



JAN KATZACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Andrew Kuhn, 3-year-old son of Keith and Shelly Kuhn of Hoxie, wasn't quite sure what to make of cold water in the kiddie pool Wednesday after he dunked his face.

## Farmers growing canola as alternative

KIOWA(AP) — For generations of farmers, winter wheat has sustained the economy of this parched Kansas hamlet where few other crops thrive in the summer's searing heat.

But the development of winter canola — planted in the fall and harvested in spring like winter wheat — offers a promising alternative crop for fields depleted by decades of monoculture farming.

Farmers in the southern Great Plains — which includes Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas — planted an estimated 60,000 acres of winter canola this year, said Michael Stamm, a canola breeder at Kansas State University. That more than doubles the 25,000 acres planted in those states the season before. As many as 100,000 acres of winter canola are projected to be planted this fall.

"One of the biggest benefits is the benefit we get through crop rotation with monoculture wheat in the southern part of the state," Stamm said. "Producers face a lot of disease and weed pressure when they grow wheat year after year."

Plans for a plant to process canola seed for oil are in the works in Kiowa. Kansas has a small biodiesel plant in Burden. Oklahoma earlier this year opened its own canola crushing plant in Okeene.

At stake is much more than the crop's rotational benefits to farmers. Winter canola — bred to survive harsh Midwest winters and harvested before the onset of its intense summer temperatures — promises an entirely new industry for Kansas and other Plains states.

The 400,000-bushel-capacity plant planned by OK Co-op Grain Co. in Kiowa would crush the tiny purple canola seeds to remove the oil, which can then be marketed as either cooking oil or used for making biodiesel. The meal left behind by the process also makes a high-protein livestock feed.

While canola is not a new crop — farmers in northern states have been growing spring canola for years — the newer varieties of winter canola have rekindled interest from hundreds of Southern Plains growers.

A seminar last year on winter

canola in Enid, Okla., drew about 400 farmers, Stamm said. More meetings — coordinated by Kansas State University and Oklahoma State University — are planned later this summer in Dodge City in Kansas as well as Enid and Altus in Oklahoma.

Kiowa farmer Bob Schrock was enthralled by canola's potential after attending a field day two years ago in Oklahoma.

"It just clicked — I never tried anything other than wheat," Schrock said.

This year he grew 1,800 acres of canola, more than doubling his acreage after trying it for the first time a season ago. He plans to seed between 2,000 and 2,500 acres in canola this fall.

Schrock, 40, has watched the production of his third-generation farm dwindle after decades of his family growing winter wheat. But the usual spring-planted crops grown in Kansas — corn, soybeans and sorghum — often fail in places like Kiowa that get little summer rain.

# Library can help you beat the heat

As the recently dubbed "top dog" of the library, I hereby announce that the dog days of summer are upon us.

The weather can't be helped, but you can control your environment. The library stays a cool 72 degrees all during the summer. Come in and read a magazine to cool off or grab one of our latest movies and watch it at home during the heat of the afternoon. Read on for a few of our most recent movie acquisitions.

A fitting movie for our Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales theme this summer is "Duma." The name Duma comes from the Swahili word for cheetah.

After being abandoned as a baby, Duma is adopted by a surrogate family of humans in South Africa. A bond quickly forms between Xan, a 12-year-old boy, and Duma, the cheetah. The writing on the wall is clear however, that one day Duma will have needs beyond what his human family can provide.

A move to the city is an indication of what must eventually be done and Xan is forced to work through his emotions as he prepares to release Duma back into the wild. Rated PG.

And speaking of emotions, the past six years have marked a surge in the number of against-the-odds sports movies. Movies such as "Remember the Titans" (2000), "Radio" (2003), "Friday Night Lights" (2004), "Miracle" (2004), "Coach Carter" (2005), and "Cinderella Man" (2005) bring out that underdog spirit in all of



**Jeff Friesen**  
• Library Link

us.

The latest movie in this group is "Glory Road." Don Haskins, a hall of fame coach, bucked tradition in 1966 by going with the best set of athletes that he could put together. The team that year at Texas Western consisted of seven black players and five white players.

The flair with which the team played and racial tensions proved to be a significant challenge. Coach Haskins however, got the last laugh by proving his critics wrong and leading his team all the way to the national championship game that season.

Not coincidentally, that year also happened to be a turning point in the racial divide for many of the NCAA basketball programs across the nation. Rated PG.

If that is not enough drama for you, imagine how your life would change if a million dollars literally dropped out of the sky and into your life. Now imagine you

are 7 years old. This is exactly what happens in the movie "Millions" when a train heist by a group of robbers goes south.

The train is robbed but the money lands in a playhouse next to the railroad tracks. The unsuspecting beneficiary, a 7-year-old kid named Damian. Damian has taken a more spiritual look at life following the recent death of his beloved mother. He feels as if the million dollars is a gift from God

and decides to distribute the money to the poor.

Except for his older brother, who has less noble ideas in mind and a thief, who would like to get his hands on the money, Damian might have been able to carry out his plan. But for Damian, life hasn't exactly gone according to plan.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth and open seven days a week. Summer hours are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our website at [www.colbylibrary.com](http://www.colbylibrary.com). As always, we are here to serve you.

**COLBY SHALZ FIELD  
AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

**to be presented at three separate meetings  
on Tuesday, June 20, 2006**

Call Mark Ostmeyer (460-4438) or City Hall (460-4410)  
for additional information.

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**Time: 5-7 pm**

**Location: S&T, 755 Davis Ave, Colby KS - 785.460.7300**

**Class Highlights: Tips of keeping children safe; filter-  
ing and tracking online chat and internet use; the dan-  
ger signs to look for; questions and answer time**

**Who Should Attend: Any parent or grandparent or  
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**S&T**

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**COLBY CINEMA  
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**JUNE 16 - JUNE 22**

**CARS**  
Fri. & Sat. : 7:00 & 9:15 (PG)  
Sun. - Thurs.: 7:00 2:00

**NACHO LIBRE**  
Fri. & Sat. : 7:15 & 9:00 (G)  
Sun - Thurs. : 7:15 1:35

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**JUNE 16 - JUNE 22**

**FAST & FURIOUS 3**  
Fri. & Sat. : 7:00 & 9:00 (PG-13)  
Sun. - Thurs: 7:00 1:50

**GARFIELD**  
Fri. & Sat. : 7:15 & 9:15 (PG)  
Sun. - Thurs: 7:15 1:30

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