



**STYLES**  
LHS student heads to D.C. in national poetry competition. **5A**



**HEALTH**  
HPV is leading to a spike in oral and throat cancers. **8A**



**SPORTS**  
Thunder hands Charlotte its first-ever win in Oklahoma City. **1B**

# THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

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75 CENTS

## Even GW had issue with court nominees

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Wondering when Supreme Court nominations became so politically contentious? Only about 222 years ago — when the Senate voted down George Washington's choice for chief justice.

This year's hothaha sees Senate Democrats and Republicans brawling for a showdown over President Donald Trump's nominee, Neil Gorsuch. It's the latest twist in the political wrangling that has surrounded the high court vacancy almost from the moment Justice Antonin Scalia died in February 2016.

"We are in an era of extreme partisan enmity right now," said University of Georgia law professor Lori Ringhand. "In such a moment, the partisanship will manifest itself across government, and there's no reason to think the nomination process will be exempt from that. It hasn't been in the past."

Each side has accused the other of unprecedented obstruction. Republicans wouldn't even hold a hearing for Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's nominee. Democrats are threatening a filibuster, which takes 60 votes to overcome, to try to stop Gorsuch from becoming a justice. If they succeed, Republicans who control the Senate could change the rules and prevail with a simple majority vote in the 100-member body. The struggle spilled over into the Sunday news shows, where the Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer, told NBC's "Meet the Press" it's "highly, highly unlikely" that Gorsuch will get 60 votes and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vowed the nominee will be confirmed this week one way or the other.

## CHISHOLM TRAIL TURNS 150



Cowboy Wallace Moore tells stories of the Chisholm Trail at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center on Saturday.

## Heritage Center celebrates 150 years of Chisholm Trail

By Sarah Robinson

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan kicked off a year-long celebration of the Chisholm Trail on Saturday with a Cowboy Camp featuring Buffalo Soldier re-enactor Wallace Moore. This is the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail and activities are planned at three states — Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas — all along the trail.

Stacy Cramer Moore, executive director of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, said the Duncan center has been working with entities in all three states since about 2014, developing the foundation plan.

"The website, chisholm-trail150.org is a big resource," Moore said. "That's the website

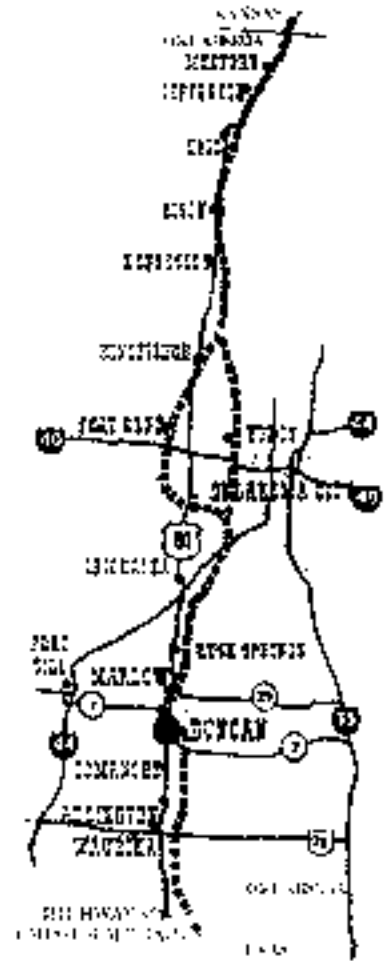
that has all the attractions for the whole year."

**Sixth-grade creative writers celebrated**

The Duncan center's six-grade creative writing reception is April 9.

"Handpicked sixth-grade creative writing students from Empire, McClain and Duncan work with Dr. Barbara Stovner, Oklahoma's poet laureate," Moore said. "They pick a piece of art and they write about what just happened or what is going to happen. Then we publish those into a mini magazine. They come April 9 to get their copy and read their work."

The reception is open to the public. Forty-eight students participate each year from Stephens County school districts.



## Trump: US may act alone against NKorea

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said the U.S. can "totally" address North Korea's nuclear threat unilaterally if China doesn't cooperate to put pressure on that nation.

"If China is not going to solve North Korea, we will. That's all I am telling you," Trump said in an interview with the Financial Times published Sunday. When pressed about whether he could do it one-on-one without China's help, the president said, "I don't have to say any more. Totally."

