

VOICES

of Central PA

Ferguson winery dispute
may see settlement

Local hip hop scene
struggles to stay alive

Acoustic Brew hosts
Crowfoot in Lemont

Are our kids making healthy
food choices at school?

Pro-Israel position fails to
show again at debate

Opinions and columns:
FOBA, From Where I Sit,
Cosmo, Birdwatch,
your letters and more

Bottled water: Public
resource for private profit

Interview with Arlo Guthrie

Happy New Year
Centre County!

December 2009/January 2010

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Getting care to the
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Let's make next year a better one!

Another year is coming to an end, but what a year it has been. We came into it with both hope and fear. We hoped we would see new leadership do everything a new way in Washington and feared that we had already raced off the economic cliff and no leadership could do anything but lead us in the plummet to financial disaster.

It appears we've escaped the disaster, at least on the national level and for now. But locally, we have residents in need worse than in generations. Neighbors are losing their homes, lines are longer at food banks and shelters and children are going hungrier.

We hoped the two wars we were waging would come to a quick end, but that has turned to disappointment as President Barack Obama, the peace candidate, plans to send thousands more to Afghanistan. We started the year in unity, but that unity was quickly severed as politicians drew lines, called names and organized through fear and with

from the desk of managing editor

Suzan Erem

big money their opposition to any real change that would result in a better life for us all.

So the struggle continues, no one is perfect and one person can't change the world. Three cliches, but apt for the day.

How do they translate in Centre County? The struggle does continue, and I have more hope than ever that the poor, the marginalized and the silent will win out. This little paper is part of that, and the energy our new Advisory Council is bringing to it has already sown benefits in the expanded networks and story ideas we've developed in one short month.

No one is perfect. Well, Voices is the best example of that. Last month, among other things, we forgot to include the address to a new store we profiled called Spela. (1464 Martin St., State College, by the way.) We would've appreciated a more polite phone message pointing that out but I hope the astute reader who called reads this. Let us know when we blow it, because we'll gladly make amends, but remember, we're volunteers and amateurs, so cut us a *little* slack.

Finally, one person can't change the world. I sure wish one could and that it was someone *else*. Less work that way. But as the students

on Pg. 21 show, it takes all of us, jumping in whenever we can, but jumping in to make our mark on a better world.

In this issue we address the healthcare that so many live without and our Forum on Black Affairs writer reminds us that the charity we feel during the holidays is something we can act on all year around.

So do that, please, anywhere you can. We welcome you at Voices, but there are other great groups doing great work. Start 2010 not with a resolution, but with action, showing up at a place in need and offering your help.

Because we really are our brothers' keepers. It is what holds us together as a nation and as a community. So let's make it a Happy New Year for everyone!

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