

Pueblo County to host second Colorado VINE Users' Conference
Victims' advocates/ law enforcement to meet on victim notification services

Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor is hosting the second Colorado VINE Users' Conference this week. VINE is an automated service that keeps crime victims and their families informed on the custody status of an offender. Users can check the status and receive notifications of an offender's status change by telephone or email.

Victims' advocates and law enforcement personnel will meet at the sheriff's office, 909 Court Street on Wednesday, September 7 from 9:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Among those scheduled to speak are Sharon Schwabe, the Colorado VINE project manager, Dan Griffin, training coordinator with the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA,) as well as Karen Adams and Erica Cecil, learning specialist and account manager with Appriss, the technology provider of the VINE service.

"This is the first time we've hosted a VINE conference since the program was launched in Colorado in 2008," said Sheriff Taylor. "Advocates and law enforcement officials will hear from a number of speakers and discuss ways to get the word to every citizen in our state."

"There have been more than 56,000 VINE registrations for Colorado VINE since the service was launched," said Schwabe. "More than 976,000 outbound notification calls have been made to registrants and more than 18,000 emails have been sent."

VINE was created in 1994 following the murder of Mary Byron in Louisville, Kentucky. She was raped by a former boyfriend who was later released from jail without her knowledge. He shot Mary to death on her 21st birthday.

Denver was one of the first cities in the nation to begin using the service. The County Sheriffs of Colorado took VINE statewide, making Colorado the 36th state to launch it. VINE is currently available across most of the nation as well as Puerto Rico. It is available in both English and Spanish.

The first users' conference was held in Montrose County on August 23.

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