

“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” Fyodor Dostoevsky



Inside of Renee Good's vehicle after she was shot and killed by ICE agent Johnathan Ross.

The Death of Good

By Payton Young

The blatant murder of Renee Nicole Good by ICE agent Jonathan Ross in Minneapolis and the videos of the killing has stirred a lot in me.

Renee was a mother of three children, shot and killed by a belligerent ICE agent. As Renee Good was attempting to pull off the congested street, ICE vehicles crowded the street making movement nearly impossible, as was seen in eyewitness accounts across all angles. Good remained in place in the vehicle as two agents approached the vehicle and attempted to open the driver's door. They screamed conflicting commands "get out of the fucking car" and "leave." As Good began to turn to drive away, one of them shot her once through the windshield and twice through the driver's window.

A physician who was trying to attend to the dying Renee Good had guns pointed at him and other residents trying to come to her aid. ICE even blocked emergency service vehicles from entering the streets, EMTs arrived on foot.

The incident comes after the deployment of two-thousand ICE/DHS per-

sonnel to the state of Minnesota to do "immigration sweeps," as FOX headlines deemed them. This murder was a predictable event. The literal deployment of a militarized police force always leads to bystanders engaged in legal activities coming under fire for inexcusable reasons.

Kristi Noam is still riding this high of justification of the killing by claiming these officers were responding to a stuck car, and that Renee was a part of a group that "assaulted and blocked in [ICE agents] by protesters... These individuals followed our officers all day...impeding our law enforcement operations." Noam defended the murderer, claiming: "This was an act of domestic terrorism." Throughout the rest of the press conference she goes on and on defending these thugs as "experienced officers" and their actions as "part of their training for these situations."

I know I'll get flak for this, but the vast majority of them do not seem fit for the task at hand. Or any task for that matter.

Every photo or video of an ICE agent I've seen looks like they've been sitting on their

GOOD on Page THREE

'The End of the World:' Freedom and Death at the Dirty Kids Memorial

By Keegan Otwell

In 2017 I left my hometown for what would end up being three years spent broke and wandering the US. My friends were fellow vagrants who aged out of foster care, got kicked out of homes, and were queer. Or, like me, people who were fed up with what felt like a meaningless life spent working and paying to stay stuck in the same place. People desperate for something real. Crust-punks, dirty kids, hobos, whatever the name, that was my community for three years. People traveled by freight train, hitch-hiking, school bus, jolopy, by any means necessary. You do a lot of walking.

Freedom is the main pull, but even being homeless by choice isn't much of a choice for people. It is freedom compared to the alternative. It's the same kind of choice someone makes when leaping from a burning building. This, or that.

Almost all of my friends were alcoholics, if not also heroin addicts. For me, by the time it all became less about traveling and more about the drugs, I had already lost myself, after losing several friends. I barely made it out alive.

But the times I did have, the connections I made, I wouldn't trade for anything. The beauty of this amazing country with all of its diversity was really just the backdrop to these relationships, to the small family I made and the people I called home.



Grant (L), and the author (R) from their years of being traveling 'dirty kids.' Photo Courtesy Keegan Otwell.

In a life where your surroundings are constantly changing, the one thing that stands out among the passing of time, places, and possessions is the love that you have for one another. That is what kept me going, what has propelled me across the entire country at times to meet up with certain people, no distance ever too long. You have no idea how you'll make it there, you just know you'll figure it out.

The idea of the material world and concepts of success in this grand scheme of things seem alien. That's why it can be so hard to get off the road and attempt to live a somewhat normal lifestyle. It's an entirely different reality. It would take me three years of grief and addiction after getting off the road to even begin to get my shit together, so to speak.

Going back to New Orleans this past Halloween for a dirty kid memorial felt like something I needed to do. I would cover it for my podcast, but I was also there to mourn my own losses. One of which was Grant, who I loved deeply and spent most of that three years with. He was like a soulmate of sorts.

As Lolo, who started the Nola memorial six years ago, said, "Your friends are scattered all across the country and all you want is to have your friends there with you so you can grieve together. And it is a really lonely, lonely, deeply lonely feeling to not have your friends

Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

Solidarity Not Charity
Free Food for Free People
Feeds every Saturday at 4pm
3rd St. & South Ave. Grand Jct.
solidaritynotcharitygjinfo@gmail.com

Colorado Rapid Response Network
Volunteers Needed! Confirmeres Needed
Volunteer online:
www.coloradorapidresponsenetwork.com/
get-involved
When there is a training in your area you will be contacted.

Film Premier of Prysmion
Jan. 31st, 7pm
Orbit ArtSpace, Fruita

Second Screening
Feb. 7th, 7pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Motion, Fruita

GJ Indivisible Pop-Up Protest
12-1pm every Tuesday and Thursday at various locations.
igjpopups@gmail.com

Mutual Aid Partners' Distro Day!
Every Tuesday!
10:30am to 1pm
402 Grand Ave. Grand Junction.

