

DOMBROSKI

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Committee.

"We set up the committee in 1991 and we weren't able to get the dikes raised until after the '96 flood when the commissioners signed the deal," he said. "I spent a tremendous amount of time on this project. We have nine other priority items that we will push for as soon as the portals are finished."

Despite his strong interest in politics, Dombroski said he is too old to run for office now, but would have done it in his younger years had it not been for his consulting business.

Aside from his involvement in local government Dombroski has also published a pair of books. "How America was Financed," published in 2002 and revised in 2003, describes the area of North-eastern Pennsylvania and its con-



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Tom Dombroski, of Trucksville, has published two books. He is also active in the community.

tribution to the financial and economic greatness of the United States.

"The people here were economic slaves," he said. "Incidentally, the coal industry created the U.S. Industrial Revolution, and made the U.S. what it is today."

Dombroski said he wrote the

book because of the love he has for the people here.

"I'm hopeful to make a film about it or that it will be used on the History Channel someday," he said.

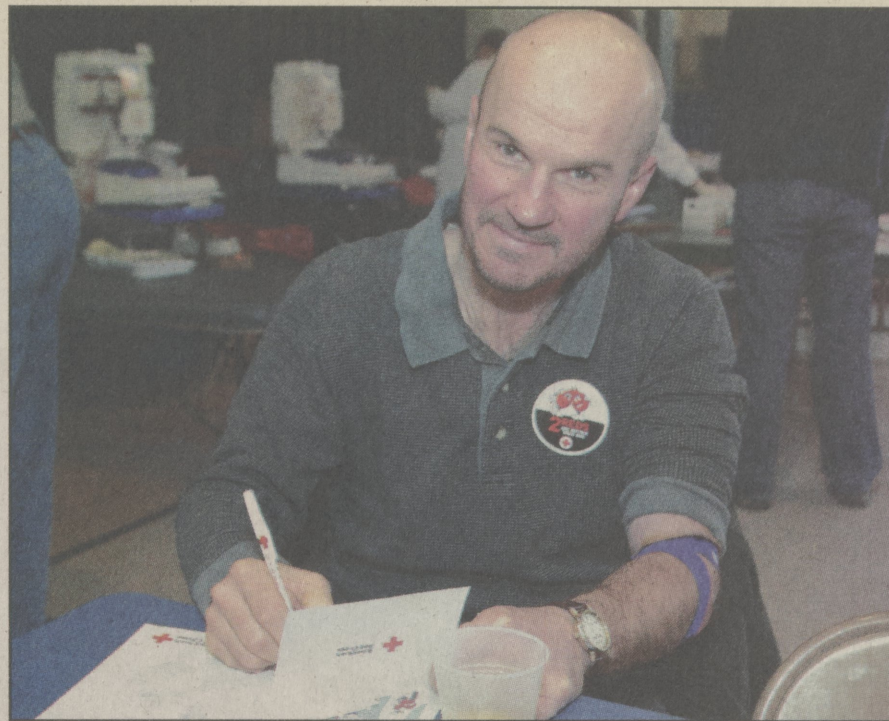
His first book, "Creative Problem Solving," was published in 1978 and revised in 2002. It describes a five-step process to solve any problem.

"The book was an outgrowth of my career as a chemical engineer," said the Luzerne native. "There is no problem without a solution. It might take five lifetimes, but I don't say that in the book."

Dombroski's books are available at Barnes and Noble, the King's College bookstore, Amazon.com and Walmart.com.

A portion of the sales money from the books provides scholarship assistance at King's College where Dombroski earned his degree. Copies are also available at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

"I have a tremendous feeling for this area," he said.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Blood donor Dave Suchocki, Dallas, takes time to sign a card for the Cleary family telling them about his donation in their son's name.

CAREY

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Love. The nonprofit organization makes hairpieces from human hair for children who have lost it because of medical conditions.

"I wanted to show her that I cared and I was here for her," said Spencer, whose father Jim is the team's head coach. "I think it would be really hard to go through all of what she's gone through. She's such an inspiration. We've dedicated our season to her."

After a few months away, Carey returned to the basketball court for the 2005-06 season. The 5-foot-11 sophomore plays on the junior varsity team and has also

seen playing time with the varsity. But just the fact that she's playing again amazes her mother.

"I never thought she'd be playing this season," she said. "The doctors have encouraged her to keep active and remain playing. She hasn't missed a game."

And she continues to inspire her teammates and coaches.

"Beth has been with us since the first day of practice and she's never asked for any special treatment," said Jim Spencer, who expects Carey to fill a big void next season after several of the Black Knight inside players graduate. "She's a nice, quiet girl with a great smile. It takes a lot of courage to go through something like that. It really puts sports into perspective."

Doctors told the Carey family

the fast-growing cancer could return at any time within a year following her last chemotherapy treatment. It's been almost seven months.

But Carey doesn't allow the thought of the cancer returning affect her everyday life.

"Sometimes I think about it during blood work, but I try not to think about it," she said. "You take every day and live it to the fullest. I've learned a lot from this experience. They don't know a lot about childhood cancer. I've always wanted to go into the medical field. Now, I'm thinking about researching childhood cancer."

"Maybe my experience will someday help others."

CLEARY

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tory when a roadside bomb exploded near their convoy.

The annual blood drive at Gate of Heaven in January usually provides 35 units of blood to the Red Cross. Last weekend's drive produced more than 160 units. The Cleary family will receive a card signed by each donor.

"It makes you feel like people really care," said Jack Cleary, Mike's father. "This is a great community. This place is what Michael felt was worth protecting. He knew this was a special place."

Approximately 190 people showed up to donate blood, but several were turned away for medical reasons. There were fre-

quent donors, as well as more than 50 who never previously donated blood.

"This came about because this church has blood drives regularly and we knew that having it in memory of Michael would boost donations," said Amy Gabriel, director of communications for the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross. "We can't save his life, but we can honor him by saving the lives of others. His death actually saved lives."

The goal was to have 100 people donate. As the donors arrived, they were greeted by a photo of Cleary, a 2003 graduate of Hamilton College. An easel adorned with pictures of Cleary and his family and friends was displayed in the corner of the gymnasium.

"I knew his fiancée Erin Kavanagh's family," Maryann Ochman, 30, of Shavertown, said as

she filled out some paperwork before donating. "I haven't given in years. It was something that I felt like I should do."

Dallas resident Marianne Yanik, a friend of the Cleary family, said her son was in the military, so she can relate to what they are going through. "Any life-giving event is something very honoring to anyone in the military. Michael was there (in Iraq) to defend life and this is honoring him as well by giving someone else life."

Members of the Gate of Heaven Church made sure there were plenty of homemade goodies such as cookies and cakes on hand for donors. Back Mountain resident, Bob Gebhardt, who served in the Army, donated blood for the first time in six or seven months.

"It takes a special person to join the military," he said.

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