Telluride has had a difficult history when it comes to residents living out their golden years in this small town. We are a city of stories where people who have lived here for 40-plus years are forced to leave their long-time homes, loved ones and our beautiful valley to move to larger communities for health reasons. This often happens because of end of life care, home-based medical services and in-home support services needed by the elderly or ailing who are sorely lacking in Telluride and San Miguel County. That is changing thanks to efforts by Tri-County Health Network (TCH Netzwork) and the Telluride Regional Medical Center in launching a comprehensive Palliative Support Program.

Palliative care focuses on improving the symptoms, dignity, quality of life and comprehensive support services for people with a serious disease or injury, as well as providing support to caregivers. According to the World Health Organization, palliative care uses early identification and assessment to treat pain and other problems. Palliative care is “applicable early in the course of illness and in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life.” A common misconception is that palliative care is the same as hospice care. However, hospice care is specifically defined as end-of-life care with the goal of providing peace, comfort and dignity to people with six months or less of life expectancy. Palliative care, on the other hand, can be applied throughout the course of treatment for an illness or injury, from initial diagnosis through the transition to hospice care.

Dr. Sharon Grundy of the Telluride Medical Center has been a pivotal figure in providing the medical care necessary to keep people in their homes during their most challenging time of life. She and Lynn Borup, executive director of TCH Network, have put together a dedicated team of partners including physicians from the Telluride Medical Center, local nurses, 23 community volunteers and PAMCO Home Health based in Cortez. PASCO hired two local nurses — Emily McGough and Sarah Sears. This is an extraordinary moment in our nation’s history, for we are enduring an epic struggle over the principles on which our country was founded. These include the idea that a free press is an essential institutional check on flawed leaders.

Telluride Daily Planet

We’re journalists, not the enemy

Ugh. If only President Donald Trump deigned to read about himself in his native New York as passionately and sincerely as he castagates journalists elsewhere.

What could be an easier task than distancing one self from Nazis or violent white supremacists? Yet Trump manages to make it infinitely complicated — and then get distracted by self-pity and excoriating reporters for committing journalism.

The key strain of his self-pity is an extended attack on “dishonest” media that is often out of touch with working-class America, and disingenuously compares himself to an editor of The New York Times.”

Reporters (including at “the failing Phoenix on Tuesday was an extended attack on “dishonest” media that is often out of touch with working-class America, and disingenuously compares himself to an editor of “the failing Times.”

“Look, we in journalism deserve an easier task than distancing one self from Nazis or violent white supremacists. Not Steve Bannon but the president. And that the problem was never about journalists.

The Trump administration is refusing to release information on even a soft spot for racists, ever since Donald Trump de facto declared war on his Jewish sensitivities. As noted by Steven Millhauser: “I’ve lost reporter and photographer friends in war zones all over the world, and have had other friends kidnapped and tortured. When Trump galvanizes crowds against reporters, it’s easy to understand why we may lose journalists in the line of duty not only in places like Syria or Iraq but also in our own home. Trump will get people hurt.

I also worry that Trump is buoying the repressive instincts of dictators around the world. Since Trump's election, I’ve been denied entry by Venezuela, Congo, South Sudan and Yemen, an unusual number of countries — and I wonder if foreign leaders believe that it is now easier to deny access to troublesome American journalists now that they are reviled by their own president.

Aside from Trump’s desire to reduce scrutiny and accountability, the bigger question is: Why? Why would Trump find it so difficult to denounce Nazis and other racists without getting diverted into ranting about journalists.

One is that he has always had a soft spot for racists, ever since a young real estate developer he was sued by a Black family for exercising his right to live where he pleased. That we in the national media are often out of touch with working-class America, and disingenuously compares himself to an editor of “the failing Times.”

Yet for all our failings, journalism remains an indispensable constraint on power. Trump has systematically tried to delegitimize the institutions that hold him accountable — courts, prosecutors, traditional media. But perhaps the only institution that outrages him is... The New York Times and The Washington Post have separately called Trump’s lies, with The Post correctly calling them more than 1,000 misleading statements since assuming the presidency.

That is almost five a day, and it is accelerating (at the six-month mark, we finally got a big one from working-class America, and disingenuously compares himself to an editor of “the failing Times.”

Another theory (these are not mutually exclusive) is that Trump is simply a thin-skinned narcissist who shares the white supreme sensibility of victimization. It was striking that in Tuesday’s speech in Phoenix, he seemed to believe that Mar-a-Lago was a more illustrious Charles ville was not Heather Heyer, who was murdered, but himself.

The causes of Trump’s bizarre behavior may be difficult to disentangle. But I hope that you, as journalists, that that is the right time for reporters to call out what he was doing would so endanger national security.

Public Citizen's suit comes on the heels of another, broader complaint from a separate coalition of advocacy groups, charging that all White House visitor records (or any lawsuit) to the Freedom of Information Act. Now, in turning down Public Citizen’s requests, the administration appears to be defying Congress.

Public Citizen argues that more transparency would reveal that Trump administration staffers are taking a lot of meetings with industry groups. This would not be surprising. Even so, knowing exactly whose counsel the president’s staff is taking would nevertheless allow public understanding of its leaders and how those leaders are making policy.

more secretive White House

President Trump’s White House appears to be even more secretive than it seemed a few months ago. According to a new lawsuit from the advocacy group Public Citizen, the Trump administration is refusing to release information on even a subset of visitors to the White House grounds. This is likely illegal and certainly wrong.

Public Citizen says it has asked repeatedly that the Special Secret Service turn over records on who has visited four executive agencies on the White House grounds, including the Office of Management and Budget, which crunches numbers for Congress; the Management and Budget, which crunches numbers for Congress; the Environment Protection Agency, another important policy department.

But, according to Public Citizen’s attorney, the Trump administration is refusing to disclose even that policy.

Citizen’s requests, the administration appears to be defying Congress.

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Palliative care in Telluride