

**Opinion****Your D.A. candidates in their own words**

*Editor's note: Voices invited the two Centre County District Attorney candidates to discuss their candidacies and qualifications in their own words. Voices does not endorse any candidates. We bring you these in the interests of educating voters and we thank the candidates for cooperating with our efforts.*

**Stacy Parks Miller**

By Stacy Parks Miller

Centre County residents expect more and deserve better from their chief law enforcement officer. I envision a District Attorney's office that seeks justice for victims through smart and successful prosecutions with the highest quality legal representation. As a former First Assistant District Attorney with 15 years of experience, I have been part of such an office and believe that we are overdue in Centre County. Overwhelmingly, people I have met during this campaign have let me know they feel the same way.

Public confidence in the current District Attorney's office has plummeted in the last few years due to a string of publicized failures, bad charging decisions, puzzling plea bargains, lost trials, employee problems, suspects leaving the country and inconsistent treatment of similar defendants, just to name a few of the issues. Recently, prosecutorial misconduct in a homicide case has necessitated an expensive and time consuming upcoming retrial because our District Attorney withheld evidence he was required to turn over. The victim's family, who felt they had closure, must once relive the nightmare. Without accountability, performance will never improve.

A recent column by my opponent highlights our different perspectives about the nature of the job of District Attorney. He campaigns on a 2008 Congressional Quarterly Press statistic that named State College as a safe metro area. While this accolade only measured violent crime, which has historically always been comparatively low due to State College's demographics, State College is certainly not all of Centre County. In fact, this statistic did not consider our county's most pervasive problem, crimes related to alcohol and drugs. Substance abuse incidents, such as alcohol fueled assault and domestic abuse, DUI, Homicide by Vehicle, Furnishing Alcohol, Underage Drinking, Disorderly Conduct, Drug offenses, including theft

committed to pay for drugs, increasingly require heavy man hours from our police and fill our courts and often our jails.

A District Attorney is not due all or even most of the credit for this statistic. A successful D.A. respects the high quality police work, strong community groups, quality educational system and other factors that exert positive influences on life in the area. These factors, with heavy emphasis on our exceptional police, are due most of the credit for this safety ranking. And despite this statistic, recently in one single week, our county experienced a homicide, a stabbing, a rape and major drug bust.

Most importantly, this statistic does not speak directly to the quality of the job our D.A. has been doing. The job of the D.A. can best be defined as making sure justice is vigorously and competently pursued after a crime has been committed. The true success of a D.A.'s office can best be measured by a review of specific case handling. Regrettably, it is this single ingredient so necessary to preservation of our high community standards that is missing from the equation. A feel good statistic from 2008 that applies to only part of the county is no substitute for real competency in the handling of cases.

The problems we see in the current D.A.'s office are largely the result of poor management and poor decision making. Drawing on my 15 years of experience in criminal law, I am ready to implement a new vision of success and competency. Since the elected D.A. was part-time when I served as First Assistant D.A., I was entrusted with high level decision making and served as the acting D.A. I mentored



see Parks Miller, pg. 24

**Michael Madeira**

The future of the District Attorney's office is deeply intertwined with the future of our community. Most importantly, the role of the office is to keep our community safe, and strive to make it safer. It is more than a role, it is a goal. In four years, we reached that goal together. In these next four years, with continued vigilance, we can raise and exceed our goals.

There is always room for improvement, but be wary of any promise to change our course. We are safer now than we were four years ago. Crime has fallen while our population has risen. We can and should always strive for better, and the trend is in our favor. Most recently, Centre County is ranked as the second safest metropolitan area in the United States for the second year in a row. While nearly 2,000 miles separate us from the safest area, Logan, Utah, we are less than a 2 percent drop in crime from replacing them. We can go further, but the only way we can go far is to move down the list. That would destroy our peace of mind.

Perfection is an ideal, not a plan. It is an ideal to which I aspire. It is a goal toward which I strive from the moment I enter my office every morning. However, no human is perfect. As a leader, the District Attorney must recognize this, both in himself and those he leads. Part of being a true leader is learning how to adapt to these imperfections and overcome them. Experience is the best and only teacher.

While we have made tremendous progress in making our community safer, it is not enough to only acknowledge how far we have come; we must also understand how we have come so far. The strength of our community is the bedrock for our safety. Our boroughs, townships and neighborhoods are held together by ties of mutual respect and friendship that are stronger than the malice of those who would harm us.

