

Is There Salt On Your Cap?

By Van Yandell

Proverbs 16: 3 “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

During my teaching years, three months in the summer were mine to seek other employment. Mostly my summers were spent laying concrete blocks or working framing construction.

I did play nine holes of golf in 1983 and went fishing for about ten minutes in '79. Those were the most boring experiences of my life.

Several of those summers were spent in Brevard County Florida working with a contractor I had known for many years.

We framed houses in Titusville, Port St. John and Merritt Island. One of my greatest thrills has been to see a pile of building material go from a monolithic concrete slab to a standing structure.

When the roof trusses were placed and decked, the structure took on the appearance of a house. Thoughts were often wondering of the family that would make that house a home.

Once the house was “dried in” the plumbers, electricians, HVAC techs, roofers and window and door installers could work their tasks in

completing the future home.

Several of those summers, I worked with a crew from West Virginia; they wrote the book on hard work. Their favorite saying was “When we work we work hard and when we play we play hard.”

Mark was so tall he could cut off rafter tails standing on the ground. Greg was strong as a young bull and any time something had to be moved, Greg was called.

Andy could drive a 16 sinker with one hammer strike but was afraid of heights. I thought I could cure him of that phobia but when he ascended to the ridge, I had to go up and bring him down.

Many carpenters wear ball caps. On those jobs, those guys would sometimes come to work on Monday morning wearing a new, dark colored cap. By Wednesday, those caps had turned white from the bill to the top button.

The white substance was salt from evaporated sweat. At times we joked about the white caps and often accused the wearer of using a salt shaker to make it look like he was actually working.

We full well knew what the salt was and where it came from. Hard work is not old-fashioned and many in today's world could take a lesson from those nail-driv-

ers from West Virginia.

The last words of Christ Jesus before He ascended were an order for us to work. Matthew 28: 19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Those words are not a command to sit down and let someone else do the work. Those words are personal and direct to every believer in our Jesus.

“Go ye therefore” is not a suggestion; it is an imperative! A missionary we worked with in China used the words “believer-follower.” That status is not to be taken lightly; it is serious and crucial that all Christians regard it as a statement of authority that must be directed inwardly.

Theodore Roosevelt said “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Is the work of the Christian worth doing? To the believer-follower of Jesus, that is not a legitimate question. Realizing the alternatives for the non-believer, the work Jesus admonished us

with, there is no doubt, no question.

Ecclesiastes 2: 24 “There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.”

We must at this point, understand our eternal salvation is not based on our work. We realize many Christians believe their salvation is based on “what they do.” Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Ephesians 2: 8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Many confuse this scripture to indicate one can work his/her way into Heaven. “Created in Christ Jesus unto good works” conclusively states we work because of our faith connection to Him. We have eternal salvation because of our belief in Him and His suffering and shed blood on the cross.

James 2: 17-18 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is

dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

One's faith based continued belief after initial salvation belief is demonstrated by the work Christ Jesus admonished us to do. Many Christians regard His mandate to “preach this gospel to all nations” in what many refer to as “The Great Commission” as an imperative, not a suggestion.

“Salt on your cap” is obviously a metaphor. Salt on a construction worker's cap is a visible sign of physical exertion. Figuratively, is there salt on your cap? “Work” is telling others about our Glorious Savior, for the time is coming when it will be too late.

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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I Have Been Taught Many Things

By Tommy Druen

Having a teenage son has taught me many things. One uncomfortable truth I've learned is when he's shopping for clothes, I need to find a way to kill time. He can agonize over the most minute details, sizes, colors, patterns and the clock seems to stop entirely once he disappears into a fitting room.

The other day, he was shopping at a nearby sporting goods store. In the interest of impartiality, I'll leave it anonymous. But let's just say it's the kind of place that becomes a risky Google search if you forget the apostrophe in its name.

While my son agonizingly debated whether he wanted a fishing shirt with a hood or without, I wandered through the rest of the store and found myself in the baseball section. The inventory itself didn't surprise me, but the price tags sure did.

