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Polluted muck piles up at Susquehanna River's last barrier

November 6, 2005



IN SPORTS

Penn State scores important Big Ten win over Wisconsin

24th Year, No. 310 Judged Pennsylvania's best in general news coverage and for excellence in diversity \$1.25 Newsstand

Librarian hearts

Local firm helps 'wish' come true

Brodart plays pivotal role in achieving girl's dream

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com

Brodart is proving that its corporate heart is just as big as its presence in the library furniture and supply industry.

The company recently helped supply books, furniture, shelving and circulation desks so that Nicole Donant, a 12-year-old girl from Ohio, could realize her dream of building a children's library near her home town.

Nicole, a seventh-grader who suffers from cerebral palsy, is an avid reader whose desire to see the library built in Mineral City, Ohio, led her to start a book drive (See LOCAL, Page A-10)



NBC UNIVERSAL

The television show Three Wishes, which airs at 9 p.m. Friday on NBC, recently tapped local manufacturer Brodart Inc. to supply library furniture as part of a wish for a children's library in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

25 years and running: Local woman is tireless advocate



DAVID THOMPSON/Sun-Gazette

Janice Trapp, who this year marks her 25th year as executive director of the James V. Brown Library, stands in the lobby of the library.

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com

If you think time has made Janice Trapp soft or complacent about issues concerning Williamsport's James V. Brown Library — or any state library, for that matter — then you'd better think again.

Take, for instance, state funding for libraries.

When Gov. Ed Rendell slashed library subsidies, Trapp testified before a congressional committee to push for it to be reinstated, library assistant director and children's services director Jeffrey Swope said recently.

Now in her 25th year with the library, Trapp is its executive director.

She was instrumental in persuading commissioners to dedicate a portion of county tax revenue for the county library system.

Although a portion of state funding for libraries has been restored, Trapp hasn't given up the fight to restore it to pre-Rendell levels.

It is an issue that is rarely far from her mind.

"It's astounding that we have a governor

(See 25 YEARS, Page A-10)

"It's astounding that we have a governor who says early childhood programs are on his agenda, then cuts library funding by 50 percent. Obviously we need to push a little harder in getting our message out."

Janice Trapp, Executive director, James V. Brown Library

Trapp to head state association in 2007

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com

Janice Trapp, executive director of the James V. Brown Library, will take over the helm of the state's 2,000 member library association in 2007.

She is the first city library director to head the association since O.R. Howard Thompson held the post in 1909.

(See TRAPP, Page A-10)

Stabbing victim critical

By MARK MARONEY mmaroney@sungazette.com

A former Clinton County man was fighting for his life Saturday night at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville after being stabbed in the chest and abdomen along Island Road near Avis late Friday.

Timothy Kline Jr., 23, who recently moved to Carlisle to attend college and live with his mother and step-father, was stabbed twice in the chest and once in the abdomen about midnight Friday, according to a family member who spoke to the Sun-Gazette.

It's uncertain if anyone was taken into custody. State police at Lamar did not have further information as of press time Saturday.

Kline reportedly drove himself to the Jersey Shore Hospital, where he was treated before being transferred by medical helicopter to Geisinger. Kline underwent emergency surgery Saturday and was listed in critical condition by a Geisinger nursing supervisor Saturday night.

Tioga County crash claims lives of two

LAWRENCEVILLE — Two Tioga County residents were killed in a violent crash on Route 328 in Lawrence Township in Tioga County about 10 p.m. Friday, state police at Mansfield said.

Anthony W. McCauliffe, 33, of 439 Rumsey Hill, and Heather Michelle Szymanski, 25, of Lawrenceville, collided less than a mile east of Layman Stone Road, according to Trooper William Hoppel.

McCauliffe was driving a 1985 Chevrolet station wagon east on Route 328 and was negotiating a right-hand curve in the road and entered the westbound lane, colliding with a 1995 Hyundai sedan driven by Szymanski, Hoppel said.

McCauliffe's car left the road and caught on fire and he died at the scene, Hoppel said.

Szymanski, who was traveling with four juveniles, was transported to Arnot Ogden Hospital in Elmira, N.Y., where she died as the result of her injuries.