No less importantly, we owe our success to the tremendous hard work and competence of everyone in law enforcement. As District Attorney, I am honored to work

with such a dedicated team of officers and prosecutors. I am humbled by what we have achieved together. Their unwavering devotion to protect and serve us all is made even stronger and more effective

by the great working relationship between the police and District Attorney's Office.

What does it mean to have a good relationship with law enforcement? This is no bureaucratic abstraction. To the police on their beat, it means that all of their efforts and sacrifices are not in vain. It means that they are confident that criminals they apprehend will be brought to justice. It means no less to the victims of crime, and to their families; and it means everything to me.

Yet a greater justice is to prevent crimes from even occurring. Proactive strategies have little or no cost. They save our community time, expense, and most importantly, the hardship of enduring crime and punishment. As with law enforcement, I have sought to build and cultivate a positive relationship with the Penn State community. At the request of President Graham Spanier, I have spoken with incoming freshmen athletes for two consecutive years. I will continue to accept future invitations.

It was also an honor to speak at the "Take Back the Night" rally. I am proud of the students who stood up for their community. I am heartened by those who spoke out against violence. No corner of our neighborhoods should be darkened by the shadow of fear. The courage of these students inspires us all.

Being proactive rather than reactive, preventing crime as a way to fight it, works. This past year, the second consecutive time during which Centre County earned its



see Madeira, pg. 24

## Letters to the editor

### West End article should guide deliberations

I wanted to commend you and the Voices staff on a particularly excellent edition of Voices this September. The article "Winning the West End" that you authored, in particular, is very well done and summarizes the issues from all perspectives well with good balance. I hope that those who have been putting so much energy into the future evolution of State College in general, and the West End in particular, use this article as a basis of ongoing discussion, design,

assimilation and compromise, so that the town develops as a place in which students and non-students alike enjoy living in State College. It is clear that a great deal of effort went into the research and writing of this informative and useful article. Thanks for your work, the excellent piece, and an overall excellent issue of Voices.

Jim Brasseur  
State College

### Understands West End for the first time

I read your article on the West End carefully, and for the first time I think I've understood what the issues are and what's going on. I live on the edge of the district on South Patterson Street, right next door to Evan Myers, so I'm on the cusp of two

dilemmas, so to speak. Thanks for your very informative investigations of both issues, which are one and the same.

Jane Childs  
State College

### West End article covered important issues

Thanks for including me in your very great article about the land area where I have built my life. You touched many major important issues and concerns without passing judgment as other reporting papers tend to do. I really appreciate your time and

effort in this report. Look forward to meeting you someday, and keep up the high class journalism.

John Simbeck  
State College

### Thanks for thorough article on West End

Thank you for a thorough article on the West End, in your September issue. It presented many different points of view. I would like to correct one mistake: I was misidentified. I was not a member of the West End Revitalization Committee. During roughly the same period I was a member of the Steering Committee for the State College Land Area Plan. The latter committee advised the COG (Council of Governments) on regional planning for the central part of

State College, across several municipal boundaries. I attended many public meetings on the West End and also Planning Commission meetings that developed the zoning recommendations recently submitted to the Borough Council. I did so as a citizen and resident of the Holmes-Foster neighborhood, and did not speak for any committee.

Zoe Boniface  
State College

*Editor's note: As requested, Voices e-mailed the letter-writer her quotes and description prior to publication but never*

*received a response. We always encourage our sources to assist volunteers in providing the most accurate information possible.*

Find a West End-inspired poem by local resident Richard Alden and speak your mind at [www.voicesweb.org](http://www.voicesweb.org).

### Best treatments may not be best care

My experience with this healthcare system is limited because I cannot afford health insurance and from what I have observed of my mother's experience, I'm not rushing to get in line.

My mother has had her first stroke in 2002. I observed the transformation of Moravian Hospital, a mid-size hospital in Bethlehem, Pa., into a huge medical facility when it merged with the Lehigh Valley Hospital and

Health Network. The transition did not appear to affect my mom's care. In fact I believe that it improved after her second stroke when they assigned a social worker to coordinate the doctors, nurses and techs. I was further impressed when my mother was moved to a small-sized, faith-based hospital where the staff met as a team and included me as guardian.

Since 2005, I have observed less care and more treatment when she was moved to a nursing home after her recovery plateaued. Since July she has been in and out of Mount Nittany and Hershey Medical Center for an infection.