I picked up what looked like an ordinary youth mitt and nearly dropped it when I saw the sticker price. \$329. Thinking it had to be some kind

of premium model, I checked others nearby. Out of about ten options, the cheapest ran \$189.

That's when I started doing the math. What does it actually cost to outfit a kid for baseball these days? Bats ran about the same as mitts. Cleats were roughly half that. Batting helmets hovered around \$75, batting gloves another \$50. Even assuming the team provides uniforms, you're looking at a minimum of \$750 just to get a kid on the field.

I couldn't shake those numbers as I kept walking. I didn't even stop in the football and soccer sections. I'm sure those numbers would've been just as sobering. But when I reached the basketball aisle, I felt a small moment of hope. Surely basketball, the sport that needs almost nothing but a ball and a hoop, would break this pattern of astronomical prices.

Then I picked up a ball. Granted, it was top-of-the-line, but the price was \$229. Even the mid-range options routinely hit \$100. And

we all know basketball shoes aren't exactly cheap.

But this doesn't even touch the travel team culture that's exploded over the last decade. Team fees, hotel rooms, tournament admissions, parking passes. It adds up fast. I recently shelled out \$40 per day just to watch my daughter and her 11-year-old teammates play volleyball for a weekend.

That's when the reality hit me. In chasing opportunities and better equipment, we've effectively priced out entire segments of the population from youth sports altogether.

I've heard the nostalgia expressed often enough that it rings true. Baseball was better when kids played for the local American Legion in sweatpants and a t-shirt, competing against neighbors rather than traveling to corporate-sponsored tournaments wearing expensive gear. That argument likely has some merit.

I looked into the research and found some revealing numbers. Youth sports partic-

ipation overall has climbed over the decades, though much of that growth reflects expanded opportunities for girls. The economic data, however, paints a starkly different picture. According to 2022 figures, 70% of children from families earning more than four times the poverty level play organized sports. Meanwhile, only 31% of children from families below the poverty line do.

Certainly, other factors contribute to that gap. Transportation challenges matter. The reality that many teenagers must work to help support their families matters. But I'd wager a lot of it comes down to simple affordability.

What troubles me most gets at the core contradiction. Sports have always held a special place in American life because they promised meritocracy. It's supposed to be the one arena where your background doesn't matter, where connections and family income are irrelevant. Theoretically, winning depends solely on who performs best.

But somewhere along the way, we've turned that promise on its head. We've created a system where the starting line isn't the same for everyone. Where talent alone isn't enough if you can't afford the entry fee. The child born into a wealthy family gets the opportunity to discover if he has genuine talent. The child born into poverty never even gets that chance.

We tell ourselves we're investing in our children's futures, and perhaps we are for those who can afford it. But we're constructing barriers around the very institution we claim

should transcend privilege and economic status. We're undermining the fundamental promise that talent and hard work matter more than family wealth. That's not the American ideal we've long celebrated in sports. And honestly, I'm not certain it's a game worth playing.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED USE HEARING FOR
MUNICIPAL ROAD AID (MRA) PROGRAM AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA)
PROGRAM FUNDS

A public hearing will be held by City of Waverly at City Hall on June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining written and oral comments of citizens regarding possible use of Municipal Road Aid (MRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. The city currently has \$65,083 in carry-over MRA funds with \$53,190 in a CD and \$67,804 in carry-over LGEA funds from Fiscal Year June 30, 2026 and expects to receive \$4,800 in MRA funds and \$5,600 in LGEA funds during Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2027 for a total of \$123,063 in MRA funds and \$73,404 in LGEA funds.

