



Manheim Township library's many assets

Panoramic views of the peaceful, serene outdoors, cozy enclaves of chairs and a living-room setting with a gas fireplace. Free newspapers and magazines to read. Free movies to borrow. Free events for children and adults. Delicious, affordable food and drinks. Ample free parking. Friendly, helpful staff. Immaculate restrooms and premises. Super-quick Internet. Private conversation or study rooms. And a nice children's section.

Oh, and they have books, books and more books.

This is why the Manheim Township Library is breaking records for attendance.

Bill Par, East Hempfield Township

Confused by support by Santorum

As a registered Democrat who votes independent, I am puzzled by the surge of interest and support for Rick Santorum as the Republican presidential candidate.

After the Iowa Caucus, it was reported that Mr. Santorum said he would favor a 10 percent across-the-board cut in Social Security benefits to reduce the debt. If that is correct, he knows, or ought to know, the Social Security Trust Fund has nothing to do with the government debt. Just the opposite. The Trust Fund has loaned more money to the general fund than any other source, including China. The Trust Fund is solvent, and, if it were returned to its original configuration and the money it has loaned out were repaid, it would remain solvent for a long time, even without further adjustments.

During the New Hampshire debates, I heard Mr. Santorum say if elected, he would reverse all of President Obama's mistakes, including returning the troops to Iraq. One of his contemporaries on stage -- I believe it was Jon Huntsman -- blurted out "You would send the troops back to Iraq?" Mr. Santorum said "yes," and continued talking.

Given just those two examples -- two of many by Mr. Santorum -- I'm mystified. A long time ago, when I was active in my local church, I learned a majority of the congregation preferred a bad and divisive preacher to no preacher at all. Maybe that's it.

Samuel Stitman, Mountville