Comparing these two facilities in their management of my mother's care, I would say that Mount Nittany is comparable to the Lehigh Valley facility with a little less coordination, possibly due to construction while

they are expanding the facility and moving wings and units around. I meet with a social worker who coordinates the care. In contrast, at Hershey I never meet a care manager and I sensed less coordination of effort in her care.

I can identify three problems between the types of care my mother has received: 1) Huge bureaucratic machines often become less efficient and/or effective over time, 2) Problems with field specialization and holistic, dynamic systems, and 3) Problems with/ without institutionalization which is related to both one and two and complicated by interpersonal dynamics.

So, as long as we are concerned with the best treatments in healthcare, we may be receiving less care.

Kevin Handwerk  
Bellefonte

## Sudoku

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**Instructions:** Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every three-by-three box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reason and logic. Thanks to Peter Morris for contributing this puzzle. The solution to this month's puzzle can be found on page 25 of this issue.

from Parks Miller, pg. 22

assistant D.A.'s, supervised staff and handled the budget. I have made difficult decisions on charging and have exercised prosecutorial discretion in many tough situations. While TV portrays this job as being mainly about trial skills, and trial skills are important, a successful D.A. must be able to make solid decisions under pressure. As we have seen, a wrong initial decision about the appropriate charges is likely to ruin a case.

I did not specialize in one type of prosecution but successfully prosecuted diverse cases including but not limited to homicide, rape/sexual assault, shaken baby, pedophiles, arson, assault cases and drug and alcohol crimes. I also prosecuted all types of cases in juvenile court, including trying juvenile defendants in a particularly heinous murder case. I handled many appeals for the Commonwealth in both state and federal courts. I have established trusting relationships with law enforcement. When the police arrest someone who has committed a crime, I will know how to get the conviction that brings justice to the victims.

I am the only candidate who has been both a prosecutor and a defense attorney. Experience working as a defense attorney is an essential training ground for a successful D.A. You have to know how the defense thinks in order to build strong cases that will ultimately be successful. You learn to

make solid decisions by having years of experience as a successful prosecutor and as a successful defense attorney in all kinds of cases because you learn what works and what does not, and why.

The best District Attorneys practice what is called Smart Prosecution—they achieve the highest conviction rate with solid prosecutions and efficient use of resources and talent. A smart prosecutor must also strive to stop the revolving door of our system. I support alternative sentencing programs for two reasons: increasing prison overcrowding, and more importantly, because mental illness and drug and alcohol dependency are all treatable illnesses. These programs have been proven to reduce recidivism rates better than punishment alone. When used appropriately, our quality of life is improved because alternative sentencing keeps the public safer, saves taxpayer dollars and slows the revolving door that occurs when the cause of crime is not addressed.

I am running for District Attorney to take the office out of the headlines for all of the wrong reasons and to restore your confidence in the office. I look forward to putting my skills to work for Centre County. I hope you will join me and support me in my vision for new leadership. Make sure your voice is heard by voting on Nov. 3!

*Stacy Parks Miller is a candidate for the Centre County District Attorney. She is a shareholder at Miller, Kistler & Campbell.*

from Madeira, pg. 22

“second safest” national distinction, Penn State also ranked as the “Number One Party School” in the United States. Needless to say, Logan, Utah did not experience anything similar. The juxtaposition of Penn State’s ranking with Centre County’s distinction is a testament to what can be accomplished when a strong community and dedicated law enforcement come together to proactively fight crime. There is perhaps no greater way to fulfill the responsibilities of the District Attorney’s Office, and I look forward to future successes.

By far, the greatest responsibility of the District Attorney’s Office is to keep our community safe for our children. This is no mere slogan for me. As a father of four, I am reminded every day of how precious and vital a responsibility this is. We must keep our streets clean. We must keep our neighborhoods free of predators. The District Attorney must protect the innocent, and children are the most innocent of all.

To this end, I have zealously prosecuted child predators. To safeguard our children

against a new and dangerous practice that puts them at risk, I have reached out to the community to warn them proactively of the dangers of “sexting,” or sending inappropriate images via cell phone. Several schools have invited me to speak on this, and incidents appear to be down. It is far better to prevent a crime than to have to punish it.

As a father, my responsibility is to keep my children safe. As the District Attorney, my duty is to keep all of our children safe. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that “the ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.” I see a greater test in the world we give them now.

In my 19 years as a prosecutor, these last four have been the most rewarding. I am proud of our community, I am humbled by our success, and I am honored to share both with you. We have come so far together in these four years. Together, we became the second safest community for the second year in a row. Together, we can be second to none.

