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## GREAT BEND TRIBUNE

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## DEATHS

Harold L. Becker, 90,  
Great BendMarvin Lamatsch, 62,  
ClaflinNina Potter Nicholson, 101,  
HoisingtonSee Obituaries, Page A5  
www.gbtribune.com

## Thunderstorms

High 87, low 62 today.  
Details on Page A2American  
legionChiefs Classic preview  
Details on Page A11Kickapoo  
Tribe files  
lawsuit over  
chronic water  
problems

HORTON (AP) — Water straight out of the Delaware River is cloudy. After it's been treated by the Kickapoo Tribe for consumption, it can have a slight amber tinge, a moldy odor and a sandy taste.

And there's often been not enough of it in recent years with the tribe relying on the Delaware for its supply.

Chronic water problems prompted the tribe to file a lawsuit in federal court, accusing federal, state and local officials of hindering a reservoir project. The tribe wants its project to go forward but is also seeking unspecified monetary damages.

Some tribe members, like 70-year-old Angie Cadue, remember the Delaware River

WATER  
continued on A13

AP Photo

Kickapoo Nation tribal elder Angie Cadue fills an empty water bottle into the Delaware River on the Kickapoo Reservation near Horton, Kan. Thursday June 15, 2006, to show how dirty the tribe's drinking water is. The Kickapoo Nation filed a lawsuit in Federal Court to for water rights for the tribe.

## Community Bank

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## Extensive history collection donated

- New Cohen Center for Kansas History being added to Barton Library

## Special to the Tribune

Dr. Mary and Barton Cohen enjoy traveling to all parts of the world, but when they compare the exotic locations they've visited, there is still no place like home for the Leawood couple. The Cohens have spent the past 17 years collecting art and books by artists and authors who hail from the wheat state. They've collected more than 700 books, one dating back to 1849 and more than 40 predating 1900, but now they are planning to donate their vast collection to Barton County Community College. The collection will be housed in the college's library in a newly constructed Cohen Center for Kansas History that the Cohens funded.

"The great value of giving a gift is putting it some place where it can be put to the best use," said Mary, who has worked 47 years in education and has served as the Secretary of Education's regional representative for Region VII for more than four years. "There is no comparable collection like this anywhere in central or western

Kansas. This is a place where people will be able to come and learn and have a fine collection available to them. We're delighted to be able to share our books with the college and the community."

On the east side of the library, the new center measures 620 square feet and is constructed of oak and glass with blue and beige textured and patterned carpet. Bookcases line the south and north walls and will hold approximately 139 linear feet of regular books, six feet of oversize books and 36 feet of undersize books that constitute the Cohen collection. Barton Library Services Director Mary Hester said the collection will fill about half the space in the Cohen Center, leaving space for additional books and collections that may be donated later. Hester said that more shelving could be added later if needed.

"Bart and Mary truly appreciate the value of education and want their resources to benefit the

COHEN  
continued on A13

Courtesy photo

Barton and Mary Cohen, Leawood, have donated an extensive Kansas history collection to Barton County Community College, along with money for a room to house the collection. The Cohens said they came to love the college after a chance visit to Barton's Shafer Gallery many years ago.

Cutting in her  
father's footsteps

TERRY SPRADLEY/Great Bend Tribune

Twelve-year-old Callie Svartoi poses for the camera on the header of one of her dad's combines. The Gleaner she drives is in a different field where she will be doing sampling on some of Rick Hunley's fields south of St. John.

Twelve-year-old helps  
family business cut a swath  
through the MidwestBy TERRY SPRADLEY  
tspradley@gbtribune.com

ST JOHN - At an age when most of her friends are using the Internet to play games or visit with their friends, 12-year-old Callie Svartoi is using the computer to look for cattle to buy or checking the prices of used combines. That is, when she is not behind the controls of one of her family's 27,000 pound harvesters.

Callie is the youngest member of the third generation of Svartoi Harvesting of Freeman S.D. Riding in the cab of a combine with her father, she has been traveling with her family in the summer pilgrimage from Texas to North Dakota since she was six-years old.

"One time, when I was seven and a half, my dad said, I'm tired, you drive, and that's where it all started," Callie said.

Now at the age of 12 Callie is a dependable hand in the cab of one of the operation's Gleaner combines.

"She has only been driving full-time since she was ten," her father Roland Svartoi said.

