

## LETTERS

### Vote 'yes' on Nov. 8 to continue excellence at LMC

**Editor,**  
This past summer I had the pleasure of returning to Lake Michigan College. I toured the Hanson Technology Center, a facility providing state-of-the-art training opportunities for a 21st century workforce. I stopped by the Mendel Center, reminiscing about a time over 20 years ago when as a community we were able to complete that building, which truly serves Southwest Michigan's cultural, community and training needs. I visited the Advising Center, witnessing students being served by committed professionals who were making a difference for the men and women who attend the college. I talked with faculty, some of the best I have ever known in my 50-plus years as an educator, knowing that future nurses, technicians, teachers, and countless others pursuing degrees that would lead toward a job or transfer capabilities, were being guided by extraordinary individuals.

I could not help but smile! The vision, as I had known it, had become a reality! When I served as president of LMC, I firmly believed that the college was key to the stabilization and revitalization of the area. It was then and it is now, in every sense of the word, the community's college.

A community's real strength lies in the expertise of its people. This means investing in people through training and education. It means providing opportunities for art and culture. It means valuing diversity and encouraging a society where all people can reach their full potential. LMC has done all of this in the past.

Now, however, the college is at a crossroads. On Nov. 8, citizens will be asked to vote for a millage to continue the support for this fine institution. If you believe in the importance of LMC to the community it serves, then I know you will cast your vote for the millage. I encourage you to become willing partners with the college in investing in the future of the institution and the community it serves. Together, LMC and Southwest Michigan can continue their partnership in building a world-class community.

Please vote "yes" in LMC vote on Nov. 8.

**Anne E. Mulder**  
Former President  
Lake Michigan College

### Send Upton, Vavra packing on Election Day

**Editor,**  
Congressman Fred Upton is a good man, a nice man, one that has represented our area for many years in Congress. Most of those years he was what the British call a "back bencher." Now, due to simply serving longer than many of his colleagues, he is chair of an important committee. With that position comes the opportunity to cash in on the areas his committee



deals with. So, lo and behold, most of his financial support comes from Big Energy and Big Pharma. It's almost like magic.

It's time for Fred to get a real job, like running the Upton Family Foundation. It's time for the people of the 6th District to try something new. It's time to vote against Big Energy and Big Pharma. Paul Clements will represent real change for us.

Down here in Harbor country, we have a similar situation. Andrew Varva is, I assume, a good man, a nice man. I've lived here for 17 years and have never met him. I guess he doesn't get out much. He has represented this corner of Berrien County on the county Board of Commissioners for who knows how long. He has made a pretty good living doing this job, with lots of paid meetings, medical insurance and a pension to look forward to. But, as far as I can see, he has not produced one thing for his constituents in all those years. Look at the condition of our roads. Look at the lack of cooperation between local governments, look at the lack of economic growth. He could have been at the forefront in all those areas, but, seemingly, he chose instead to "go along to get along" at the county level.

It's time for Andy to start collecting his pension or else find a real job. It's time to elect someone who isn't married to the position, who just might advocate for the folks in Harbor Country at the county level. The choice is easy. There's only one other name on the ballot.

**George Lawton**  
Three Oaks

### Upon further review, it seems Trump is a sociopath

**Editor,**  
In a letter published Aug. 12 in this forum, I classified Donald Trump as a "rogue candidate." It was based on the included evidence: "In my voting history, no nominated candidate for president has ever publicly mimicked a disabled person, stated that he wanted to "hit" someone, invited a foreign government to commit espionage against a nominated opponent, mocked the decision of a judge

on the basis of his ancestral heritage, or ridiculed the parents of a decorated soldier killed in the line of duty."

Since publication of that letter and after viewing his participation in two debates, excerpts of numerous Trump rallies and various news reports, I have further honed my opinion. He has provided ample evidence of being a habitual liar, a sexual predator and an individual who will do anything to get his way.

If you surf the internet for "sociopath," you can find the following: "One personality trait of a sociopath is that he is egocentric. He derives his self-worth from acquiring power, especially power over others. He is focused solely on his own pleasure and gratification and pursues these goals even if the methods of pursuit are immoral, illegal or unethical."

Fits Trump to a T!

**Ed Shaffer**  
Galien

### U.S. is creating a toxic mess across Middle East

**Editor,**  
The current 15-year war in the Middle East has no end in sight and there is no exit strategy. The War Powers Act, through various amendments, has become in effect a continuing resolution for war.

Conducting what appears to be Israel's and Saudi foreign policy as "world policeman" continues to be a massive drag on the federal budget, and may eventually help cause our financial undoing. Those countries need to conduct and pay for their own foreign policy efforts.

We are now learning that many of the bombs dropped in Iraq by the U.S. and allies were "dirty" bombs. Our troops, allies and civilians were in harm's way. Congress shares the responsibility for this tragedy.

According to an article in The Washington Spectator dated April 1, 2016, titled "Irradiated Iraq: The Nuclear Nightmare We Left Behind," states that for the last 25 years, radioactive warheads and explosives have been "routinely used." The Department of Defense classifies these weapons, which allegedly

### Election letters

The word limit for letters regarding the Nov. 8 election is 350 words.

### Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

**E-mail:** letters@TheHP.com

**Regular mail:** Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

**Fax:** 269-429-4398

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

used "depleted, un-depleted or slightly enriched uranium," as "conventional."

According to writer Barbara Koepfel, these weapons were used in Operation Desert Storm for destroying tanks and bunkers. "Thermobaric" weapons were used starting in 2003 during the Iraq invasion. The radiation hazard from the bombs was caused by breathing the "uranium oxide dust particles" that would "float for miles..."

Another hazard to our troops and civilians were, according to the article, massive burn pits that spewed toxic smoke around the clock from 2003 to 2011. Items such as tires, batteries, plastic, oil, solvents and medical waste were tossed into these pits.

Information in the article further states that leukemia, cancers and infant mortality has skyrocketed, especially around Fallujah.

The irony that we marched into Iraq in 2003 to destroy weapons of mass destruction which were never found, only to leave our own nuclear legacy, should not be lost.

In my view, it's time to replace Congress and end the continuing war resolution. Our financial future depends on it.

**Brad Anderson**  
Bridgman