*Michael Madeira is the district attorney of Centre County.*

## Whitey Blue on West End development

by David M. Silverman

I was talking the other day to Whitey Blue, long-time Centre Region resident and hard-nose.

Whitey, there’s been a kit of discussion about building heights and high-density properties in the west end of the borough. Any thoughts?

“Of course I do—there shouldn’t be any height limits!”

How about residents of the area who want to keep it as an area of private, owner-occupied homes?

“They have to realize that this is a college town and therefore student housing should have the highest priority.”

from Cosmo, pg. 27

decade, and that he was sorry if the world didn’t understand, but that’s the way it goes, because he was “Just bein’ real.” That same egotism that dismisses a majority vote is the kind of thinking that ignored the U.N., toppled Saddam, squandered the surplus, cut veteran benefits, and then went

pheasant hunting. Just bein’ real.

In terms of what this may do to his career, whether Taylor will forgive him, or what lessons can be learned from this, I would file those under “ignore,” since they fall nestled somewhere between the proverbial rat’s ass and the flying fart that I simply could not possibly give. The best role model I can think of is a good scolding with a rolled-up newspaper.

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# Centre County Democrats need new direction

by Mary Watson

I've been excited to be a Democrat ever since I shed the Republican skin that I was born into in Indiana.

While living in Chicago I passed literature for Senator Paul Simon and took a course in grassroots political campaigning from Dick Durbin when he was still in the Illinois legislature.

My first work for a Democratic candidate in Pennsylvania was for Lynn Yeakel, who came very close to beating Arlen Specter for his Senate seat in 1992. The Democratic State Committee never endorsed and only reluctantly supported Yeakel in the general election, but Centre County women and men banded together to work with great exhilaration for her election. We took all nine counties from Elk County to Mifflin County that we were responsible for in the election. Lynn lost by 49% to 51%. Still, as political workers we felt bound together by the feelings of success and satisfaction that we shared when we came so close to winning.

One year I decided to run for chair of the Centre County Democratic Committee (CCDC). It was soon made clear to me that the office was considered an inherited job and that a talented long-time Centre County Democratic worker was due to take over that position.

Through the years I have attended the dinners, breakfasts, and fund raisers and have been a loyal worker at the Grange Fair in August. That work has always been satisfying to me.

I'm an optimist who believes that right will always win out. That hasn't worked for me with the CCDC.

My suggestions to the committee have been numerous, but they have almost universally been received with eye-rolling and dismissal. At a meeting when I asked to have a written report from both the secretary and the treasurer given at each monthly meeting, I was told in a loud voice to "Sit down and stop wasting everybody's time." I wasn't successful in getting copies of each report for those in attendance but—my one success—it did become the practice to give oral reports. However, it was the practice to ask if anyone wanted to hear the minutes from the secretary rather than to present them as a matter of procedure.

I took the long and the short versions of Roberts Rules of Order to each meeting and announced that since both the old and new bylaws required the meetings to be run according to Robert's Rules I thought we should do that. One response to that was that we were, "just getting together to talk," and it was implied that the bylaws therefore didn't apply.

I copied sections from Robert's Rules to hand out. Those sections included operating rules for the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer. Many of those copies became scrap paper at my house because of



Sadly, because of the attitudes of the current leadership, I have now decided that I can no longer participate in the affairs of the official Centre County Democratic Party.

the reluctance of many of those present to accept them. I was puzzled by the resistance to operating under the existing bylaws. I couldn't even get the Chair to provide a copy of the bylaws in effect.

In the past, having a headquarters was considered necessary only three to four months before a general election, so I wondered why it was now necessary to pay close to \$12,000 a year to rent a year-round CCDC headquarters. I wanted to know the details of the treasurer's report but they were not forthcoming. Mysterious payments were not explained. I was notably supported in these sentiments by an officer who was a long time member of the committee. I was very grateful for that single supporter.

It hurt my feelings that none of the many prominent county residents who were members of the committee—and who would agree with me privately—would support my public efforts to achieve minimal levels of transparency and accountability, ideals that the Democratic Party stands for at all levels of governance. I began to realize that

self-conscious silence and/or anger were the only responses I could expect.

Lack of public support for my requests for transparency and accountability leads me to the conclusion that I am not wanted or valued as a member of the Centre County Democratic Committee. My previous experience and fire for the work are not considered assets by the group.

Sadly, because of the attitudes of the current leadership, I have now decided that I can no longer participate in the affairs of the official Centre County Democratic Party. That leaves me only to find another place where I can use my loyalty, talent, energy, intelligence, enthusiasm, ability to work with people, and financial generosity to assist an honorable organization in the county that follows Democratic ideals.

