

Candidates make a lot of campaign noise about taking 'entitlements' away

Some elected officials who should know better want to end what they call "entitlements" since they don't think people should get something for nothing.

They think the privatization of social security would be a better safety net for all us who don't have millions in the bank when it comes time to stop working so hard.

Where have they been the last five years? Have they not noticed the private sector has not performed very well?

I have had a 401k invested in the most conservative of investments and for at least four of the last five years, it made no income whatsoever.

In fact, each quarter the net value went down because of fees charged to manage my account.

You can bet the government didn't get that money. Ultimately it went to the same fund managers who screwed up our economy and then pleaded with the U.S. Treasury for a bailout because their bank was too big to fail.

Does that mean they thought they were entitled to something in the name of saving the financial institutions and our world as we know it?

Are working people who have paid into social security—whether they wanted to or not (it's the law)—not entitled to something?

Am I not too small to fail?



On a Higher Plane
CLINT HYDE

I think I am entitled to something after paying into Social Security for over 40 years. And what about Medicare? I have obediently paid into that for many years, too.

The officials who have been elected to Congress five or six times have health insurance they don't have to pay for and a guaranteed income even after they retire or get unelected, whichever comes first.

Some of them started their "public service" career with very little net worth and now earn about \$175,000 a year.

And yet they now have a personal net worth of over \$40 million.

I am sure this accumulation of wealth didn't come from earned income or some private sector investment program.

Do you think they are entitled to all that? These officials think we should be able to accumulate the same amount of wealth as they did without some kind of private sugar daddy to give us money.

Why are they entitled

to free health care and an abundant salary but they can't seem to find a way to give me my own money back in the future when there are fewer workers paying into Social Security?

They want to turn the whole program over to someone who might make more money in one year than I will ever earn in a lifetime and who will "churn" my retirement account into nothing?

Candidates for national elected office and on state levels make a lot of campaign noise about taking "entitlements" away.

They are already millionaires, so you know they don't care if those of us who have paid into Social Security get anything back.

They are appealing to former fringe electorate groups that don't want any government in their lives.

You know they don't care if I get my money back. These voters and their leaders want all the benefits of our society without paying into the pot.

The energy barons, like the Koch brothers, Exxon, BP, etc. expect to receive huge tax breaks.

The agricultural industry, not just farmers but large industrial operators, can actually make more money from federal subsidies when there is a drought and crop failure than in good years.

They are getting something for nothing. Why

are they entitled to all this money up front and I won't even get the money back that I have paid into Social Security?

Elected officials and their financial supporters have railed against the Social Security program since it was born out of the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression.

By the 1980s there was so much money coming in that they salivated over somehow taking this "entitlement" away and putting it in the hands of the private investors.

President Ronald Reagan even took money from Social Security to balance the Federal budget.

So much for Reagan's trickle-down economics that his fans still rave about.

My Social Security monthly payment will probably slow to a trickle if it gets privatized.

Maybe, just like my 401k, I will owe instead of receive what I am entitled to.

Clint Hyde has lived a number of years in European countries, traveled Europe, Asia and Down Under on business, speaks several languages, and reads major newspapers daily. He has lived in Mammoth for 11 years and can be reached at clinthyde@aol.com. His column reflects his own views and not necessarily those of the Mammoth Times.

Fuelwood collection open in Reds Meadow June 4-9

The Inyo National Forest announced a special opportunity for personal use fuelwood collection in the Reds Meadow area, June 4-9.

The area will open for fuelwood collection at 9 a.m. and all firewood collection activities must be completed by 4 p.m. each day.

Woodcutters will need to present their 2013 fuelwood permit and tags at Minaret Vista Entrance Station, one mile from the Mammoth Mountain Inn, for entry into the area. This is a one-time event for these six days only.

No firewood cutting will be allowed within Reds Meadow Resort & Pack Station, Agnew Meadow

Pack Station, Agnew Meadows Campground, and within Devils Postpile National Monument boundaries. Fuelwood permits may be purchased at local Forest Service Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers. Fuelwood permits are \$15 per cord with a two cord minimum purchase. Fuelwood permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center in Lee Vining; (760) 647-3044
- Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes; (760) 924-5500
- White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop; 760-873-2500
- InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine; 760-876-6222.



**2013 MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM
SUMMER OF STEWARDSHIP**

**National Trails Day
on Panorama Dome!**

**SATURDAY, June 1
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

WHAT: Join Footloose Sports and Fat Bike Mammoth for a morning of trail work, then join us for a free lunch and lots of giveaways for volunteers!

WHERE: Meet at the Panorama Dome Trail access on Lake Mary Road for a free bagel breakfast and work assignments.

WHO: Volunteers needed! Dress for trail work: sturdy, close-toed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeve shirt. Gloves and tools provided.








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MAMMOTH HOSPITAL
Southern Mono Healthcare District 

**Laboratory Wellness
Program**



**Get over 50% average discount
on 19 separate lab tests!***

WHEN: Third Tuesday of every month:
7:00am — 6:00pm

**Results available in 24 hours.
No appointment necessary.**

*Physician's prescription needed • Cash or check only • Insurance will not be billed

For more information, call **(760) 924-4090**

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