Falconer Workers' Society
Anti-Capitalist and Revolutionary Book Club
Grand Junction. Email for an invite.
falconerworkerssociety@gmail.com

Black Citizens and Friends Annual MLK Memorial March
Jan. 19th 12pm
At Grand Junction City Hall

Durango Food Not Bombs
Every Sunday 2pm to 4pm
Buckley Park
1200 Main Ave.
Durango, Colo

Be the Media!
Help Edit, Write, Distro
The Revolutionist
therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

Join your local Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Contact your local chapter:
Mesa County: info@mesadsa.org
GarCo: CAD.Garfield.county.DSA@proton.me
YDSA @ CMU: cmuydsa@protonmail.com

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BRIEFS from Page THIRTEEN

fencing ad campaign round the church:

“Canyon View Vineyard Church has been included on a list of over 500 churches across California, Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado that are being targeted by a digital advertising campaign funded by Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We want to be absolutely clear: We did not know about this, we did not consent to this, and we are not participating in this.”

Palantir CEO Buys Monastery Near Aspen

The AI-fueled surveillance state will be brought to a community near you by tech company and military contractor Palantir and its CEO, Alex Carp. Carp recently purchased St. Benedict’s Monastery in Old Snowmass. The 3500 acre parcel has been owned and operated by Trappist Monks since 1956.

Local Urban Legend Gets Parody Site

For decades stories, rumors, conspiracies,



From <https://chickenwhackers.net>

and myths have spread about a meth-cooking, human-sacrificing, politically well-connected satanic cult called the Chicken Whackers. It’s unknown who is running the site, which clearly parodies the key elements of the legend, complete with a Chicken Whacker origin story tied to Freemasonry and CIA mind control project MkUltra, and faked ‘declassified documents.’

Report Shows Continued Violence Against and Arrests of Journalist

In December, the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker posted a study that found journalists in 2025 faced increased risk of arrest and state-violence, especially while cover-

ing ICE resistance protests. They document 32 cases of journalists being arrested while covering protests in 2025. The organization documented 50 arrests of journalists in 2024, almost entirely while attempting to cover pro-Palestine protests on campuses.

Jeanette Vizguerra Free

After over nine months in ICE custody, Denver-based immigrant and outspoken activist Jeanette Vizguerra was released on bond on December 22.

Trump to Rubenstein: “Rot in Hell”

In a New Year’s Eve post on social media in support of convicted election meddler and former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, Tina Peters, Trump hoped Governor Polis and Republican Mesa County District Attorney Dan Rubenstein would “rot in hell.”

DNC Silenced 2024 Election Autopsy

Despite numerous pledges to release the DNC ‘autopsy,’ of the 2024 election, the party leaders have chosen not to release its findings. Maybe it was scrapping the primary and anointing a candidate that got less than .5% of the primary vote in 2016? Maybe it was the full-throated support for genocide in Israel and ICE at home? Maybe it was courting the non-existent Liz Cheney voters rather than energizing the young, working-class, progressive base of the party? Unfortunately, we will never know, and not knowing will help just one of the 2028 presidential hopefuls, Kamala Harris. Former Obama speech writer Jon Favreau wrote “Unreal. The DNC’s actual position is that if the public knew more about what Democrats got wrong in the last election, it would hurt the party’s chances in the next election.”



By Dalton Trombone

GOOD from Page ONE

ass their whole life waiting for some deplorable Hitlerite to give them the green light to go out and terrorize.

The responses around this from the DHS and the MAGA regime have been nothing but polishing the boots of their little Eichmann and letting the world know he’s going to get away with it.

Trump’s social media claims Good “ran over” and “hospitalized” the ICE agent, while videos show him walking with ease.

Democratic Governor Tim Walz responded to the unrest by threatening to deploy the national guard.

The mayor of Minneapolis, Jacob Frey, has said that “We’ve dreaded this moment since the early stages of this ICE in Minneapolis. They are not here to cause safety in this city. What they are doing is not to provide safety in America. What they are doing is causing chaos and distrust. They’re ripping families apart. They’re sowing chaos on our streets, and in this case, quite literally, killing people. They are already trying to spin this as an action of self-defense. Having seen the video myself, I want to tell everybody directly: That is bullshit. This was an agent recklessly using power that resulted in somebody dying, getting killed. ... There’s little I can say, again, that will make this situation better, but I do have a message for our community, for our city, and I have a message for ICE. To ICE: Get the fuck out of Minneapolis. We do not want you here.”

But Walz and Frey have not deployed their officers to arrest Johnathan Ross but against the outraged masses in the streets.

