



## **Tuesday's letters: Growth management, travel ban and more**

May 1, 2018

### **Sarasota County growth is cancer that must be contained**

If we could equate Sarasota County growth to cancer, we would be on the verge of stage four.

What can the citizens do to slow this cancer so that we can contain it? We have to get elected officials to stop pretending that new development pumps up the tax base — when in fact it costs more than it brings in — and to stop the abusive tradition of sticking the taxpayers with the bill for this growth.

The overwhelming majority of Sarasota County citizens want less growth, but no one will give it to us. We need to elect officials who will put people before buildings.

And, above all, we must remember that growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.

**Paul T. Kochanek, Venice**

### **National security not justifiable as reason for Trump travel ban**

An April 26 article said several Supreme Court justices considering the legitimacy of President Trump's travel ban seem unwilling "to hem in a president who has invoked national security to justify restrictions" on who may enter the United States.

National security? According to the Cato Institute, the number of Americans killed on U.S. soil by nationals of the five Muslim countries on the list is zero.

By contrast, almost 3,000 were killed at the World Trade Center in the terrorist attacks on 9/11 by individuals from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Lebanon. None of these nations is included in the ban.

I do not wish to impugn the president's motives, but it has been noted that the Trump organization has businesses in three of these countries. Since Muslim refugees from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen (all on the list) have not been responsible for deaths within our borders, what is the rationale for excluding them?

Could it be that it scratches an Islamophobic itch among some voters? Certainly, the president's tweets frequently display anti-Muslim sentiment. That the lives of these refugees, many of whom

exist in life-threatening conditions on a daily basis, may hinge on political concerns, is unconscionable.

**Eileen T. Brown, Sarasota**

### **MSNBC should not have aired Correspondents Dinner speaker**

I have been watching television since it was invented. MSNBC's airing of the White House Correspondents Dinner was the most disgusting piece of television I have ever seen.

The featured speaker was billed as a comedian. Unfortunately what came out of her mouth was not humor; it was simply filth.

For MSNBC to show this revolting display, to not cut away when seeing the direction and form it was taking, is an abdication of that network's responsibility to use common sense in what it broadcasts.

The First Amendment may protect this type of speech, but it does not absolve MSNBC's responsibility to keep it off the air.

**Peter Aden, Longboat Key**

### **Firefighter's death should spur cancer presumption bill passage**

On behalf of our family, we wish to thank the following organizations that supported our son, Firefighter/Paramedic Lt. W.C. Donaldson, on his recent passing: the Sarasota Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund, which financially and tenaciously supported him; Sarasota County Fire Department Battalion Chief Wayne Balcom, for his tireless effort in giving him a proper farewell; the Sarasota County Fire Department Honor Guard, which escorted him from Tampa and in Sarasota; the firefighters, paramedics, friends and family who supported him during his fight; the Suncoast Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 2546, who sent him as their representative to the Feb. 1 Cancer Summit in Orlando.

Cancer prevention was a cause that W.C. supported, wholeheartedly. Currently, 38 states have a Fire Fighters Cancer Presumption Bill. Florida does not!

We hope the 2019 Florida Legislature will pass a bill that supports these men and women, who are being diagnosed with cancer at an alarming rate.

Firefighters put their lives on the line for us every day, and taking care of them and their families is essential.

**Becky and Neal Zremski, Sarasota**

### **Thiessen's call for mutual respect was missing during Obama era**

Saturday's op-ed by Marc Thiessen, praising French President Emmanuel Macron's respectful behavior in discussing topics with others who hold different opinions, was a good read. But, by using the good leader's approach as a lesson only for one party, Mr. Thiessen himself has failed to learn the lesson.

My punishment for Mr. Thiessen would be to put him in a time machine, take him back to the Barack Obama days, have him repeat the column, substituting a different party and names and pointing out that the opposition party's only agenda was to block anything the then-president opposed so as to prevent his re-election. (What goes around, comes around.)

Both parties and many Americans would fail a test on Mr. Macron's exemplary lesson.

**Bill Morgan, Sarasota**