

Letters to the editor

Support for commissioners' proposed arena completely misses the point

No one is questioning whether the arena would bring some economic benefit to the city and county of Montrose, but there are also costs to be considered. We cannot tell whether the benefits are greater than the costs unless and until the commissioners share a Net Present Value calculation (present value of benefits minus the present value of costs) with the citizens. Only then would we be able to determine whether the county would be better or worse off economically by proceeding with the arena. Therefore, I fully support Beatrice Lucero's repeated request that the Commissioners share these numbers with the public.

Regardless of whether or not the benefits outweigh the costs, TABOR imposes strict limitations on our governments' ability to incur debt without a vote. Although Katie Yergensen claimed in a Daily Press article ("County's indoor arena proposal," May 1, 2016) that §§30-11-104.1 and 30-11-101(b) and (c) C.R.S., as amended, authorize the county to enter into lease-purchase agreements (specifically, certificates of participation), she is not correct. These statutes do not apply to the arena. They authorize the commissioners to "provide county buildings and equipment for governmental purposes" and list allowable buildings. Arena is not on the list. The goods and services to be provided at the arena are not for "governmental purposes." Since the only other way to construct the arena would be to incur a multi-year debt obligation, then TABOR requires a vote.

If they proceed without a vote, our commissioners will expose us to yet another lawsuit. We must demand that they not do so because we really cannot afford their ongoing and outrageous legal bills. This risk can be completely eliminated by simply allowing us to vote on the arena and its associated debt.

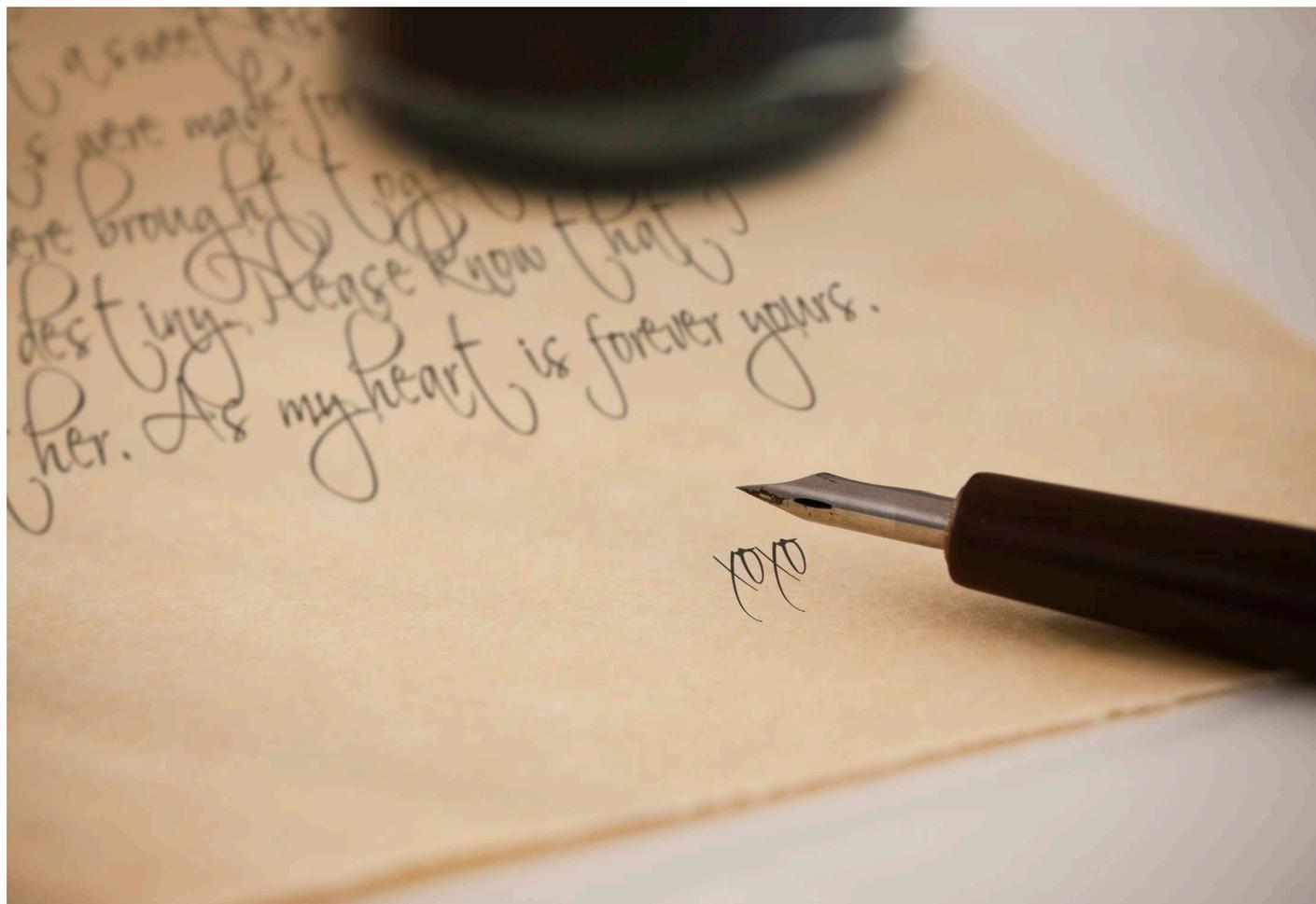
Dennis Olmstead
Montrose

Support 3A

Most of us choose to live in Montrose. We do not stay to get rich, but to live in a safe, small community where we work, breathe clean air, and play outside at any age. Consequently, many of us, no matter our economic position, have been taught or learned how to be frugal, to take care of the property that is ours. We know how to patch roofs, fill holes, paint, plant, irrigate, repair fences and tractors, and care for all we have. We are resourceful and responsible.