Renee was killed roughly a mile

away from where George Floyd was murdered by Derek Chauvin in 2020, spurring a spring of protests and demonstrations against police brutality and for racial justice.

The killing of Renee has spurred immediate protests and vigils in Minneapolis and across the United States.

ICE

violence has been increasing over the last few months, with up to nine people having been shot at by immigration agents, according to the *Washington Post*. The very day after Good’s public execution, two more Americans engaged in constitutional protected observation activities were



500 people mobilized in Grand Junction, to protest the killing of Good, Jan. 11. Photo Courtesy of Lee Gelatt.

shot by ICE in Portland.

In all these cases, including this one, agents claimed self-defense despite eyewitness and firsthand video accounts showing a clear lack of danger to the officers. These are not under-trained foolhardy mall cops shooting at the drop of a pen. These are the Burger Reich’s trigger-happy lunatics going door-to-door to persecute the American working class and gun down anyone who tries to resist or even document.

These agents, their superiors, the plutocrat government, and the pedophile elite, that keep them in power, must be imprisoned so long as they draw breath.

Of course the tide would have to turn first.

The current spineless democrat leadership are going to talk big and sit on their hands. Something has got to fucking give people.

If these Democrats can’t even come together when Americans are getting gunned down in the streets, then I genuinely do not think things will improve, even if the Dems do take back the House of Representatives.

Only a cultural and political revolution of great proportions can restore my hope for our future.

COMMUNITY MEDIA IN ACTION

The Rev in 2025

By Jacob Richards

Over the past year, with the support of our subscribers, the trust of our community sources, and the fearlessness of our writers, we have broken major stories that have resulted in strategic victories, mass-mobilizations, and exposed corruption in multiple local agencies.

Our biggest story of the year exposed Turning Point USA's racist and hate-fueled activities on Colorado Mesa University's Campus. We documented the rise of hate speech, vandalism, and harassment happening on the campus.

We were putting the final edits on the piece when the Western Culture Club, a group with a lot of cross membership with CMU-TPUSA and clear links with neo-Nazi group Patriot Front, announced that white supremacist Jarod Taylor had been invited to speak on campus.

The story has been viewed almost 7,000 times, and got our name dropped by news outlets locally and across the state. *The Daily Sentinel* obtained emails in which CMU President John Marshall referred to Rev's editor as an "Antifa Lunatic."

Additionally, we printed a special issue of *The Rev* featuring content by CMU students, so students had something to distribute as they organized a counter demonstration.

In early December, we broke our second most viewed story. We had been watching the Library since May, when right-wing outcry erupted after a Trump-as-Hitler art piece which was displayed in the central branch of the Mesa County Public Library.

In September, we started getting

anonymous tips that a new, seriously inexperienced right-wing ideologue, board member was pushing for an informal group of homeschoolers to host a Constitution Day event in the children's area of the main branch, a place not regularly available for outside groups to host events. We commented on the favoritism in our November News Briefs.

Then on December 12, the Mesa County BoCC agenda was published appointing two more under-qualified right-wing ideologues to the Library Board of Trustees. After verifying the facts with sources close to the issue, we published an article with an attached call to action.

Based on our reporting, the community mobilized. The county had to open not one but two overflow rooms to accommodate the crowds while dozens still stood in the hallway. Groups as varied as Mesa County DSA, Restore The Balance, League of Women Voters, and Indivisible Grand Junction mobilized to speak out against this partisan take-over of our beloved library system.

In February, we broke one of the most impactful stories of the year. Just days after Trump took office we got tips alleging that Larkin Health, the new management at Mindsprings Mental Health, were in talks with ICE to transform unused building D into a facility to hold unaccompanied minors in ICE custody. We confirmed this and began working with advocates and lawyers across the state to prevent this deal. We eventually got our hands on a leaked video of a virtual meeting in which Larkin CEO, Nicholas Torres, announced to Mindsprings staff the proposal. The video directly contradicted the lies

NOVEMBER NEWS BRIEFS

Cops May Need Warrant For Flock Data

Colorado State Senator Judy Amabile, will be introducing legislation that would require a warrant for police to access Automatic License Plate Reader data for investigations. ALPRs log every vehicle that passes by them and then store that data for at least 30-days raising privacy, civil rights, and due process concerns. Let's contact our leaders and make this basic constitutional protection the law of the land.

