



Letters to the editor — 12/11

December 11, 2010

Library vote is about Highland's values

On Tuesday, one week before the darkest evening of the year, a small group of vocal opponents will try to keep Highland in darkness. This struggle over the need for a new library, and whether we can afford it, is not as much about the library as it is about the values of a community. The question is, do we value literacy? Do we value education? Are we even a community?

This proposal should not suffer because it is lumped in with other tax increases. This is not like when a utility increases and we pay more and get less. If your municipal water tax increases, you do not suddenly get more or better water. If your fuel oil increases, your oil is not suddenly six times more efficient. This is a rare case where we will get substantially more for our investment.

Yes, the economy stinks, but that's a great reason to support this proposal. The economic downturn has dropped the bond rate to a 40-year low. Folks that are really interested in saving money could not find a better value than their local library, and there is not a better time. In hard economic times citizens turn to their local library, and patronage has doubled in the last decade. This will certainly cost more in future years.

Let's tell our grandkids that during that pesky recession in 2010 we were not afraid to step out into the light!

I urge all Highlanders to vote "yes" on Tuesday.

Mike Wood

Highland

Letter gave narrow view of Catholics

Mr. John Vincent's recent criticism of Catholic voters ("Catholic voters and 'deviant' politics," Nov. 22) is very narrow and very, very telling. He offers no evidence involving accuracy in just who/what those voters said in their actual votes regarding platforms or candidates. As a Catholic and a voter in the era following my combat service to my country in the mid-'60s, I quickly learned that I agreed with Jesus's

advice: "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." Millions of Catholics have wrestled with this dichotomy and, I am proud to offer, acted on it. I vote as I choose and I worship as I choose, at parallels that are both precious to me. I have agreed with my popes and I have differed with them as I saw fit. Their infallibility rests only in matters of universal Catholic dogma and not in national and international political science and "junk science" such as Mr. Vincent spews.

God bless all you Catholics who have the wisdom to know (and act) on the differences between religious dogma, political rubbish and real political solutions to real people problems.

By the way, gay/lesbian history has no real relationship with the U.S. Constitution. It should concern all thinking people that respect the longevity and true source of human civilization. How long will human civilization exist without procreation as history defines it and not how the "gay rights" movement does?

Bob J. Roberts

Rhinebeck

Everybody wants defense spending cut

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bipartisan fiscal commission agree that we can cut defense spending — \$100 billion worth! We can stop maintaining Cold War bases around the world and buying overpriced weapons. Many newly elected Republicans are also committed to looking seriously at Pentagon spending.

Whether they agree that savings should go to education, jobs, health care and unemployment benefits is another matter.

Doris Chorny

Gardiner

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