The family starts their season near the end of May in Vernon Texas, and continues to follow the ripening crops to North Dakota and then backtracks to Sioux Falls S.D. near their home to finish the season in November. Callie misses some of the harvest when school returns to session.

"We left on May 21, so she missed a couple days of school this year," her dad said.

Paul Svartoi, Callie's grandfather, started the custom harvesting operation in 1964. Roland took over the operation in the 70s, and he expects it will stay in the family for another generation or two as his sons and daughter join the crew. Callie is the youngest of three children. Her brothers Caleb and Cole are 17 and 19.

Cole bought into the operation in 2004 or 2005. The father and daughter have differing statistics

FOOTSTEPS  
continued on A13

'One time, when I was seven and a half, my dad said, I'm tired, you drive, and that's where it all started' - Callie Svartoi on harvesting

Running out  
of roomSchool district, rec commission  
study facility expansionBy DALE HOGG  
dhogg@gbtribune.com

If you build it, they will come - and keep coming.

That is the opinion of Great Bend school and recreation officials who see youth and adult athletic programs outgrowing existing gymnasiums.

"There's absolutely a need for more space," said Great Bend Recreation Commission Director Paul Keller. Keller has met with USD 428 School Board and GBRC Board members, and school district officials to discuss the shortage.

"With our indoor soccer and basketball, we've more than maxed out this facility," Keller said referring to the Great Bend City Auditorium. With games scheduled so tightly, coaches can't find open gym time for practices.

"We're just not able to expand," even though the demand is there. The commission is coping for now, "but we just want to do it better."

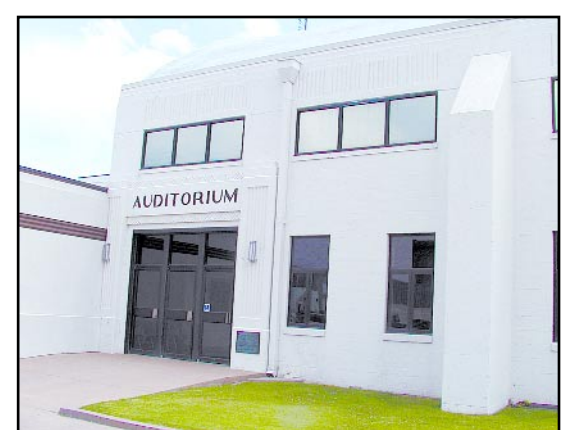
Keller said the problem is not a new one. But, "as the programs (particularly youth indoor soccer) have grown, it's become more of an issue."

"It's been discussed since 1984," Great

Number of indoor  
practices and games  
that are provided in  
the City Auditorium  
between the months  
of November and May

- Instruction Indoor soccer number of meeting times - 24
- Soccer third through eighth graders - 207 games
- Middle school Indoor soccer - 24 games
- High school indoor soccer - 21 games
- Adult indoor soccer - nine games
- Elementary volleyball - 18 matches
- Youth basketball leagues - 45 games
- Adult basketball leagues - 29 games
- Adult volleyball leagues - 498 matches
- Practice times provided for GBRC indoor soccer and youth basketball program - 1,410
- Adults playing in indoor facilities for volleyball leagues, basketball leagues and indoor soccer leagues - 1,057
- Youth playing at the City Auditorium - indoor soccer, basketball and elementary volleyball leagues - 987

Information provided by the Great Bend Recreation Commission.

REC SPACE  
continued on A13

DALE HOGG/ Great Bend Tribune

The Great Bend City Auditorium is quickly becoming too small to handle the growth in indoor sport activities. The Great Bend Recreation Commission and USD 428 are discussing ways to expand gymnasium space.

## Cohen

Continued from Page A1

communities within our state," said Barton Institutional Advancement Director Darnell Holopirek. "This collection allows us and future generations to appreciate and understand our wonderful state history."

Beginning their collection by purchasing books reflecting Jewish history in Kansas and books written by Jewish authors from Kansas, the Cohens soon broadened their collection to include books about Kansas history in general. They had hoped to write their own book about Jewish history in Kansas, but because of their busy careers, they do not have time for the mammoth project.

"We've reconciled ourselves to the fact that this history will have to be written by somebody else," said Bart, who is an attorney for the law firm Blackwell, Sanders, Peet and Martin LLP and serves on the board for Metcalf Bank, Johnson County.

