

KanScan

E. Coli infection strikes person in Kansas; state begins investigation

TOPEKA (AP) — The single Kansas case of an E. coli infection associated with the nationwide recall of contaminated beef issued by ConAgra Beef Company is in Finney County, officials said.

Paula Fields, reportable disease nurse with the county's health department, said a case of E. coli was reported in the southwest Kansas county in the last couple of weeks. State health department spokesman

Mike Heideman said Tuesday the agency still is investigating how the person was infected, but said laboratory tests have confirmed the beef was among the 19 million pounds recalled. "We know the genetic strains match,

but in terms of the specific way they came in contact, that is still being investigated," Heideman said. Heideman said state law prohibits the agency from identifying the person. ConAgra has said it will pay medical

costs for E. coli victims sickened by the same bacteria strain as the recalled meat. Dr. Gail Hansen, deputy state epidemiologist with the state health depart-

ment, said the department is looking at three other cases of E. coli in Kansas diagnosed in the last few weeks, but the Finney County case seems to be the only one connected with ConAgra.

Lawmakers seek tax break for drought-ridden farmers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drought-stricken livestock producers will need tax relief to recover, according to Kansas Republican Sen. Pat Roberts and other Plains lawmakers.

Roberts is backing legislation aimed at ranchers and farmers who are selling off cattle and hogs because of a drought that has blanketed much of the United States. Under current law, these producers must replace herds within two years to avoid paying capital gains taxes.

But there is no end in sight to the drought that has scorched western rangeland and pastures, and producers

need breathing room, Roberts said Wednesday. Searing temperatures and dry conditions leave little for livestock to eat or drink and prompt producers to sell off what they can.

"The last thing producers need is to be forced to either replace their cattle when they cannot, or be burdened with capital gains tax when they are hurting the most," Roberts said Wednesday.

Wyoming Republican Sen. Mike Enzi said, "The drought is forcing our ranchers to sell off their breeding stock and our tax laws are compounding the problem."

Legislation in the Senate would

change the tax code to allow more time to restock, establishing a deadline two years from the end of the drought. In addition, the same tax deferment would apply to livestock sales caused by changes in federal land management policy. And the tax break would apply to the heirs of producers who die before the deadline.

The government said last week severe to extreme drought covers more than one-third of the contiguous states. Warmer than usual temperature and dry conditions spread drought to 36 percent of the 48 contiguous states by the end of June, the National Climatic

Data Center said. Besides Roberts and Enzi, GOP Sens. Craig Thomas of Wyoming and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska are sponsoring the measure.




Holiday Inn EXPRESS[®]
HOTEL & SUITES

As summer approaches, think smart!

Let our friendly staff exceed YOUR expectations. For all your receptions and family engagements....

CALL 785-462-8787, EXT. 1100



NEW IDEAS DEMAND NEW TECHNOLOGY. THIS ONE WAS INSISTENT.

AVAILABLE AT:

DRS. MORRISON & WAHLMEIER
Family Practice Optometrists
180 W. 6th ~ 462-8231
Your Authorized Premium Oakley Dealer

Shallenburger begins tour on Saturday

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Shallenburger plans to begin a four-day bus tour Saturday.

Shallenburger has scheduled stops in 24 cities, beginning with Dodge City at 10 a.m. Saturday and ending with a rally in Topeka on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Shallenburger expects to have stops in Dodge City, Liberal,

Hugoton, Ulysses, Lakin and Deerfield.

He is scheduled to make appearances Sunday in Garden City, Great Bend, Sterling, Hutchinson and Wichita.

On Monday, he plans stops in Wichita, Augusta, El Dorado, Eureka, Yates Center, Iola, Fort Scott and Pittsburg.

Tuesday's stops are set for Louisburg, Lenexa, Lawrence, Oskaloosa, Holton and Topeka.

In the Aug. 6 GOP primary, Shallenburger, the state treasurer, faces Senate President Dave Kerr, of Hutchinson; Wichita Mayor Bob Knight; and Dan Bloom, a businessman and former Eudora school superintendent.

Congress sending to Bush compromise bill to boost investor confidence amid scandals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress moved compromise legislation to crack down on corporate fraud closer to President Bush's desk Thursday, in hopes of easing economic jitters and restoring investor confidence in a battered stock market.

The House voted, 423-3, to approve the legislation that creates new penalties and jail terms for business fraud and an independent board to oversee accounting firms. The Senate took up the bill soon afterward and passage was a certainty. Bush has indicated he will sign the legislation.

"Today's message from Congress to CEOs and corporate boardrooms is clear," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.: "If you steal, cheat or commit some other white-collar crime, you'll face the same consequences as law-breaking street thugs by spending time behind bars."

The sweeping changes, which create stiff criminal penalties for corporate fraud and document shredding, are "a major step forward in reforming the operations of our financial market," said Rep. John LaFalce of New York, senior Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee. "It is my hope that this legislation will help to restore the reputation of American business."