(See TIOGA COUNTY, Page A-3)

PA Clean Sweep points finger at two justices for election

By DENA PAULING dpauling@sungazette.com

The groups that want to oust every incumbent legislator for voting themselves 16- to 54-percent increases in July have two problems — no legislators are up re-election Nov. 8 and the pay raise could be repealed.

Will those issues squash the campaign?

"No, not at all, not even in the slightest," said Russ Diamond, founder of PA Clean Sweep.

The group, backed by the Libertarian Party, is first pointing fingers at two state Supreme Court justices, which voters will decide to retain or not during the election Tuesday.

The justices allowed the lawmakers to carry on with processes that eventually led to the "pay-jacking," according to Diamond.

But city attorney William P. Carlucci, president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, said anyone thinking of voting against the justices over the pay raise is directing frustrations at the wrong person.

"These two justices had absolutely nothing to do with it," he said, noting the lawmakers would be better suited to address concerns since they voted for it.

The association's judicial evaluation commission reviewed Justices Russell Nigro and Sandra Schultz Newman, both of Philadelphia, and found that "they have done a fine job and they should be retained," Carlucci said.

Eighteen people, 12 of whom are lawyers, evaluated the justices on 10 criteria, including the quality of their writing and opinions, how carefully they research law and how they treat others

who come before them, he said.

As part of their study, the commission also interviewed at least 20 lawyers who have appeared before the justices.

"The lawyers, uniformly, had good things to say," Carlucci said. "They were treated courteously and professionally. They found their opinions to be well-researched, well-written, clear and, generally, a credit to the Supreme Court."

Those who want the justices defeated don't agree their opinions and claim the Supreme Court has upheld questionable actions by the Legislature, citing the

(See PA CLEAN, Page A-3)



Game Commission eyeing bear management units

The state Game Commission has been seeking input from the public for its draft elk management plan and opened a two-month comment period on its proposed plans to manage turkey and bears as well.

F Outdoors



Weather — showers possible 69 today; partly cloudy 41 tonight

A-12 Extended forecast

Good morning, Gary Meehan. Thank you for subscribing to the Sun-Gazette!

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Deaths

- Ruth S. Askey
Wasco Bungo
Dr. George Callenberger
Robert C. Casella
June V. Klees
Anthony W. McCauliffe
Francis McNett
Elwood J. Palma
Marjorie M. Ryder
Daniel T. Walsh
Donald E. Williamson
Gladys L. Wilston

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... B-7

Librarian hearts

Local firm plays pivotal role in episode of 'Three Wishes'

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ve to collect 1,000 books, Brodart spokesman John Shableski said Thursday.

The response to the drive was so overwhelming that Nicole ended up collecting more than 6,000 books, Shableski said.

Nicole contacted the producers of the NBC television show "Three Wishes" and was chosen to have her wish fulfilled, Shableski said.

Her story will be aired on the show, which is hosted by Amy Grant, at 9 p.m. Friday, he said.

Company officials said they were elated they could play a part in helping bring the girl's dream to fruition.

"We are excited to partner with NBC to make this little girl's wish happen and provide a library to a community that did not previously have one," Randall J. MacKenzie, vice president of the contract furniture division, said Thursday.

Brodart's role in the story began when producers of the show contacted Patty Leidhecker in the company's supply division with their request, Shableski said.

What made the request a challenge was that Brodart had to supply materials in a fraction of the time it normally takes to produce them, MacKenzie said.

The company produces high-quality library furnishings from rough-cut lumber in its McElhattan plant.

"We manufactured the furniture in five days from scratch," he said. "We turned it around in a big hurry for them."

Each Brodart division — supplies, furniture, and books — participated in filling the request, which demanded a great deal of cooperation, Franck Chenet, vice president of library supplies and furnishings, said.

"Our struggle was the time frame, but we had all of the players pulling together," he said. "It was a masterpiece of cooperation between the divisions."

MacKenzie said the reason Brodart was asked to participate was because the company is a "one-stop shop" for library materials.