"We don't have the time to sit down and write it, but we have everything in the collection so it's still a possibility," added Mary, who also is serving a four-year term for the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, an advisory board to the state Supreme Court that investigates disciplinary complaints brought against judges. "The fact is still true that we have had an enjoyable time collecting the art and collecting the books."

Barton's Shafer Memorial

Art Gallery initially attracted the Cohens to the college. The couple visited the gallery more than a dozen years ago and met then Barton President Dr. Jimmie Downing, who established a relationship with the Cohens. Downing retired as president of the college in 1996 and died unexpectedly in 2002, but the Cohens have maintained their relationship with the college through the years.

"It all started with one Gus Shafer bronze and the fact that Dr. Downing was very welcoming and nice to us," said Mary. "You never know from whence your donors may come. They often come from the least likely encounters. While the seed was planted many years ago, charitable contributions take time to cultivate."

The Cohens also liked the college's commitment to showcasing regional artists in the Shafer Gallery, said Bart. "As we've traveled through Kansas and seen attempts by different institutions to have a community art gallery, we've been impressed with Barton's Shafer Gallery. We think the Shafer Gallery is more compatible with what we like and what we have collected."

In addition to offering works to the public in the Cohen Center, Holopirek said some of the books contained in the collection will eventually be placed online for anyone to access. Hester said she and her library staff plan on providing PDF or HTML scans of the books dated

before 1923, when copyrights were not available. The library will seek permission to scan copyrighted books in the collection, she said.

"Barton is the recipient of this remarkable lifetime gift and we are fortunate to have gained such a wonderful friendship with this couple who truly understand the importance of giving their personal resources to benefit others," said Holopirek.

No timeline has been designated for delivery of the books to complete Barton's Cohen Center. The collection is being appraised now by a Topeka book dealer who specializes in Kansas and regional history books. The Cohens said they hope their donation helps spur others to contribute to a funding campaign organized by the BCCC Foundation to renovate Barton's outdated library, which has its original floor plan, carpet, lighting, furniture and shelving.

"We look forward to seeing those books in these shelves," said Mary while visiting the unfinished Cohen Center last May. A month later, the center is nearly complete. Doors with brush-mesh centers for the oak bookcases are the only construction pieces to finish, and the room needs to be furnished.

Anyone wanting to contribute to the college's library renovation campaign is encouraged to contact the Foundation, 792-9306, or e-mail a i l holopirekd@bartonccc.edu.



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## Rec space

Continued from Page A1

Bend High School Activities Director David Meter said of plans to expand. "It's something I'd like to see happen."

According to Meter, the school district's gyms are booked solid from early in the morning to late at night. Factor in rec commission and traveling teams looking for room, and the crunch is on. "There is a need for indoor facilities for sure."

A study based on these discussions presented a list of options, the results of which will be presented to both the school and rec commission boards. Suggestions included:

- Increased activity space at Great Bend High School — This would include three gyms and an area for wrestling practice added to the field house. This space would be used during the school day for physical education classes and large group activities. Before and

after school it would be used for practice and games. On the weekends it could be used by the recreation commission and the public for games, practices and tournaments.

- Increased activity space at Morrision Elementary school — The existing building, with the exception of the gym, would be razed. An addition would be built to house activities for GBRC, which would include everything from exercise classes to after school and summer activities. This building would be used mainly by GBRC.

- Artificial Turf the football field — With an addition to the field house taking up what is now outdoor practice space, this would allow the main field to be used for practice and game activities for football. This includes varsity, junior varsity, ninth grade, eighth grade, Salvation Army League, and recreation flag football games. This field

could also be used for soccer games.

Meter sees a window of opportunity to move on an expansion. The district's enrollment numbers and budget are in good shape, and such a project could likely be funded without a special mill levy.

Also, looking competitively, Great Bend is one of only a few school districts that doesn't have extra gym space.

"What we're really looking for right now is community input," said Dan Brungardt, USD 428 director of business and finance. He along with Meter have met with GBRC officials. He said school and rec board members are asked regularly about solving the space problem.

Brungardt said there is no time line yet. Once public interest is gauged, then further study, including architectural drawings and cost analysis, can take place.

## Footsteps

Continued from Page A1

on the exact date. Cole was running his own crew near Lyons as the two debated the year he bought his first combine.

In a matter-of-fact tone, almost too mature for her age, Callie says that nobody makes her do the job. "I do it because I enjoy it. It's one of my favorite things."

During the school year, as a 4H member Callie takes the money she earns during the summer to do something else she enjoys.