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday at the president's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla. Trump said he'll discuss North Korea.

"China has great influence over North Korea," Trump said in the interview. "And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't." Cooperation with the U.S. "will be very good for China," he said. "If they don't cooperate, it won't be good for anyone."

North Korea has been developing and testing its ballistic missile technology, and South Korean intelligence has warned that North Korea could conduct its sixth nuclear bomb test this week to "overshadow" the summit.

Trump declined to say how he'd pursue the subject, or whether he would begin the talks with the Chinese president by bringing up North Korea and then moving on to trade with China.

## State ranchers may benefit from Brazil trouble

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A scandal about government meat inspections in Brazil has shaken the market worldwide and created opportunity for Oklahoma ranchers, agriculture industry watchers said.

But the openings will be small initially, said Jim Robb, economist for the Livestock Marketing Information Center in Denver, Colorado.

"These types of things don't happen very often," Robb said. "We don't import much beef from Brazil, really, but it's the reverberations from around the world that are going to be interesting to watch."

"For example, how China responds and how Brazil tends to manage the situation, those are still unknowns. In terms of the U.S. marketplace, we would not expect the changes to be huge, but it's too early to know yet," he said.

Brazil's meat export shipments col-

lapsed this month as several countries halted deliveries from the South American country in the wake of a meat inspection scandal. That country's agricultural investigators said health inspectors were bribed to overlook expired meats and chemicals and that other products were added to product to improve appearance and smell, The Journal Record reported.

The result has been dramatic. On average, Brazil exported more than \$60 million worth of meat each day in March, according to government officials. That figure fell to \$24,000 by Tuesday, just a few days after the probe was revealed. The government suspended exports from 21 companies and officials said only a handful of 3,000 plants were involved.

South Africa was the latest this week to join the list of countries banning Brazilian meat. Others include the European Union, China, Japan and Mexico.

Dezell Peet, an agricultural economist at Oklahoma State University, said the scandal has scared off China as well, which could have implications on trade policy negotiations with the U.S. as that country seeks its meat elsewhere.

China remains the fastest-growing consumer market for beef, reflecting the reopening of its market to Argentina and Brazil, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's most recent livestock and poultry study on world markets. Brazil was the world's top exporter of veal and beef in 2016 at 1.85 million metric tons, compared with 1.12 million from the United States.

"In the span of five years, China became the world's second-largest beef importer," according to the USDA report. "Chinese beef imports are forecast to expand an additional 15 percent in 2017."

## MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY



Richard Roulton, center, assists Sam Shot, left, and Sean Cantrell during a session on game design Saturday at the annual Boy Scout Merit Badge University at Cameron University. More than 80 Boy Scouts signed up for 160 merit badge sessions covering 17 different merit badges.

**SECTIONS**

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**WEATHER**

**Sunny**  
Today's high: 76  
Tonight's low: 51  
More weather 7A

**MILITARY UPDATE**

**Sales drop**  
Commissary sales are declining at a frightening pace.  
See column, 2A

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# CHISHOLM: National Day of the Cowboy to celebrate the Trail

CONTINUED FROM 1A

"We had one boy who wrote a piece about a dinosaur running down the plains," Moore said. "There's all different kinds of stuff. They are very creative."

### Amateur radio clubs celebrate the trail

"Another really neat event, the last week of April the amateur radio clubs along the Chisholm Trail will be having a radio event," Moore said. "Our club here in Duncan is participating, as well as clubs up and down the trail. They will have their portable unit out here and be doing some interviews and communicating with some other stations."

For information about the event call the heritage center at 580-252-6692.

### Showcasing artists

"We're also looking for artists that maybe don't have enough material to do a show, but have one or two pieces they would like to have available for the public," Moore said. "Regional artists do very well. The criteria is one or two statement pieces. They are filling a pretty big wall. The pieces have to be for sale. The artist has to be able to get them here and take them back. We'll be doing those for about six-eight weeks sessions through the year."

Artists may contact Moore at Tom Hopper, public relations and marketing coordinator, 580-252-6692 or email a digital image of their work to tom@chisholmtrail.com.

Art featuring the American West, Chisholm Trail, Oklahoma landscapes, na-

ture and Native American themes will receive consideration.

