

LETTERS

LMC is a community partner that merits your support

Editor,
No other educational organization in our area epitomizes the meaning of partnership better than Lake Michigan College. LMC has a long history of working with its K-12 school district partners to provide opportunities for all students to be successful on their journey toward career and college readiness. The recently established 5th Year Early Middle College program is just another example of this valued partnership. Students can get a head start on college and in life by earning an associate's degree or certificate for free while still in high school. Students take some college classes during their junior and senior years and then attend college full-time during "grade 13."

By starting college while in high school, students can cut their college tuition costs in half. The renovations, operating equipment replacement, energy efficiency improvements and Mendel Center upgrades will benefit our students and communities for years to come. It's a partnership like this that makes supporting LMC's capital millage proposal the obvious choice. Please join me by voting "yes" on Nov. 8.

**Kevin Ivers
Superintendent
Berrien RESA**

McKay's work on Noble case was extraordinary

Editor,
In August of 2002, Roberta and Carlin Noble were brutally murdered in their Van Buren County home. Two of the three suspects who took part in the killings were put on trial, convicted and sent to prison for the heinous act, but the third suspect was not. Timothy Andrews, who later confessed to being present at the time of the murders and to setting the Noble's home on fire to cover up the crime, had not been brought to justice for what he did. After taking part in the killings of two innocent people, Timothy Andrews was sent to prison only for perjury. With a parole date fast approaching, I brought the case to Assistant Prosecutor Mike McKay in 2014.

This case could not go undone. Roberta and Carlin were good people, innocent people. They were killed in a very brutal way. I made a promise that I would see their case through and get justice for them. When I saw that he could be released from prison, I brought the case to Mike McKay. I knew that if the case could be prosecuted, Mike had the fortitude to get it done.

After months of work and further investigation, Mike decided the case was still strong enough, even after over a decade had passed, to charge Andrews for his role in the killings. The



Noble's surviving son wanted to see justice for his parents. He also hoped that Andrews would stay in prison for at least 10 more years – another decade that they wouldn't have to think about him walking the streets.

On June 5, 2015, Mike got Timothy Andrews convicted of murder in the second degree and was sentenced to 23 years in prison. He will be nearly 70 years old before he can be released.

That was an important case – for the Noble's, their family, and for our community. I can't say how much I appreciate Mike's work on the Noble case. Mike McKay would be an excellent judge for Van Buren County. He is fair, compassionate and has the right priorities. With his experience outside of the courtroom, he has the right tools for the job.

**Thomas Verberg
Police Chief
Lawton**

Upton has shown he gets work done in Congress

Editor,
We need representatives in Congress who want to get something done, people who actually want to do the hard work of governing and finding solutions. We certainly have one running for Congress.

Fred Upton offers common-sense solutions and is willing to work with the other party to get something done.

From helping clean up the Great Lakes to the first new energy bill in more than a decade, to his life-saving 21st Century Cures bill – Fred gets stuff done. Let's get this election over with and send Fred back for another term so he can do what he does best – get the job done for us.

**Carol Weller
St. Joseph**

Upton has proven that he's a hard worker

Editor,
As a child, I was always taught

that the worst thing you can be called is "lazy." Midwestern and lazy just don't go together.

There is considerable value in a strong work ethic, and I'm here to tell you, Fred Upton not only has the work ethic, he also has the diligence and perseverance to move things forward and get things done. Fred's common-sense approach and strong work ethic is exactly what is needed to get the job done in Washington. I may not agree with him on every issue, but knowing that we have a congressman who is one of the hardest working elected officials in the country – that's someone I can support.

On Nov. 8, I'll be voting for Fred Upton. I hope you join me!
**Teri Cooper
St. Joseph**

Mitchell is great choice for VB County clerk

Editor,
The election on Nov. 8 gives us a choice to elect a person of principle and dedication to our county and local community.

I am voting Aaron Mitchell for county clerk. Aaron has experience with different levels of local government, as deputy clerk for Antwerp Township, manager and clerk/ treasurer for Decatur. Aaron is active as an elder with Red Arrow Ministries, and he serves as vice president of the Paw Paw school board. Aaron's experience and involvement in these organizations gives him the connection to the people of our county. Vote for Aaron Mitchell for county clerk Nov. 8.

**Phil Tarchala
Paw Paw**

Seats already working to reduce crime and save lives

Editor,
The Sept. 27 article, "Reducing crime, saving lives" highlighting the Swift and Sure Drug Court program, speaks to the work of County Commissioner Marletta Seats, candidate for 79th District state representative.

To know Marletta Seats is to know her passion for encouraging addicts to redirect their lives. Marletta has facilitated the Fresh Start Jail program since 2008. As a six-year member of the Victim Services Unit (VSU) she has been one of our county's leading public servant advocates for addicts and their families – long before opioid addiction became the trendy issue with which to align politically.

Serving as our elected state representative, Marletta will enlist the resources and relationships she has already established with local professionals, and state and regional agencies to effectively achieve her agenda to "reduce crime and save lives."

Marletta has a history of public safety service – not just promoting it, but working on the front line from the public sector. She was present during the courthouse event through VSU and the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and has served in this community capacity some 40 years. She has also directed youth programs, and the Say No to Drugs in schools.

Marletta comes from a family of law enforcement officers, which include state troopers and the first black chief of police in Michigan. Her family has both supported and served as law enforcement in this state, which drives Marletta beyond enforcing public safety to also ensuring the safety of the officer. She supports all law enforcement events and knows and respects good law enforcement.

This is a mere snippet of Marletta Seats' qualifications for state office. Her years of experience in working with public safety and the Berrien County court system is just one of her many public service accomplishments which exactly qualifies her to be the 79th District's next representative in Lansing.

Thank you for your vote for Marletta Seats for state representative.

**Jacquie Blackwell
Bridgman**