

LMC lines up director for wine program

By RALPH HEIBUTZKI
H-P Correspondent

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College has pinpointed a candidate to oversee its new wine making program, and will soon begin the process of finding instructors.

LMC President Bob Harrison said the college is talking with its top choice, whose name remains withheld until that process wraps up.

“We have a real good candidate, but until they’re here, they’re not here – and we’ll supplement his or her time with some part-time instructors, also,” Harrison said. “We’re a ways from

having any deal locked up yet.”

LMC interviewed four or five applicants to lead its program, which it expects to roll out by next summer or fall.

Basic requirements for the director’s job include a master’s degree, and related industry and teaching experience.

The new program will be housed on the Mendel Center’s east side, in the Upton Telecommunications Center – for which renovations are complete, and all equipment is now on site, Harrison said.

The college is preparing to acquire the essential ingredient in the wine produc-

tion process, as well.

“We’re negotiating now for grapes to make wine,” Harrison said. “We’re going to do a blend from a number of the local wine makers – so we’re going to have what we call our ‘inaugural blend.’ We’re plugging along, waiting for the grapes to get ready. Everybody’s saying that we’re still a couple weeks out from harvest.”

Harrison’s comments followed Tuesday’s meeting at the South Haven campus, where board members approved a resolution spelling out how the college benefits the community.

The state began requiring community colleges a cou-

ple of years ago to spell out their value to the areas they serve as a condition of receiving state funding, Harrison said.

“On an annual basis, we have the board pass a resolution saying we’re in compliance with that (state requirement), and then we send a report to the state,” he said.

The report goes to the Department of Workforce Investments, and is designed to give a detailed overview of the college’s activities in its service area, Harrison said.

“We would point to the work that we do with the

See LMC, page A4

Bridgman in need of someone with a green thumb

LMC

From page A3

local school districts, where we offer specific programs” Harrison said. “It could be (details) of our employees (documentation) serving on nonprofit boards, like United Way, or work that we do promoting the area economy – so, time and energy spent on working with

companies interested in coming to the community.”

The board approved policy language for campus safety alerts, due process, missing student notification and non-discrimination – which had to be done following the opening of Beckwith Hall, the college’s first student housing complex, Harrison said.

“All the policies were basically just being brought up to date, or new, because of the residence hall,” he said.

Federal law requires the missing student policy, for example.

“Every year, those things get changed a bit by the federal government, and we have to change our policies, to be consistent,” Harrison said.

