

# The Delray Democrat

## Our Mailbox (Outgoing, That Is)<sup>1</sup>

**Re: the July 5 Miami Herald online story,** “Miami-Dade considers school chaplain program, but many school districts staying away.” How wonderfully ironic to read that Gov. Ron DeSantis’s back door attempt to foist religion on schoolchildren is meeting resistance from the very school districts one would expect to be most receptive.

Sumter County Schools Superintendent Richard Shirley represents a conservative district but is concerned that The Satanic Temple — recognized by the IRS as a religion and “known for its activism in defense of pluralism and secularism in American public life” — has offered to send its chaplains to Florida schools.

Shirley missed a “teaching moment,” as his concern was shared by the founders of our nation and is why our Bill of Rights begins with the Religion Clauses. They knew of the carnage that can come from disagreements over religion.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Miami Herald*, July 9, 2024

**Thank you for your excellent editorial analysis** of the Supreme Court’s anti-democratic decision to remove the authority of the federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer and give that power to the courts. We can anticipate a similar attempt to eviscerate state agencies.

I served as the Director of Communications and Consumer Education for the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection for 23 years. Our jurisdiction was broad, from unfair trade practices to food and product safety. We knew our laws intimately. Thus, when faced with deadly collapsing baby cribs, Chinese pet food contaminated with melamine or an unregistered contractor scamming the elderly, we were able to act immediately.

We acted with the intent of the law — not as a politically driven court directive.

The justices and judges appointed by Donald Trump and Gov. DeSantis are replacing laws with their personal beliefs. The Supreme Court’s Chevron decision effectively ends our system of checks and balances. Remember, justices: The Constitution created three separate, but equal, branches of government.

June S. Neal, *Sun-Sentinel*, July 20, 2024

**Re “Biden Made a Courageous Choice. Democrats Must Seize the Opportunity”** (editorial, July 22):

Thank you for one of the best assessments of today’s presidential race: “Mr. Biden has now done

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Delray Democrat](#), July 2024, page 8.

what Mr. Trump never will: He has placed the national interest above his own pride and ambition.”

I cried when President Biden released his poignant letter of resignation. Not just for the loss of his superb leadership, but because, despite the pain of incredible personal tragedies, he’s remained a role model of selflessness and decency.

He took on the weight of the American presidency following the mess left by former President Donald Trump. He also faced the constant antipathy of the Trump cult — the replacement for the old Republican Party — that follows a man with no conscience, no courage and the singular goal of crowning himself king.

Through a pandemic, Mr. Trump’s attempt to overturn the election and two foreign wars that threaten the stability of the world, Mr. Biden was able to enact some of the most consequential legislation in decades: boosting employment; lowering prescription drug prices; and making the biggest investments in clean water, energy and our infrastructure in decades.

History will compare his act of patriotism against the hypocrisy of Mr. Trump and his followers. President Joe Biden is a man for all seasons.

June S. Neal, *The New York Times*, July 22, 2024

Re “[A Progressive’s Loss Signals a Shift to the Center](#)” (front page, June 27): Notwithstanding the penchant for handicapping that permeates the article, Jamaal Bowman’s landslide loss tells us nothing about the future of “the left” or the “Squad” (scare quotes).

Not only did Mr. Bowman face “the other side’s vast resources, including a torrent of unprecedented spending by a super PAC,” but he was also burdened “by a unique collection of baggage.” Most significant, it seems that he failed to address the fact that he was more progressive than his district.

What the article does tell us, and it’s not rocket science, is that Democrats need to be running moderates in moderate districts and progressives in progressive districts if we want to take back the House. There’s plenty of time to argue after we replace the current clown show.

Michael K. Cantwell, *The New York Times*, June 28, 2024

**In his recent letter, Thomas Rubino is mistaken** that President Biden’s Atlanta debate performance “destroyed his presidency.” Leaving aside that the fat lady is far from finished singing, nothing can or will destroy Biden’s historic achievements — even if he loses in November.

In three-and-a-half years, Biden created more jobs than any president besides Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, both of whom served eight years. President Biden made good on his promise to vaccinate 200,000 Americans in his first 100 days, presided over the lowest unemployment in a half-century and lowest Black unemployment rate ever. He signed the first bipartisan bills in decades on gun safety, veterans’ benefits and infrastructure. His Inflation Reduction Act provides the greatest investment in green energy in history. For the first time, it authorizes the government to negotiate drug prices Big Pharma charges Medicare recipients, lowering the monthly cost for

insulin to \$35.

Too many Americans have been nurtured on the brazen lies of Donald Trump. Among the most outrageous is Trump's claim that Biden was the worst president in history. According to a survey of historians and political scientists released this year, Trump has it backwards. Trump was the one tied for worst, with Andrew Johnson, while Biden was rated 14th best. In the five presidential surveys in which he appeared, Trump's best showing was 41st.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Sun-Sentinel*, July 10, 2024

**Florida State Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez's June 5 op-ed**, "Florida GOP has a key climate fix: Take on China," seemed, at first, to reference the bill recently signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, which strips the term "climate change" from much of state law. "If you don't see it, it doesn't exist" is a belief system children possess before they develop "object permanence." Turns out, Rodriguez was referencing something less feckless if equally infantile, namely, blaming China. This cheap political stunt allows Republicans to bash President Joe Biden while ignoring that America is equally if not more culpable. Since 1850, the United States has emitted 509 billion tons of carbon dioxide. This dwarfs the 284 billion tons emitted by China. Should we get a free pass on the carbon we added while industrializing?

Moreover, we are now responsible for more carbon emissions than China. The average Chinese contributes 10.1 tons of carbon pollution annually, compared with 17.6 tons for the average American. Rodriguez celebrates the progress America has made in reducing emissions but fails to acknowledge that these achievements have largely been the result of executive actions taken by Presidents Barack Obama and Biden. Ex-President Donald Trump rolled back more than 100 environment rules instituted by Obama and has pledged to do the same if re-elected. Perhaps the real climate fix would be to re-elect Biden and vote Republican climate-deniers out of office.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Miami Herald*, June 10, 2024

**The July 21 Miami Herald online story, "Joe Biden is leaving the race. What does it mean for Florida?"** left out some important answers. For one, it means that a President Kamala Harris will continue the programs Biden initiated for our state and critical to our future.

Florida faces historic high temperatures, rising oceans and flooded streets. Joe Biden delivered by earmarking \$8.1 billion dollars for 175 projects targeting clean water; zero-emission buses (including school buses); electric vehicle charging stations; Everglades restoration; and thousands of miles of new transmission lines to protect against power outages.

Biden ended Donald Trump's inhumane policy of tearing children from their families and putting them in cages to languish. He supported the "Dreamers."

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law earmarked about \$6.3 billion for roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports. Today, more than a million households across the state are receiving affordable high-speed internet. Another \$13.3 billion is expected in the next five years for highways and bridges.

I am grateful to Joe Biden for his vision for America: prosperity, equality and preserving our

democracy. Harris has already proven she's committed to the same goals.

June S. Neal, *Miami Herald*, July 24, 2024