

parking spots. I have heard of people who are 100% healthy taking a family member's handicap tag and using it for their benefit. That just fries my bacon. Anyone else feel this way? Channel Change.

Do you watch much television? What are your favorite shows? What happened to the good old family comedies, westerns, and variety shows I grew up with? What happened to shows like Father Knows Best, The Donna Reed Show, Bonanza, Paladine, and shows like Hollywood Palace and the Ed Sullivan Show? Did you watch the Beatles when they premiered on the Ed Sullivan Show? None of those shows had to have any advisory information before you watched them. Some of the prime time shows on the air now would not have been permitted in the times of my youth. You know what I'm talking about? Exactly!! We are not in Kansas anymore. We have to have standards and re-adjust our moral compass because we are running out of room on the moral scale. I suggest we all re-evaluate our level of acceptance of such things. Where is that line? Who is going to draw that line in the sand?

I do want to give thanks for the rains we have had. It has



**FFA!** The Robert Lee High School Greenhand FFA members kicked off their year Monday, September 9, at the Concho District FFA Greenhand Day. They got to learn all about the opportunities that FFA has, network with other schools around the district, and work on several team building activities. Rhetick Hayes led many of the activities as the Concho District Sentinel and Denver O'Dell assisted as a group leader.

blessed our dry earth and many good things will be yielded.

Be careful out there and watch for those crazy drivers, use handicap parking only if you need it, and I apologize if I have ever blown my horn at you.

Be well, Gary Karschner

Theodore Roosevelt unquestionably valued the concept of work in every aspect of his life. Roosevelt used hard physical work to pull himself out of a sickly childhood and to cope with deep personal tragedy as an adult. The imagery from some of his most famous speeches (e.g. "The Strenuous Life" and "The Man in the Arena") centers around the notion of a hard-working, hard-striving citizen. Some of Roosevelt's greatest presidential policy achievements centered around his defense of work. From resolving the Coal Strike of 1902 to reforming working conditions in meatpacking plants to his famous trust busting, Roosevelt saw a man's labor as a

meaningful, valuable thing that should be respected by society.

Accordingly, Roosevelt can be treated with sincerity and not skepticism when he speaks highly of work. He famously said in a Labor Day speech in 1903: "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing..."

Many of Roosevelt's peers in the elite political and social classes deserve more skepticism when they laud the ideals of work, given the course of American history with regard to the devaluation of hard work and the people who do that hard work.

One of Wendell Berry's core theses in his lifetime of writing (with which I agree) is that work is intended to be dignified, valuable, and honorable, and American society has largely failed to uphold that view since the very beginning.

Berry wrote a lengthy essay called "Work" as the core of his sprawling and controversial 2022 book "The Need to Be Whole." In that essay Berry writes of an 1820 conversation between future President John Quincy Adams and Southern firebrand John C. Calhoun that Adams recounted in his personal diary.

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**The Value of Work**

By James M. Decker

"Work" is a peculiar concept in our society.

We claim to honor the idea of work as positive and meaningful.

We use "hard working" as a compliment and we talk about a strong work ethic as a core virtue of the American ideal. We tell schoolchildren that they can be anything they desire if they work hard enough.

But on this Labor Day, I asked myself the question: does our society REALLY value work? Or do we just pretend that we do, while our actions suggest otherwise?

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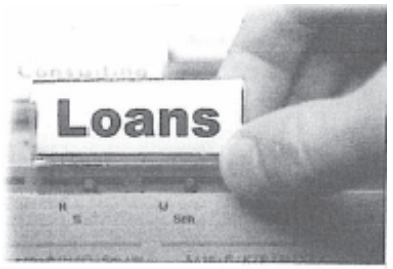
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