

State College water may cause kidney stones

Post-graduation prospects limited for rural teens

Local food banks feel effects of price hikes

Central Pa. vineyards offer quality wine close to home

Special section: 2008 Guide to Community Nonprofits

High school science education slow to evolve

Opinions on Obama, Cuba, Spring Creek Canyon and redistricting reform

Cosmo, Local Tidbits, Birdwatch, Our World and Voices in Labor

July/August 2008



The Battle for Homebirth

Midwives and the Amish take on the medical establishment

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Community Newspaper

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BOARD OF EDITORS

general manager
Suzan Erem
suzan@lastdraft.com

managing editor
Ben Brewer
voices@voicesweb.org

Politics and Economics
Aaron Troisi
politics@voicesweb.org

Community and Lifestyles
Anne Marie Toccket
community@voicesweb.org

University
vacant
university@voicesweb.com

Environment
Jenn Kight
environment@voicesweb.org

Arts and Entertainment
Anne Marie Toccket
arts@voicesweb.org

Opinion
Paul Durrenberger
oped@voicesweb.org

webmaster
Bill Eichman
4bille@windstream.net

Cover photo by Jody Ward

ART and DESIGN

Mali Campbell, Mark Dello Stritto

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Fiorella Otero, Julia Sinn

CIRCULATION

Suzanne Weinstein, Roxanne Toto
circulation@voicesweb.org

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

advertising@voicesweb.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

president
Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.
axg2@psu.edu

vice president
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4bille@windstream.net

secretary
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Voices only as good as its volunteers

Voices readers, meet Heather Simmons.

Originally from South Africa and currently residing in Bellefonte, Heather is a graduate researcher in biology at Penn State. She likes doing research—so much so that she spends her free time doing it for *Voices*.

Given her investigative expertise, Heather is our go-to person for the stories that involve unpronounceable scientific Latinates and numbers with more than two decimal places. So when we caught wind of a story involving substance levels in area water wells, Heather was the first person we called.

Through the course of her research for the water wells story, which never panned out, Heather found something far more interesting: Centre County's kidney stone rate is through the roof, at least in part because of the magnesium and calcium levels in State College Borough Water Authority water.

Heather's not a professional journalist;

from the desk of the managing editor
Ben Brewer

she's a community member with a passion for research. *Voices* is at its best when folks like Heather take what they know and love and translate it into a story. For proof, read her article in this month's Environment section.

As a community newspaper, we thrive on the contributions of community members in any capacity, from generating new story ideas to distributing copies of the new issue.

If you're a stickler for spelling and grammar, come help us proofread some pages at the end of the month. If you've got a knack for sales, consider becoming an advertising representative.

I assure you that we'll find something—or a bunch of things—for you to do. Just ask Julia Sinn.

Julia's a State High grad attending college in Pittsburgh. Back for the summer, she

e-mailed us offering to help out a bit.

Within days, she had been recruited to put together this year's six-page nonprofits guide, help coordinate the *Voices* Arts Festival and take photos for our stories on the Boalsburg bicentennial and Boalsburg Village Artisans.

Or, as in Bob Hazelton's case, you don't even have to ask for work.

Bob was at the Central Pennsylvania Torture Awareness Committee's 24-hour Guantánamo vigil to accompany his wife, who had signed up for an hour in the jail cell. Spotted with a camera, he was quickly recruited to take a photo for this issue.

Whether you've got a digital camera, a degree in biology or just a desire to support independent community media, you're welcome to stop by one of our meetings, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the basement of Irving's Bagels, and see how you can help.

Or, if you're lucky, we'll just come to you.

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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

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