"We were the natural choice for NBC," MacKenzie said. "They were building a library and knew they needed all the furniture and supplies to go with it."

"We are the only company in the United States that can provide all the furnishings and supplies necessary to make a library function," he said. "We can supply books, furniture and all of the operating supplies."

And that is exactly what the company did, donating 59 shelving units, four reading tables, 16 chairs, a circulation desk, book displays, puppets, post-it notes, and a bulletin board.

The company's collection development team also selected 250 books appropriate for ages kindergarten through young adult for the library.

But books weren't a priority because Nicole Donant took care of that end.



DAVID THOMPSON/Sun-Gazette

Wendi Bechdel sands a shelving panel at Brodart's furniture plant in McElhattan.

"We set up a committee to check out building a library," Mineral City Mayor Terry Nill told the Sun-Gazette on Friday. "Nicole heard about it. She was doing a project for a badge for her Girl Scout troop and came to council with a proposal to collect books."

"Council thought it was a good idea," Nill said. "She wanted to collect 1,000 (books), but she ended up collecting 6,000."

Nill said he was contacted by television producers who wanted to know if there was property on which the library could be built. Nill told them of a parcel of land in front of the local fire hall.

"Once they decided they were going to do it, within two weeks and a day they had it up," he said.

Nill said he doubts the town would have otherwise been able to build a library. A proposed facility was estimated to cost \$320,000, he said.

"For a town of only 842 people, that's a pretty big chunk of change we were going to have to come up with," he said.

Other companies participated in building the library, Nill said. General Electric built the structure from five modular units. Dell provided eight computers — "quite a few for a town this size."

Of course, the town had the added excitement of having a network television crew and Amy Grant in their midst, Nill said.

"I've had a lot of people come up to me ... who said this is the most activity they've ever seen in this town," he said.

Shableski and Brodart marketing manager Chris Frantz made the trek to Mineral City in mid-October to help pitch in on the project.

In a written recollection of his experience, Frantz described the flurry of activity as workers, most of them volunteers from the community, set about getting the building ready for "a reveal scheduled for 1 p.m. the next day."



DAVID THOMPSON/Sun-Gazette

Brodart marketing manager Chris Frantz, left, and contract furniture division vice president Randall J. MacKenzie, stand in the company's state-of-the-art furniture manufacturing plant in McElhattan. MacKenzie said the company is the only one in the United States that can provide everything needed for a library.

"Everyone I encountered was working hard, probably working harder than their normal day, and all offered a smile non-stop," he wrote.

Busloads of children were taken to the library to greet Nicole when her bus pulled up that day, Frantz wrote. Hundreds of people, including the girl's relatives, lined the street leading to the new building.

"It was very interesting to be involved in and a touching experience to see this," Frantz said. "It was a life changing experience for the little girl and for the community."

Although a great deal of work and coordi-

nation on the part of many people was involved in the project, perhaps the hardest part of the whole affair was keeping quiet about it, Shableski said.

Three Wishes producers require those involved to keep it under wraps until only a few days ago, he said.

But once word of the project became known, the entire company reacted with pride and excitement, he said.

"We do stuff for the library world that is pretty cool, but this speaks to anybody who finds value in their community," Shableski said.

25 years and running: Local woman is tireless advocate

(From Page A-1)

who says early childhood programs are on his agenda, then cuts library funding by 50 percent," Trapp said during a recent interview. "Obviously we need to push a little harder in getting our message out."

State Rep. Steven W. Cappelli, R-Williamsport, called Trapp "a tireless advocate on behalf of libraries and literacy."

Cappelli said Trapp is tenacious when it comes to drumming up support for libraries.

"I've worked with her as a former library trustee and, more recently, as a legislator in support of increased state budget subsidies," he said. "What I love most about Janice is that she never calls me to say hello. It's always to solicit support or assistance."

Cappelli playfully suggested that Trapp can occasionally be something of a pain in the neck.

"It's nice not to hear from her every week," he joked.

Trapp can take a joke. She recounted a story in which an exasperated local politician told her, "You just won't go away!"

Trapp took over the helm of the library in 1980 after working as a reference librarian for the library and as a consultant librarian for the 11-county North Central Pennsylvania District Library headquartered there. She also serves as administrator of the county's library system.