However, there are times for all of us when another layer of shingles won't keep out the melting snow, the single pane windows have pulled away from their frames, the fence posts have rotted out, or the washing machine that we have had repaired four times finally dies, and we know that all our clever ingenuity is not enough. The stark reality is we must now dig deep and make a significant investment in order to solve the problem. It's time to buy a new washing machine!

We are faced with such a situation in this election. We have patched, painted, and re-configured Columbine Middle School long enough. We have ignored the growing problem, and the crumbling foundation of the building continues to expose our neglect. If ever there was an opportunity to responsibly (and dare I say conservatively) invest in a solution, it is now. We have financial help and tremendous community support, we have a desire to move forward, and a generation of kids that need to know we truly care for them and their continuing education in a safe



environment that encourages learning. It is time to act.

Let's join together, support 3A, and invest in the future. It is the right thing to do.

Jeanne Motley
Montrose

Facts are facts

Well, here I go again – I just couldn't help making a few comments on a recent article pertaining to Hillary Clinton. If it was written to upset the Republicans, I hate to say it, but it got the job done.

What a conglomeration of obnoxious and somewhat "hilarious" thought. Be very careful of following anyone that adversely influences you that wrong is right. There were also those in history that were notorious for their own warped minds, and refused to change. What a parallel! Proverbs 1-7, proclaims "The reverence of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." It is an untruth to say Hillary Clinton is not guilty of any wrongdoing.

Facts are facts!

Suzanne Shelley
Montrose

After the election

I can't stop thinking about Wednesday, Nov. 9. After Election Day, then what?

Although I'm a member of and minister in the United Church of Christ and not a United Methodist, I am praying now that I can live deeply into the wisdom of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, who in 1774 offered this spiritual and oh-so-pragmatic counsel: "I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them 1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy, 2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against, and 3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that had voted on the other side."

Wesley's words are important but they are not nearly enough, I remind myself. The values that will lead me to vote for this candidate over that one on Nov. 8 are values that will need not only to be voiced but embodied the day after

the election, and in the months and years to follow. Stating the obvious: It's one thing to hold a value and then vote it; far more difficult is to give the ideals that inspire and inform my vote consistent shape and substance after election day. Borrowing from Mahatma Gandhi, the day after I cast my ballot is the day I resolve anew to "be the change [I] wish to see in the world].

No matter who our next president is, I know I will have my values-based work cut out for me. But I also know I won't be doing this alone--and this knowledge truly makes all the difference.

The Rev. Karen Winkel
Montrose

Roads and trails

After living in this wonderful county for 20 years, I have seen a very large waste of taxpayer finances in the county budget in the recent years. As a frequenter of Paradox Trail, I use this road very often. Throughout the years, the beginning hill has usually been very accessible, however, since the county has reclaimed the Hill, which is the beginning to Old Paradox Road and Paradox Trail, I have seen the road deteriorate in front of my own eyes to the point where this road is almost only accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles. Could it be that our county officials have interest in automobile repair and tire repair?

Lynette Molek
Montrose

Think before voting for president

Twelve presidents have served during my lifetime. Among them, there have been presidents who did not tell the truth, who disrespected and demeaned women, who disrespected and were biased toward minorities and others, who behaved immorally, who used poor judgment in personal and professional matters, who spoke disrespectfully in private and in public, and who had no qualifications to be commander-in-chief of our military. Despite these seemingly disqualifying factors, we have survived them all, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse.

The two current major presidential candidates, together, seem to display all of the above characteristics. Their

constant bickering over personality and alleged misdeeds with minimal discussion of substantive topics makes it impossible to distinguish which might be an effective president. Biased and incomplete reporting by the media and inaccurate and biased analysis by the news commentators has made it impossible to distinguish truth from fiction, and has not helped in the decision process.

With this in mind, one's voting decision might come down to just two factors:

1. Do we want more of the same policies of the past seven years, or do we want to try a new direction?

2. What course do we want the Supreme Court to follow for the next generation? Do we want a Court that honors and respects the Constitution as it was intended and written by the original authors and amended by the people and their representatives over the intervening years? Or, do we want a Court that will make decisions based upon personal and political bias despite the intent of the Constitution, and with the opinion that the Court has the authority to legislate and amend the Constitution without the involvement of the Congress and the voting public?

Some things to think about that might make the next few weeks more tolerable.

Louis H. Winkler
Montrose

New school should have been priority over rec center

It saddens me to realize I live in a community where priorities have become so skewed. I understand that Columbine (Middle) School is in need of being replaced, but why wasn't this need a priority when we were railroaded into an additional tax for a new multi-million dollar Recreation Center? Where were all of the voices I'm hearing urging us to do this "For The Kids" when the recreational playground was approved? I would have much rather been paying a tax for a new school than for a place to play that I didn't want and will never use.

Linda A. Siedschlag
Montrose