

# LETTERS

## Support LMC at the polls with a 'yes' vote Nov. 8

Editor,

As a community, we cannot fully leverage the economic opportunities of Berrien County without first acknowledging the importance of supporting the LMC millage request.

With the college's millage currently at 1.78 mills, we rank 24th out of 28 Michigan community colleges. A new millage will help bridge the gap between having to defer maintenance and other improvements by supporting a millage that will enable LMC to meet the dynamic challenges of the future.

Let's affirm Bob Harrison's request while at the same time supporting his great work as president of LMC.

We need to answer the question: How do we train and retain employees to meet the needs of local employers, especially now in the midst of an improving economy? Our economic base has become a diverse mix of employers requiring employees with specific skills, and in many cases with advanced technological training. Those areas include machine tool technology, health care, manufacturing engineering, culinary management, energy production, hospitality management, tourism, basic life support, geospatial information science and technology, casino management, wine and viticulture, information technology and more, all being offered at LMC.

From basic and advanced manufacturing skills to our emerging tourism industry, LMC deserves the support of our entire community in order to continue its great work. With the recent opening of the Hanson Technology Center, the community celebrated a great day. Another great day can occur on Nov. 8, if we all come together for the first time in 20 years (when the college's last millage was approved) in support of the capital millage for LMC.

That is the best way to ensure the future of LMC and by extension, the future of citizens of Berrien County, and beyond.

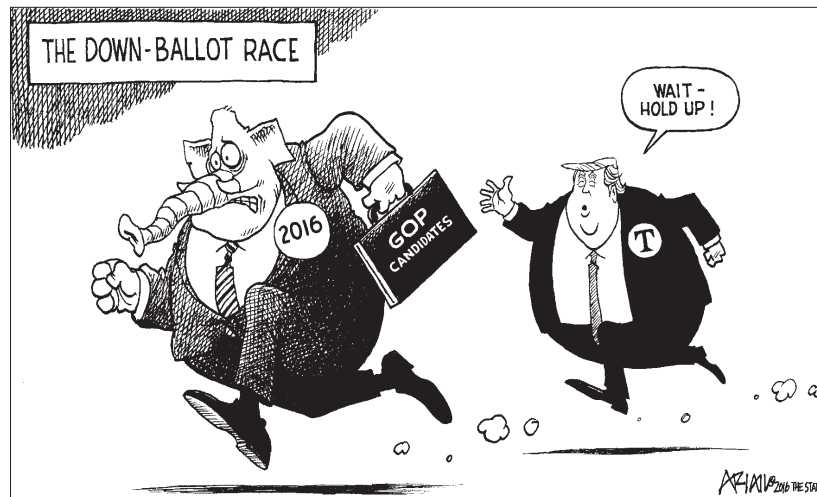
**David Kirshenbaum**  
Benton Harbor

## Upton delivers big for Southwest Michigan

Editor,

Whatever you want to say about Congressman Fred Upton, you can't say he's not a hard worker.

Fred is one who just gets the job done. He is able to leverage his knowledge and experience into real results for Southwest Michigan families and businesses. The expansion of U.S. 31, the Harbor Shores development, the needed-dredging of our harbors, and keeping



toxins out of the Great Lakes ... all of these issues and more have Fred's fingerprints all over them.

It also bears mentioning that as the chairman of a powerful committee in the House, he has helped get more than 150 pieces of legislation signed into law just in the last few years. That's no easy feat in this time of partisan divides.

Fred continues to deliver impressive results. That's the kind of leadership we need more of in Washington.

On Nov. 8, I'll be gladly casting my vote for Fred Upton.

**Gregory O'Neil**  
South Haven

## Brown has work ethic suited for Lansing

Editor,

This is the first time in my life that I've written a letter to endorse a candidate. I feel moved to do it now because of the person I'm supporting.

Over the last year or so, I've had the pleasure to come to know Annie Brown. I have found Annie to be the best choice to represent me in Lansing as my state representative. I've seen Annie speak to groups about her values and commitment to seniors, veterans and students. Annie doesn't just speak about her values to get votes - she truly lives a life of exemplary values.

Her work ethic is beyond impressive, and I know that she will fight hard for all of us in the 66th House District.

**Linda Tapper**  
Paw Paw

## Elect a president who seeks wisdom, not power

Editor,

The wait will soon be over and a new president will be elected! Sure hope my vote counts.

I can respect a candidate who displays a healthy respect for the Lord. One who practices the Golden Rule, who has mercy

and compassion, and is peace-loving! One who seeks wisdom, not power.

Lying, bullying, deceptiveness, disrespect, pettiness, haughtiness, me-ism, great wealth are not good qualifiers!

Someone was recently quoted saying that he expects his life will not be changed by this election. That comfort zone may change.

Is it not obvious that our lives are constantly threatened? Nuclear war, et al. We should not accept our status quo - for the sakes of those who do not live in comfort. Develop a means to fairness!

I sure hope my vote counts.  
**June Rollinger**  
St. Joseph

## Mitchell is the right choice for VB County clerk

Editor,

We have an important election on Nov. 8. Up and down the ticket we should elect principle-based people in office.

One of those people should be Aaron Mitchell in the office of Van Buren County clerk. He is my brother-in-law, but I have also worked with Aaron in an office environment while he was working his way through Western Michigan University, and then again when he was the deputy clerk for Antwerp Township. He is incredibly knowledgeable in local government and has good judgment.

I've also served alongside him as a member of the Paw Paw Lions Club. I feel Aaron is the right choice.

Vote Aaron Mitchell for Van Buren County clerk.

**Ben Brousseau**  
Paw Paw

## Vavra has done a great job on Berrien County Board

Editor,

The Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors fully endorses Andrew Vavra for Berrien County Board of Commissioners, District 9.

We interviewed Commis-

sioner Vavra and his opponent in this race, and we determined that Mr. Vavra is clearly the best candidate for District 9, which stretches from New Buffalo east toward Buchanan, and north to the south edge of Lake Township.

Mr. Vavra has been representing the citizens of his district very admirably for many years. He is well established as an effective leader on the Berrien County Board of Commissioners. He has chaired the important Personnel and Human Services Committee for a number of years and he serves on many other committees. He holds a respected seat at the table with other commissioners for decisions that impact his district. He works closely with the county Health Department. He is available to anyone who calls him.

Mr. Vavra has also been the chair of the Local Revenue Sharing Board for the distribution of payments in lieu of taxes from the Four Winds Casino. He has led this group from an era of long meetings and contentious votes to its current status of a well-functioning board distributing millions of dollars every year. The members of this board credit Andy's quiet, steady leadership for this progress.

Mr. Vavra has the proper temperament for public service and exceptional experience to be an advocate and protector of the taxpayers on our county citizens and businesses. He does not play games or use disruptive tactics at public meetings. Mr. Vavra focuses on gaining understanding of policy issues, treating parties with respect, and creating long-term solutions that benefit District 9 and the County of Berrien as a whole.

We strongly urge all the citizens of the Berrien County 9th District to vote for Andrew Vavra.

**Paul Dumke**  
President  
Southwestern Michigan  
Association of Realtors