Those who have worked with Trapp during her tenure describe her as a visionary who is constantly seeking new ways to increase the role libraries play in their communities, whether it involves adult literacy, early child development, community outreach, business resources or technology.

"I see her as one of the community's greatest advocates, working to enhance resources and services for

people of every age and stage of their lives," Diane Langley, library business development strategist, said.

"Janice is a true visionary in modern library services — no limits, no fears," library district consultant Tracy Ulmer said.

According to Swope, Trapp was the first library director to bring state literacy initiatives to where the books are — the public library. Before that, literacy agencies were separate from library systems, he said.

"She was the vision behind the Literacy Project when it originated in our county in 1986. We are a model for the rest of the state," Swope said.

"We're recognized consistently on a state level. That is because of her and the vision she has," he said.

The library recently received a state Library Association award for its "Four and More" early literacy program. Trapp has been involved in health literacy initiatives to help individuals with poor reading skills understand their personal health issues.

In 2004, the library received an award from the association for its Storymobile outreach program, which is responsible for helping distribute tens of thousands of pieces of library materials to pre-schoolers every year.

"She looks for what the library needs to serve the public and what the library needs to survive in these times," Swope said.

"We are so fortunate in the city of Williamsport to have the asset of the James V. Brown Library," city Mayor Mary Wolf said in an e-mail to the Sun-Gazette. "Under the dedicated leadership of Janice Trapp, the library has flourished; offering expanded programming, collections and community outreach efforts."

Trapp to head state association in 2007

(From Page A-1)

Elected to a one-year term, Trapp will assume her duties in 2007 after serving for one year as association first vice president, she said during a recent interview. She has been a member of the association for 25 years, most recently co-chairing the organization's public relations and marketing committee.

"Over the years, being active on committees and serving on the board, people begin calling you up and asking you to volunteer for even bigger things," she said.

Trapp said her agenda as president will be to "raise the profile of public libraries in any way I can."

"It's my plan for us to not be so quiet about what we do," she said.

"Janice is one of the people in our business who is known for being innovative and having the amazing ability to stretch limited resources to unbelievable lengths," said Glenn Miller, association director.

"She's one of the people we look to when we're faced with a knotty problem or need a different way to solve a problem," he said.

Swope credits Trapp's longevity and long-standing relationship with the library's board of trustees as one of the main reasons she is able to accomplish so much.

"She has something so few people in this world have and that is 25 years of working with our board of trustees — 25 years in a true relationship of sorts," Swope said. "You don't see that in not-for-profits very often."

Harold D. "Bud" Hershberger Jr., who has served on the library's board of trustees for 35 years, called the relationship between Trapp and the board "a good partnership."

"The board is very supportive of Janice and Janice is very supportive of the board," Hershberger said.

"I think together we've made great strides in a number of direc-

tions, certainly with technology, such as computer networks, computer classes and the use of computers in general as part of the library's service," Hershberger said. "Throughout the district, Janice has been innovative and persuasive with other libraries to develop more services."

Trapp's current project is to prepare for an upcoming capital campaign to build a children's wing onto the library. The campaign is set to kick off in early 2006.

"She has such vision," Swope said. "Once she has a vision for what we need to do, she is relentless in pursuing that."

Trapp's vision that libraries should be conduits for community service is paying off in Lycoming County, Swope said.



DAVID THOMPSON/Sun-Gazette

State Library Association president-elect and James V. Brown Library executive director Janice Trapp, seated, discusses library programs with Diane Langley, library business development strategist.

"We have the busiest county library system per capita in the state of Pennsylvania. After 25 years, there is something that separates us from other libraries," Swope said. "It has to be Janice."

"She's an absolute force of nature," he said.

In spite of the library's growth and success, Trapp said she envisions it playing an even bigger role in the community.

"I think we can grow to be a stronger and stronger presence in downtown Williamsport," she said. "The children's wing expansion project will bring more people and more families into the library and downtown than ever before."

"Janice sees the role that libraries have in the economic well-being of a community," Wolf said.