

Letters to the editor: Business' critical elements

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Business' critical elements

Regarding "Business schools need to throw away the rule book" (Views, Dec. 1):

Bravo to Moez Limayem, dean of the USF College of Business. Business schools do need to throw away the old rule book. I've wondered how long it would take to make a change. It's always good for students to hear from those in business who have been there, done that. Nothing replaces practical experience for those looking for future full-time employment.

Being responsible and accountable are part of the lessons taught by those experiences. Networking and personal relationships are also critical elements in business. The students must learn that others want to do business with people who know what they are talking about and those they like, know and trust.

Samuel DuLaney

Tarpon Springs

A last resort

Regarding "Hallett out as Animal Services director" (Dec. 2): Hillsborough County Animal Services has become a victim of the media prowess of animal rescue groups. The county's Animal Services should be a place of last resort, not a warehouse for the various rescue groups that demand free medical services for animals they put out for adoption for a hefty donation. Taxpayers are subsidizing these nonprofits unnecessarily.

When an unwanted pet shows up at the county shelter, it is the shelter of last resort. Accordingly, the animals should be treated and sheltered at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers, not the nonprofits. Sadly, if these unwanted pets are not adopted within a reasonable and inexpensive time period, then euthanasia is the only sensible choice.

Animal rescues groups, with a profit motive, should not direct our Animal Services. County Administrator Mike Merrill and his capable staff know what is in the best interests of the taxpayers and should be left alone to do what is right.

Gene Wells

Tampa

Don't warehouse addicts

Since the 1980s the "War on Drugs" resulted in stiff minimum mandatory sentences for drug traffickers caught with boatloads of drugs imported from foreign countries. Somehow, the minimum mandatory drug trafficking sentences were amended to include as little as seven prescription pain pills. Somehow, someone addicted to pain medication after an injury was included in this web meant for big-time drug traffickers. This has to stop. We cannot economically handle the drain on our society to prosecute and warehouse these individuals who simply need drug treatment. These people — our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters who suffer pain medication addictions — can be more economically counseled and treated as opposed to being warehoused in our prisons and labeled convicted felons.

Florida Reps. Katie Edwards, D-Plantation, and Dave Hood, R-Daytona Beach, and Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Orange Park, have introduced legislation that raises the quantity of oxycodone and hydrocodone levels of various minimum mandatory prison sentences. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Shalimar, the chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, has agreed to support this legislation, with conditions. These legislators should be applauded by the people of Florida for this display of courage and leadership.

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The equalizers

There was a story about too many coyotes in last Thursday's newspaper and one about too many cats in Friday's. The next paper should say one attracts the other, and that is nature helping us with a serious problem. The feral cats have practically eliminated small birds where we live.

Keep your beloved Mewmew inside, and let the coyotes help even this thing out. The coyotes are our friends.

Louise Raterman

Temple Terrace