Telluride Ski Patrol Skrike Won Wage Increases

Telluride Professional Ski Patrol Association's 13-day strike shuttered the mountain in late December, won the patrollers some of their wage demands, and showed the power of organized labor taking power back from the billionaires. Many now in that world-renowned resort community realized they live in a company town where their collective well-being is controlled by one eccentric billionaire. The owner of Telski, Chuck Horning, never negotiated with the union in good faith. The lack of good faith has extended to his dealings with local government and the community at large. He has a documented history of familial violence and sexual assault. The community there is sick of him and have an entire website dedicated to his abuses. <https://chuckchuck.ski/>

Book Vandal Surrenders to Police

On Christmas Eve, Marty Mykytiuk, 71, turned herself in to Grand Junction Police



after she was caught on camera destroying a number of transgender books and magazines at the main branch of the Mesa County Public Library. Her photo circulated widely on local media and on social media after the crime was profiled on CrimeStoppers. Mykytiuk was issued a summons for Criminal Mischief and released.

Trump Kidnaps Madero, Millions Mobilize

In the early morning hours of January 3, the U.S. Military and elements of the CIA captured and abducted the Venezuelan president. For months, the MAGA regime has been banging the drums of war, which has nothing to do with drugs, disputed elections, or tyranny and everything to do with oil. In just hours, protests popped up in cities and small towns across America. 300 people rallied in Grand Junction. In the few days after the assault on Venezuela Trump has threatened no less than five other sovereign nations. "Nobody can stop us," Trump said. Welcome to the Donroe Doctrine.

Durango Activist Again Assaulted by ICE

On January 2, again ICE resisters attempted to prevent the kidnapping of their neighbors by ICE. Like a similar action in October, ICE used physical force and chemical weapons against civilly disobedient protesters.

'60 Minutes' Censors Piece about CECOT

Back in 2025, viewers rallied around late-night comedian Jimmy Kimmel after he was fired for criticizing Trump. It was largely a symbolic victory, as the same week that Kimmel was reinstated, right-wing ideologue Bari Weiss was selected to head up CBS's news division. Last week, Weiss suppressed a '60 Minutes' story about the barbaric conditions at El Salvador's CECOT prison, a facility that Trump has deported people to in violation of court orders.

Local Church Targeted with Israeli Propaganda

Canyon View Vineyard Church had to put out this statement after questions arose from a geo-



REV from page SEVEN

subscribers helping fund our efforts—without brave sources and whistleblowers, who took real risks for the truth to come out.

The Revolutionist by the Numbers:

31 writers, 6 local visual artists, 14 photographers, and 9 poets published.

13 Issues produced 12 regular and 1 Special CMU edition, 200 pages of community generated news and content, which was sent to 158 paid subscribers, and far too many typos, sorry.

In 2025, our website has had 15,975 PDF downloads, 33.1k unique website views, we published 111 stories, 6 of which were translated and published in Spanish.

We had 823,951 Facebook views, of which 96 percent were local to western Colorado. 53.4 percent of our 1803 Facebook followers are 44 or younger.

Thirteen towns in Western Colorado & Eastern Utah have at least one local volunteer that prints and distros the Revolutionist, from Green River to Aspen; Durango to Parachute.

With your help, we plan on making an even bigger impact in 2026. The fight has just begun and we are here for it.

Your support is needed! Subscribing is solidarity. Subscribers get 12 issues of the *Revolutionist* in the mail and the honor of knowing their support makes impactful radical news, commentary, art and culture possible. Subscribers fund the website, documents requests, and the print distribution copies you can find all around our community.

Subscribe today! Additionally, subscriptions make great gifts! <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/QUYK439P57SVA>

Submissions are always welcome. We'd love to publish your journalism, art, poetry, polemics, reviews, etc. submission.therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

Help us promote your grassroots local event or group. Send events and contact info for your organizations to: events.therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

Important stories often start as new news tips, and/or leaked documents or audio-visual materials. Help us provide meaningful community news to the Western Slope, and we will keep you anonymous. tips.therevolutionistgj@gmail.com.

INSTITUTION from page ELEVEN

force shelters and assistance programs to end. Because programs have tight budgets, many will run out of funds even if they are renewed. For clients supported by "Housing First" programs, this will result in unpaid rent and a significant reduction in services; homelessness in every community will increase once current grants run out of funds.

That is the point, though, as Trump signaled in his July 2025 Executive Order, "Ending Crime and Disorder on American Streets". This EO states: "the overwhelming majority of these individuals living on the streets are addicted to drugs, have a mental health condition, or both." Because of this nonexistent threat, Trump ordered the expansion of civil commitment, shifting people into long-term institutional settings. The EO directs the secretary of HUD, Scott Turner, to end funding of programs that do not have adequate outcomes and take steps to increase accountability.

Regardless of the evidence that "Housing First" and "Harm Reduction" programs have reliably helped people off the street, the Trump Administration can only see their draconian, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest program as successful. Project 2025 and all of its branches have reliably been built on the idea that humans must be contained, controlled and punished for America to be a successful nation.

Programs like Homeward Bound or the Asset House don't stand a chance when local governments, state governments, and the federal government line up against them to implement a version of morality over compassion.



