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Crowds relive Washington's 1776 river crossing

A boat ship along the Delaware River as re-enactors from Washington's Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania (TH) prepared for the reenactment of the river crossing by George Washington and his Continental Army on Dec. 25, 1776. On Wednesday, Dating to a crossing 238 years ago, troops formed from Colonial Williamsburg and Washington's Crossing Historic Park will re-enact that night when General George Washington led his troops across the icy waters of Virginia. AP photo/Jim Mahoney

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4-H Shooting Sports offers BB gun season

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Las Vegas cab driver finds $300K in back seat

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 26, 2013
LEADER & TIMES
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City approves new plan allowing city staff to also have concealed-carry rights

by GRELLA MERCONDO
Leader & Times

Monday night's city commission meeting brought out some debate concerning a recently proposed concealed carry policy for city employees.

The purpose of the original proposal was to establish policies and restrictions for the possession or carrying of firearms in city-owned buildings by city employees who have their chosen concealed carry effective Jan. 1, 2014.

The proposed policy buildings city-owned, non-exempt and exempt according to city ordinance 2-1-1.

The non-exempt areas included City Hall, Recreation Center, Mid-America the Museum, Convention and Business Visitors Center, Liberal Arts & Science Center, and Arboretum Bay Water Park.

Exempting buildings, according to the ordinance, are those that are generally open to the public, and these areas would be exempt from the policy.

Non-exempt city buildings are buildings that allow the lawful possession of firearms, unless prohibited by the enacted

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United Way campaign hits 30 percent of goal

As of Monday, the Seward County United Way had $139,615 towards its goal of $140,000 or 99.7% of the goal. The United Way campaign is reporting a report from the payroll deduction campaigns to mail actual gifts and individual pledges. Ryan Valencia, 2014 Drive Chair, is pictured pulling the thermometer up to 100% of the goal. "We are very pleased with the campaign," Valencia said. "We've had several of our payroll deduction campaigns come in significantly lower than in the previous year. Normally we would be at 100% by now. We are hoping that the campaign will pick up soon, but it doesn't look like that is going to happen this year," he added. "So people think about end of the year giving, we hope they will consider the United Way. We are hoping that we can get the campaign back on track and in making our goal each year." Checks may be mailed to Seward County United Way, P.O. Box 270, Liberal, KS 67901 or donations may be made via the United Way Web site. For more information, please contact United Way information, email the local United Way, call 626-0401 or email stuartbailey@kbgindustrial.com. Courtesy photo

Dallas VA hospital refuses to accept 'Merry Christmas' cards

by KATIE CHANG
Herbeauty.com

Does not sight or Cinco de Mayo's in Prospect Park expect most of that Cinco making homemade Christmas cards for Indivisible Office of the VA hospital in Dallas.

Fourth-grader Gracie Brown was hoping to send a Christmas card to would make their day because that lonely night lies far away and she wanted to express gratitude to veterans' American will.

"I'd like them to know they're not forgotten," Brown said. "I'm very thankful to my dad's war." Gracie said 100 of 100 cent.

Gracie's card read, "Merry Christmas." Brown says the year 2013 is the year included on American flag.

But the Indivisible volunteers at the VA hospital will never get to see

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Fourth-grader Gracie Brown, right, and her brother show off some of the Christmas cards they sent to veteran at Prospect Park made for sitting veterans at Dallas VA hospital. The cards were sent to the Indivisible Office of the VA hospital in Dallas. But the Indivisible volunteers at the VA hospital will never get to see them. The cards were returned to Prospect Park with a note to the student to order to be respectful of our veterans' religious beliefs. A Christmas holiday card is reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team of staff led by chaplaincy service to ensure it is fully sensitive to the group and apologies for any misunderstanding." Photo courtesy Kahadi Wilson.

Kansas growers focus on cotton's potential

By ANN BOGEL
Hutchinson News

HUTCHINSON — Gift from Lakey had high hopes for his cotton crop as it emerged from the southeast Kansas rains.

Early signs showed it should be a bumper crop.

By mid-July, however, he realized something was terribly wrong.

Lakey and others across southeast Kansas were seeing they had 40 to 50 percent of their cotton due to 2-4,D drift from the nearby wheat fields on their sides crops. The Hutchinson News reports.

Lakey, who farms near Iola, Kansas, in the eastern half of Kansas drift, lost his damaged crop wasn't a result of poor management by his neighbors.

"I'm not blaming anyone for that caused it to happen," he said.

Lakey who serves on the board of the Southeast Cotton Growers gin at Moscow, said he has contacted the farmers who are owners of the state to accuse defense. He estimated the corporates to gin 40 to 45 percent of the crop they were responsible for.

According to Kansas State University cotton is one of the fastest growing crops in the Hutchinson and wind speed can cause it to spread to fields nearby causing damage to leaves of the chemical can move as it vapor.

The spray drift damage, however is just one of several hits to the Kansas cotton industry. Acreage has been dwindling to equals average since 2 spiked at more than 183,000 acres in 2011. The cost of seed for profit margin and lower water use continues to low cotton prices and other commodities.

Farmers planted more than 4 million acres to corn last spring, compared to the 2,000 acres of cotton, the lowest in recent fall. According to the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, cotton acreage is less than 70 percent from last year.

Last week, the agency also reported that Kansas cotton production at 257,000 bales, down 45 percent from last year.

1,500 pounds an acre. Lakey said southeast Kansas' acreage was largely irrigated and yielded 1,500 pounds per acre production for the Moscow plant. He estimated drifts crop damage at 40 percent. The conditions should be better for next year.

Lakey also addressed acreage, said Gary Flatt, who manages the Southern Kansas Cotton Growers gin at Garden and Winfield.

Flatt, however, was optimistic about the future of cotton. He has prospected for nearly two decades. The cows market, at 1,500 pounds per acre, is 500 to 1,000 pounds to one or other farmers were reaching planting decisions last winter and spring.

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Vol. 133 • Iss. 103 • 12 Pages

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