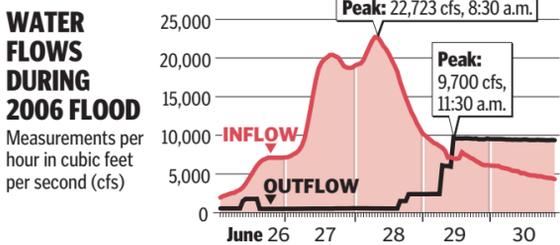


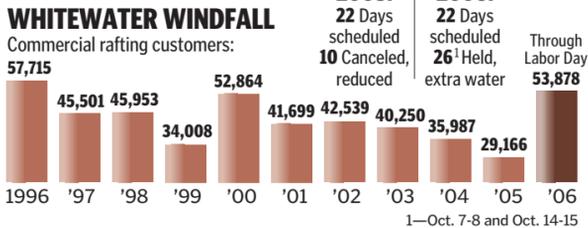
FLOOD CONTROL

The Francis E. Walter Dam was built in response to Hurricane Diane in 1955, and flood control remains the facility's primary use. The reservoir behind the dam has the ability to temporarily hold up to 35.8 billion gallons of water to reduce flooding in the Lehigh and Delaware valleys. In 2006, the Corps boosted the reservoir level to 1,365 feet to enhance downstream recreation. Traditionally, the reservoir had been maintained at 1,300 feet.



WHITewater RECREATION

The Corps conducts regularly scheduled weekend releases to create whitewater in the Lehigh George from May to October. In 2006 – a year after drought conditions led to 10 canceled or reduced days – commercial rafting operators enjoyed their best year in a decade, hosting 13 whitewater weekends. So far in 2007, two whitewater releases have been canceled and another two operated under reduced levels. The Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau estimates each whitewater release draws 6,200 people in the region and has an economic impact of \$2.28 million.



FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT

For the past two summers, the Corps has collaborated with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and local conservation groups in an experimental effort to enhance recreational trout fishing below the dam. By increasing summertime outflows from the base of the dam, the groups hope to maintain cold-water temperatures at trout-friendly levels.

Upper Delaware River New York	Lehigh River Pennsylvania	Snake River Idaho and Wyoming	White River Arkansas
\$30 Million	\$30 Million	\$46 Million	\$170 Million
Based on a study commissioned by conservation group Trout Unlimited.	Estimate from the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance	Based on a 2005 study conducted by Colorado State University	Estimate from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

1—Based on establishing a year-round, 40-mile trout fishery that stretches from the base of Francis E. Walter Dam to several miles below Bowmanstown



JERRY MCAWARD, who owns a kayaking business in Lehigh and lives along the Lehigh River in Weissport, sees both sides of the Francis E. Walter Dam issue. "There's so much capacity in that dam ... I'm a little bit concerned about storage but [the Corps] manage it well," he said. Here, he gives a lesson.

WATER FROM PAGE B1

that is in a floodplain. But after more than 35 years of living alongside and working on the river, McAward feels the threat for more flooding is small.

"There's so much capacity in that dam ... I'm a little bit concerned about storage but [the Corps] manage it well," he said.

The dam was built to prevent a repeat of the flooding caused by 1955's Hurricane Diane, which claimed the lives of 90 people and caused \$100 million in damage.

The reservoir has a capacity of 35.8 billion gallons, and had traditionally been filled to 1,300 feet, or 580 million gallons. Over the past two years, the Corps has been experimenting with higher reservoir levels. In 2006, the reservoir held 5.88 billion gallons, rising to 1,365 feet.

"Over the years we've lis-

tened to the community, and we've tried to find a way to optimize the water to meet everyone's needs," said Lt. Col. Gwen Baker, district commander of the Corps' Philadelphia area office. "We have a lot of competing demands."

Flood control has always been and will continue to be the first priority for the Corps, officials say. But advocates insist that mission is compatible with increasing how much water stays in the reservoir.

Anglers see the potential for cold-water trout fisheries, which the Corps could maintain by releasing cold water during hot summer months. Trout need cold water; once conditions reach the low 70s they become lethargic, stop growing or even die.

The reason the Corps releases cold water each time it lowers reservoir levels is because water can be released only from the bottom of the reservoir. Today's dams are more apt to have a variety of portals so

operators can conserve the coldest water.

Rafting companies also see the potential for a more consistent season. They'd prefer a year like 2006, when 13 white water weekends meant their most successful season in a decade. The year before, drought conditions led to 10 cancellations or reduced releases. In 2007, two releases have been canceled and two others ran under reduced water flows.

Baker said the research should help the Corps determine water levels that strike the best balance between recreation interests, water quality and, of course, flood control.