Homeward Bounds' North Ave Shelter entrance. Photo by Firefox.

NOLA from Page TWO

around you ... why don't we do a fucking memorial?"

Grant's death happened during Covid, and there was no funeral.

Death is no stranger to travelers. Fentanyl, heroin, violence (sometimes by police), infection, accidents, it ravages the traveler community. If you've made it into your 30's, you're an elder in the community. The memorial in New Orleans is a chance for dirty kids to collectively mourn and share stories of those we lost.

The night of the memorial, we had a bonfire on the shore of the Mississippi, at the place they call "the end of the world,"

a tiny peninsula of grass with a giant abandoned building complex looming in the background. It's where the levees broke during Katrina. We had cardboard gravestones with names of people, along with their tags, which still linger out there in the world, on dumpsters, freight trains, under bridges

across the nation. They're written and drawn and then tossed into the fire as we take turns talking about each one. I heard names of friends I had lost, some years ago.

Amidst the yelling and speeches people are giving, I hear Lolo say "everyone is dead."

NOLA is the first place I've been back to, where Grant and I lived for a couple months. It was flooded with memories, it felt like I might run into him. Looking around the fire, I see kids in their early twenties, Carharts, patched out, already probably on the road for a year or more. They're drinking, laughing, playing music,

yelling at their dogs. Everyone isn't dead, but almost everyone I knew, which made this chaotic world a familiar one to me, is dead. Around the fire, there are some people who will be gone by next year's memorial.

Just up the embankment between the fire and the abandoned building complex is an area with physical memorials that travelers have built over time. There is an entire mini cathedral made with metal, stone, and stained glass. There is a mini Airstream trailer someone made, surrounded by pictures and candles and things people have left. Some of the names on the



Cardboard headstone in the light of a bonfire at "the end of the world." Courtesy Photo Keegan Otwell.

memorials are ones I hear by the fire. There's an old rotary phone on a wooden box labeled "wind phone," that says "give your dead friend a call."

We'll never have a graveyard, no statues, no monuments remembering us. This memorial gathering and these art pieces are a refusal to let loved ones fade away just like everything else does in this

world, defiant amid a vast national backdrop of truck stops, Walmarks, gas stations, dumpsters, alleyways, skyscrapers, in a world where everything is blending into the same thing.

We'll all learn the same lessons over and over, lose our closest friends, generation by generation, and there's just no stopping it. As much as you want to be able to reach out, say something, grab onto someone, there's really nothing to be said. All you can do is love people while they're still here.

Keegan works doing street outreach back in his hometown, and also has a podcast called "Nowhere," where you can hear a full episode with audio from the memorial, pieces of his own story, and interviews about homelessness.

Torres had spread in the legacy media. The deal fell through, and Larkin skipped town a couple million dollars poorer. Crucially, this has denied ICE needed operational capacity in Western Colorado, and proves the power of truly independent media in action.

In June, we were the first local media to report on so-called 'Freedom Cities,' and the tech-bro billionaires eyeballing hundreds of square miles of public land in Western Colorado for their dystopian company towns. *The Colorado Sun* followed suit a few weeks later.

We also published multiple stories showing that Garfield County Sheriff Deputy Nat Lagiglia illegally aided in the kidnapping and transportation of Luis Rivas in violation of Colorado law.

Additionally, we CORA'd documents showing that Grand Junction Police Department's Automatic License Plate Reading (ALRP) cameras were accessed five times by outside agencies during the crucial 38 minutes in which Caroline Goncalves was stopped by Mesa County Sheriff Deputy Zwink, released, and quickly arrested by ICE on I-70.

We also broke stories that we thought were going blow up, but didn't. In September we reported on local activist Shelly Grossman questioning John Hickenooper about his support of genocide in Gaza. She got him to admit it was a "genocide," and yet he said he was going to continue to support funding for Israel.

Just in our monthly News Briefs, we have exposed injustices and gotten policies changed.

In January, we reported on a change at the Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen requiring ID to access services. A



Hundreds pack a Mesa County BoCC meeting after The Rev broke a story about efforts to politicize the Library Board of Trustees.

political cartoon and 50 words, and they reversed the policy.

In the February News Briefs, we reported an unreported angle on a case, which received national coverage, when our local DA failed to meet victim protection standards after releasing Patrick Egan from custody and failing to inform the victim, a local reporter assaulted by Egan for the color of his skin.

In May, we detailed how activists in Glenwood Springs, alerted that ICE was arresting people immediately outside of the Garfield County courthouse, mobilized and documented ICE breaking state-law and forced the 9th Judicial District to issue a warning to ICE, HIS, and ERO, that if they arrest people coming and going from the courthouse they would be charged with Contempt of Court.

