



Yellowfish Ten Bears Tabanika Big Looking Glass Eschiti Moway Otter Belt Parker Whitewolf Horseback Wildhorse

# THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

*Lords of the Plains Comanche Strong, Stronger Together*

VOLUME 23 EDITION 13

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

2022 COMANCHE NATION FAIR

Comanche Nation News  
PO Box 908  
Lawton, OK 73502

PSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
OKLA CITY, OK  
PERMIT NO 1541

## SPECIAL EDITION



# Fair in Pictures





**Comanche Nation Officials**



**Chairman**  
Mark Woomavovah  
Email: Mark.Woomavovah@comanchenation.com



**Vice Chairman**  
Dr. Cornel Pewewardy  
Email: Cornel.Pewewardy@comanchenation.com



**Treasurer**  
John David Wahnee  
Email: John.Wahnee@comanchenation.com



**Committeeman No. 1**  
Hazel Tahsequah  
Email: Hazel.Tahsequah@comanchenation.com



**Committeeman No. 2**  
Ross Kahrahrh  
Email: Ross.Kahrahrh@comanchenation.com



**Committeeman No. 3**  
Alice Kassanavoid  
Email: Alice.Kassanavoid@comanchenation.com



**Committeeman No. 4**  
Robert Komahcheet  
Email: Robert.Komahcheet@comanchenation.com



**Tribal Administrator**  
Julia Mantzke  
Email: Julia.Mantzke@comanchenation.com

# Flying Veteran's Flags

## Flag of Vernon Griffin flown September 30



**Vernon Griffin**

Vernon Griffin was born on Sept. 26, 1954, and passed away on Dec. 6, 2019, at age 65. His final resting place is the Roselawn Cemetery in Bardwell, Ky.

He served in the Air Force from 1974-98 earning the rank of Master Sergeant. MSgt Griffin was part of Operation New Life during the evacuation of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War. Other duty stations include Washington DC, North Dakota, Arkansas and Michigan and overseas in Europe and Asia. He served as a Security Policeman, Training Manager, first sergeant and superintendent while in the Air Force. MSgt Griffin was a graduate of the NCO and Senior NCO Academies.

His awards include the Meritorious Service (2); Commendation (3); Achievement; Good Conduct (5); National Defense Service (2); and Humanitarian Service medals; Outstanding Unit; NCO Professional Military Education; Longevity (4); Small Arms Expert Marksmanship (2); and Training ribbons.



Courtesy Photo

## Flag of Carl Tahah Flown October 1



**Carl Kenneth Tahah**

Carl Kenneth Tahah was born on June 26, 1932, and passed away on Oct. 12, 2012, at age 80. His final resting place is Highland Cemetery in Lawton.

He served on active duty in the Navy from 1950-72 earning the grade of Petty Officer First Class. PO1 Tahah was a Ship Serviceman. He served onboard the USS Jason, USS Maury, USS Interdictor and USS Hancock and shore duty at San Diego Naval Training Center, Cali., Whiting Field Naval Air Station, Fla., Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Vallejo Naval Shipyards, Cali. and Adak Naval Air Station, Alaska.

His awards include the Meritorious Service Commendation; Good Conduct (6); National Defense Service (2); Korean Service with/Campaign Star, Korean War Service; United Nations Service with/Korea Clasp; Vietnam Service with/1 Silver and 2 Bronze Campaign Stars (7 Campaigns); Vietnam Gallantry Cross with/Palm; Vietnam Campaign with/1960 Device; and Occupation with/Japan Clasp medals; He also received two letters of Commendation and three Citations for Outstanding Performance.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

## Flag of Edmond "Eddie" Mahseet Flown October 2



**Edmond Lee Mahseet**

Edmond Lee "Eddie" Mahseet was born on July 16, 1947, and passed away on Feb. 26, 2021, at age 73. His final resting place is the Mahseet Family Cemetery in Apache.

He served in the Marine Corps from 1964-68 earning the rank of Corporal. Cpl Mahseet served two tours of duty in Vietnam, as an infantry and commander's radioman with the 1st Marine Division. In all he participated in 26 combat operations. In the book "Young Blood, A History of the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines" he is credited with fighting and killing the enemy in Hand to Hand combat.

His awards include two Combat Action ribbons; the Presidential Unit Citation twice and Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation; National Defense Service, Armed Forces Expeditionary, Vietnam Service with/4 Campaign Stars; Vietnam Gallantry Cross with/Palm; and Vietnam Campaign with/1960 Device; and the Jungle Expert badge.

