

Singlepayer still kickin'

Bellefonte family:
'This isn't the same Army
we signed up for'

State High project:
Back to where we started?

Landfill fight revs up this
time with railroad study

Alice Fuller: The first lady
of birdwatching

Honduran workers help
end university contract

Union organizes for
'sustainable' music

Opinions on hunting, wind
power and more

Voices 5th Annual
Fun!Raiser March 23rd!

March 2009

A breast of our times

Why some women opt to
get smaller through surgery

Page 6

Thoughtful. Fearless. Free.

© 2009 Voices of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

March 2009

BOARD OF EDITORS

Managing Editor
Suzan Erem
voices@voicesweb.org

Politics and Economics
Zac Taylor
politics@voicesweb.org

Community and Lifestyles
Delia Guzman
community@voicesweb.org

University
Tamara Conrad
university@voicesweb.com

Environment
Heather Simmons
environment@voicesweb.org

Arts and Entertainment
Adam Eshleman
arts@voicesweb.org

Opinion
Paul Durrenberger
oped@voicesweb.org

Webmaster
Bill Eichman
4bille@windstream.net

ART and DESIGN
Mali Campbell, Doug Adler

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Doug Bauman

CIRCULATION
Kevin Handwerk
circulation@voicesweb.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
advertising@voicesweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
president
Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.
axg2@psu.edu

vice president
Bill Eichman
4bille@windstream.net

secretary
Steven Lachman
stevenlachman@gmail.com

treasurer
Paul Durrenberger
pauldurren@verizon.net

What's in a name? A slogan? A sign?

This issue of *Voices* challenged our volunteer reporters. We had difficult stories to write about sensitive issues, such as the breast reduction surgery of the two local women in our cover story or the lack of health coverage for "John Smith."

Why they asked us to change their names speaks more to our society's ability to inflict judgement than any journalistic ethic we at *Voices* had to confront. Why do these local residents feel the need for privacy on issues that affect so many people? What does it say about the rest of us that they think something negative will happen to them or be thought of them?

Surely John Smith knows that nearly 47 million Americans are in the same boat he is, and most of the rest of us are one step away from it. And why is breast reduction surgery loaded with more stigma than, let's say, eye surgery or rotator cuff surgery or even a nose job?

I'll leave that for brighter minds to ponder. For my part, I've learned that part of

**from the desk of managing editor
Suzan Erem**

being a local paper is knowing that there is a balance between the people we write about and your need to hear their story. As I told John Smith, our stories are often collaborations among a group of residents, and I'm proud to use these pages for such collaborations. Let me know if you think that's not the best use of this resource we all support. In fact, I'm counting on you to tell me what you think.

For example, in an effort to better define the ongoing evolution of *Voices*, we've adopted a new tagline of "Thoughtful. Fearless. Free." It seems to be the best description of what we've become, with "free" of course applying to a free press as well as a free paper. Graphic designers and even an anthropology class are working to help us develop the visuals to go with it so we can reach a broader audience.

We're also more visible on the Internet than ever with Facebook and MySpace pages. We hope to see you there soon! As our e-mail list grows to almost 3,000 and our print circulation grows another 15 percent, we find ourselves living the national statistics that show alternative newspaper readership is up. We hope soon that our success will translate into paid staff who will keep *Voices* going well into the future.

Our best measure of support, though, is

the advertising and donations we see coming in. For the first time (I know of) in 16 years, we are offering an hourly wage to an advertising rep to tap local support for affordable, effective, local advertising. We're

able to do this because of our donors and the advertisers we have now who have seen the results of their ads and continue to renew, even in tough times. I'll keep you posted on our progress.

Please come to our annual Fun!Raiser March 23 (see the back page for details). It's our way of funding capital improvements like software upgrades and new computers. With Simple Gifts generously donating a concert, it's a night you won't want to miss. Besides, it's our sign of success when our readers come together to celebrate the community they have built on these pages.

So that's what I see in names, slogans and signs. But there's more. We're looking to expand the leadership of *Voices* through our board. Ever wonder how we do things and why? Want to have a direct effect on keeping the free press alive here? Contact Board President Art Goldschmidt at axg2@psu.edu for details. We need you now more than ever.



LETTERS POLICY

Voices encourages letters commenting on our news coverage and local affairs. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and a maximum of 250 words. Include address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to reject those deemed beyond the limits of good taste. Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters become the property of *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. E-mail to oped@voicesweb.org.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Contact *Voices* for ad rate information at advertising@voicesweb.org. *Voices* reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed incompatible with our purpose and philosophy as a socially responsible publication. Only publication signifies acceptance of an ad by *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*. Publication of an ad does not imply endorsement or recommendation by *Voices* of any product or service. Cancellation of an ad by the customer after closing date incurs full charge. *Voices* accepts advertisements equally from all political candidates regardless of their party or viewpoint. Rates are standard for all ads. Inquiries to advertising@voicesweb.org.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Voices of Central Pennsylvania
133 S. Allen St.
State College, PA 16801
TELEPHONE:
(814) 234-1699

ON THE WEB:

voices@voicesweb.org
www.voicesweb.org

Voices of Central Pennsylvania is an all-volunteer organization. We gratefully accept contributions and bequests to support our efforts.

Top Stories in This Issue

POLITICS and ECONOMICS

pages 3-5

Singlepayer healthcare plan still in play by *Suzan Erem*.....3
Bellefonte military family concerned about future by *Sophie Kerszberg*.....3

COMMUNITY and LIFESTYLES

pages 6-10

Breast reduction surgery on the rise by *Sophie Kerszberg*.....6
State High project: Back where we started? by *Suzan Erem*.....6

ENVIRONMENT

pages 11-15

Landfill fight revs up with railroad study by *Michael Sparr*.....11
Alice Fuller: The first lady of birdwatching by *Delia Guzman*.....11

UNIVERSITY

pages 16-18

Sweatshop workers help end contract by *Tamara Conrad*.....16
Women take on secretary of state role by *Lindsay Chew*.....16

ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

pages 19-22

Union organizes for 'sustainable' music by *Adam Eshleman*.....19
Penn State to host Japanese drum ensemble Kodo by *Craig Keener*.....19

OPINION

pages 23-27

Hunting is a replacement for industrial meat by *Mandy Zickefoose*.....23
Siting of wind plants is dangerous to forests by *Stan Kotala*.....23

This month's columns: Birdwatch, Our World and Cosmo