In August, we reported on attempts by an employee of 76 Group to gain access to Mesa County voter records. Mesa County Clerk Bobbie Gross responded to our inquiries that indeed the same lobbyist firm contracted by the county tried to gain access to election information they didn't have legal reason to have access to.

In September, we reported on Grand Junction Mayor Cody Kennedy's attempt to blackball *Daily Sentinel* reporter Sam Klomhaus, while simultaneously blocking constituents on his social media pages and cancelling the majority of his "Coffee with Cody" outreach events.

In December, we covered the return of uranium mining to western Colorado.

In 2025, we platformed points of view largely left outside of the mainstream media. We have published work by students, the unhoused, workers, trans folks, activists, retired professors, retired law-

The Return of Institutionalization



Artist rendition of a Salt Lake City facility under-construction to institutionalize the unhoused involuntarily. 1300 bed facility is set to open in 2027.

By James Blatter

Every new administration that comes into power always has its own agenda. On the surface, the 9/11-era this has been Republicans wanting more and more military and more militarized local police and powerful domestic federal agencies like ICE, the ATF, and FBI. This era has also been one of the Democrats accepting this like puppets. Both Obama and Biden have spent on this, like they are Reagan Republicans.

There was one area they didn't agree on in this approach to public safety and this was how to deal with the continuing and constantly growing homeless crisis.

Traditionally, the GOP takes a tough-on-crime stance and treats homelessness as part of the "Broken Window" theory of law enforcement. In case one is unfamiliar with this "Broken Window" policing is treating small crimes like vandalism as important as violent crime. In this view, being homeless is a sign of moral failure and that those living on the streets are more inclined to commit crimes than those who live in homes. It is the view that being homeless is a choice made to evade responsibility and engage in behaviors that are detrimental to both the individual and the community.

This view doesn't consider outside factors such as the unbearable cost of housing, wages that don't meet the cost of living, domestic violence, family trauma, addiction, disability, and mental health.

There are those in the Republican party who don't adhere to the idea that homelessness is a choice. In fact George W. Bush made "Housing First" the policy of his second-term and it became the official policy of HUD under Obama. It was also a primary policy of the Veteran's Administration and the Commerce Department. "Housing First" has been the core policy of the Federal Government for over 20 years.

Until November last year. On November 13, HUD issued a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the main source of federal homelessness funding. This was and is a disaster. Providers across the nation had all received notices in September of grant awards from the NOFO for FY2025. Grant requests had closed in May. So legally everything was set to go, and then HUD pulled the rug out from under non-profits around the nation.

The new announcement for the NOFO included radical new changes to policy and the overall funding process. HUD had decided that "Housing First," was to end, that it was a failed policy, and that contributed to there being more unsheltered homeless.

Pulling the NOFO for FY2025 means radical repurposing staff and programs, because there will be no HUD funding until at least June which is when planning for the next fiscal year begins. On its own without any changes to program outlines, priorities, or goals this is going to

Get Amped: A Call to Action



The Rev's editor, Jacob Richards, mid-interview at KWSI radio 100.3FM, with Glen Parton.

By KWSI Radio

Anyone who's paying attention has noticed that finding reliable news and information is becoming more difficult almost by the day. In fact, there were an average of 2.5 newspaper closures per week in 2024, and since 2005, well over Three-thousand print newspapers have vanished (2024 State of Local News Reports by Medill School of Journalism). TV news is unreliable, as we witnessed when CBS refused to broadcast a "60 Minutes" report about the status of immigrants whom ICE has sent to the notorious CECOT prison in El Salvador. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which funded many community radio and tv stations, plus NPR (National Public Radio), has been defunded and is now defunct. And then there's the cesspool that is Artificial Intelligence where one can find endless misleading or false information.

Folks in the Grand Valley are fortunate to have a truly independent radio station that is not beholden to corporate interests or reliant on corporate funding. KWSI 100.3 Progressive Radio in Grand Junction is a talk radio station that provides local information as well as syndicated shows from the Pacifica Network. KWSI's independence allows the station to take positions about fascism, climate change, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights, while most other media must keep quiet about important matters to appease their funders.

Examples of KWSI's locally pro-

duced programs are "Civics and Action" and "Wild Earth Conversations." "Civics and Action" focuses on local politics and government, featuring interviews with candidates, elected officials, and experts on pertinent local matters. KWSI has hosted several candidate and ballot issues forums which have also been broadcast on the show. "Wild Earth Conversations" features discussions with renowned scientists and environmentalists, connecting their interests and insights to the vision of a thriving, beautiful planet.

tiful planet.

Through the Pacifica Network, KWSI brings listeners daily news programs such as Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now" and "Thom Hartmann Program." Weekly programs include YES! Magazine's Sonali Kolhatkar in "Rising Up with Sonali," David Barsamian's "Progressive Radio," and the "Ralph Nader Radio Hour," as well as an assortment of programming addressing social justice and environmental issues.