Other activities at the heritage center this year will include an overnight visit during the 2017 Oklahoma Freewheel cross-state bicycle tour.

"We will have some live entertainment when the bicycle tour comes," Moore said. "There will be some food trucks. They will be rolling in June 12 and then leaving early June 13. They will have a little tent village in the circle between us and the Simmons Center. That will be fun. We'll be hosting them. They will be coming in from Comanche, but their route takes them through Velma."

Plans are still being developed for activities while the cyclists visit the heritage center, according to Moore.

### Day of the Cowboy and musical review

"Our next big event is July 27, The National Day of the Cowboy celebrating the Chisholm Trail," Moore said. "We will have Chisholm Trail-related exhibits and special guests that day."

On July 23, a theatrical review of the Chisholm Trail will be presented by the Michael Lasser Trio, which is coming to Duncan from New York.

"If you think the musical 'Oklahoma!' versus Hank Williams, it's going to be more theatrical music," Moore said. "They sing and they play, then they talk a little more about the piece or the time period or the composer."

### Explore the trail

Moore encourages every-



Stacy Cramer Moore, executive director of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, leans against a wagon wheel at the center.

one to get out and explore the Chisholm Trail.

"We've got 150 years of history right here in our back yard," she said. "Especially here in Southwest Oklahoma, we were at the intersection of the military groups going from Fort Arbuckle to Fort Sill. We would have had the cowboys coming up Highway 81, which is where they would have met. We have a lot of history that would have happened right here where we are

With more people, our roads keep getting bigger and more people build houses, the rats and things are disappearing pretty quickly. In the next 150 years they will probably all be gone."

The story on the trail is very compelling and can be approached from many different angles, according to Moore.

"There's a lot of good human interest stories on why it happened and why it's here," she said. "It re-

## Perils many on Trail

By Susa Robinson  
Lawton, Okla.

Life wasn't easy for the men who herded cattle along the Chisholm Trail. There were rattlesnakes and other varmints — sometimes the two legged kind — who wanted to steal the cows that didn't belong to them.

It was no place for the faint of heart. Anyone who has ever worked with cows will testify the ornery critters don't always do what you want. It's not like taking little Fido out for a walk.

Cowboys risked their lives and horses against wind, rain and other harsh weather, as well as the occasional unfriendly Indians or settlers. Sometimes the Indians would charge for crossing their land, and then charge extra for helping round up any strays.

Twenty-nine-year old Illinois cattle baron Joseph G. McCoy persuaded the new Kansas Pacific Railway to extend its line west beyond both Kansas settlements and Indian Territory communities, whose vigilante mobs harried Texas drovers, according to John J. Dwyer, historian and author of "The Oklahomans."

Following is information used by permission from "The Oklahomans."

At that new railhead McCoy built a massive cattle depot, shipping center and hotel, a bustling center of commerce that developed into the town of Abilene, Kan.

Meanwhile, McCoy contracted with the Kansas Pacific to receive a percentage of all freight charges for Texas cattle shipped from Abilene to the bustling markets at Kansas City, Mo., and Chicago.

Ranchers and cowboys drove cattle north through Texas over hundreds of trails, but most of them began to coalesce into one route that rolled north from Red River up through western Oklahoma. History recognizes that path as the Chisholm Trail.

It emerged from a series of trading posts established by legendary scout, trader, cattleman and interpreter Jesse Chisholm along the road to supply Confederate forces during the War Between the States. Ironically, the Scots-Cherokee Chisholm died in 1868, without having driven any cattle up the trail that made his name immortal.

Information about the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center can be found online at [onthechisholmtrail.com](http://onthechisholmtrail.com).

## THIS WEEK IN LPS

### Monday

State mandated testing for students begins this week.

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics Spirit Week — wear colors of the rainbow.

**Eisenhower Middle** Chess Club, 3:22 p.m.

**Freedom Elementary** Full on Recognition of Freedom — wear blue, Run Cole assembly, 9:30 a.m.

**Learning Tree Academy** open for beads.

**MacArthur High** Jr. ROTC will be armed division parade 6:40 a.m., Academic Team National Honor Society, We Breeds, Jr. ROTC, University female color guard and physical training team practice, Young Team and Mac Forensics, 7:40 a.m.

