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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Eco-troubadour Stan Slaughter led Colby Grade School students in a song about the environment at an assembly Tuesday.

## Kansas Green Schools singer entertains, educates students

By Kevin Bottrell

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Green schools, green cities and a green Earth was the message delivered by song to a group of third, fourth and fifth graders at Colby Grade School on Tuesday.

Stan Slaughter, an “eco-troubadour” with the Kansas Green Schools Program, visited the school Tuesday to talk about energy efficiency and conservation. He brought several guitars and led the students in songs about habitats, creative thinking and taking small steps toward conservation.

During his 45-minute program, Slaughter used large flip charts and volunteers from the audience to go along with his songs. During one number he had six students hold signs depicting various conservation methods such as recycling, turning water off while brushing teeth and riding a bike around town. He told the students about a school project where students save hundreds of dollars by turning off lights, and encouraged the students to think up similar projects.

Slaughter makes appearances at schools for free. His program is paid for by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and a new corporate sponsor, the Kansas Gas Service.

## U.S. listeria cases expected to increase

By Mary Clare Jalonick

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials said Wednesday more illnesses and possibly more deaths may be linked to an outbreak of listeria in cantaloupe in coming weeks.

So far, the outbreak has caused at least 72 illnesses — including up to 16 deaths — in 18 states, making it the deadliest food outbreak in the United States in more than a decade.

The heads of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration said consumers who have cantaloupes produced by Jensen Farms in Colorado should throw them out. If they are not sure where the fruit is from, they

shouldn’t eat it.

Neither the government nor Jensen Farms has supplied a list of retailers who may have sold the fruit. Officials say consumers should ask retailers about the origins of their cantaloupe. If they still aren’t sure, they should get rid of it.

“If it’s not Jensen Farms, it’s OK to eat,” said Thomas Frieden, director of the CDC. “But if you can’t confirm it’s not Jensen Farms, then it’s best to throw it out.”

Jensen Farms of Holly, Colo., says it shipped cantaloupes to 25 states, though the FDA has said it may be more, and illnesses have been discovered in several states that were not on the shipping list. A spokeswoman for Jensen Farms said the company’s product is of-

ten sold and resold, so they do not always know where it went.

The recalled cantaloupes may be labeled “Colorado Grown,” “Distributed by Frontera Produce,” “Jensenfarms.com” or “Sweet Rocky Fords.” Not all of the recalled cantaloupes are labeled with a sticker, the FDA said. The company said it shipped out more than 300,000 cases of cantaloupes that contained five to 15 melons, meaning the recall involved 1.5 million to 4.5 million pieces of fruit.

The FDA said none of the cantaloupes had been exported, reversing an earlier statement that some of the tainted melons had been shipped abroad.

Frieden and FDA Commissioner

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## Health department ready for flu clinic Wednesday

By Christina Beringer

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Helping people prepare for influenza season is the Thomas County Health Department, who will be sponsoring their seasonal flu clinic from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Thomas County 4-H building.

“It only takes about seven minutes for people to get in, get their vaccine and get out of the clinic,” said Thomas County Health Department director Kasiah Rothchild. “And it takes even less time if they come prepared.”

Rothchild said people should wear loose-fitting clothes to allow easier access for the shot and have payment ready or a copy of the patient’s insurance card available. There is also a form that needs filled out, which is available at the clinic but she recom-

mends it be downloaded and filled out ahead of time so that registration can go more quickly.

The form for influenza vaccine administration can be found at [www.thomascountyks.com](http://www.thomascountyks.com) under the “Departments” tab, then click on “Health Department.”

Rothchild said this year there are two options for people to receive the vaccine, with a traditional injection or in FluMist form that is sprayed up each nostril. Both options cost \$25 and most insurance, including Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medicare, covers the cost entirely.

