



# Opinion

## Now is not the time to give retirees a raise

The wailing has barely begun. No cost-of-living increase for Social Security for the second year in a row! That's never happened, and it may leave senior voters in a snit next month, especially after they've been hyped by all kinds of people who'll tell them they "deserve" the raise, known as a COLA.

Huh?

"When people aren't getting the COLAs, they certainly feel like they're falling farther and farther behind, particularly in this economy," David Certner, legislative policy director for the American Association of Retired Persons, told the Associated Press. "People rely on Social Security as a major portion of their income, and quite frankly, they have counted on the COLA over the years."

Counted on the COLA. The cost-of-living escalator has been in the Social Security rules since Congress passed it in the 1970s. In that era, inflation was a real problem. Social Security retirees were being left behind by a hot-running economy.

So enter the cost of living adjustment, which gave seniors a "raise" every year, year after year - until last year, that is. After the uproar arose, Democrats proposed a \$250 supplemental payment to make up for the increase seniors didn't deserve. It was blocked by Democratic defec-

tors, but that will only make the uproar this year worse.

Since almost two-thirds of retirees depend mostly on their Social Security for income, this is no minor matter.

But out in the real world, few are getting raises this year. The real world is hard. Most people think they are just lucky to have a job.

Can they afford to pay more to finance a raise for retirees? Can the country afford to borrow more to finance a cost of living increase that's clearly not warranted by the figures?

The Democrats must think the answer is "yes." They've already introduced a bill to grant \$250 payments again this year. Those who haven't had a raise or who're unemployed might differ.

But the truth is, prices aren't going up. Seniors may have plenty of expenses, but no one has shown that they face any more inflation than the rest of us.

One thing for sure, the Social Security recipients won't be the ones paying for any increase. They paid taxes in their time, for sure, but they're past that now.

And given the facts, it'd be just plain wrong to tax everyone else to increase payments this year. Popular with one group of voters, for sure, but still wrong.

- Steve Haynes



## City code should apply to everyone

Letter to the Editor:

I read with some dismay about a couple of local citizens who were singled out and publicly exposed and threatened with jail and fines if they did not comply with city code for cleaning up their property.

I firmly believe that every citizen is obligated to follow the city rules and comply with them. However, it seems to me that a host of other city properties remain free of cleanup enforcement, particularly those east of Lorraine and specifically those along the Highway 36 service road between Lorraine and the car wash. These trash laden

## Letter to the Editor

sites are the public face of our community to the traveling public along Highway 36 and frankly they reflect poorly on us. Perhaps some of these are Cheyenne County issues but, to me, enforcement should be uniform across both city and county.

As a counter balance, I applaud Kary Meyer for pointing out the contributions her dad has made to our community over the years and it's a bit disingenuous and unfair to single out Bud and another person for public exposure when

a host of other sites remain untouched.... but then, again it supports the claims I have heard from a number of my neighbors that the city and county administrations have historically treated some residents more favorably than others in matters of local ordinances and their enforcement.

Currently, it remains evident from my observations that such unequal enforcement remains the rule.

Ron Ewing  
St. Francis

## Across the County

### Junior Livestock Projects

By  
Marty  
Fear



County Extension Agent

The following article was written by Dr. Dan Daniel over 30 years ago. With many state fairs in full swing and fall shows just around the corner I think it is a timely article and amusing just how "on target" it still is.

When we start trying to measure the value of junior livestock projects, they have to be broken down into two parts: 1) the value gained by the youth and what they are able to contribute to society, and 2) the value given to the livestock industry due to participation in a junior livestock program.

We might as well admit that junior livestock projects and junior livestock shows aren't economically sound. (Raising juniors isn't economically sound either.)

We might as well admit also that we don't really have junior livestock shows. We have youngster shows when livestock must be used as a prop to get inside the ring.

I'm not saying either of these is bad. I'm saying they exist and we must learn to deal with them.

Let's accept livestock projects and shows as teaching tools. So what do they teach?

They teach youth to get along

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with people. Showing livestock, winning, getting beat, etc., requires youth to get along with others. It can be tough to have your calf tied next to the kid that just beat you in showmanship and still be nice about it.

Livestock projects teach responsibility. The responsibility to obey an alarm clock and understand that the animals at the barn are depending on you to feed them. If they get nothing more out of a livestock project, it would be worthwhile.

Junior livestock projects teach youngsters to attend to details. Everyone takes pretty good care of the big things, but with livestock and even throughout life, those little things add up to make a big difference.

Decision making is one of the most painful tasks we have to learn. Deciding what the best choice is can be difficult but we still have to decide. It simply comes down to choosing and standing behind your decision.

Junior livestock projects teach youngsters to plan, without a plan we all sink. The best livestock at the State Show didn't "just happen" to be there and win, somebody planned it that way.

Junior livestock projects give youth "something" to identify with. They dress in a different manner, act differently and become proud of the organization and industry they represent.

Junior projects will tie families together. This may be the only thing a whole family can do together.

If junior livestock projects stopped here we would be well rewarded for the effort we put into them for our youth. But they don't stop there, they teach the fundamentals of livestock production. Such as:

Selection, without livestock se-

lection we are through before we start.

Livestock psychology, this isn't taught in the classroom, it can only be learned by participating. Being able to read an animal's eyes, ears and movements. You have to be able to acquire the ability to do these things to successfully work with animals.

Performing livestock skills, time will not allow animal science instructors to teach the necessary skills that livestock folks need and we must realize that many livestock producers may not go off to college. These things are learned in junior livestock projects.

Sometimes it's easier to become a nutritionist than it is a feeder. Livestock projects tend to produce both.

If youth branch out into breeding projects as they should, they will learn about breeding and reproduction.

Projects must be changed; rules and patterns need to be altered. Don't let your projects get into a rut. The only difference between a rut and a grave is that the rut had both ends kicked out. If projects get boring to you, think about what they do to the youngsters.

No youth program is without its flaws. But I think the advantages of junior livestock programs and livestock shows such as 4-H and FFA far out weigh the disadvantages.

We must remember that the youth of today are the future of our livestock industry and getting them involved at an early age can only strengthen animal agriculture. The junior livestock programs and junior livestock shows offer youth the ability to learn and provide the catalyst to keep the whole industry moving.

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