I'm open to all new suggestions!

*Mary Watson is a feminist who has been a member of the CCDC since 1992.*

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# Public education is a sound investment

by Brad Siegfried

*This opinion piece was submitted before the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Gov. Ed Rendell came to a budget agreement, but the issues raised remain timely. The Editors.*

While it may seem like a typical school year to public school students as they head back to the classroom, education advocates recognize that this is not a typical September.

For the first time in many years, public schools are opening their doors without funding from Harrisburg. After two months of debate, state legislators continue to grapple with the state budget. Until a budget is in place, the Commonwealth has no authority to pay school districts the education subsidies that support their operations.

Education advocates are urging the legislature to provide resources in the state budget to continue the academic progress of Pennsylvania schools.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a school funding formula that would move the state toward a fair and equitable funding system for all districts. The formula was based on a comprehensive, statewide costing-out study that found Pennsylvania's system of public education was under-funded by more than \$4 billion. Now, some lawmakers are backing a proposal to replace state dollars with temporary stimulus dollars. The impact of this proposal will be a reduction of state funding to 2005 levels.

At a time when there are few secure investments, communities, taxpayers and parents can be certain that investing in public education is a sound decision. A report released in August by the Center on Education Policy (CEP) shows Pennsylvania students made gains in all academic categories from 2002 to 2009. The CEP report is consistent with the findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress that indicated that Pennsylvania is one of only six states to make significant gains in elementary school reading and math scores since 2003.

In August, Governor Rendell recognized 50 districts for improving test results on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA). Among those districts are Penns Valley (Centre County); Moshannon Valley (Clearfield County); Keystone Central (Clinton County); St. Marys (Elk County); Huntingdon and Juniata Valley (Huntingdon County); East Lycoming, Jersey Shore, South Williamsport and Williamsport (Lycoming County) and Otto-Eldred (McKean County).

A Quinnipiac University poll released in August affirmed Pennsylvanians' support for public schools. Asked if they would be willing to pay more taxes to protect state spending, a majority of the respondents



In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, asked if they would be willing to pay more taxes to protect state spending, a majority of the respondents said that they would, in order to protect public schools from cuts.

said that they would, in order to protect public schools from cuts.

We must encourage our legislators to bring the budget to closure, negotiate in good faith, and make adequate investments in public education. Governor Rendell initially proposed a \$418 million increase to keep the promise of the funding formula enacted last year, but he has since reduced that amount to \$300 million. The General Assembly should keep its commitment to children by increasing basic education funding by at least \$300 million.

Please contact your state legislators and tell them to keep their commitment to provide adequate funding for public education. In these uncertain times, public education is a sound investment for our children and our communities.

*Brad Siegfried is a teacher in the Philipsburg-Osceola school district and president of the Philipsburg-Osceola Education Association and of the Central Region Pennsylvania State Education Association.*

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# ASK Cosmo



Dear Telepath,

As my friend Vince's dad says, "If common sense were really that common, more people would have it." He also says, "It's just money, not fingers!" If you pay close attention to most of the Healthcare Town Hall beefs, the gallery is mainly bitching about an imagined loss of benefits, and all kinds of hypothetical nightmares—like "Death Panels." There's a lot of static about what the new program might pose for the

Dear Cosmo,  
What's with those Republicans? When it comes to discussing healthcare reform, they act like a pack of soccer hooligans! I thought the Republicans were like professional executives. You know, all about being reserved and conservative and moderate in demeanor (stuffy). But lately, it seems like they're playing the roles of rabble-rousers and malcontents. That's how they used to describe the Democrats and then made fun of them for it. Did they get some wires crossed, or did they just drink too much of the Kool-Aid during the Bush administration, or what?

Signed, How About a Mental Healthcare Debate?

## Campus and Culture from the Canine Perspective

already-insured. Their thunder drowns out any of the voices who have no insurance, or any expressions of hope from those who previously had none, but now may qualify for some. Their distortions have a pretty low signal-to-noise ratio when it comes to understanding that not everyone can afford healthcare insurance, let alone afford to be that cavalier about it.

Time and time again we're reminded by conservative pundits that this is a "Christian nation." And the issue of healthcare is a great place to investigate the notion of Christian charity. It's just really hard to practice Christian ethics these days with all those pesky harlots, poor people and lepers around. If only there were precedents to follow... But it's an interesting conundrum for those healthcare and brimstone preachers. Who has a greater right for access to healthcare—illegal immigrants from Mexico who are Christian, or Islamic immigrants who are here legally?

