opinion

A VERSE FOR TODAY
For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.
Titus 2:11

Jaguars Foundation wins all year round

During most weekends, the Jaguars provide entertainment on the football field even when they fall short in the won-loss column.

But there's one area where our team has been a winner 365 days a year.

Even before the Jaguars played their first NFL game in 1995, the Jaguars Foundation has been a champion in our community.

And here are just some of the causes that the foundation has been a champion for:
- Economically vulnerable children.
- Innovative educational programs.
- Recreational and anti-obesity efforts.
- Military and veterans outreach.

GENEROSITY MAINTAINED UNDER KHAN

Wayne and Delores Weaver set new standards for philanthropy as previous Jaguars owners.

They have continued their great impact on the quality of life of this region as Jacksonville citizens.

And Jaguars owner Shad Khan has continued to fortify the bond between the Jaguars Foundation and our community.

Under Khan's ownership, the team's philanthropic arm has distributed thousands of game tickets — valued at more than $450,000 — to charitable organizations and to reward pupils across Northeast Florida who are setting and achieving high academic goals.

Just as important, the Jaguars Foundation is providing grants totalling more than $2 million this year to support a diverse list of community projects.

Their work has focused on important needs in our community, especially among the vulnerable. As such, the work may not always be visible.

Here is a partial list of the community work backed by the Jaguars Foundation:

JAGUARS PLAY 60

This program encouraging kids to have at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Wide-ranging women's initiatives includes support for the Hubbard House (an area nonprofit that assists domestic violence victims) and breast cancer awareness.

VETERANS

Helping to create and maintain the Jacksonville Veterans Resource and Reintegration Center — a partnership with the city that helps veterans and their families make a smooth transition back to civilian life.

FAMILY AND HOME

An extensive array of programs range from working with Ashley Furniture to give beds to economically disadvantaged children to assisting the One Love Foundation, which works to raise awareness about and prevent relationship violence among teens and college students.

HONOR ROWS

This campaign that each season provides Jaguars game tickets and stadium recognition to 5,000 area students who set and achieve ambitious goals for academic performance, personal behavior, physical fitness and community service during the school year.

ONE ORLANDO CAMPAIGN

This collaboration with other Florida-based NFL teams to support victims, families and first responders affected by the June terrorism attack that killed 49 people in Orlando. The Jaguars Foundation has provided a $100,000 grant to the One Orlando Fund.

A RECENT EXAMPLE IN BAYMEADOWS

And countless numbers of local citizens will see the benefits of a recent grant by the Jaguars Foundation — a $100,000 donation to improve the aging recreational field at 9A/Baymeadows Regional Park, the 30-acre, municipally owned facility on the city's Southside.

"We're going to be able to really enhance one of the main amenities for our residents who use the park," Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Big impact. Jaguars cornerback Aaron Colvin, the Jaguars Foundation and Nassau County officials gathered at the Yulee Sports Complex to break ground for a new football field and other improvements aided by a $100,000 foundation grant.

Director Daryl Joseph recently told a Times-Union editorial board member.

And the Jaguars Foundation's generous $100,000 grant is the main reason for those welcome enhancements.

"It's absolutely huge," Joseph said.

Joseph said 9A/Baymeadows is a popular city park, and that the recreational field sees "a tremendous amount of activity" throughout a year, hosting everything from youth football games to adult rugby contests, from soccer matches to dads and sons playing catch on a beautiful day.

The recreational field will be re-sod with fresh grass.

Its foundation will be replenished by an updated irrigated system.

Its status as a site for fun, games and family bonding will be strengthened for years to come.

That's a victory for our residents and our city.

And it's among the many triumphs that the Jaguars Foundation is enabling our community to achieve and enjoy — through the unwavering commitment of our football team.

The electorate

Voters feel anxious, desperate

When Hillary Clinton described half of Donald Trump's supporters as "deplorable," she used the wrong word.

A more accurate word might be "desperate."

Trump emerged from the Republican pack vying for his party's presidential nomination because he was the only candidate to make a mockery of the Republican elite.

It doesn't matter that the messenger is also a part of the elite or that his message is largely based on myths.

Many Trump supporters feel threatened by the encroachment of other groups into their patriarchal world. They feel anxious and angry about the demise of white male heterosexual dominance.

Trump's supporters feel desperate about their incomes, their marriages and the status of America as a global superpower.

The underlying theme is stability, or lack thereof, never mind that increasing order and control might decrease freedom.

The Democratic leaders are as out of touch as their Republican counterparts.

DEMOCRATS ALIENATED

The party's steps to ensure that Clinton would receive the nomination alienated much of its base, and Clinton's policy shifts seem to have less to do with changes in conviction than with popular demand.

