



Photos & Memories

The Honor of One is the Honor of All

How it All Began

As the Comanche Nation Fair Celebrates 32 Years, it Honors the Ones Who Started it All

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The Comanche Nation Fair, in its 32nd year in existence, is the largest fair in Southwest Oklahoma and brings thousands to the events that are sponsored by the Comanche Nation employees. How the fair began is best told by its originator, former Chairman of the Comanche Nation, Wallace Coffey:

"I became chairman in 1991 and I moved home from Denver, Colo. to assume that post. At the beginning of my term I realized there was a low self-esteem amongst our people. It was evident; people were discouraged with regard to unemployment and their well-being. According to our constitution, it must improve the environment, the health, the overall well-being of our people. After praying about it for a period of time, the Comanche Fair came to me. I asked my mother, who was living at the time, if she would like to go back to Craterville Park, She said that would be wonderful. I remember being there when I was a kid," said Coffey.

"So I began talking to Major General Fred Marty at the time. We started visiting; he came to us and we went to him. Essentially he said 'no' because if he allowed us to have it, then other tribes (the Kiowa's) would want it. I said 'It's historically ours and that it's where our winter encampment used to be'. I kept talking to him and he was very negative.

I wrote a letter to Dick Cheney, who was the secretary of defense at the time. They were starting to close military bases and I told him to close Ft. Sill down and give it back to the Comanche's, and we will heal it. Instead of bombing this land, we will heal it. Two weeks later, I got a call from Major General Fred Marty. He said 'Wallace we need to talk,' and that is when we got the okay for the fair. That was up until June 1992. At the Comanche Homecoming, we passed out flyers, Comanche Fair. 1992. Craterville Park. (See back page) north of Cache," said Coffey. "It (the fair) had all the events, horse races, food, parade, camping and church service. That Wednesday of the fair, we had a Peyote Meeting, and prayed people would come, and good feelings would be abundant, and have weather good intensions, and when they leave they will feel good about their selves. People started moving in on Thursday and the camp site was packed. There was a *thivah* lady from Texas who wanted to be so much Comanche. She camped at the fair. I told her that she could be Comanche all she wanted but, I couldn't put her on the roll. When she passed away she donated all her belongings to the Comanche Nation Collage," said Coffey.

"My brother Woogie was living and we had him to do an exposition dance. We had a special fancy dance contest on his behalf and it was an amazing thing. We chose September because July and August were too hot, and the end of September the seasons are just changing and it wouldn't be too hot in the day or too cold in the night. So, it was just perfect. We had pageant Sunday evening, and after the pageant the fair was over," said Coffey.

"I chose that time because the moon was full, and when it is full, it won't rain. That was one of the old teachings I remembered. That one evening, the moon came over the east side of the mountains, and everyone was in awe," he said.

"We dedicated the RH Comanche helicopter, which was being constructed at the time, at the Comanche Fair. We did the *Thuvée* dance and we touched with our weapons that it would be a good weapon," said Coffey.

"The Shoshone leadership came to be with us. Edgar Monetathchi was pleased the employees were running the fair, cooking in the back that Sunday afternoon. When we got through, Tommy Wahnee prayed over the food," said Coffey

"I didn't think it would be this big. It has come to the point where it had really outdone itself. I think the Comanche people needed it at the time, and they are the ones who I remember; many specials taking place at the fair, many dances. We even had a switch dance.

We all met out there that Monday we had to pick up every piece of trash, every cigarette butt. And we gave it back the way we found it. They (Ft. Sill) couldn't believe how well we took care of it. I told them we have not lost our environmental sense about us. We treasure Mother Earth; we pray for her, she blessed us all," said Coffey.

The people who helped put the first fair together included Johnny Wauqua and Ozzie RedElk, who met with Ft. Sill representatives numerous times to iron-out the details of the Comanche Fair being at Craterville Park. The first Comanche Fair Committee was:

Arts and Crafts-Carlotta Nowell; Pageant-Elton Yellow-Fish; Camp Coordinator-Stephanie Harrison; Parade Kenneth Goodin; Carnival-Bill Shoemate; Parking-U.S. Army; Church Service-George Wallace Jr.; Powwow-Jerome Tahhahwah, Bobby Wallace, Bill Fodder; Daily Programs-Bobby Wallace; Powwow Contest-Dink Nauni; Exhibits-Carlotta Nowell; Publicity-Bill Southard; Facilities-Butch Pahdocony; First Aid-Comanche Nation CHR; Run-Ken Karty; Food-Harold Pewewardy; Security-U.S. Army and Comanche Nation; Fund Raising-Romelia Kasanavoid; Souvenir Book-Barbara Goodin; Games Sunday-June Sovo; Information-Francine Monenerkit; Youth Programs-Therese Lopez

The 1992 Comanche Business Committee: Wallace Coffey-Chairman; Francine Monenerkit-Vice Chairman; Jackie L. Codopony Jr.-Secretary/Treasurer; Elton Yellowfish-Committeeman No. 1; Carol Cizek- Committeeman No 2; George Wallace Jr.-Committeeman No. 4; and Bill Shoemate- Committeeman No. 4.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Wallace Coffey, former Comanche Nation Chairman and the founder of the Comanche Nation Fair.