KWSI is a low-powered radio station (LPFM), which broadcasts from a 10-foot roof-mounted antenna, so listeners may need to stream it online at kwsiradio.org. All shows are accessible 24/7 by clicking on show titles on KWSI's website.

KWSI is operated solely by volunteers and funded by charitable contributions. We are looking for community support to expand our local programming in 2026. Wouldn't it be neat if *The Revolutionist* had a radio show? We need volunteers to help out in a variety of fun, fulfilling ways, including but not limited to program production, station management, and election forums.

Email us at kwsiradio.org if you're interested in getting involved. We'd appreciate hearing what other ideas you have for new programs or station improvements.

If volunteering isn't your thing, contributions of any size are a big help. Visit kwsiradio.org to make a charitable contribution today

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Jared Taylor Counter-Protest March 27, CMU Campus. Photo by Honest Lens Photography

yers, teachers, Chicanos, local Palestinian leaders and a censored artist.

Our commitment to reporting at the intersection of art, culture, and politics gave us the privilege of being the first media outlet to introduce the community to local projects like: Three Sisters Theater Company, Grand Valley Zine Club, Jhovah Films, Queer Resource Space, and Better Together.

We published numerous pieces from our regions forgotten radical history.

We wrote about the 1978 Yippie Pot Riot, Los Seis de Boulder Bombings, Grand Junctions 1st immigrant—Yep Mow, the Teller Indian School, and a history of local resistance to federal overreach from the Pullman Strike to Project Rulison.

In addition to the monthly *Revolutionist* we also published "Grassroots Organizing Demystified" in January, a 22-page stand-alone zine by Jacob Richards, which provides folks with a primer on how to organize our communities to resist. We distributed over 400 copies across Western Colorado, as the budding protest movement was taking shape.

In 2025, our efforts have been seen. In late September, we were invited by the Colorado Society of Professional Journalists to sit on a panel about 'citizen journalism.' We appeared on local pod-

casts with "Better Together," and on the radio at KWSI radio.

Additionally we had the honor of being invited to speak to 2500+ people at the Montrose No Kings 2.0 event in October.

We hosted a night of spoken word, poetry, theater, and drag performance's against fascism in conjunction with a national day of art. We were just one of 1300+ events around the nation and world that took place Nov. 21 and 22.

We were featured in an article by Cory Hutchins' *Inside the News in Colorado*, Substack, which was then picked up by *Editors and Publishers*, as well as Boulder-Daily.net.

Colorado Public Radio's daily newsletter, *Daily Sentinel*, *Colorado Sun*, *The Criterion*, *Durango Herald*, and *Colorado Times Recorder* all had to cite us as the outlet that broke major stories.

Our opponents have taken notice too. In 2025, the *Revolutionist* was blasted by conservative podcasters Sherronna Bishop, and "Free State Colorado", as well as the right-wing blog "Complete Colorado."

It has been a year, for sure, and we could not have done it without quality submission from our community—without

Prysmion: Q and A with Filmmaker Finn Benham

The Revolutionist: Firstly, congratulations on the completion of your first feature-length film project! As both the screenwriter and the director of Prysmion, where did the inspiration for this project come from? How long have you been working towards this goal?

Finn Benham: Thank you so much. It started in March of 2023 as a few lines of what I thought was going to be a play about a persimmon who was chosen to harbor the Antichrist within it. From there sparked several versions of this play: one was a musical; one was more like a long epic poem. But they all explored this concept of the Antichrist trapped inside a beautiful persimmon who was ripped up by magpies. It was this idea of something so sacred and perfect that it's otherworldly, but the source of that essence is secretly something much darker—I used the Antichrist as a symbol for this strange and tantalizing darkness. From there I wondered what it would feel like to be that dark thing, tucked away sleeping in a safe place until something destroys it out of greed. Then what? Not ready to be awake yet, confronted with all the complexities of the universe.



Finn Benham. Courtesy of Finn Benham.

TR: How did you make this all happen?

FB: In early 2024, I just kinda decided that I could either make something real out of it or not. I cooked up a rough draft of the script and I called Cullen Purser and asked him to meet with me. Cullen Purser is a remarkable filmmaker with a unique style, and also a close friend of the family since I was little. I told him I didn't have the budget to pay anyone but him, but that I wanted him on board and I wanted him compensated (of course, he tried to contest this) even if it meant digging into my savings a bit. He agreed to help me in any way he could, and he truly was the force that helped me get Prysmion off the ground.

TR: I recognized many locals in the trailer? Can you speak a bit about the community nature of a project of this scope?

