

# Voices

of Central Pennsylvania

The Centre Region's Independent Community Newspaper  
April 2008

**PSU moves to take control  
of Spring Creek Canyon**

**Democrats upbeat about  
prospects in 5th District**

**Confederate flag ignites  
controversy at State High**

**Fight for equal rights for  
LGBT folks far from over**

**Wilcox Hotel heads to hills  
to record second album**

**Eberly College of Science  
censors alternative views**

**Spanier turns blind eye to  
sweatshop conditions**

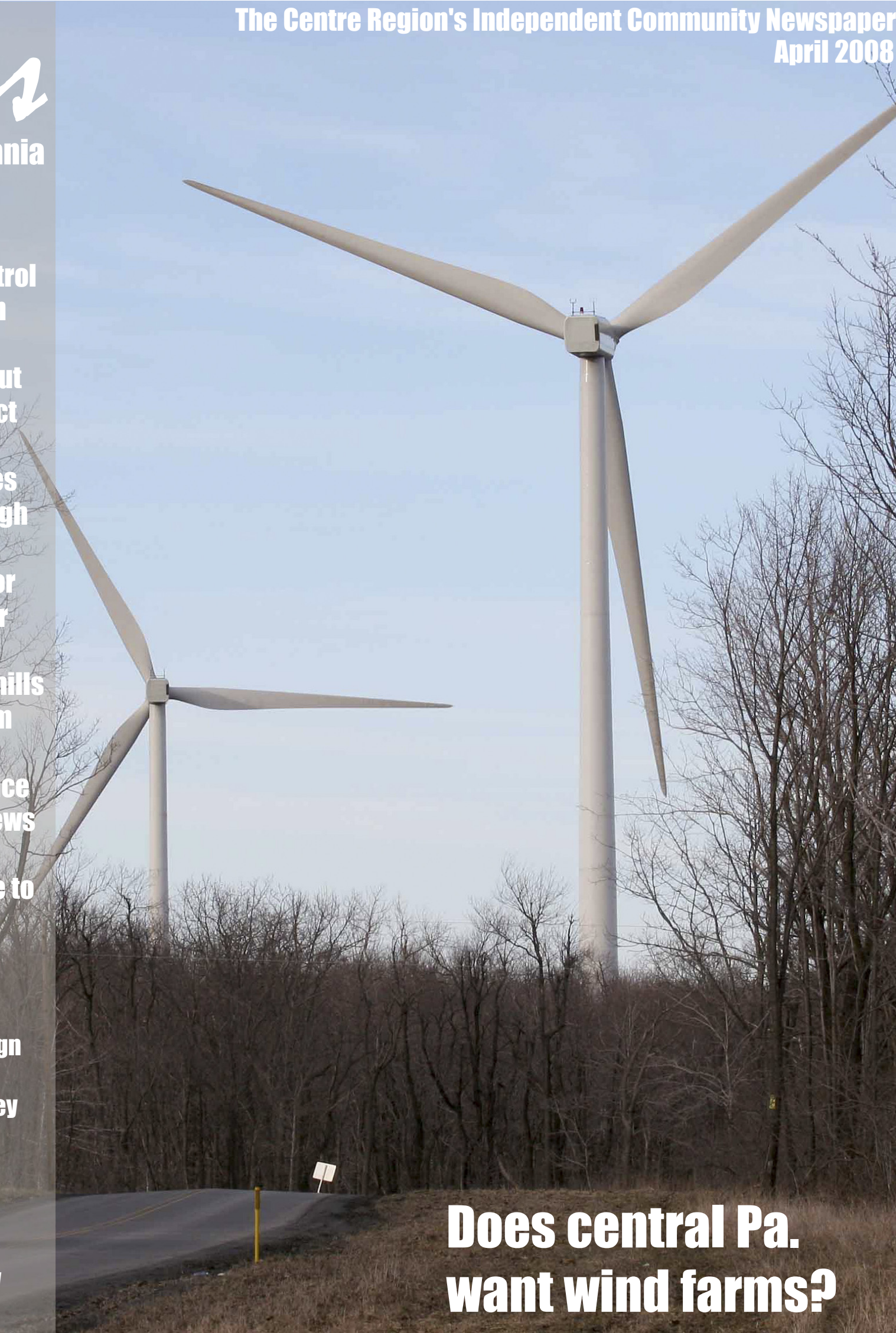
**Plus:**

**Living wage campaign  
Cooperative living  
The wonders of honey**



**Blog about the primary  
at [www.voicesweb.org](http://www.voicesweb.org)**

**Does central Pa.  
want wind farms?**



# Voices

The Centre Region's Independent  
Community Newspaper

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# Things good and getting better for local progressives

It's a good time to be a progressive in Centre County.

On the fifth anniversary of the illegal invasion of Iraq, folks filled the sidewalk in front of the Allen Street gates in what was the largest peace vigil for quite some time. Turnout was undeniably boosted by the dramatic events of the State College Borough Council meeting two days earlier, when members approved a resolution calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

By themselves, those two events would have provided enough spiritual reinforcement to make it through four more years of Republican rule. But that was just the beginning.

A week later, with the passing of the deadline to register for the primary, it became apparent that local Democrats, energized by an influx of college students, had increased their numbers by thousands and possibly even flipped the county from red to blue. They were rewarded with visits from Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

*from the desk of the managing editor*

**Ben Brewer**

On the same weekend, hundreds attended a commitment ceremony for two gay couples and two lesbian couples, one of which we interviewed for this issue.

And there's more fun to be had in the coming months. As Penn State United Students Against Sweatshops member Stephanie Chapman writes in the Opinion section, the campaign for sweatshop-free Penn State apparel is heating up and will likely come to a head at the Rally for Workers' Rights in early April.

Local environmentalists are also going head-to-head with the Penn State machine, since, as we report in this issue, the university is pushing ahead with plans to take control of Spring Creek Canyon, despite massive public opposition.

We can't forget the primary—No, I'm not talking about the presidential race. For the first time in a while, the Democrats are run-

ning candidates for state representative in the 171st District and U.S. representative in the 5th District.

As we report in this issue, the Dems might even have a chance in the 5th District this year. But winning against a well-funded Republican won't be easy. It'll take the same amount of mobilization that put Peter Morris on Borough Council, Jon Eich on the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Scott Conklin in Harrisburg. But it can be done. The progressive community is thriving, as evidenced by the packed house at the fourth annual Voices Fun! Raiser. And if the recent past is any indication, progressives can and will win the district.

## Corrections:

Rich Cermak, profiled in "A walker talks the talk," walks seven hours a day, not seven miles.

Jock Rowe, quoted in "No easy solution to state transportation woes," is the secretary of Teamsters Local 77, not Local 8.

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