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Gregory Leung finds his way to Seward County, Lawrence

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Christmas tree of bottles

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Manhattan staging New Year's Eve ball drop

MANHATTAN (AP) — Thousands of New Year's Eve revelers are expected to turn out in the Kansas town known as "The Little Apple" when the ball is dropped after the one in New York's Times Square.

Manhattan is staging its 18th annual New Year's Eve celebration in the Aggieville bar and entertainment district.

Today's festivities begin at 10 p.m. and include a laser light show. The event culminates at midnight with the lowering of a ball from atop Vanier's Jeweler.

The centerpiece of the ball drop is the Big Apple, a Times Square tradition for more than a century.

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Police grapple with enforcing driver texting ban

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Good morning! Because of the New Year holiday, today's edition and the New Year's Day paper will be morning deliveries.

Please be safe as you celebrate tonight, and have a wonderful New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

GOP opposition hasn't quieted Kan. Medicaid debate

By CHAD HANA
• @TheLeaderTimes

TOPEKA — Prospects to build next year on Kansas' expansion of Medicaid in spite of entrenched resistance despite the Republican-dominated Legislature's displeasure with the federal health care law.

Advocates for the needy and consumers are promising to push for an expansive once lawmakers convene their annual session Jan. 13. The nonpartisan Kansas Health Institute estimates that expansion would cover about 85,000 people, about a quarter of the state's uninsured residents.

Despite the Republicans' strong opposition to the 2010 health care law championed by President Barack Obama, a Democrat, and GOP Gov. Sam Brownback's unwillingness to back it, providers in Kansas most of the cost. The build rollout of the federally run online health insurance marketplace also lengthened some Republicans' opposition.

But for Florida Gloor, 52, a recently unemployed Olathe resident, the key question is whether she can afford to see a doctor. She is uninsured Kansas Blue Star, Blue, and her 49-year-old husband are living on his retirement and Social Security disability benefits. Gloor has been treated as a consistently health clinic for care and dealing with chronic back pain.

"I don't have time to speculate or things of that nature," she said. "It's all about not having enough money to afford things."

The federal law requires most Americans to obtain health coverage or face tax penalties starting in 2014. It also offers federal subsidies to coverage mandates for insurers. The law provides subsidies for millions of Americans living above the poverty level, but it also encourages states by expanding their Medicaid programs to cover people living at or below the poverty level, or $11,490 for individuals.

But in its 2012 ruling upholding most of the health care law, the U.S. Supreme Court said the federal government couldn't compel states to

See DEBATE/Page 5

Kansas gay inmate's husband not planning to visit

TOPEKA (AP) — The husband of a Kansas inmate says he isn't interested in visiting his spouse, who has undergone a sex change in the state, a decision-making by prohibiting the visits.

Christopher Tatro is serving seven years in prison for crimes related to embezzlement. He says the state is treating him differently by refusing to allow his husband Steven Tatro to visit him as a woman.

Tatro's husband, Steve Tatro, told The Topeka Capital-Journal that he has no desire to visit the prison, but he wants to support the marriage, perhaps by getting re-acquainted.

The state has said the banned the visits because Steve Tatro's appearance could be disruptive to Christopher Tatro's inmates. Prison officials said the issue is sexual orientation, but is focusing on the decision.

Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan's jail requests: Bible, cheese

DALLAS (AP) — The former Army psychiatrist who killed 13 people at Fort Hood made several requests of the Texas jail where he was held before he was given a copy of the Bible and another for the name of the company that makes the cheese in his sandwiches.

Nidal Hasan was held at the Bell County Jail in Belton for two years before his August court-martial for the 2009 attack at Fort Hood, one of the most connected and underreported in Texas.

Hasan filed 21 requests with the jail while awaiting trial, KXAS-TV in Dallas reported.

Among those requests was a question about the name of the company that produces the white cheese on his sandwiches, also the type of cheese in a "cheddar melt" he was served on keeping a board during his trial.

Hasan also wanted a clock to keep track of the days, the station said. Jailers told him they'd provide him with a clock that only shows time as a Plastic mesh was placed in the cell to prevent self-harm.

Hasan described himself as a "devout Muslim" and "soldier of Allah" in a requested court between America and Islam. Prosecutors portray him as a homegrown terrorist who decided to kill as many soldiers as he could before he was deployed to Afghanistan.

This undated file photo provided by the Bell County Sheriff's Department shows Nidal Hasan. Hasan, a former Army Major Hasan, KXAS TV in Dallas reports that Hasan requested a Bible and a "devout Muslim person" to answer "difficult questions" about Islam, a clock to keep his daily prayer times as a Plastic mesh was placed in his cell to prevent self-harm. Hasan is currently being held at Fort Leavenworth. (AP Photo/Bell County Sheriff's Department)

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