As with Trump supporters, it may be accurate to state that about half of Clinton's supporters also feel desperate.

They, too, are anxious about their incomes and their marriages.

And while they identify as progress what some Trump supporters might describe as encroachment, that progress has been slow with one step forward seemingly always followed by two steps back. Stagnation is the underlying theme here.

The unenthusiastic support for Clinton stems from a base desperately tired of hearing the rhetoric about equality of opportunity.

Finally, Trump is making a mockery of the media. Today, the media is more about entertainment than information, more about talk than meaning, more about emotion than fact.

Despite what some economists say, human action, particularly during an election, is not about rational choice; it is about emotion.

This election shows just how much the American people are willing to sacrifice for entertainment. It shows that we don't know how our government works.

It shows that we are willing to take desperate measures to challenge the grip of America's powerful, economic elite.

The 2016 election represents a stunning failure of democracy.

Nathan Rousseau, professor of sociology, Jacksonville University

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Another view: John Cole *Times-Tribune*

Letters from Readers

VA HEALTH
ORIGINS ARE IGNORED

A Times-Union editorial had two important points that most readers will gloss over.

These points are "not all veterans are eligible' and "concentrate on service-related injuries."

I served in the military in 1946 and 1947 and I was never promised any medical benefits after discharge. It is my perception that the VA was originally for service injuries.

The politicians have made it a political football to gather votes.

The Times-Union would do the readers a service to ask our representatives the original official written mission of the VA and how many nonservice-related veterans are in the system.

Charles Cason, Jacksonville

TRUMP'S DEFECTS
TOO MANY FOR SUPPORT

I am a left-leaning independent who believes that anyone who votes for Donald Trump has drunk too much of the Kool-Aid.

Whether you believe in Hillary Clinton's policies or not, anyone who has been a senator or a secretary of state has the experience to thoughtfully lead our country as president.

Trump has no government experience.

He has denigrated every woman on this planet with his crass comments on facial looks, body weight and views on pregnancy.

He has shown his bigotry and racism with his attacks on every minority.

He blithely advocates war.

He has sent many middle-class small business owners out of business by reneging on contracts, crassly calling it "good business," then claims to be a friend of the middle class.

Many Republican leaders have called Trump unfit to run. It is unprecedented that a party should publicly show such scorn for its nominee.

Had Trump suddenly left the race, John McCain or Mitt Romney could have stepped in and suddenly giving the GOP a legitimate contender, won this election.

The GOP needs to look within itself and figure out how to move away from this man who is ruining the party and find a thoughtful presidential contender, otherwise the Democrats will rule for years.

I understand the distaste many have for Clinton, but to vote for Trump is a vote for racism, bigotry and ignorance. Not a noble platform on which to hang one's hat.

David Laird, Ponte Vedra Beach

HILLARY'S EMAILS
AIDES TAKE THE FIFTH

Hillary Clinton speculated about the reasons Donald Trump has not released his tax returns. OK, that's fair game.

So let's speculate on why the four guys who managed the server at her home took the Fifth Amendment. Was she hiding a connection between State Department business and the Clinton Foundation? Did she instruct them to bleachbit all confidential information or reference to the Foundation? Exactly what do the four feel guilty about? Going to jail?

What's good for the goose, etc. One issue is a matter of privacy; the other is criminal!

Ken Gorman, Ponte Vedra Beach

DEBATE MODERATOR
TOO FRIENDLY TO CLINTON

How shamelessly Lester Holt presented himself as biased in favor of Hillary Clinton in the debate. Moderators are not supposed to be sycophants for one side.

The moderator for the second debate should be someone from an independent news source, one not obviously linked to the mainstream news proclivity for the Democratic candidate.

In all fairness to Trump, he should have jumped on Clinton right at the beginning when she stated that America had recovered from the 2007 recession.

What planet does she live on? That set the tone for the rest of her dishonesty throughout the evening.

One can only hope that Holt retires soon to the same planet she lives on.

Maurine Meleck, Ponte Vedra Beach

TRUMP'S ECONOMIC PLAN
BETTER FOR AMERICA

One of the main topics of the first presidential debate was the subject of jobs and businesses going overseas.

Donald Trump proposes to reduce taxes on American companies. His plan to lower the capital gains tax will have companies and jobs remain in the United States, and it would draw companies who have left our country back to America.

Hillary Clinton's solution was to make companies pay their fair share by increasing taxes on companies.

If she were to increase corporate taxes, more companies would leave, taking their jobs with them. Money companies held oversea would never return to the U.S.

Both Clinton and Trump failed to mention that any tax on companies is really a hidden tax on the consumer. Raise corporate taxes and the companies raise the price of their goods and services which is paid by the consumer. The tax system is designed so that companies act as tax collectors for the government.

Alan Pease, Jacksonville