**Tomlinson Middle** PSA fundraiser at Texas Smokehouse from 6-10 p.m.

### Tuesday

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics Spirit Week — everyone wear a jersey, State Photo Contest at Oklahoma City, January.

**Eisenhower Middle** Academic Team, 3:15 p.m.; Soccerbook Club, 4:40-5:20 p.m.

**Lawton High** Omega Psi Phi or can be doing voter registration, 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon; 10th Army Band performance, 1 p.m.

**MacArthur High** — ROTC unarmed drill team and march, table and practice, 6:30 a.m.; Key Club, Vex Robotics, MacBoots and Jr. ROTC, varsity female color guard, physical training team and unarmed drill team practice, 7:40 p.m.

**MacArthur Middle** string choir concert, 7 p.m.

**Ridgecrest Elementary** Parent Night at the Book Fair, 4-6 p.m.

**Tomlinson Middle** letters and bus program, 6-7 p.m.

**Woodland Hills Elementary** 7th Army Band performance, 2 p.m.

### Wednesday

FA horticulture plant sale at the school farm greenhouse, Southwest 19th Street and Lee Boulevard, 8:30-6:30 a.m.

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics

Southwest — everyone dress in red and white; Gerby Singer auctions after school in the gym.

**Eisenhower Middle** FCA, 8 a.m.

**MacArthur High** — ROTC letter and color guard practice, 6:30 p.m.; FCA, 7:15 a.m.; Blue Club, Light House, Robotics Club, Vex Robotics, Stamp Team, Mac Forensics and Jr. ROTC, junior varsity female color guard practice, 7:45 p.m.

**MacArthur Middle** FCA.

**Sullivan Village Elementary** visit from author Susan Stevens Crumell.

### Thursday

Leadership Public Schools 10th Annual Career Fair at Central Middle School, 8:30-6:30 a.m.

**Crosby Park Elementary** visit from author Susan Stevens Crumell.

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics Spirit Week — everyone wear the eye; Gerby Singer auctions in the school in the gym.

**Eisenhower Middle** Friday Club, 6-8 a.m.

### Friday

FA horticulture plant sale at the school farm greenhouse, Southwest 19th Street and Lee Boulevard, 8:30-6:30 a.m.

Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

Moonlight Walk Against Drugs at Finnerman Park, 8:00-11 p.m.

**Whittier Elementary** Spring Brunch, 6-8 a.m.

### Friday

FA horticulture plant sale at the school farm greenhouse, Southwest 19th Street and Lee Boulevard, 8:30-6:30 a.m.

Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

Moonlight Walk Against Drugs at Finnerman Park, 8:00-11 p.m.

**Central Middle** Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

**Cleveland Elementary** PSA Brunch, 6-8 a.m.

**Crosby Park Elementary** Easter Brunch, 6-8 a.m.

Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics Spirit Week — everyone wear an Eagle spirit shirt to Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

**Lawton High** Facultative Awards assembly in the hallway.

**MacArthur High** Basketball fundraiser, Chess Club and 65-2-40 a.m.; ROTC Marching Band, Ag and Drug at Finnerman Park, 8-11 p.m.

**MacArthur Middle** Special Olympics at Fort Sill.

**Woodland Hills** basketball team, 7 p.m.

### Saturday

FA horticulture plant sale at the school farm greenhouse, Southwest 19th Street and Lee Boulevard, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

**Eisenhower High** Special Olympics basketball at Fort Sill.

**MacArthur High** ACT.

**Lawton High** runs All school, season 5 below the mats, and prizes.

## MUSIC EDUCATION HITS THE RIGHT NOTE



Lawton High School students Chance Mayo and Victoria Zapata get ready to warm up their violins in preparation for a music competition during Cameron University's 75th interscholastic contest Friday. Hundreds of students from 19 Oklahoma high schools competed in 53 different events in academic areas including music, algebra, business, chemistry, foreign languages, public speaking and trigonometry.

Steve McCaskey  
Fourth- and fifth-grade students from Cleveland Elementary School were treated to Cameron University Percussion Ensemble members Gus Echols and Jake Downing perform marimba duet "241" written by Ivan Trevino at the Cameron University Theatre Thursday morning.



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