



## Letters and feedback: March 30, 2016

### **‘Chain gangs are wrong’**

Seeing young men in chains working on the side of the road is so 1960 and gives the wrong message to the world.

How many ways can I say chain gangs are wrong? It is not a deterrent as Sheriff Ivey claims; that people riding by will think twice about committing a crime if they see people in chains. In fact, it is counterproductive. Every study done on rehabilitation shows education is the best rehabilitative tool, not degradation.

I have no issues with inmate work crews. In fact, I believe in them, along with education and self-esteem programs. But there is no reason to humiliate people by putting them in chains and showing them to the public when they are at the lowest point of their lives. If I was a doctor visiting Disney World from Minnesota, looking for a condo on the sunny beaches of Brevard County, would I want to buy in an area with chain gangs? I wouldn't. No less for a county trying to bring technology businesses into an area.

Chain gangs are wrong. Period. The jail is broken and a thorn in the side of the sheriff and the county. Deputy morale is low, the attrition rate is high, inmate abuses happen way too frequently and women can't get basic hygiene items. Whoever runs the jail has been failing for a long time and the answer isn't chain gangs, it is good leadership and compassion. Rehabilitation comes from education, addiction help, life skills and communications.

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