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The Detroit News

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 Metro Final

SALUTING FORT HOOD'S FALLEN HEROES



Rodolfo Gonzalez / Associated Press

A family member clings to a picture of a victim of the shooting rampage at Fort Hood during a memorial at the Texas base Tuesday. About 15,000, including President Barack Obama, attended the service, where a somber tribute for the 13 victims lined the stage: 13 pairs of combat boots, each with an inverted rifle topped with a helmet. A picture of each person rested below the boots.

NATION & WORLD, 8A

Pressure mounts as school cuts hit home

Parents, teachers press Lansing to restore education funding

BY KAREN BOUFFARD AND MARK HORNBECK
Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Lansing — Pressure surrounding the largest school cuts ever boiled over in Lansing on Tuesday as lawmakers continued their stalemate on how to fund schools and parents and educators swarmed the capital in anticipation of massive reductions in their December school aid checks.

While lawmakers remain polarized over more than \$600 million in cuts to K-12 schools, districts already are dismantling programs in anticipation. Dearborn, for instance, voted Tuesday to cut 200 noninstructional employees on Dec. 1 and 100 teachers in January. The Royal Oak district has said it will use federal stimulus cash to ride out this year, but on Thurs-

day the school board will decide on a possible \$780,000 cut to special education programs for the 2010-11 school year.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has called on lawmakers to come up with more revenue for schools by December, the month cuts will start coming out of districts' monthly payments from the state.

"We came here to tell them just to fix it and put our money back," said Kassem Alakhra, who has six children in the 18,097-student Dearborn district, which lost about \$12 million under reductions approved by lawmakers and additional cuts by Granholm.

The stand-off continued Tuesday:

■ Granholm said she'd back

Please see Cuts, Page 7A

Last of the 'Fighting Grossmans'

Survivor of 8 brothers who served in WWII honored for service

BY KIM KOZLOWSKI
The Detroit News

Southfield — Two years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Carl Grossman was aboard a Douglas aircraft, flying over the Pacific Ocean to rescue wounded soldiers in the Battle of Tarawa during World War II.

As he was approaching the shore, Grossman saw scores of bodies and sharks swimming around them.

"It was terrible," Grossman

Radio heroes: Navajo Code Talkers come out of the shadows. 8A

said, recalling his first major battle as an Army Air Forces medic. "I was scared."

Sixty-six years later, on Veterans Day, Grossman, 89, is celebrated as the only surviving sibling of eight brothers who served in World War II. He is one of the nation's 2.3 million World War II veterans who are still living, including 75,485 in Michigan. He also is being hailed for exemplifying values from a bygone era.

"I'm not a hero. I just did my job," said Grossman, a Southfield

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David Guralnick / The Detroit News

Carl Grossman holds a photo from his enlisted days. The Army Air Forces medic served in the Pacific Theater from Guadalcanal to New Guinea.

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Cox to give testimony in slain dancer lawsuit

Attorney General Mike Cox on Dec. 11 will answer questions from the lawyer representing relatives of slain dancer Tamara Greene in a civil lawsuit against the city. Cox's statements will be sealed, a judge said.

METRO, 3A

Mich. Web host continues growth

A Lansing company whose bank of servers is the cyber home of more than 20,000 Web sites is growing again, symbolic of a high-tech economy that promises well-paying jobs in a state that desperately needs them.

BUSINESS, 6B

Bing may sell stamping company

Mayor Dave Bing's steel stamping and assembly company could be sold as early as Friday to L&W Engineering of Belleville, company officials said Tuesday. Bing Metals would be renamed Oakland Stamping. The Bing Group also operates a steel processing division.

METRO, 4A

Families of slain kids share grief

Three families who lost sons and daughters to the Oakland County child killer met for the first time. They shared their sorrow and their memories and compared notes on recent developments in the decades-long police investigation.

MARNEY RICH KEENAN, 2A

Killer defends release, says he's paid his dues

Man paroled 4 years early fights effort to return him to prison

BY MIKE MARTINDALE
The Detroit News

Detroit — A convicted killer whose early release drew the wrath of Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper says he doesn't deserve to be the poster boy for controversy over the state's efforts to downsize its prison system.

"The prosecutor, court papers make me appear some kind of mad-dog public enemy," Craig LeRoy Atkins, 51, said in an interview with The Detroit News. "Did I make mistakes with my life? Yes. Did I pay for them? Yes, with 21 years of my life."

"But all the bad things they said I did have been exaggerated, and don't take into account



Steve Perez / The Detroit News

Craig Atkins says despite beating a man to death, he's no "mad-dog public enemy."

all my good behavior," he said. "I'm proud of what I did in prison. I used prison like a university and became a paralegal."

Atkins was released Oct. 22 after serving 21 years of a 25- to 80-year prison sentence for the

Please see Parolee, Page 6A

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