

YOUR REPORTER

Questions raised whether longtime Colorado El Rancho building can be saved, drawing controversy



By Alan Gionet

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<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/questions-raised-longtime-colorado-restaurant-el-rancho-saved-drawing-controversy/>



Sherry Buchanan being asked about lawsuits @03:22

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The group is also mistrusting of the Buchanans. In the past 10 years since moving to the Evergreen area, the Buchanans and their LLCs have faced several lawsuits with judgments against them. They still owe for the sale of a home in Evergreen they were sued over, the non-payment of rent on property in Lakewood and entanglements with the Littleton Village project in which they were involved, where only a small portion of their plans for commercial development were completed. Court records show additional legal action has followed after some judgments against them have gone unpaid.

"I think you could ask nearly any commercial developer in the country if they've had hurdles they could not overcome, or they had difficult stumbling blocks, and I doubt you would find a single developer who would say, 'Nope, it's been smooth sailing my entire career.' It's par for the course unfortunately," Sherry Buchanan said.

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The case shown in the CBS report, above, was Jefferson County District Court #2018CV31386, finding breach of contract and a pattern of non-standard business and financial practices. The original judgment was \$510,352.40. The Buchanans fought the judgment and delayed payment for over six years. Citing the structure of the many family shell companies, a related case, Jefferson County District Court #2020CV31500, sought to add the remaining Buchanan family members to the original judgment; that repeatedly delayed trial was to finally occur in November 2025. On the eve of the trial, the Buchanans offered to settle the case, paying the full original judgment without interest, recorded 12/4/2025. The related case was dismissed with prejudice on 12/11/2025, with each side paying their own legal fees. The Buchanans still owe over \$978,000 in active judgments related to several other cases in Colorado and Michigan, including almost \$618,000 owed to other parties in Evergreen. Since the airing of the story, they no longer reside in Evergreen.