Lawmakers in both parties were seeking to restore Americans' shattered confidence in business and the market, mindful that they must face voters in November.

The House vote drew quick praise from Bush. "I look forward to prompt action by the Senate so that I can sign this important legislation into law," Bush said in a statement.

"This legislation will protect investors, crack down on fraud and wrongdoing, and provide tough oversight of the accounting industry. Leaders in Congress heeded the call to put the interest of investors and employees first," the president said.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the agreement will "nail on the wall the clear requirement for corporate accountability."

"I am confident that no CEO will take the risk of certifying falsely. So we are providing the basis for a clean start," O'Neill said in remarks to the National Association of Manufacturers.

News that an agreement was near added momentum to Wall Street's second largest point gain ever Wednesday after nine weeks of punishing losses. The Dow Jones industrials climbed more than 480 points and crossed back over the 8,000 mark.

Also buoying the market were the arrests of the founder of bankrupt Adelphia Communications Corp. and two sons for alleged financial fraud.

Rep. Richard Baker, R-La., said in floor debate that the public is crying out for corporate wrongdoers to be punished. "The American people are not only expecting it; they're demanding it," he said.

House Republicans ended up accepting most of the stricter parts of a bill that the Democratic-controlled Senate passed unanimously last week.

With congressional elections looming in November, Republicans gave

ground, aware that a string of corporate accounting scandals has unnerved investors and the stock market, hitting Americans' retirement savings hard.

GOP Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, the

sole dissenter among the House and Senate negotiators, acknowledged that "in the environment that we're in, virtually anything could have passed the Congress."

P R E M I E R
INC.
AUTO SALES

<p>• CARS •</p> <p>2002 Cavalier Z-24</p> <p>2001 Pontiac Grand Am-4 dr.</p> <p>2001 Pontiac Grand Am-2 dr.</p> <p>2001 Chevy Impala LS</p> <p>2001 Chevy Malibu LS</p> <p>2001 Pontiac Sunfire</p> <p>2001 Dodge Stratus - 2 dr.</p> <p>2000 Dodge Neon LX</p> <p>1999 Pontiac Sunfire</p> <p>1999 Chrysler 300 M</p> <p>1999 Concorde LX</p> <p>1999 Ford Escort ZX2</p> <p>1998 Pontiac Grand Am GT</p> <p>1998 Monte Carlo</p> <p>1998 Pontiac Grand Am</p> <p>1998 Chrysler Cirrus LXI</p> <p>1998 Chevy Malibu</p> <p>1998 Volkswagen Beetle</p> <p>1997 Plymouth Breeze</p> <p>1996 Chevy Corsica</p> <p>1996 Pontiac Grand Prix</p> <p>1996 Dodge Intrepid</p>	<p>1996 Neon Expresso</p> <p>1995 Mazda Protege</p> <p>1994 Eagle Vision</p> <p>1994 Chrysler New Yorker</p> <p>1992 Chevy Lumina Euro - 2 dr.</p> <p>1991 Cutlass Convertible</p> <p>1988 Ford Thunderbird</p> <p>1988 Cavalier Convertible</p> <p>1983 Mercury Marquis</p> <p>2001 Ford Sportrac</p> <p>2001 Dodge Ext. 4X4 Sport</p> <p>2001 F-150 Supercrew</p> <p>2001 Grand Caravan - 4 dr.</p> <p>2000 K-2500, 6.0 motor</p> <p>1999 Dodge Dakota Sport Ext. Cab</p> <p>1999 GMC Suburban</p> <p>1999 K-1500 4x4 Reg. Cab</p> <p>1999 K-1500 Ext. Cab 4x4</p> <p>1998 Astro Conversion</p> <p>1993 Chevy Lumina Van</p> <p>1993 F-150 Ext. Cab 4X4</p> <p>1992 Chevy S-10 Blazer 4 Dr.</p> <p>1998 Play Craft 24' Pontoon</p>
--	--

930 S. RANGE • COLBY • 785-462-2660

• **HELP WANTED** •

Ad Sales Representative

- Good working environment
- Good support staff
- Computer knowledge helpful

A golden opportunity for a self-motivated, well-organized individual.

ESTABLISHED ACCOUNTS, AND MANY OTHER ACCOUNTS OUT THERE WAITING TO BECOME ESTABLISHED!

LET'S TALK!

Contact:
Tom A. Dreiling, Publisher
785-462-3963



FREE!!

FREE	Internet Hook-Up & 2-months Free Service
FREE	1-Year Subscription
FREE	8-month Subscription
FREE	4-month Subscription

Simply drop by our fair booth and register!!

YOUR name may be one of the lucky ones drawn out of the box!!



**155 W. 5th
462-3963
FAX: 462-7749
freepress@nwkansas.com**