Pam Red Elk, the daughter of the late Ozzie Red Elk, accepts a Comanche Pendleton on her dad's behalf.



LoriAnn Stropes, the daughter of the late Delphine Nelson, accepts a Comanche Pendleton on her mom's behalf.



Tomah Yeahquo former Comanche Nation employee who single-handedly oversaw and ran the Comanche Nation Fair until her retirement.



TC Nelson accepts a Comanche Pendleton on his mother's behalf, the late Delphine Nelson.



JD Wauqua accepts a Comanche Pendleton on his dad's behalf, the late Johnny Wauqua.

The Annual Comanche Nation Fair Parade Returns



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdooahnippah



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Pauline Kowena, oldest Comanche Woman.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

2025 Comanche Nation Princess, Isabela Ramirez



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche Nation Onaa Program



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche Nation Housing Authority

Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

**2025 Jr. Comanche Princess,
Tatum Burgess**



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Special guests, Devin Sampson and Kauchani Bratt, who acted in the Netflix film, “Rez Ball.”



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Special guest Raoul Trujillo with CIVA



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Danny Niedo



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Cache High School



Photos by Jelene Schenkein/News Staff

Yellowfish Descendants



Photos by Iolene Schonchin/News Staff

Ronald Monoessy Jr. and Anthony Monoessy Jr.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Indiahoma School Native American Club



Photos by Jelena Sakonjic/News Staff

Khloe Goombi



Comanche Youth Dancers



Former Comanche Nation Princesses
McKenzie Sovo and Ashley Mithlo



Chick-fil-A Cow



Morgan Tosee and granddaughter
Destiny



Louie Long Braids and Partner



Comanche Nation Child Care Programs



Future Comanche Little Ponies
Dominic Guterrez and Bryson Kerchee



Elgin JOM Jr. Brave Nokosi Singleton



Fort Sill Federal Credit Union



Comanche Indian Veterans Association Auxiliary



Kiowa Tribal Chairman
Lawrence Spottedbird



Comanche Tribal Director
Fiona Kerchee



Riverside Indian School Dancers



Indigenous People's Day

The Annual Warrior Run Conquered the Miles from Walters, Cache and Apache to the Comanche Complex



Courtesy Photo

The Comanche Nation Fitness Center held the Annual Warrior Run on September 25. The run took place throughout the day and concluded at the Comanche Nation Complex. Following the conclusion of the run, Comanche Nation MMIP gathered with the participants and staff. Comanche Nation MMIP Coordinator Roxe Large and Comanche Nation MMIP Victim Advocate Richard Henson shared words with the participants. Codopony (family member) shared memories of Nathan Murrow while the niece and nephew held the posters.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

A group photo of the 2025 Warrior Runners. This year's run was held in honor of Nathan Morrow who was tragically murdered on June 14th, 2019. Morrow was an avid runner and active participant of the annual Comanche Nation Warrior Run. He was known as Momma's boy, an employee of the Comanche Nation Grasshopper Program, loved football and enjoyed fishing. Comanche Nation MMIP would like to thank the Comanche Nation Fitness Center for partnering with them, and to Necia Murrow and the family for speaking on their behalf.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Natalie Blackstar takes the Comanche Flag to run her miles to the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Cache runners take the scenic route to the Comanche Nation Complex on September 25.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runners from all three areas Walters, Cache and Apache all reach the Comanche Nation Complex together. The runners celebrate the efforts of running the long distances for the memory of lost loved ones.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Runners from the Walters made the long run into the Comanche Nation Complex.

2025 Comanche Nation Fair Handgame Tournament



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Sierra Sliverhorn guessing for her team during the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair Handgame Tournament.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Brantley Kerchee and Eli Yazzie from the Rough and Rugged Handgame team each gained a stick when the person guessing missed both young men, while team members Hennie Yazzie and Ronald Monoessy Jr. raise their drums in celebration.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Veteran handgame player Donna Wermey studies her opponent's before making her guess during the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair Handgame Tournament.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Handgame Coordinator Fiona Kerchee shows off the Handgame t-shirts that were given during the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair Handgame.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Player from the Eagles handgame team wins a stick for her team, showing the side which she hid the marked bone.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Team Bear Comes Out patiently waits their turn to play, while closely observing other teams at the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair Handgame. This team consisted of elder women from the Ute tribe.

Trail Riders Unite for the Second Annual Comanche Nation Fair Horse Ride



Art is Showcased at the Comanche Nation Fair Art Show and Competition

The 2025 Comanche Nation Fair Art Competition & Show was an incredible success and inspiration.

