



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2023

Pueblo Law Enforcement Agencies Team with U.S. Marshals to Locate Missing Children, Wanted Sex Offenders and Dangerous Fugitives

PUEBLO, CO. – Local law enforcement agencies in partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service, located 15 missing children and arrested or cleared 13 warrants for wanted fugitives, including sex offenders as part of a three-day operation in Pueblo County.

Working in coordination with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the U.S. Marshals' Missing Child Unit and Colorado Violent Offender Task Force joined Pueblo Police, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, the Tenth Judicial District Attorney's Office, Colorado Bureau of Investigation, Colorado State Parole and Drug Enforcement Administration to locate and recover endangered missing children in Pueblo County in an operation dubbed "Operation Steel City Rescue."

The same agencies simultaneously conducted a second operation dubbed "Operation Clean-Up", where individuals wanted on sexual offender warrants and other high-profile or dangerous fugitive warrants were located and arrested. The operations occurred April 11-13.

"This is another example of the great teamwork that exists in Pueblo County law enforcement," said Jeff Chostner, Tenth Judicial District Attorney. "The Pueblo County Sheriffs' Office, the Pueblo Police Department, DHS, the Tenth Judicial District Attorney's Office are among the various agencies that have combined and coordinated with the U.S. Marshals Service to seek out, find and protect children in our community. This three-day operation has helped make Pueblo a safer place for our children and residents through the securing of missing children and apprehending individuals fleeing the law."

Planning for the operations began in January with a primary focus to find missing children in the Pueblo area. The project was expanded to include the fugitive round-up, according to Kirk M. Taylor, U.S. Marshal for the District of Colorado.

“We did an operation for missing children in Aurora (in November 2022) that was very successful,” Taylor said. “We met with the Pueblo law enforcement community, and they were very receptive to doing a similar operation here.”

The focus of Operation Steel City Rescue was to locate children who have been reported missing to local law enforcement, entered into the NCIC and reported to NCMEC as missing. As children were recovered, officials from the Department of Human Services made a determination on whether they should be returned or if another placement was necessary.

The children, ranging from age 15 to 18, were considered some of the most at-risk and challenging recovery cases in the area. The names and detailed information about their respective cases is not being released to protect the identities and privacy of all involved.

The Justice for Juvenile Victims of Trafficking Act was passed in 2015 which granted the U.S. Marshals Service the authority to assist in missing child cases. To manage the missing child cases, the U.S. Marshals Service formed the Missing Child Unit, whose mission is to develop, implement and oversee a comprehensive nationwide missing child investigative program.

“Since we are here and we have so many resources down in Pueblo we decided to go after some of the most violent felonies, which is also what the Marshals do,” Taylor said. “We got a list from the city and the county of who they wanted us to target and go after them and we’ve been successful.”

Operation Clean-Up netted 13 arrests and warrants cleared of wanted fugitives. A couple fugitives were located in jails in other states and are expected to be extradited.

“The collaboration has been a concentrated, committed effort from all agencies involved, one that shapes our partnerships and best serves our communities,” said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. “Through this effort, we were able to locate and recover a couple of missing or endangered juveniles and we were also successful in arresting several individuals who had felony warrants. It always benefits our public and our agencies to come together in a collective effort such as this to protect and serve our community.”

Pueblo Police Chief Chris Noeller added, “the cooperation between all the agencies involved the U.S. Marshals, Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office, the DA’s Office, CBI and others is an example of how we work here in Pueblo to make an impact on crime in our community and to prioritize the location and recovery of missing and endangered children,” said Noeller. “I am proud to be part of such a team.”

In addition to the operations in Pueblo, the U.S. Marshals assisted Canon City Police Department and the CBI in apprehending and arresting a man wanted on several drug warrants on Tuesday night (April 11). A search warrant was executed on the vehicle the suspect, identified as Robert Borman, was in when he was arrested and authorities found 1,802 fentanyl pills, 13 grams of methamphetamine and a gun. Search warrants were also executed on residences associated with Borman and additional drugs and weapons were located.

Combined, Canon City Police seized 11,302 fentanyl pills worth an estimated \$113,020; more than 142 grams of methamphetamine; 5.2 grams of heroin, six guns and thousands of dollars in cash in this incident.

“I want to thank U.S. Marshal Kirk Taylor, his deputies and Colorado Bureau of Investigations Director Chris Schafer and his agents for their unwavering support and assistance to secure this dangerous fugitive and accused narcotics distributor,” said Canon City Police Chief John Schick. “There is no way to quantify the potential number of lives the narcotic detectives, (CBI) agents and U.S. Marshals saved as a result of their collective efforts, but I am convinced lives were saved.”

###