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The Pueblo Chieftain

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WEEKEND

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Jon VanDeventer and his wife, Ashley VanDeventer, are the owners of Bricks & Minifigs Pueblo located at 4134 N. Freeway Rd. ZACHARY ALLEN/THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

‘All things LEGO’

Sets, pieces and figurines abound at Pueblo’s Bricks & Minifigs

James Bartolo
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

Offerings at Bricks & Minifigs, the “all things LEGO” store located at 4134 N Freeway Rd., include new lego sets, used sets, pre-built sets and even retired sets. Customers can buy lego bricks in bulk, create their own minifigures or se-

lect from the store’s assortment of pre-built minifigures. There’s also a birthday party room equipped with a derby track for racing lego cars. While Bricks & Minifigs is a franchise, the store on North Freeway Road is the only location in Pueblo. Jon and Ashley VanDeventer are the owners of the Pueblo store. The couple grew acquainted with Lego products and the Bricks & Minifigs franchise through

their son Mason, now 17. “We both have found a love with Bricks & Minifigs ourselves,” Ashley told the Chieftain. “They are an amazing company.” After a soft opening on Nov. 24 and the well-attended Dec. 6 grand opening, holiday shopping at the Pueblo store continued steadily leading into the holidays. “Our new sets are flying off the shelves for sure,” Ashley said on Dec. 17. “It’s been really nice actually; seeing the excitement of the kids and the

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Pueblo City Council approves Regional Building dissolution agreement

James Bartolo
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

Votes by Pueblo City Council on Dec. 22 approved a settlement agreement for “termination and dissolution” of the Pueblo Regional Building Department. The City of Pueblo and Pueblo County entered into an “Amended and Re-

stated Agreement” in 2012 to establish the Pueblo Regional Building Department as an entity administering building codes, inspections, licensing and permitting for both jurisdictions, according to a City of Pueblo background paper. However, Pueblo County notified the city in June 2025 of its intentions to end the amended and restated agreement

that had previously been continued year-to-year. The settlement agreement approved on Dec. 22, 2025 states that termination of the Pueblo Regional Building Department will be effective Dec. 31. After the change becomes effective, Pueblo County intends to op-

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YEAR IN REVIEW

What were the biggest cases of 2025?

Justin Reutter
Pueblo Chieftain
USA TODAY NETWORK

From a grizzly murder and dismemberment to the homicides of a pair of young children, Pueblo and the 10th Judicial District saw several high profile cases in 2025. Here are some of the biggest cases from this year, and what may be coming in 2026.

Man who had woman’s severed hand

Solomon Martinez, 27, was convicted in March of first-degree murder, abuse of a corpse, and tampering with human remains in the death of Renee Portillos, whose headless and dismembered body was found in Fountain Creek after an eyewitness reported it to law enforcement. Martinez was arrested with Portillos’ hand in his coat pocket on Jan. 10, 2024, while he was working as a security guard for a private security company. Martinez was arrested after two witnesses came forward, including a friend of Martinez’s roommate and the roommate himself. In interviews with police, the two witnesses said Martinez had asked them to help him dispose of a dismembered body early in the morning at a car wash on Troy Avenue and Constitution Boulevard. Martinez arrived in a distinctive red sedan, with blood and dirt on his clothes, the deputy DA said. Initially, one of the witnesses told police he did not help Martinez dispose of the body in the bed of Fountain Creek, but he later admitted to having helped cut off a hand and a portion of Portillos’ arm, claiming Martinez had forced him to do so at gunpoint. The eyewitness also maintained that the victim’s head was missing before he ever saw the body. Portillos’ DNA was found inside Martinez’s vehicle and on a condom that also had Martinez’s DNA on it, according to the deputy DA. During two phone calls between Martinez and his mother made from prison, Martinez allegedly admitted to killing Portillos, although he continued to claim that an acquaintance of his dismembered her body. Meanwhile, the defense claimed Martinez assisted in dismembering the body and may have abused Portillos’ corpse, but stated Martinez did not kill her and instead blamed the

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