

NEWS ADVOCATE

WEEKEND, FEB. 17-18, 2018

MANISTEENEWS.COM

\$1 /\$1.50 Weekend



Manistee's Family Fare unfolds the Honor and Remember flag in honor of Army SPC Hugh Merrill. (Dylan Savela/News Advocate)

HONORED AND REMEMBERED

SpartanNash, Family Fare honor Army SPC Hugh Merrill

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MANISTEE — A local hero was honored Friday afternoon, nearly 52 years after paying the ultimate price while serving his country in Vietnam.

Army SPC Hugh Merrill is still in the hearts of family and friends while being owed a debt of gratitude from us all.

SpartanNash, which owns the Family Fare grocery chain, presented Merrill's brother Richard, of Bear Lake, with an Honor and Remember flag at the local store, located at 1057 U.S. 31 South in Manistee.

In 1966, SPC Merrill was the first service member from Manistee County to be killed in the Vietnam War.

"He wasn't satisfied with the way things were going, so he volunteered believe it or not," Richard said of his brother after Friday's ceremony.

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Richard Merrill receives a plaque honoring his brother Hugh, who ultimate price while serving his country in Vietnam. (Dylan Savela/News Advocate)

WSCC trustees to select construction manager

BY KEN GRABOWSKI
Associate Editor

SCOTTVILLE — The West Shore Community Board of Trustees will be taking under consideration naming a construction management firm for the Technical Center Project renovation and addition project during Monday's 4 p.m. meeting on campus.

The WSCC project was given the highest priority by the State Department of Technology, Management and Budget for community college requests this past year.

Design for the work to this point has been handled by campus staff members and Hooker DeJong, Inc. Architects of Muskegon. College officials began the process of asking for Requests for Proposals in January and received four sealed bids, which they will be considering at Monday's meeting. The bids were as follow:

- Christman Construction: \$188,790;
- Rockford Construction: \$181,424;
- Triangle Associates Inc.: \$275,300 (includes separate cost of \$83,000 for site supervision); and

SEE TRUSTEES PAGE 8A

Police encourage residents to sign up for emergency alert system

BY ASHLYN KORIENEK
Staff Writer

MANISTEE COUNTY — Whenever an emergency situation happens, local law enforcement works hard to make sure the public is well informed and safe at all costs.

That's why a free Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) is provided to the public by Manistee County Central Dispatch and the Manistee County Sheriff's Office.

Manistee County Alerts, or WENS, allows county public safety officials to send timely notifications about civilian danger warnings, weather, power outages, shelters and more to a wide network of users. Users have an option to receive alerts via text or voice, and even by email.

Undersheriff Ken Falk, with the Manistee County Sheriff's Office, was involved with the system when it was first implemented in 2015, and said it has provided many benefits to law enforcement and other emergency officials since then.

"The benefit to using this alert system is that it gives emergency responders the ability to quickly notify the population of an emergency."

— LT. BRIAN GUTOWSKI
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

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SEE EMERGENCY PAGE 2A

Work-for-welfare push on in Michigan

BY MAXWELL EVANS
Capital News Service

LANSING — Michigan's economy, on a slow upswing since the Great Recession, has recovered enough so the state is moving to reinstate stricter work requirements for recipients of federal food assistance.

The waiver of a three-month limit on some benefits for unemployed persons is being phased out.

In 2002, Michigan opted in to a federal waiver allowing states with high unemployment or low job availability to remove work requirements for able-bodied individuals without dependents.



Rep. Kimberly LaSata, R-Bainbridge Township, introduced a bill to prevent future waivers as well as create an "identity authentication process" for welfare applicants to prevent fraud. (Courtesy photo)

to three months every three years without meeting work requirements. The waiver eliminated the three-month limit, effectively allowing those without a job to receive assistance indefinitely.


Michigan used to have a statewide waiver of the fed-

eral requirements during the height of the economic downturn, according to Bob Wheaton, a public information officer for the Department of Health and Human Services. However, the state moved to "phase out" the waiver program by moving to a partial waiver last year.

"There have been significant improvements in the unemployment rate in Michigan over the last several years," Wheaton said. "As a result, people who are trying to reenter the workforce, such as these individuals who were receiving the waiver,

Previously, they could receive benefits only through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program for up

OBITUARY
Ronald Clare Hubbell
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LOTTERY

Midday Daily 3: 2-9-3
Midday Daily 4: 9-7-3-8
Daily 3: 2-6-4
Daily 4: 7-5-8-4
Fantasy 5: 4-15-16-17-36
Keno: 10-20-22-28-29-32-36-39-41-43-44-45-50-52-54-56-63-70-72-76-77-78

Classic Lotto 47 jackpot est. \$1.15 mil.
Friday's Mega Millions jackpot est. \$168 mil.

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