

Rainbow Music amps
up service, selection

Preserving Boalsburg's
past no easy task

Voter-verified paper ballots
coming to Centre County

Public TV deal means
accessible airwaves

Local playwright brings
9/11 drama back to SC

Chickens rule the roost in
Boalsburg backyards

Opinions on Spring Creek
Canyon, PSU College of
Ag and energy efficiency

Cosmo, Local Tidbits,
Birdwatch, Bright Ideas
and more

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Penn State's department of Defense

How federal taxes fund weapons of war

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Community Newspaper

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Change starts in Centre County

from the desk of the managing editor
Ben Brewer

When I started at *Voices* as the Opinion editor some three years ago, my plan was to run material railing against the World Bank and IMF and the war in Iraq. Though born and raised here, I was only mildly interested in the goings on of Centre County.

But as area activists and concerned citizens continued to send in opinion pieces on the local issues of importance to them, my primary focus began to shift from the imposition of a structural adjustment program on the people of Argentina to the imposition of a landfill on the residents of Rush and Snow Shoe townships. By the time I took over the Politics and Economics section, and later became managing editor, I was enthralled by the work Centre Countians had done to improve their community. As this issue of *Voices* demonstrates, they're still at it.

In the Politics and Economics section, we chronicle two significant victories for area residents. Despite a national trend toward statewide cable franchise agreements that

squeeze out local public access channels, the Centre Area Cable Consortium won a third public, educational and governmental channel in negotiations with Comcast.

After a three-year campaign to ensure the integrity of our voting machines, Concerned Voters of Centre County finally had cause to celebrate when the county commissioners voted to replace the iVotronic touch-screen machines with optical-scan machines, which produce a voter-verified paper ballot.

Despite the successes, there's still much to be done. There are the small struggles: In this month's Local Tidbits, you can read about Chris, who dumpster dives for everything from fruit to furniture in the spirit of reducing waste.

And there are the larger struggles: Journalist Bryan Farrell sets his sights on

the redirection of federal funds and the renewal of academic integrity in his article on military research at Penn State.

Most of the work is not glamorous and it is not easy. Luckily for us, there are people willing to do it. People like Suzanne Weinstein, who coordinated the distribution of *Voices* for more than half a decade, and Kevin Handwerk, who proudly took over as head of the Paper Posse in August. They are the driving forces behind the success of this paper and this county.

Corrections: Penns Valley High School guidance counselor Bill Bock's last name was misspelled in "Post-graduation prospects limited for rural teens."

Monthly rent for the White Room at the Boalsburg Village Artisans cooperative, profiled in "Boalsburg artisans offer alternative to Arts Fest," is \$220. Kat Petach and Dawn VandenHeuval, featured in a photo that accompanied the story, are associated with Cedar Run Artists Connection.

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