

Sunny skies and 30-degree temperatures brought crowds of people to South Haven for the annual Ice Breaker festival, Friday and Saturday. In the photo above, Greg Beachey, a professional ice carver from New Paris, Ind., carves a lion in Dyckman Park. In the photo to the right, Debbie Fouwe models her snowsuit in the snowsuit competition and won the "Don't Laugh, It's Warm" trophy. The festival also featured a chili cookoff, 5K run and children's activities, on Saturday. The festival wraps up today with a soup luncheon at St. Basil Church, at noon, and Our Town Players' performance of "The Wonderful World of Oz" at 3 p.m. at Listiak Auditorium.



that drive our economy," Vanlittersum said. These four industries that hold the largest impact on the area include manufacturing, health care, hospitality and agriculture. Jobs in the hospitality sector increased by 6.8 percent, adding about 700 jobs for a total of 11,312 for the region in 2016 – compared to the national increase of 2.6 percent.

Employment in the manufacturing industry, the Tri-County's largest

ed typical seasonal job cuts in sectors such as business services, construction, and leisure and hospitality. Because of this, unemployment rates either decreased slightly or remained the same in Southwest Michigan labor markets. Allegan County's unemployment rate – the lowest in the region – rose from 3.3 percent to 3.4 percent in December. Berrien County increased its jobless rate from 4.4 per-

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# LMC settles on two president candidates

BY RALPH HEIBUTZKI  
FOR THE TRIBUNE

**BENTON HARBOR** — Trevor Kubatzke and Jon Mandrell are the last finalists standing in Lake Michigan College's presidential search. On Jan. 24, LMC Board members chose Kubatzke and Mandrell, while eliminating Jackson College Provost Rebekah Woods from further consideration.

All three candidates interviewed for a chance to succeed Bob Harrison, who returned in May 2016 as president emeritus/acting CEO, after the board fired his predecessor, Jennifer Spielvogel. The fourth finalist, Orinthia Montague, vice president for student affairs and chief diversity officer at

Normandale College in Bloomington, Minn., withdrew for personal reasons.

The board's decision came down to the finalists' interview performances, plus 167 feedback surveys, said Trustee Mary Jo Tommasini, who's chairwoman of the search committee.

"It was a very difficult decision," Tommasini said. "We received feedback from staff, faculty, students and the public, and we were able to get different constituent feedback. We definitely read all the surveys, that's for sure. It was very difficult to eliminate one. All three were great fits for this college." The current process – which began



Kubatzke



Mandrell

in November 2016, with 92 applicants, and narrowed to 13 semi-finalists – is exceeding the board's expectations, Tommasini said.

"We're just really pleased at the candidate pool. I believe it's the best candidate pool I've ever seen. We had strong candidates, and we had more candidates. And that is why this decision is so very difficult," she said.

Now that the board has chosen finalists, doing more reference checks is the next order of business, Tommasini said. "Once we finish the referencing, we hope to make an offer in the next 30 days," she said. The board may also do site visits, but

hasn't decided on that yet, she said. Kubatzke is vice president of student services at Milwauke Area Technical College, according to a biography on LMC's website.

He's a board member for the Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee and is a member of the Milwaukee Power Squadron. He's served on the Taylorville Community School District board and the Illinois School Board Association, his biography states. He worked as a police officer in West Union, Iowa.

Mandrell is vice president of academics and student services at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill. He serves on the boards of the Dixon Family YMCA, Sauk Valley Area

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Celebrating  
Our 118th Year

South  
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