

Letters and feedback: Dec. 30

December 31, 2018

Illegal immigration solution

There's an old saying that to show you truly believe in something you were saying, "you should put your money where your mouth is."

Here's an idea that might break the illegal immigration/wall debate. Have each member of Congress vote on whether they support allowing people to illegally enter, or stay, in the U.S.?

Once the vote is taken, require all people illegally in the country to be moved to districts represented by members of Congress who vote to allow those illegally here to stay. That way their constituents can bear the financial burden; or if there truly is no burden and those here illegally are a benefit to the U.S., that district can directly benefit.

This would be fair to all taxpayers and allow the voters who elected members of Congress who want illegals here to help care and provide for them.

Ilene Davis, Cocoa

Trumped-up paranoia

A recent letter writer claimed Trump was elected to build "The Wall" for border protection against drug dealing, murdering, rapist Mexicans illegally entering the U.S.

As with most of the disinformation spewed during his campaign, he was either ill-informed or just made things up.

The truth regarding crimes committed by illegal immigrants is vastly distorted relative to the severity of offenses. The percentage of serious crimes committed by illegals was 56 percent lower than that of native-born Americans, and 85 percent lower for legal immigrants, according to a 2015 Cato Institute study that looked at data conviction in Texas.

Trump has successfully, unfairly instilled unwarranted fear against the Mexican people. The majority of Mexican immigrants are hard-working individuals aspiring to a better life, taking jobs most native-born Americans find beneath them.

Trump vehemently ensured the American people Mexico would pay for the wall; now he wants Americans to pony up \$5 million for a structure that will have little effect on immigration. I guess it's his German heritage wanting a wall to divide nations. If he's so rich, he can pay for it. Oh, we don't really know. He doesn't reveal tax information.

Stop blackmailing the Democratic Party.

Gregory W. Hewitt, Melbourne

Celebrate our religious diversity

Did you ever reflect on the number of churches in Brevard and the number of denominations? If you research you will find most will have just observed a 60th anniversary or will have one in the next few years.

Why did this happen? When the space industry selected Florida in the '50s and the U.S. entered a space race with the Soviet Union, Canaveral needed space workers. RCA and Pan Am were awarded logistic and tracking contracts. Each had facilities nationwide and enlisted their employees to search the country for candidates to fill jobs. Some went to RCA's Moorestown radar facility, some to aircraft companies that provided engineering support and some came directly to Patrick Air Force Base.

When they arrived with families they wanted to attend church and found few. Small groups banded together, contacted the state and national headquarters sharing their religious beliefs, obtained funding and broke ground establishing their church. Congratulations and happy anniversary.

Robert Brewster, Cocoa

Tweets should not be official

When Trump tweeted that he was pulling all troops out of Syria I bet Putin was aware of Trumps' action before all legislators or even Gen. Mattis. I suggest that Congress pass a law that no request or directions received or sent by tweet be recognized as official.

This would prevent spur-of-the-moment decisions made by the president from becoming official without first a discussion with lawmakers. And It could eliminate a lot of walk- backs.

Bob Tuten, Melbourne

Christmas in Puerto Rico

While living in Puerto Rico, I experienced a variety of the holiday tradition "parrandas" described by columnist Josh Rivera. It was called "asalto en la casa," assault on the house. Instead of food being provided the friends being ambushed were required to provide liquid refreshment, often in the form of "coquitos," whereupon all merged into a merry band to assault other unsuspecting "casas." In retrospect, it might have been better to stuck with caroling.

George Cannon, Melbourne Beach

No urgency to reopen government

What's most alarming about the current budget impasse in Washington is the lack of urgency to reach a compromise in order to reopen the federal government. It's another step toward abdication of the responsibility we have entrusted to our elected representatives. They won't enforce drug laws. They cave to the threats of militia groups out west. Now they let the states pay for the upkeep of national parks?

Ray Lyman, Palm Bay

Nursing home deaths

What an indictment of elder care in your vaunted state of Florida.

The Republican majorities in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as law enforcement in the Sunshine State, all deserve truly ultimate failing grades to be very well publicized nationwide after a USA TODAY Network investigation of deaths at nursing homes.

Who is to blame? It certainly cannot be any of the so-called overseers of this state's government, or could it just really be? And the folly just continues, or so it appears. God's waiting room.

Steve Gardella, West Melbourne