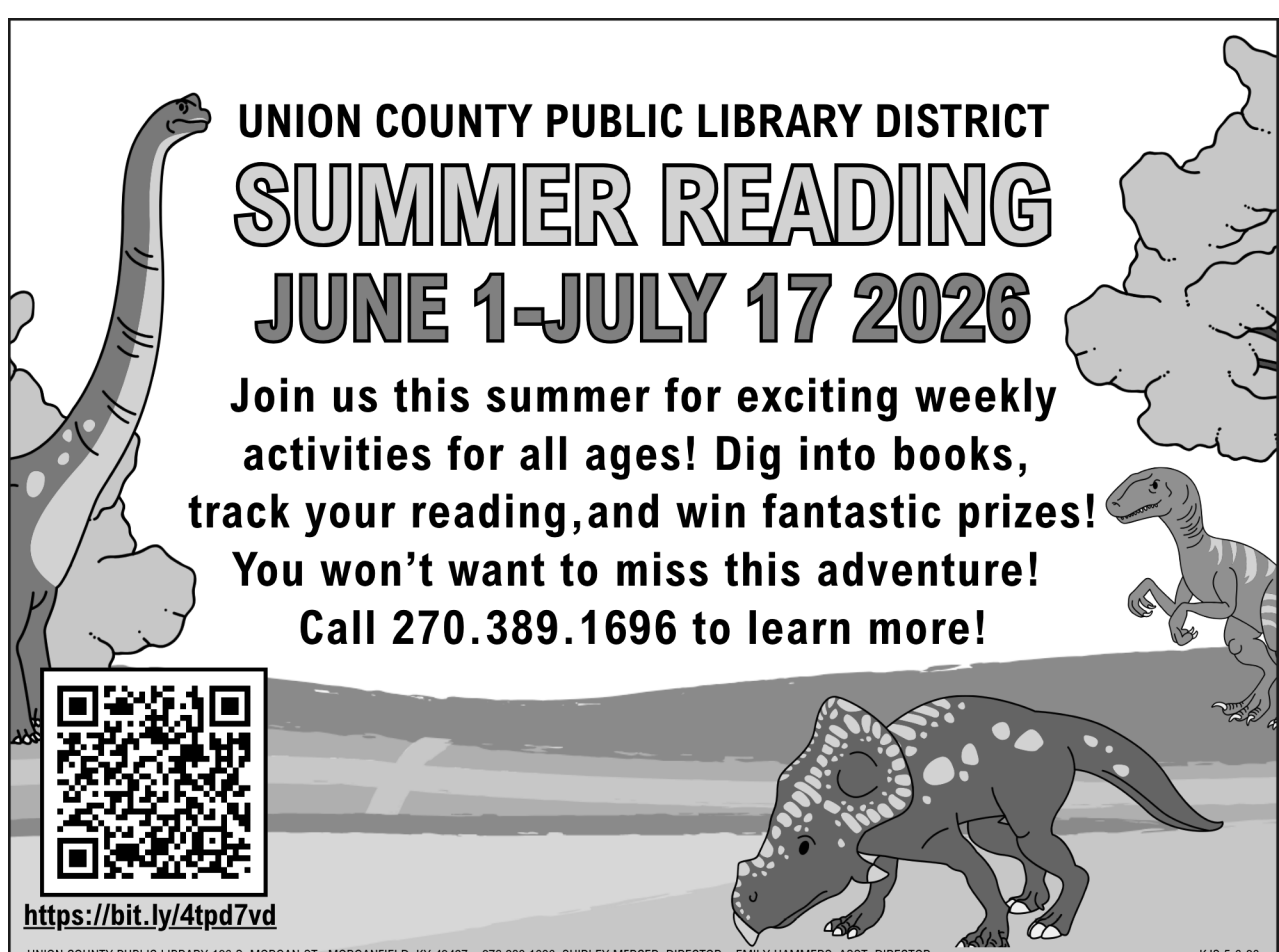
All interested persons and organizations in City of Waverly are invited to the public hearing to submit oral or written comments on the possible use of these funds. Any persons who cannot, but would like to submit comments, should call the Mayor at 270-952-5245 so that arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

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The principal officer of the business is Camilla Holbrook.

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