“The shot is a single injection that is made with the inactivated or killed flu virus,” said clinic nurse Kathy Ryan. “Unlike the shot, the mist sprayed in each nostril is made with the live, weakened flu virus. Both options contain the same three recom-

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## Fish salvaged from reservoir

Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologists have begun salvaging sport fish from Bonny Reservoir in Yuma County in preparation for the draining of the lake over the next two months.

The state engineer began releasing water from the reservoir on Sept. 21 to satisfy a legal obligation to release all the water to

Kansas and Nebraska. The result will most likely be the loss of the entire fishery.

As long as conditions allow, biologists will trap as many fish as possible and relocate sport fish to other public fishing waters. Anglers can continue to remove fish provided the shoreline remains stable and access is safe.

“Right now it looks like it might take as little as 90 days to drain the lake,” said Parks and Wildlife Area Wildlife Manager Cory Chick. “We encourage anglers to harvest as many fish as possible before the water is gone.”

Under the salvage order, all legal methods of fishing will be allowed including the use of trotlines, jugs and seines. Commercial angling is prohibited. There are no limits on the number or species of fish anglers can keep, but everyone must have a valid Colorado fishing license to be in possession of fish and must complete a survey card available at the reservoir.

Access may be closed to boats and/or anglers if the receding lake creates unstable banks or other hazards.

Bonny Reservoir was created in 1951 when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built a flood control dam on the South Fork of the Republican River.

As a result of draining Bonny, Colorado Parks and Wildlife will transition Bonny from a State Park into a State Wildlife Area beginning Saturday, while simultaneously exploring other potential options with a variety of partners. Public hunting access areas will remain open to the public.

The North Cove and East Beach Campgrounds will remain open in October, although without potable water sources. The Foster Grove campground facilities, however, will be shut down and winterized until a final resolution is reached with Yuma County and local groups. Tables and grills will be removed from isolated picnic sites on the north and south side to be distributed to other Parks and Wildlife areas in critical need of such items.

For information on the South Republican State Wildlife Area, see <http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/StateWildlifeAreas/>.

## Kansas among 26 states disputing health care law

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas is among the 26 states asking the U.S. Supreme Court to quickly strike down the federal government’s overhaul of health care.

The states requested Wednesday that the high court consider the overhaul’s constitutionality by summer 2012.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said states and the American public need certainty about whether the overhaul law is constitutional.

Schmidt, a Republican, had Kansas join the other states in a

federal lawsuit in Florida against the overhaul championed by President Barack Obama, a Democrat.

A judge in Florida struck down the entire law. A federal appeals court in Atlanta upheld most of it, though it invalidated a provision requiring most Americans to buy health insurance starting in 2014.

In a separate challenge, the federal appeals court in Cincinnati upheld the law.

## Golden Plains boosters improve field

By Jordan Schutte

Golden Plains High School

Earlier in September, volunteers from the Golden Plains Booster Club replaced the seats on the bleachers at the Rexford football field.

The club is an organization of adults supporting Golden Plains activities, academics, and athletics. Some of their activities include providing apparel for students and patrons to show their support of Golden Plains, providing support for state competitions and sponsoring the annual Post-Prom Celebration.

The Golden Plains School has a new mascot that was bought by the class of 2011 and the Booster Club.

“Our goal for this year is to use our funds to support or students in sports, academics and to keep up students’ team spirit,” said club President Rhonda Griffith.

Their largest fund raiser is working along with the Rexford Lions Club at the concession stand at the Thomas County Fair. Griffith said the club appreciates all the volunteers that helped at the concessions stand this year.

The club is always looking for members. Their communication is done via e-mail, and anyone who wants to be added to the list should send their e-mail address to Booster Club Secretary Judy Rogers at [judy@usd316.org](mailto:judy@usd316.org).



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Matt Schmidtberger and Steve Rogers worked all afternoon Sept. 17 to replace the seats on the stands at the football field so they will be ready for homecoming this week. Money for materials were provided by the Golden Plains Booster Club. The boards for the seats were painted by the high school shop classes.