He is one of only 30 Comanches to earn the honorary title of *Numu Pukutsi*.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

**Family of Carl Tahah**



Courtesy Photo

**Family of Vernon Griffin**



Courtesy Photo

**Family of Edmond "Eddie" Mahseet**



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

**LEFT: Jimmy Caddo of CIVA presents the flag of Carl Tahah to Tahah's great grandson, Ronald Monoessy Jr.**

**RIGHT: On bended knee, Ron Mahsetky presents the flag of Eddie Mahseet to his wife, Elizabeth. Mahsetky and Mahseet joined the marines and completed their tours of Vietnam together.**



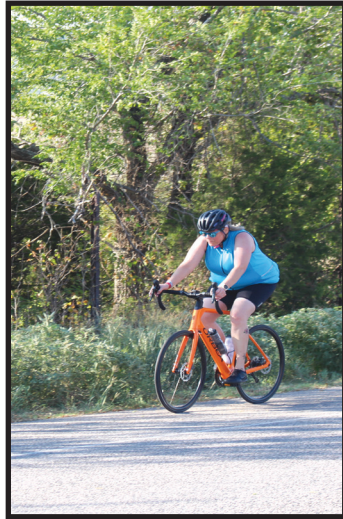
Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



# 2022 Spirit Ride Bicyclists Gather for a 30 or 50 Mile Scenic Ride in the Wichita Mountains



Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff



## MEMORIAL DINNER AND HYMN SINGING



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office hosted a memorial dinner and Comanche Hymn Singing on Sept. 29, to honor those who passed away from COVID. Numerous singers from all over sang beautiful Comanche hymns throughout the evening.

The Historical Preservation Director Martina Minthorn said, "There was 395 tribal citizens that passed away since March 2020. We wanted to host a memorial dinner to bring those grieving families together. Many of those families didn't get to have a proper funeral or mourners meal. We wanted to host the hymn singing to be able to share those songs and to bring everybody together with a good meal. We had a photo booth to be able to take family photos and they were printed on site. Many people take photos these days with their cell phone but never really print their pictures. The photos will be saved for the tribal archives and the incentive for taking photos was a historic preservation T-shirt and a couple of bags of John Copes Indian Corn. We recorded the hymn singing and will be distributing those soon. We had a PowerPoint of all the names of the deceased by their month of death. Many of the families brought photos of their loved ones to the memorial dinner."





# BUTCHERING OF THE BUFFALOES

A traditional practice is rejuvenated when two buffalo were butchered to feed the Comanche Fair campers on Sept. 26. Young tribal members learned skinning, cutting and cleaning techniques from older tribal members during this special event.



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Randi Attocknie, right teaches Arlene Schonchin and Lulu Tahdoahnippah to clean *kwitatsi*.

Two buffalo were donated by the Cheyenne Tribe for the September 26 butchering.

Sandra Gallegos cuts buffalo meat into portions for the Comanche Nation Fair campers September 26 at the buffalo butchering.



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff

Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Bluesky Tosee skins one of the buffalo during the butchering.



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff

Morgan Tosee helps cut buffalo meat during the butchering on Sept. 26



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

## Claiming Camping Spots Over 900 Campers Set Up Tents and Tipis for the Fair



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

### 2022 COMANCHE NATION SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT



CHAMPS- TRIBALISTIC  
2ND- BALL BANGERZ  
18-17



Courtesy Photos

- 1ST PLACE = TRIBALISTICS \$700 CASH ,T-SHIRTS,HOTDOGS/DRINK
- 2ND = BALL BANGERZ \$300 CASH/ T-SHIRTS, HOTDOGS/DRINKS

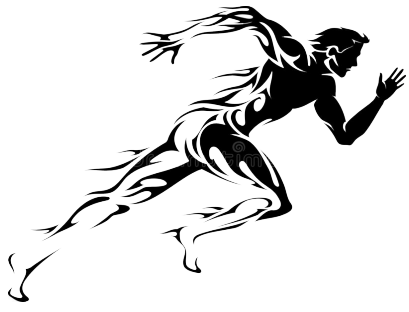
The coordinators provided hot dogs and drinks for any team wanting to eat, along with a big screen TV for those college football fans. T-Shirts were given to teams.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Campers lined up during the early morning hours of Oct. 1 to receive their rations from the Comanche Nation Food Distribution Program.





# 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Warrior Run



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runners from all three centers, Walters, Cache and Apache gather together for a picture at the Comanche Nation Powwow grounds, after each group arrived to finish the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Warrior Run on Sept. 29.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runners from the Cache area form a prayer circle to ask for guidance and safety for each runner, before they began their journey to the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runners from the Cache site, arriving at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runner from the Walters site, beginning the journey to the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Runners from Apache area run their home stretch to the finish line.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal members Nadia Tenequer and Missy Harjo in the zone running from the Walters site.



Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff



**MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN MEMORIAL WALK.** MMIW held a memorial walk Sept. 29 at Elmer Thomas Park in Lawton. Families gathered to share their stories and provide comfort and healing. **LEFT:** Family of murder victim Mari Medina, tell the story of their loved one. Wearing T-shirts with a picture of their family member, trying to explain the hurt and pain that will never go away. **RIGHT:** Speaking on behalf of his wife, Josh Kadayso emotionally talks about the last time he had seen his wife, the late Daisy Burgess alive.



# Powwow Time at the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Courtesy Photo

**COMANCHE NATION FAIR TRIBAL ROYALTY LUNCHEON.** The 2022-2023 Comanche Nation Princess, Michelle Nevaquaya, hosted a Princess luncheon the afternoon of Oct. 1. Nevaquaya said, "I had the honor of inviting and hosting these beautiful tribal and organizational princesses for lunch after the parade. Every year our CNF has tribal royalty visit and attend our annual celebration. Their families make arrangements to have them parade, they leave their homes early in the morning (missing breakfast), their families spend money to have them parade-ready so they represent their tribes and organizations to their very best, they smile and wave, and most importantly they decided to spend a day with our Comanche people. Therefore it wasn't just an honor to host them but it was my cultural duty to show my appreciation to them and their families. *Urakoki* to all the Princesses who attended my luncheon, I hope you enjoyed our Comanche hospitality! *Urakoki* to my Auntie Brenda Lee, my Auntie Janet Saupitty and Ms. Francene Monenerkit, for setting up and doing everything! *Urakoki* to the Tribal Administrator, Julia, for your help! I was happy to do it and I am thankful for my family that helped!"





Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Sept. 29, Prettiest Shawl Contestants



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Prettiest Ribbon Skirt Contestants

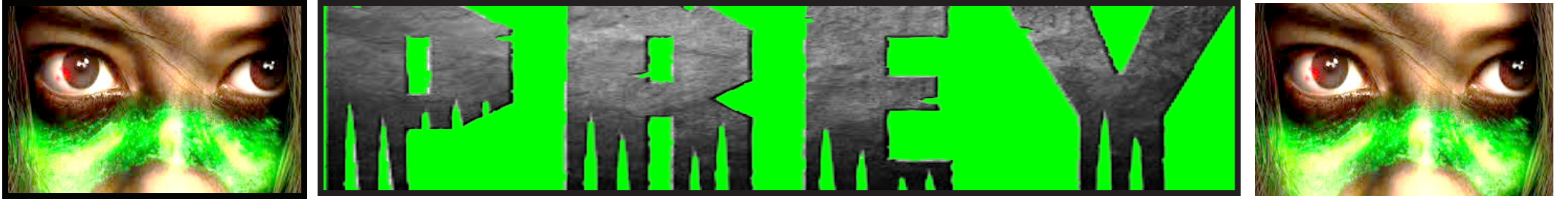


Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff





Celebrity Guest of the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Amber Midthunder and Dakota Beavers Stars of the Hit Movie "Prey"



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Amber Midthunder, Comanche Nation Public Relations Sarae Ticeahkie, and Dakota Beavers parade on Oct. 1.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



2022 Comanche Nation Fair Guest Appearance Oklahoma City Thunder's Lindy Waters



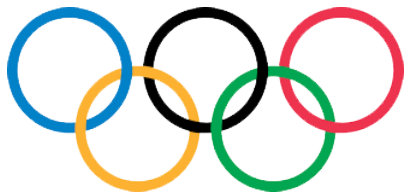
Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff



2022 Comanche Nation Fair Mystery Guest Sten Joddi star of the Hulu Series "Reservation Dogs"



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Janee' Kassanavoid First Native American Woman To Win an Olympic Medal

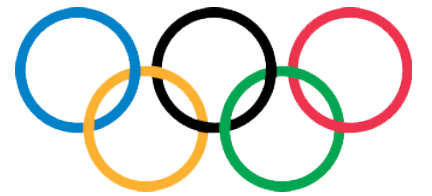


Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff





# COMANCHE NATION FAIR ART SHOW



Courtesy Photo

**Adult Category: Painting**  
 First Place- Uhduh Nauni  
 Second Place- Harold Johnson  
 Third Place- Maria Massu

**Kid's Category**  
 First Place- Ariona Martinez  
 Second Place- Nicole Werito  
 Third Place- Chrissie Lonelodge

**Adult Category: Drawing**  
 First Place- Niyah Nauni  
 Second Place- Lean Tate  
 Third Place- Harold Johnson

The Comanche Nation Outreach Centers of Anadarko and Dallas hosted the 29th Annual Art Show on October 1. This was the most successful have sponsored in the past five shows. After a three year absence of the Comanche Nation Fair, the event had almost 60 entries for the competition. This year the coordinators seen the highest participation from Native youth artists entering in two pieces each. They would also like to give a special "Thank You" to Quannah and Nocona Burgess for sponsoring the first ever "People's Champion Award." They look forward to their continued partnership in future art shows.

