

Ronald Vierling, Odessa

I feel her loss

40 hours of bereavement for my dad | Perspective, Nov. 26

The joyful photo of columnist Stephanie Hayes and her father, Bill, at her 2017 wedding conveyed the “a picture is worth a thousand words” essence of her story. She shared her heartfelt and touching story of their relationship, her loss, and her moving forward with her life. Her vast and deep sharing of her father, her relationship with her father, and also dealing with her father’s funeral and her life after the funeral is one story that all families who have not experienced the close death of a parent must read. Having lost my mother in October and my father in November, I can attest that Stephanie’s story will be priceless in helping all families in their difficult moments of need!

Del “Scotty” Scott, Largo

Politicians do listen

Pity the writers | Letters, Nov. 26

A letter writer asserts that those who contacted their government representatives and expected change for the good were “delusional.” And as cynical as I am, I too expect nothing from my individual correspondence demanding action from my member of Congress. But I also know that congresspeople study the correspondence coming into them. It’s a wealth of information: Is the person writing a contributor? Is the person a registered voter? Is this person a celebrity? Is this person wealthy? Did they graduate from high school? College? Grad school? Democrat? Republican? You get the idea. And when all this data is digested and results are presented, I’m willing to bet that if a very high percentage of every correspondence demanded “immigration reform” (my particular agenda), that the representative would be advised to consider such legislation. So I believe in the dream to have positive change, and that I might play a very, very small, but important part in forcing it to happen.



An end to a way of life

Saying goodbye to my childhood home | Column, Dec. 10

Times editorial writer John Hill's piece about his childhood home and lifestyle took me back in time. It seemed impossible that that was how we once lived, but I do remember those times (and earlier). Being together with family and the simple pleasures of life in a community of support were all important. Then the long essay by Robert Kagan on the same page brought me back to today's reality and an end to that way of life. Families are divided and people are striking out in anger as we are threatened with a takeover of our country by one irrational and self-proclaimed dictator named Donald Trump. It is a painful commentary on the demise of our democratic principles in the U.S. We'd better wake up fast or soon we will no longer recognize our country as our own.

Anne Burnham, Palm Harbor

