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Heritage Center kicks off Chisholm Trail 150th anniversary

By Derrick Miller

For 150 years, the Chisholm Trail has been stuff of legends, calling back to a time when cowboys ran the land.

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center kicked off the Trail's anniversary Saturday with a visit from storyteller Wallace Moore. Moore, a historian, appeared dressed in Chisholm Trail era clothing. He spent time telling stories of the trail and answering questions, including those about Buffalo Soldiers. The event was titled Cowboy Camp.

Stacy Cramer Moore, the Heritage Center's executive director, said she was excited to get the anniversary underway. She said this celebration is the collaboration of a three-state organization; those states being Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, all of which make up the Chisholm Trail.

"We've been working on this for about four years now," Cramer Moore said. "We started talking in 2014."

With all the planning, Cowboy Camp gave the Heritage Center an opportunity to invite Wallace Moore back. Moore has researched various stories about various people on the Chisholm Trail. These are the stories he tells audiences around the state.

In 1997, he helped form the first Buffalo Soldier Chapter in Oklahoma with three friends. The chapter is part of the national organization, the Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association.

Cramer Moore said the historian is interesting and entertaining to listen to, which makes him a welcome addition to the anniversary celebration.

Although the appearance of Moore was a one-day engagement, Cramer Moore said things are just getting started at the Heritage Center.

The Amateur Radio Club will be part of one of the first anniversary events at the Heritage Center. The club will transmit between April 23 and 30 at the Heritage Center.

The National Day of the Cowboy is set for July 22, which Cramer Moore said will feature a lot of special guests. This year's event will be even more amped up than in previous years because of the anniversary. She said a lot of planning has gone into getting ready for the event.

On July 23, a trio from New York will do a theatrical revue of the West. Cramer Moore said this event will be similar to something people might see in a production like "Oklahoma!"

"There's all kind of fun things all up and down the Trail," Cramer Moore said. "They (area residents) should get out and experience all of the other Chisholm Trail attractions."

Information about these upcoming events can be found at ChisholmTrail150.org.



Simon Brodeur, 3, listens to Wallace Moore talk during the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center's Cowboy Camp. (Chisholm Trail News photo by Derrick Miller)

Toy Shop to host garage sale

By Derrick Miller

The generosity of the Duncan community may help local children have a merry Christmas.

The Duncan Toy Shop will hold its spring garage sale from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Latham Building located at 7th and Willow. Funds raised from the sale will help purchase Christmas gifts for Duncan youth.

Last year, the Toy Shop was able to purchase gifts for about 1,200 children.

"We got close to emptying our shelves last year (during Christmas)," Connie Roebuck, Toy Shop volunteer said. "It's important for us to make as much as we can to help as many as we can."

Roebuck said there are about six women helping her with the garage sale. This week, the Toy Shop has been taking donations for the sale, which will in turn help to raise more money for the kids. Among the items donated are some furniture,

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