**Adult Category: Mixed Media**  
 First Place- Richard Komah  
 Second Place- Charles Harris  
 Third Place- Amanda Wilson

**"Quannah and Nocona Burgess" People's Champion Award**  
 Adult Winner- Nahmi Koassechony Burgess  
 Kid's Winner- Kalestha Pewo



Courtesy Photo



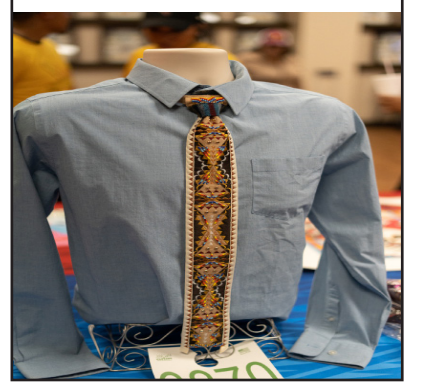
Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



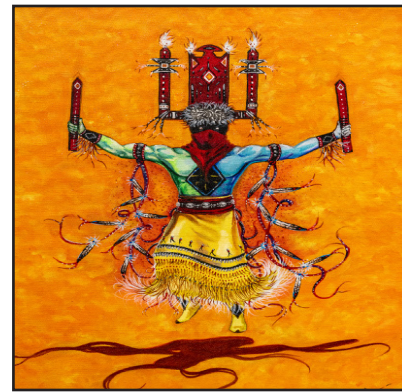
Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

## MUSIC FESTIVAL

Jams the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff  
Intertribal with Travis Komahcheet



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff  
Tito Lindsay Band



Oct. 1 Fun Run Participants

Courtesy Photo

### Fun Run, Archery and Turtle Race



Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

During the Comanche Nation Fair weekend, the Prevention and Recovery department had the pleasure of putting on a host of events, such as archery in collaboration with the Comanche Nation Youth Program, the Family Fun Run, and Turtle Race. In addition to the CNPR festivities, the department also participated in the Fair parade, and entered two floats - one for Prevention and Recovery Residential Treatment Center and one for IAMNDN. Each program decorated their own floats and had a blast handing out candy, cups, T shirts, and youth suicide prevention posters to the crowd.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Top Shelf R&B



Courtesy Photo  
NDN Tymes



Courtesy Photo

**3-ON-3 BASKETBALL WINNERS.** In the 9-12 year old division, youth from Apache, Okla. took first place, pictured in gray. In the second place, wearing black, from left: Chrissie Lonelodge, Parker Mahsetky, Aubrey Anquoe, and Madison Bucktrot.



# 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Parade



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

The 2022 Comanche Nation Princess, Michelle Nevaquaya, won the "Best on Horseback" category during the Comanche Nation fair parade.





Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Prevention and Recovery Program won "Best Float" at the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Parade.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

# HORSE SHOE & CORNHOLE TOURNAMENTS

# OCT. 2 SUNDAY CHURCH

## HORSE SHOE WINNERS

First place- Michael Melford

Second Place- Elvin Berryhill and James Collins

Third Place- Kent Chasenah and Thomas Berryhill



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



Photo by Heaven Williams/News Staff



# 2022 Spirit Walk

Submitted by Caron Yellowfish/ New Pathways Director

The 2022 Spirit Walk was held on, Oct. 2, during the Comanche Nation Fair. The weather was perfect for the 290 individuals that participated on Sunday morning. There were so many new participants. There were about 55% of the faithful walkers that return each year. The New Pathways lost some of the elders in the past two years that participated annually.

Melvin Mithlo cedared at least 325 people including: those that walked; the fair volunteers; the CIVA veterans; and the Eddie Mahseet family whose flag was being flown. New Pathways always wants to thank CIVA, for allowing people to get cedared before they began the flag raising ceremony.

Melvin Mithlo and Verna Burgess led the walk, stopping at each direction, offering prayers for the Indian People. Refreshments were available before the walk started, at the halfway point and after the walk.