"I buy and sell livestock. I spend the money on animals

and stuff. I started a savings account, now since I started buying cattle, I have a checking account too."

Callie enjoys her dogs at home and has a passion for horses. She doesn't currently own any, but gets an opportunity to ride from some of the farmers and ranchers they cut for. Currently cutting for Gerald Goodman and Rick Hunley near St. John, Hunley lets her work with his horses while the crew is harvesting in the area.

Most of the custom harvesters visit the same farmers and ranchers each sea-

son. Goodman and Hunley started with Svartoién Harvesting when Callie's grandfather ran it.

"You get to know them and their families," Goodman said. "You get to see their kids growing up."

Svartoién said his son, Cole is doing a great job with the crew he has working near Lyons. Roland expects he will be the one to take over the operation when he no longer wants to follow the crops.

Callie said she wants to be a veterinarian, rancher, or a custom harvester when she grows up.

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## Water

Continued from Page A1

of their childhood, deep enough for swimming, alive with fish, and plentiful wildlife along its banks.

"I don't ever see pheasants. Rabbits are scarce," she said Thursday. "We just barely have a trickle where I used to go swimming."

The tribe filed its lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan., naming 14 federal, state and local officials as defendants. Their agencies include the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State Conservation Commission, the Brown and Nemaha county conservation districts and a joint Brown-Nemaha County water management board.

The tribe had a community meeting Thursday to discuss the lawsuit, and about 60 members, including Cadue, attended. Her brother serves on the tribal council.

The lawsuit accuses the local officials of not living up to a 1994 agreement to help the tribe acquire property from 12 area landowners and the state and federal officials of funding other projects that have decreased the Delaware's flow across the reservation in Brown County, about 45 miles northeast of Topeka.

But Wayne Heiniger, of Fairview, the Brown-Nemaha county board's vice president, said the holdup has been the tribe's refusal to offer landowners a reasonable price for their property — higher than market value.

"I don't feel I want to sell out the landowners," he said. "They're my neighbors."

The tribe wants to dam

Plum Creek, which flows southeast into the Delaware, which in turn empties into Perry Lake. The project has been authorized by Congress since 1998, and its estimated cost is about \$5.3 million. The tribe would cover 61 percent of the cost, using revenues from a tribal casino.

And Heiniger agreed the project has been designed carefully and thoroughly reviewed.

"I don't think it's a bad project," he said.

The Kickapoos' attorney said the tribe, like others, can't use its power of eminent domain to acquire land owned by nonmembers of the tribe. Thus, it needs the help of local officials — who, they allege in their lawsuit, agreed to do so.

"They're welshing on a deal — that's the way we see it," said Steven Moore, an attorney for the Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colo., which is helping the tribe with its lawsuit.

But Heiniger said because his board would use eminent domain power to move along the Kickapoo project, the tribe must offer significantly more than the land's appraised value to its owners. The best land is appraised at \$1,200 an acre, while land elsewhere in the area often sells at auction for \$3,000 an acre, he said.

Meanwhile, officials said the tribe has faced water problems since the 1970s and that they have grown worse over time. In 2003, a drought forced the tribe to truck in water and the casino to serve food using disposable cups and plates. A little more than half of the tribe's 1,500 members live on the reservation.

Cadue showed reporters a relatively wide stretch of the Delaware near the tribe's pow wow grounds, running under Kansas 20. It was about a foot deep, and summer's heat will make it shallower, she said.

The river seems more robust as it hits the 5 1/2-foot dam that holds it up long enough for the Kickapoos' intake pipe to capture it. The dam is a concrete structure topped by wooden boards; the river west of it is shallow — and is likely to be nearly dry by summer's end.

A relatively low flow hinders the tribe's attempts to treat it, because flushing out the system uses too much, and because as the quantity drops, treatment chemicals become more apparent to people who drink it. According to the federal government, the tribe has been out of compliance with water quality standards since 2004.

"We cannot purify this water enough to drink it on a day-to-day basis without endangering our health and our children," said tribal Chairman Russell Bradley.

Yet some tribe members still drink it — and bathe in it. Current consumption is between 90,000 and 115,000 gallons a day, and the Plum Creek project could provide several times that amount — enough to attract more business to the reservation and allow more housing to be built, tribal officials said.

As for the lawsuit, Moore said, "It simply had to be done."

But Heiniger said the tribe has been encouraged to do "things beyond reason," adding, "I think their legal counsel is very aggressive."