It's easier for a camel to get into the kingdom of heaven than it is for a fat white man to quit needling the poor and consider sharing his riches...even if the shekels don't come out of his own Technicolor dreamcoat in the first place! And our Congress has shown that you don't have to yell "Fire!" (or Brimstone) in a crowded public theater to cause a ruckus. Simply have Tom Wilson yell, "You lie!" in a crowded chamber to reveal his own state of panic.

I wish I could read the conservatives' minds, but there's just too much fine print. But the upshot for healthcare insurance seems to be, "Not valid in certain states." Those states would include disenfranchisement, marginalization, lack of entitlement and total denial. I'd lift a hand to help, but find that I can only manage to lift a leg. A hind one.

Dear Cosmo,

What is Kanye West's problem? What kind of role model do you think he's being? Do you think his career will be hurt by his outburst at the MTV Awards? Do you think Taylor Swift should forgive him? Is there anything we can learn from that whole inci-

dent?

Signed, Scared for Taylor

Dear Tailor-made Phobia,

Well, that's like five more questions about Kanye West than I ever thought worthwhile, but here goes. His problem? He's Kanye West. In terms of being a role model—having a highly over-inflated sense of self, a total disregard for others and absolutely no impulse control—then Mr. West is doing a bang up job. So what if some wasted rapper with a topiary hairdo hops on stage and scares a teenybopper pop country idol? Although it would've been cool if she had launched a little pepper spray...

However, if what Jimmy Carter says is true, and that our country is still a pretty racist place (he says the harsh critiques aimed at President Obama stem from the fact that he's a black man) then I don't think Kanye did the brothers much good. Then again, I don't think he did Beyonce, or musicians, or cognac drinkers, or sunglass wearers, or bipeds any favors either. A turd by any other name doesn't smell any sweeter.

To quote my human's missionary friend in Kiev, "Kanye + Cognac = Jackass." Or maybe he should take a note from MY new pop homage, Single Wasties: "If it gripes you that much, put a lid on it; if it gripes you that much, put a lid on it; if it gripes you that much put a lid on it, uh-uh-ooooohhhh."

I thought Taylor Swift's poised explanation deserved an additional award. She was quoted as saying that she was excited to be at the awards, and was excited to be called up on stage, and was excited when she saw Kanye West jump on the stage, "but then I wasn't excited anymore."

Now his microblog apology a few hours later was a piece of work, too. In essence, he said he was sorry he ruined her moment, but he was justified, and here's why, because Beyonce's was the best video of the

see Cosmo, pg. 24

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## Have you taken advantage of 'green' tax credits yet?

Voices readers care about the environment and our local economy. The 2009 stimulus package includes tax credits for green energy savings that create jobs here, reduce energy usage and save you money. Nittany Geothermal ([www.nittanygeothermal.com](http://www.nittanygeothermal.com)), which advertised in this space two months ago, is one local company dedicated to those goals. Heritage Innovations, below, is another. Support our advertisers to keep Voices strong, help the earth, reduce your energy costs and get a tax credit all at the same time. And remember to let these great local businesses know you saw it in Voices! Thank you.

# 2 WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

- Save on your energy bills
- Save on your taxes



ComforTrack  
Insulating Window  
Shades are certified  
for Federal Tax Credit.

### A MORE COMFORTABLE HOME IS JUST A SHADE AWAY

Some rooms are too hot or too cold to enjoy. 'How can this room be more comfortable?' The simplest answer: **Add insulating window shades.**

Windows account for almost 1/4 of your heating and cooling costs. **Glass is not a natural insulator.** Unless your windows don't seal, you won't gain by replacing them.

#### Double-honeycomb (cellular) shades:

- Triple the insulation of double-pane windows
- Increase comfort -- slow heat loss/gain
- Lower your energy bills
- Provide light control, privacy and insulation
- Optional sidetracks improve insulation
- Light-filtering and room-darkening fabrics
- Cordless, top-down/bottom-up and motorized
- Compact styling complements any room

Right now, 30% of the cost of insulating shades (up to \$1500) will be credited to your federal taxes. You insulate the rest of your home's exterior. Don't overlook a great opportunity to insulate your windows and save on your taxes too!

Call **(814)355-8323** to schedule a no-obligation estimate.

**[HeritageInnovations.com](http://HeritageInnovations.com)**

