

Mike McKibbin

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WRITER, EDITOR, COMMUNICATOR

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning deadline writer, advanced-level online research and excellent spelling and proofreading skills. Deadline-driven and detail-oriented with the ability to work well remotely and independently or on site and in teams. Exceptionally strong, efficient writing, storytelling and copy-editing skills to communicate complex issues, trends and opinions in neutral, clear and concise language. Allergic to typos, grammatical mistakes and stylistic and factual inconsistencies. Strong communications skills in a communications era with the ability to support, augment and improve an organization's content and online presence. Known for strategic and creative thinking on tough issues, innovation, flexibility, resourcefulness and effective problem-solving skills.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- **Content Writing & Editing:** An engaging and creative storyteller, able to formulate tough but fair questions with a dedication to accuracy and journalistic integrity. Story and subject specialties include feature and human interest, environment/natural resources, breaking news, business, education, politics and government. Extensive familiarity with Associated Press style.
- **Technical Profile:** Proficient with Google Suite (Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Drive), Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher), Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, InCopy), WordPress Content Management System, Social Media (Facebook, Twitter), Dreamweaver, Quark Express, PCs and Macs.
- **Operational Profile:** Exceptional planning, organization, and prioritization/multi-tasking skills to ensure smooth and efficient operations.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Colorado Press Association first-place awards for Business News Story, "Pot store owners;" Education Story, "Superintendent Earns Degree;" Series, "Events Center;" Environmental Story, "Fire;" Serious Column Writing, "Boycott" (2013).
- Associated Press second place award for Environmental Story, detailing the Roan Plateau Bureau of Land Management plan for natural gas development (2004-05).
- Nine-day fellowship through the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources, focused on various energy sources and environmental effects (2006).
- Fellowship to the Council for Advancement & Support of Education Conference (2010).

CAREER EXPERIENCE

McKibbin's Scribblin's — Denver, CO

August 2014—Present

Freelance Writer & Editor

- Create and produce online and print content, such as news stories and photos, for the Neighborhood Gazette.
- Research, write and edit feature news releases and briefs for Colorado Mountain College's Public Information Office on innovative programs and degrees, student, graduate, faculty, staff feature stories.
- Created website content for CMC's Marketing Department in celebration of the school's 50th anniversary; interviewed lifelong students and long-term board members, staff, instructors and students.

CAREER EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

The Colorado Statesman — Denver, CO

August 2016—June 2017

Reporter

- Researched, photographed and wrote stories on the political climate, policy decisions and events at national, state and Denver levels, including Denver City Council and district attorney.
- Followed up on news releases and legislation from Colorado Congressional delegation related to their actions and national political issues.
- Produced in-depth features on Congressional issues, increased activism, political divisions, City Council and committee meetings, among others.

The Citizen Telegram — Rifle, CO April 2012—August 2014 & February 2008—April 2009

Editor

- Initiated, wrote and edited story and photo assignments on local news and events, City Council meetings and human-interest features.
- Consistently attracted new subscribers and supported a strong reader base with focused stories and content to align with community values and interests.
- Developed content management system procedures to consistently surpass deadlines to allow management to add new commercial press printing jobs and increase revenue.
- Planned and executed annual holiday season promotional event to drive community engagement and increase local business revenue.

Colorado Mountain College — Glenwood Springs, CO

June 2009—April 2012

Public Information Editor

- Promoted 11 campuses through researching and writing feature stories, news briefs, opinion columns and calendar events for placement in news media.
- Produced photographs to pair with features, formatted photos and stories for the website.
- Collaborated with campus leaders to plan and develop public relations campaigns that promoted educational programs and achievements.
- Recognized for role in arranging news coverage at a 2010 bill signing ceremony with Gov. Bill Ritter that signified CMC as the first Colorado community college to offer bachelor's degrees.

The Daily Sentinel — Grand Junction, CO

November 2000—February 2008

Bureau Reporter

- Traveled across Northwest Colorado to investigate and report on breaking news, weather- and wildfire-related events, land management issues, natural gas development.
- Local news focused on environment/natural resources, business, politics, local government, court and crime coverage, community and human-interest feature stories.

EDUCATION

University of Northern Colorado — Greeley, CO

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism; minor in broadcasting