FB: Fruita and GJ are FULL of wildly talented human beings, many of which I'm lucky enough to call my friends since I grew up here. I called on specific people for a lot of reasons, but acting experience was not a priority. I asked poets, writers, musicians, painters, photographers and other storytellers to be the faces of Prysmion. I think that's what makes it feel so different. Our local folks made the film unique and full of soul.

TR: Nowadays there are so many mediums to tell stories in. What specifically about film do you think is so powerful?

FB: Film is just the ultimate way to combine mediums. I wanted it to feel like community theater. But I also wanted it to be full of original music, with visuals that were more stylized and a big cast that would have made a live production much less possible. Filming it also allowed us to have a spread-out shooting schedule that accommodated us all having full-time jobs and families!

TR: I know this story has gone through a few different iterations. Can you speak to the process of revising and editing this project? And how that process has improved the final piece?

FB: Going through so many versions of the story allowed variations that centered around other characters, like Sparky and Liz, who made it to the final draft with Persimmon and Magpie. It also opened me up to the Antichrist's experience of being woken up so violently. I imagined her experiencing multiple lifetimes in that one moment as she struggled to understand the world she was entering. I pictured elaborate lives, I wrote about them, I sung about them. Most of that didn't make it into the

final 60 minutes, but they did inform her character and allowed me to know her much more intimately. If I had all the time in the world, I would write about all of the Antichrist's alternate lifetimes.

TR: It seems like the film is loaded with symbolism and metaphor and even puppets. How literally should viewers take this film?

FB: The film is an extension of the classic play-within-a-play trope, so the theatrical narration, puppets, costumes, fantastical creatures, etc, are all devices that the characters themselves are using to tell the story of the end of the world. It becomes more like a mythology. They're all part of something larger than themselves and collaborate to piece it together, but sometimes they have serious disagreements about the narrative that they feel must be settled violently. Other times, their experiences overlap simply because they're collectively being subjected to something of a greater cosmic nature. It isn't literal because you can't trust every narrator. I also feel like sometimes the job of a storyteller is to ask questions rather than answer them, so I use play-elements like puppets and finger guns to do it in a way that's playful and funny. Talking about the end of the world doesn't always have to be such a drag...

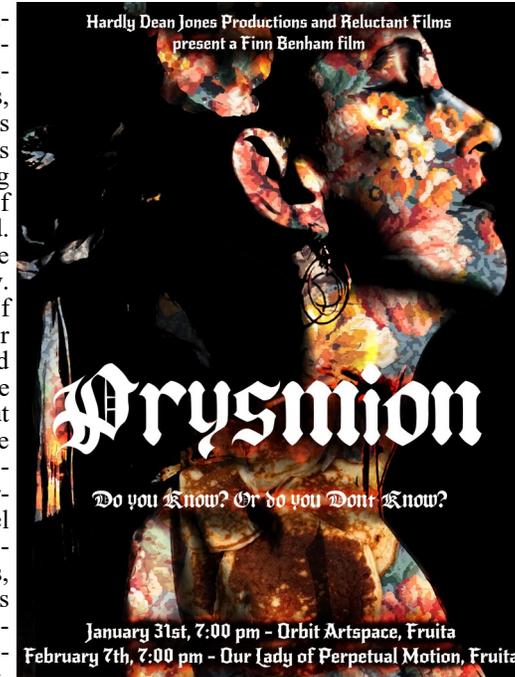
TR: How does this film speak to themes of community versus isolation and loneliness?

FB: Prysmion is full of acts of love—some brutal, some soft. We are all alone in our own suffering, but faced with destruction, we have something in common. Maybe the only thing that matters at the end of the day

is the touch of a hand, or laughing together, or crying together.

TR: What was the reason for setting this story in a different world, rather than this one?

FB: Setting the story on a fantasy planet with talking animals and fruits is another way I get to soften the dark themes with humor. Also, it can be easier to access a story when it first doesn't feel like it applies to you.



TR: What do you personally identify with in this film?

FB: The Antichrist, mostly. She's the scared child inside with absolutely no filter, just screaming into the void and thinking nobody else in the universe can possibly understand her pain. She's raw and over the top and terrifying, but she's also the trapped animal that's in a lot of us.

TR: Other than the premiere, coming up on January 31 at 7pm at the Orbit Artspace in Fruita, where will people be able to view your film?

FB: Actually, we just added another date. February 7th at Our Lady of Perpetual Motion. There may be more dates added in the future as well. You can keep up with it if you follow @finnjaminbenjamin on instagram.

TR: What creative endeavor is next for Finn?

FB: I'm working on a film idea right now with my partner, Bradley. It's about a food critic, and it involves the backgammon game Parcheesi. Also in the works is a short film set in a dollhouse, live music projects with The Stylotones and Paste the band, and honestly, whatever else strikes my fancy.