



Thanks for community support for backpack program | LETTERS

July 27th, 2020

Our community has responded with a generous heart during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups and local governments have contributed donations, grants, food drives and countless hours of volunteer work to help families in need.

We thank everyone who has supported our Jerry Doliner Food Bank, which has seen unprecedented requests for assistance during this crisis. And in recent months, we have successfully raised \$100,000 toward the \$135,000 needed for our Operation Backpack Program, which marks its 25th year during the coronavirus recession. 100% of your funds goes to purchase school supplies as our federation absorbs all administrative expenses.

Last year, we helped more than 7,500 disadvantaged students with quality backpacks filled with school supplies, and also provided teachers with extra school supplies, so they do not have to purchase these items out of their own pockets. I have called all the schools and know that disadvantaged children will need these tools to do well in school more than ever this year. Families who cannot afford food right now definitely cannot afford school supplies before our local schools reopen next month.

These are unprecedented times. But I thank everyone for their support and generosity. As the ancient proverb says, “To do good is better than to inherit brilliance.”

Gloria Max, Ormond Beach

Max is executive director of the Jewish Federation of Volusia & Flagler Counties.

Divisive politics

Freedom of speech is the bedrock of American democracy, yet a new Cato Institute national survey reveals that 62% of respondents say that today’s political climate prevents them from saying things they believe because others might find them offensive.

Self-censorship of political views is reported by a majority of Democrats (52%), Independents (59%), and Republicans (77%). Strong liberals stand out as the only political group who feel they can express themselves, with 58% reporting they can say what they believe.

Sponsored Video

Sponsored by Advertising Partner

One of every three employed Americans (32%) report they are worried about missing out on career opportunities or losing their jobs if their political opinions became known. And 50% of strong liberals favor firing Trump donors, while 36% of strong conservatives favor firing Biden donors.

Our political climate is so toxic that John Milton, whose famous words supporting freedom of speech run above this page, must be weeping.

Dennis L. Breo, New Smyrna Beach

Mask up, Florida

There are currently 32 states with mandatory mask requirements. When I see letters to the editor that question the severity of Covid 19 and the statistics used I think of these thirty two states. States where the governors have taken the pandemic as a serious health crisis. In particular I think of southern states with Republican governors that resisted some precautions due to political concerns. States like Texas, Alabama and Arkansas that now realize they have a full blown pandemic on their hands. Florida, arguably has become the epicenter for Covid 19. It's time for Gov. DeSantis to join his fellow GOP southern governors and make masks mandatory.

Michael T. Bagnato, Port Orange