

will be held prior to the 7:30 p.m. show at Rye High School.

9 a.m. parade and sidewalk sales.

Murder counts filed against 2 suspects

By MARGIE WOOD

First- and second-degree murder charges were filed Friday in Pueblo District Court against two men who are accused of three homicides in an eight-day period.

Donald L. Pruitt, 36, of 21 Amherst was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the death of Patricia Herburger and Kerry Ireland Wednesday night at the woman's East Side home.

Edward D. Lucero, 25, of 2639 E. Sixth is charged with second-degree murder of 17-year-old Leonard Sanchez, who was stabbed to death at a party in the 2700 block E. Sixth June 10.

Lucero also is charged with first-degree assault on another 17-year-old, Johnny Ortivez of 1617 San Juan, who was stabbed in the abdomen. He has been held in County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail since his arrest the night of the stabbings.

Pruitt was arrested at about midnight Wednesday after he told a friend he had killed two people.

He is accused of shooting Ireland three times in the chest with a .357-caliber pistol, and bludgeoning Ms. Herburger to death with the gun. Pruitt reportedly told police he had a date with Ms. Herburger, and found her sleeping with Ireland in the bedroom of her home.

His bail has been set at \$125,000.

Pruitt will be arraigned Monday in District Judge Matt J. Kikel's court, and Lucero will be arraigned June 29 before District Judge Richard D. Robb.

Although most felony cases are filed in County Court, the district attorney's office petitioned to file the murder charges directly in District Court to enable the district judges to be familiar with the cases from the outset.

Lucero was scheduled for a bail reduction hearing in County Court next Tuesday, but the hearing presumably will be vacated because of the District Court filing.

Governor signs bill