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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Exchange: Farmington officials meet and exchange information with those from the city of Trenton on the annual Mayor's Exchange. /A2

Recognized: Longtime resident and renowned volunteer Dick Carvell is honored. /A3

OPINION

Endorsed: We announce our endorsements for the Clarenceville school board race. /A14

Remember: Let's take time to consider what Memorial Day is really all about. /A14

ARTS & LEISURE

Benefit: Some 60 premiere restaurants will serve up tantalizing cuisine during the annual Garden Party to benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills. /B1

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Honoring: Walter and Lorraine Christensen place flags at veterans' graves in North Farmington cemetery.

Holiday a way to pay homage

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

For Korean War veteran, Bob Smart, Memorial Day is a special holiday that pays homage to people who don't get enough credit. "Memorial Day is a big day for me," Smart said. "We don't honor our veterans enough in this country. If it weren't for them, you wouldn't be sitting where you are and we'd be talking another language."

The Farmington Hills resident and owner of Garden City Upholstery in Farmington deflects any praise for the year he spent in the First Cavalry Division and points to other veterans who, he says, deserve a lot of respect.

Smart was 16 when he took his brother's birth certificate and enlisted not really knowing the enormity of what he had done.

"I was trained to do a job," Smart, 64, said. "I did that job and came home. I spent five years in the military and loved it. It was my duty as a citizen. That's what I felt and I was proud to do it."

Smart, commander of the Groves Walker American Legion Post 346, will be part of the annual Memorial Day parade beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, May 31, at the Uptown Plaza on Grand River west of Orchard Lake Road. The parade ends at the War Memorial at Grand River and Oakland, just west of Farmington

Please see PARADE, A6

He'll walk in grandpa's place

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
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You can fully expect Kenny Kulbaba, 9, to march proudly in Monday's Memorial Day Parade in downtown Farmington.

He will walk in place of his grandfather, the late Pete Kulbaba, a long-time VFW member and former senior vice commander.

"Before he died he gave his veteran's hat to Kenny," said Pete's widow, Verna Kulbaba, formerly of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

But Kenny won't be marching alone. He will be right alongside VFW Post 2269 Commander John Love.

"I am so proud of him," said Kenny's mom, Kari of Farmington

Hills. "I'm overwhelmed with it. I was taken aback that he even wanted to do it."

Kari Kulbaba said Kenny always visited his grandfather and went with him to the VFW post. When Kenny marches on Monday he will wear his grandfather's veteran's hat, and his vest bearing all the medals he received.

Kenny, a Kenbrook second grader, said he's excited to walk in the parade and he misses his grandpa. He will carry a sign that says: "In loving memory of Pete Kulbaba."

And his family, including his mom, Kari, and his dad, Mark, will be there.

"His grandfather just died and he was so attached to him," said Sy

Please see KENNY, A6



Kenny Kulbaba, 9, Kenbrook Elementary

Botsford buys Botsford

Botsford Hospital has bought the historic Botsford Inn, which will give the hospital an additional 800 feet on Grand River.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A Farmington Hills landmark inn is being moved off the critical list and into hospital hands.

Botsford Health Care Continuum will buy the historic Botsford Inn on Grand River Avenue for \$1.4 million. Anhut Hotels Inc., owned by John Anhut, has operated the hotel and restaurant since November.

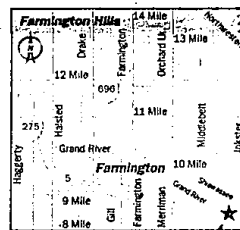
Hospital officials expect to finalize the deal July 30. Botsford Hospital campus will add 800 feet of property on the front of Grand River.

John Anhut resumed operations in November after previous owner Crean Smith defaulted on a land contract. Smith is reportedly living in West Palm Beach, Fla., and couldn't be reached for comment.

"I think it's an end to an era," said John Anhut, whose family sold property to Dr. Allen Zieger to build Botsford Hospital in 1963. "It's a good deal for the community. It preserves the inn. I think the inn needs some help."

Anhut is also a Botsford Hospital

Please see BOTSFORD, A4



Botsford Inn
Changing hands in late July

Residents reach out to Kosovar refugees

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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A world separates them, but a group of Farmington Hills residents are reaching out to Kosovar refugees.

The yet-to-be-named contingent wants to help resettle anywhere from one to three families here who have

been left homeless due to the ongoing Kosovo conflict.

On Tuesday night, 25 people met at St. Sabina Catholic Church for the first time to talk about how to raise money and help resettle families from the war-torn region.

Hills resident and home builder Dean Unick is spearheading the effort.

Last month, Unick made a plea before Farmington Hills City Council to seek help in bringing refugees here.

He's also been in touch with the Archdiocese of Detroit, U.S. and state elected officials. He's even phoned the White House for advice.

"I can't explain why I feel so strongly about it," said Unick, who described

the past couple of weeks as a 'sluggish odyssey.'

"Our community is uniquely suited to adopt a family," Unick said.

Farmington Hills includes a large Albanian community and the school district has teachers who speak lan-

Please see REFUGEES, A6

Reid testifies for special education

BY TIM SMITH
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Unless the state steps up funding for mandated special education programs, districts such as Farmington might soon see a showdown between parents of special-needs students and general education students.

That point was among several made by Farmington Board of Education Treasurer Frank Reid during his recent testimony in Lansing before state Sen. Leon Stille, R-Hazel Park. Stille is heading up a Senate subcommittee looking into special education funding.

"I am very concerned about the very real prospect of this collision of interests that will soon occur regarding this issue, between the parents of special-needs students, and the parents of general education students in our district," Reid testified.

"Simply stated, this collision of interests will occur because the

level of funding for state mandated special education programs is currently inadequate, yet the costs represented by these programs is accelerating at a rate that will cause us to eliminate programs that have substantial and vocal advocates."

According to Reid, lack of funding from the state, coupled with fast-accelerating costs to operate special-needs programs, are bringing the problem to a head in public districts across Michigan.

Among examples Reid cited: ■ The state is obligated, under the Headlee amendment to the state Constitution, to provide 29 percent of state-mandated special education services, but is only funding 8 percent.

■ Farmington schools actually is receiving 12 percent for special ed programs, but that is because the district operates the Cloverdale Developmental Center, which serves special-needs

Please see REID, A5



Trying on: Marissa Sloan tries on a prom dress at Guys & Dolls.

What to wear ...

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

The biggest fear of every girl at the prom is whether or not someone else will wear the same dress. But a North Farmington senior thinks she has the perfect solution.

"She bought two dresses and is carrying the extra dress in her limousine in case someone ends up wearing her dress," said Lois Levenson, who with her daughter, Julie Feldman, owns Guy's n Gals in West Bloomfield.

One of the North Farmington senior's dresses is black and the other is an iridescent purple.

Marissa Sloan, a North Farmington junior, said that going to the prom is the best way to end a school year and what she wears plays an important role.

"How you look helps set the mood that you're in and if you feel

Please see PROM, A5