Groups including the Lehigh Coldwater Fisher Alliance and the Wildlands Conservancy applauded the study, which they had sought for years. Dean Druckenmiller, president of the Alliance said he was "elated. A lot of us have been working hard to get to this phase. We feel once we get this everything will snowball."

Bethlehem teen sentenced for rape

He was charged as a juvenile; must do time at treatment facility.

By Tyra Braden
Of The Morning Call

A Bethlehem teenager who raped a 13-year-old girl in Lehigh County has been ordered to spend time at a treatment facility for young sex offenders for an unspecified amount of time.

John Zayas of 835 Center St., who is 18 but was 17 in July 2006 when he assaulted the girl in Fountain Hill, was charged as a juvenile. Because the crime occurred in Lehigh County, his adjudication hearing — the equivalent of a bench trial in adult court — was held May 15 before Lehigh County Judge Kelly Banach. However, because Zayas lives in Bethlehem, his punishment was handed down by Northampton County Judge F.P. Kimberly McFadden, who held a hearing Monday.

Juvenile probation officer Matt Garvey told McFadden that, based on psychological, psychiatric and sex evaluations, he was recommending Zayas not be allowed to return home until he had been treated.

Garvey said he didn't know when an opening would come about at a suitable facility. McFadden said Zayas must stay at the county's Juvenile Detention Center in Easton until a facility is ready.

"Well," the judge said. "We need to keep him out of the

community." Zayas has been in the detention center since at least May, Assistant District Attorney Thomas Carroll said. He told McFadden it was "absolutely necessary" that Zayas be kept under supervision.

"I couldn't agree with you more," McFadden said.

The victim attended Monday's hearing but did not comment. Her mother told McFadden she knew Zayas and had trusted and respected him.

"I understand this is terribly difficult for you," McFadden said. The mother said she wanted to see Zayas get the treatment he needs.

"He will," McFadden said.

Carroll asked that the judge order Zayas' family and the victim's family to stay away from one another. Zayas' mother, who did not give her name, said the victim's mother had confronted her on a street.

"Nobody's talking to anybody," McFadden said. "The emotional impact of" the rape is high. She said the No. 1 priority is to ensure the victim receives the help she needs. Secondarily, she said, Zayas needed to have treatment and be kept out of society.

"Emotions are going to run high," she said.

In juvenile cases, defendants are eligible for reviews every six months. During the reviews, a judge hears recommendations about much longer a child should be kept under supervision. By law, a juvenile defendant can be supervised or detained only until his or her 21st birthday.

For pageant winner, 4th time was the charm

Delaware County woman finally gets chance to win Miss America crown.

By Kathleen Parrish
Of The Morning Call

Rachel Brooks' ascension to the role of Miss Pennsylvania is a lesson in perseverance anyone can admire.

The 24-year-old University of Pennsylvania graduate student competed not once, but four times for the title before winning the crown Saturday night at Nazareth Area High School.

"It's still a little surreal," Brooks, of Broomall, Delaware County, who competed as Miss River City, said Sunday. "I woke up and saw the crown sitting on my desk. I didn't quite feel like Miss Pennsylvania, but it's changing hour by hour."

In past competitions, Brooks performed a dance routine, but decided this year to sing "Summertime" from the opera "Porgy and Bess." Still, Brooks didn't credit her change in talent for catapulting her to the winner's circle.

"I didn't win the past three years because I wasn't ready," she said, noting the experience and maturity she gained from



Rachel Brooks
... University of Pennsylvania alum

past pageants finally paid off. "I felt more prepared for this than ever."

That's not to say she expected the crown.

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"I felt I had done my best, but we have girls going on to med school, law school," she said. "They're intelligent and articulate and very involved in the community. It was going to be what the judges were looking for in a Miss Pennsylvania this year."

Bob White, media relations director for the pageant, said judges were impressed by Brooks' sincerity, poise and commitment to her platform of autism awareness.

"Rachel is just a very outgoing and genuine person," he said. "Having the title of Miss Pennsylvania, you have to be out in the community in all different parts of the state, dealing with all different types of people. Rachel is a real person. She has a good head on her shoulders."

Brooks, who is taking a

leave of absence from her job as a research analyst with an economic consulting firm in Philadelphia, has an 18-year-old brother who was diagnosed with autism when he was 2. During her reign, she hopes to raise money for research into the disability.

"One in every 150 kids is diagnosed with autism, yet we don't know what causes it and there are no known treatments," said Brooks.

As Miss Pennsylvania, Brooks won a \$7,000 scholarship and the opportunity to compete in the Miss America pageant held in January in Las Vegas. After finally breaking through on her fourth try, Brooks had advice for anyone pursuing a dream.

"Continue to work hard and persevere," she said, "and you'll get there."

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