

CBS Mornings

11/08/22

7:25:51 a.m. [TEASE]

27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Ahead; Three Meals in Florida]

GAYLE KING: Ahead Tony takes us on the road in Florida for our series, we call it “Three Meals” and finds an assignment he can well, really sink his teeth into.

TONY DOKOUPIL: So what do you call this again?

JUSTIN KAPLAN: Croquets?

DOKOUPIL: Can I have what he’s having?

KAPLAN: No. Have this one.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah. [TO MARQUEZ]: How’s the orange juice?

DAYAMI MARQUEZ: Amazing. You want to try some?

DOKOUPIL: Yeah. I would love some.

KING: Florida orange juice, fresh squeezed. What Florida voters told him as he sampled local favorites before today’s election.

(...)

7:52:31 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Ahead; Three Meals in Florida]

KING: Ahead, Tony on the road samples Florida cuisine in our “Three Meals” series. He finds out what motivates you, the voter.

(...)

8:00:49 a.m. [TEASE]

7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Three Meals In Florida]

DOKOUPIL: And that includes the State of Florida, where I shared three meals with voters from

both parties to find out what's really on their minds.

(....)

8:02:49 a.m.

15 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Voters Hit the Polls; Turnout a Major Factor as the Future of Congress Hangs in the Balance]

DOKOUPIL: Well, you know, I love talking to people. One of my favorite things to do, almost every story I do involves a conversation with somebody out there in America and I've been talking to voters here in Florida. There's a lot of enthusiasm for Ron DeSantis as you point out. But I would also point out that polls are just guesses. They are educated guesses[.]

(....)

8:11:00 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Three Meals in Florida]

KING: Coming up, Tony gets an earfill — earful, rather — that's how you say that — from Florida voters and share some classic food with them for our "Three Meals" series. What voters say are their biggest worries these days.

(....)

8:15:04 a.m.

8 minutes and 13 seconds

DOKOUPIL: In our series, "Three Meals" — you know what we do — we sample some local favorites while also sampling the minds of voters ahead of the Midterms. And this morning the land of sun, the land of surf and the land of my one and only childhood — do we have the picture? Please tell me we do. There it is. Come on, we are talking Florida, of course. That's a parrot on my head by the way. Long live the parrot jungle. Florida, once the nation's premier swing state, I think that's fair to say, also fair to say the State is now trending Republican. It had gone back and forth in presidential elections since Bill Clinton was President, but former President Trump expanded his lead here from 2016 to 2020. And registered Republicans — this is historic — now outnumber registered Democrats. So, what'd we do? Well, we swung up from Miami to Jacksonville to find out why Florida may no longer swing for Democrats. Miami, Miami, Miami is where we found Enriqueta's, a Cuban sandwich and coffee spot still making it in Midtown.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Three Meals in Florida; Voters Share Top Issues & Concerns as

Election Day Arrives]

KAPLAN: Every morning. I stop here every single morning.

DOKOUPIL: Justin Kaplan starts the day with un cafecito and two of these croquetas. [TO COOK] Can I have what he is having?

KAPLAN: Have this one.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah?

KAPLAN: Come on. It will change your life.

DOKOUPIL: And for our sake, he added a side of local perspective on Republican Governor Ron DeSantis.

KAPLAN: I didn't vote for him the first time, I won't vote for him again. I still think he's been unfairly vilified. And I think that can national narrative and certainly the narrative outside of the state of Florida is absolutely not in line with what is really going on down here.

DOKOUPIL: As we moved inside over a plate of bacon and eggs, we learned something else that Florida outsiders may forget.

MARQUEZ: There is a difference between Cuban voters and Latino voters. Cubans tend to vote Republican.

DOKOUPIL: Dayami Marquez is one of a million Cuban-Americans around Miami, and when it comes to Ron DeSantis?

MARQUEZ: He is a beast.

DOKOUPIL: Why is he a beast?

MARQUEZ: I like the way he does everything.

DOKOUPIL: And that includes his decision to send migrants from the South to states up north.

MARQUEZ: I'm an immigrant, but I came legal. I believe in legal immigration. I don't believe in illegal immigration.

DOKOUPIL: We chased that thought with a little fresh squeezed Florida OJ. [TO MARQUEZ] Oh, this is really good. I love that and walked out with a bag of Enriqueta's famous steak sandwiches — really good — before heading for the highway. Driving north along I-95, we hit Central Florida, home of the Space Coast, and tens of thousands of new residents, many of whom seem to lean Republican as they register to vote. Our next stop, Pub Americana in the heart of

downtown Melbourne, where Dave Hildebrand was kind enough to offer a taste of his fried gator bites.

DAVE HILDEBRAND: Very good.

DOKOUPIL: It is chewy. But what really gave us something to chew over came from Dave Hoban.

DAVE HOBAN: We have our freedoms here.

DOKOUPIL: Yeah?

HOBAN: You know, a lot more than the other states.

DOKOUPIL: He says the economy is a top concern, but a bigger motivator for him is the culture.

HOBAN: What's going to push is institutional values. All of these other things and ideas that, quite frankly, are coming in are being forced down a lot of people's throats, so we're going to stand up. I mean, they're going to get voted down.

