photo

Chieftain Editor Zach Hillstrom can be reached at zhillstrom@gannett.com or on X, at @ZachHillstrom. Support local news; subscribe to the Pueblo Chieftain at subscribe.chieftain.com.

Pueblo residents killed in wreck

Zach Hillstrom
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two people killed in a single-vehicle rollover wreck in Pueblo West on July 10 have been identified by the Pueblo County Coroner's Office.

Adrian Gallegos, 25, of Pueblo, and Jeremiah Corbett, 23, of Pueblo West, were killed in the early morning crash in the 400 block of South McCulloch

See WRECK, Page 2A

Pueblo man charged after police standoff

Zach Hillstrom
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Pueblo man was arrested July 10 and charged with several felonies after police allege he kidnapped a victim at gunpoint, attempted to provoke police officers into killing him, and started a fire during an "intense standoff" with

police.

Ernesto Alarcon, 55, was charged with aggravated motor vehicle theft, second-degree kidnapping, first-degree arson, felony menacing, and possession of a prohibited large-capacity magazine, according to a Pueblo Police Department news release.

Officers were called to the 2000 block of Pine Street at approximately 11

p.m. on July 9 on a report of a domestic disturbance involving weapons. Upon arrival, officers learned a male suspect, later identified as Alarcon, had allegedly kidnapped a victim at gunpoint, though the victim managed to escape and call for help.

"As officers secured the perimeter of

See ARREST, Page 3A