The New Pathways Program would like to thank everyone who helped make this event successful. They also want to thank each person who came out so early and participated. Dee Motah and Ed Hoosier created the artwork and Stanton's Apparel printed the shirts. Fiona Wetselline from the CHR office rode behind the walkers in case someone got sick, fell or couldn't complete the walk. Law Enforcement led the walkers and Security workers rode at the end of the walk ready to help out if needed. Thanks to JJ from PIO who took photos and also participated in the walk.

New Pathways participated in the Comanche Nation Fair Parade on October 1st. They always have a lot of fun promoting the Spirit Walk.



Participants of the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Spirit Walk wait in line at dawn to register and get cedared.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Verna Cable Burgess holds an eagle feather as she walks. The feather is symbolic for the spirit walk.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Melvin Mithlo leads the way to begin the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair Spirit Walk, held Oct. 2, at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

# Comanche Princess Sorority Powwow

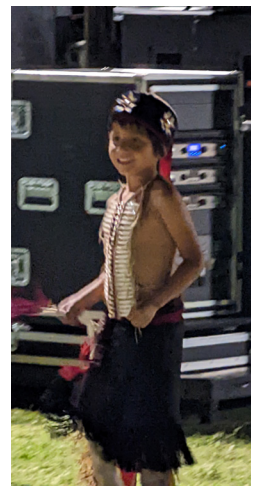
Held Sept. 29, the Princess Sorority Welcomes Rita Monoessy, who reigned as the Comanche Nation Princess 2020-2022 and the Jr. Princess 2018 - 2020; invites the Kiowa and Apache Princess Sororities



Courtesy Photo



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Prettiest Shawl contestants



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff  
Tiny tot contestants



Courtesy Photo

Head singer for the powwow and founder of the Comanche Princess Sorority, Gaylon Motah, pictured in center.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche Princess Sorority members tell what year they reigned



Courtesy Photo

Many princesses attended the Comanche Nation Princess Sorority Powwow, including the Kiowa and Apache tribal princesses.



Courtesy Photo

Ashleigh Mithlo, surrounded by her family, reigned as the Comanche Nation Princess in 2016, 2018 and 2019, sponsored the Prettiest Shawl Contest in memory of her mother, the late Delores Aitson.



# COMANCHE NATION FAIR BULL AND BRONC BUCK OUT 2022



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Buck out Coordinator, Lynn Schonchin, presents the Winner of the Bronc Buck out Oct. 1 and Oct. 2.

Schonchin presents the winner of the Bull Buck out for Oct. 2.

## **HANDGAME**

The Hand Game Tournament on Oct. 2 had top players of all ages gather to compete



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff



# Special Traditional Dance Contest Held in Honor of the late Richard Poafpybitty



All Courtesy Photos/ Michael Griffin

### Original Wolfman Special

Richard Ralph Poafpybitty was a proud Comanche Man, from the *Yapuruhka* band (an *Esa Rosa* Descendant). He was also Omaha (from the Elk and Buffalo Clans) and Arapaho (a Chief Little Raven and Sand Creek Survivor Descendant).

Born to Bill Poafpybitty and Laura Tyndall Poafpybitty, raised in Apache OK at Chandler Creek. He was taught by his father how to make traditional weapons (bows, war clubs and shields) and how to make his own regalia. Combining the aspects of his bloodline to create his Signature Style and Way of Dance.

The Wolf head represented what old-time Comanche Scouts, would wear to sneak up on the enemy on raids, and hunting parties. After he learned his Helushka ways he danced with a bustle. His look inspired and continues to inspire many across the United States and Canada. Not only is he remembered fondly for his dance style but for who he was as a person. He was a friend to many and a dedicated father.

Poafpybitty left behind loving children, Ferran, the late Cor-



The Original Wolfman Special Winners, from Left: 5th: George Tahdooahnippah, Okla., 4th: Pete Moore, Okla. 3rd: Lonnie Street, NC; 2nd: Sam Slickpoo, Id. 1st: Malcom Murphy, Colo. The top three winners were all out of state visitors to Comanche Nation Fair.

al, Tanner, Ryder Tootosis all of Poundmaker Saskatchewan and Kay-la Marie of Apache, Okla., as well as dear family, friends and an enduring legacy.

At the time of Poafpybitty's passing on Oct. 4 1996, the term Missing and Murdered Indigenous People was not yet coined. So, we say it now and honor his life and his truth.

Kayla Bointy would like to thank everyone who reached out and offered their support.

Thank you all for keeping his memory alive. *Udaah*

**Big HRA**

To all visitors, dancers, singers, participants, vendors and event coordinators who helped make the 2022 Comanche Nation Fair a Success. You're appreciated!

~Comanche Strong-Stronger Together!