DOKOUPIL: After tucking into a burger and a craft beer, we heard from two women across the room who sounded like they might lean Democrat, especially on the issue of abortion.

KATHERINE GRAHAM: Women should have a choice to do what they want.

TOMI FRYER: It's not my decision to tell someone else what to do.

DOKOUPIL: But Katherine Graham and Tomi Fryer, both registered independents, like what Ron DeSantis is cooking up on just about every other issue.

FRYER: He's just, like, on it, especially with how he handled COVID like —

GRAHAM: Yeah.

FRYER: — I feel like that was a big contributing factor to it.

GRAHAM: I just feel like he's very family oriented. He, you know, cares about people. He doesn't like you know — he doesn't BS around.

DOKOUPIL: With two meals down, we were soon back on the road. Our final stop, Jacksonville, a big political surprise in 2020 when the county flipped blue for the first time in more than four decades. It's where we found Tremendous BBQ and met with owner Terry Rountree. [TO ROUNTREE] How are you? Thanks for having us.

TERRY ROUNTREE: Thank you.

DOKOUPIL: Who recently had to make some adjustments. [TO ROUNTREE] Increasing cost of operation. What's going on there?

ROUNTREE: Can I say Biden?

DOKOUPIL: You can say whatever's on your mind.

ROUNTREE: It wasn't like that when Trump was President.

DOKOUPIL: For dinner, I wanted something a little lighter. [TO ROUNTREE] So, I'm kind of hoping you've got a salad.

ROUNTREE: We do have a salad.

DOKOUPIL: Do you really?

ROUNTREE: Yes.

DOKOUPIL: Hotdog, all right.

ROUNTREE: We have a steak and a burger on it.

DOKOUPIL: It also came with a side of nostalgia from Terry's brother, Ricky, and customer Daniel Quinn as they discussed DeSantis's fight against the so-called woke left.

DANIEL QUINN: Before, we didn't have to think about what you said; now, you've really got to think about it before you say it.

ROUNTREE: It is a free country. We have — it says we have free speech, why can't you say what you want?

DOKOUPIL: Pretty clear, Democrats have their work cut out for them here and not only in 2022. Terry Rountree likes Ron DeSantis for Governor and beyond. [TO ROUNTREE] Do you like him for 2024?

ROUNTREE: In the White House?

DOKOUPIL: Yeah?

ROUNTREE: Absolutely.

DOKOUPIL: Really?

ROUNTREE: Absolutely.

DOKOUPIL: Over that other Florida resident?

ROUNTREE: Absolutely.

DOKOUPIL: Really?

ROUNTREE: Absolutely.

DOKOUPIL: Pretty big storyline developing there. By the way, I've got to point out that once we started digesting our food and digesting the day, we realized that on that day long trip, we spoke to dozens of people up and down the Coast of Florida all in precincts by the way that voted for President Biden in 2020. But to our surprise, we did not run into a supporter of Ron DeSantis's Democratic opponent. That would be Charlie Crist, but we did find some Crist supporters last weekend as we stopped for a Get Out the Vote Rally he held. Take a look at what they had to say. [TO CRIST SUPPORTER] What is the number one thing that makes you support Charlie Crist?

WOMAN #1: Democracy.

DOKOUPIL: Democracy?

WOMAN #1: Democracy in every aspect.

DOKOUPIL: How do you think Charlie Crist's campaign for Governor is going?

WOMAN #2: I think it could have gone stronger because the Democrats do not toot their own horns.

DOKOUPIL: What is the number one issue that leads you to support Charlie Crist for Governor?

WOMAN #3: Women's rights.

WOMAN #4: Women's rights.

DOKOUPIL: So you think Ron DeSantis is going to go further to restrict abortion?

WOMAN: Yes.

WOMAN #3: Of course. He is already robbing us of our freedom, and that's — and freedom is not free until you're free to make your own decisions.

DOKOUPIL: He says he's the freedom guy.

WOMAN #3: He is not freedom. He has stole [sic] our freedom from the State of Florida.

WOMAN #4: Yes.

DOKOUPIL: So there we go. We promised conversations on both sides of the issues, both parties, and there you have it and guys, as I toss it back to you in New York, I have to clarify something as a true Florida boy. What you saw there on camera, me eating some alligator and it being pretty chewy, I actually spit it out. That's not typical and that's not my first time with alligator in the fine State of Florida. It usually tastes a lot like, you guessed it, chicken.

NATE BURLESON: Chicken.

KING: Chicken. Tony, it was interesting though, about the Ron DeSantis voters that you go from one end of the state to the other and I know you were looking, you only found Charlie Chris supporters at a Charlie Crist rally. It was really that difficult?

DOKOUPIL: Yeah, it was really that tough. At one point, I stood at a stop sign and flagged down every single car to ask the driver who they were supporting for Governor. At another point, I went into a diner and it wasn't even on our list. This was meal four of the day, I went to every table —

KING: Yeah.

DOKOUPIL: and couldn't find one. That's anecdotal. That's not scientific. Charlie Crist —

BURLESON: Right.

DOKOUPIL: — supporters are out there, but it does speak to the fact that Ron DeSantis, in the last four years, after just barely winning the governorship and 2018, has done a really strong job of consolidating support.

BURLESON: Mmm.

KING: Thank you, Tony.