This year, we received fifty applications and showcased approximately fifty art pieces across the Comanche Nation K-12, Adult, and Intertribal divisions, highlighting the diverse creativity within our community. The exhibition featured an impressive range of paintings, drawings, and mixed media works from both emerging and established Native artists.

We were thrilled to

see such an outstanding turnout, not only from talented participants, but also from the public who came to admire and celebrate each artist's work.

With utmost gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their beautiful pieces. Each artwork reflected the depth of our Comanche culture, heritage, and spirit, as well as the unique traditions of other tribes represented. From breathtaking paintings and detailed drawings to intricate mixed media creations, the

collection authentically captured the beauty and resilience of Native artistry.

“The purpose of the Art Competition & Show has always been not only to celebrate Native artists but also to encourage and uplift emerging talent - to inspire new artists to continue refining their skills and finding their artistic path, whether as a passion or profession. This year’s show embodied that mission, especially as we saw past contestants return as vendors, proudly selling their work at the fair.” – Co-

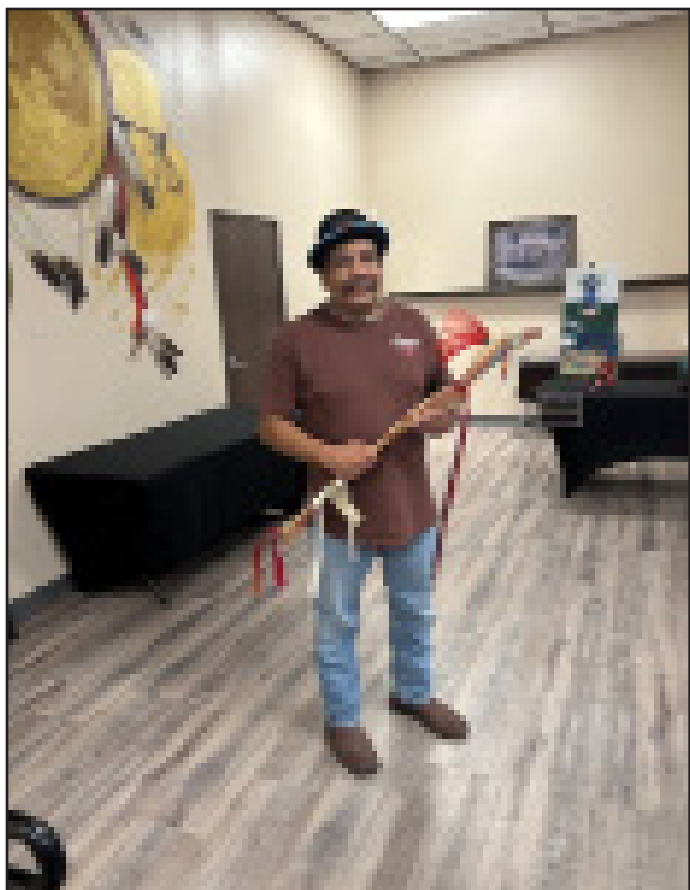
manche Nation Fair Art Show
Committee

We are deeply thankful to the art community for your continued support and for helping us honor our culture through creativity. We look forward to witnessing even more amazing works in the years to come!

COMANCHE YOUTH
Best of Show: Cale Ware

- 1st Place: Nicole Werito
 - 2nd Place: Alexander Niyah
- Drawings
- 1st Place: Zeah Harris

- 2nd Place: Totsiyah RedElk
- 3rd Place: Taami RedElk
- Mixed Media
- 1st Place: Nicole Werito
- 2nd Place: Kenneth RedElk
- COMANCHE ADULT
- COMANCHE ADULT
- Best of Show: Calvert Nevaquaya
- Paintings
- 1st Place: Calvert Nevaquaya
- 2nd Place (tied): Charles Dukon Harris and Randell Thomas
- 3rd Place: Henery Dale Gomez
- Drawings
- 1st Place: Theron Wahkinney
- 2nd Place: Pevodah Nauni
- 3rd Place: Dale Waysepappy
- Mixed Media
- 1st Place: Amanda Wilson
- 2nd Place: Randy Howe
- 3rd Place: Charles Dukon Harris
- INTERTRIBAL ADULT
- INTERTRIBAL ADULT
- Best of Show: Newton Onco
- Paintings
- 1st Place: Jarmon Toppah
- Drawings/Mixed Media Combined
- 1st Place: Ann Quis Quis
- 2nd Place: Nellie Silverhorn
- 3rd Place: Riley Edge



Best in Show, Calvert Nevaquaya



Intertribal Best in Show, Newton Once. Pictured is his nephew Dee Pocowatchit.



Comanche Youth Best in Show, Cale Ware

Celebrating Heritage: Dances, Songs and Traditions at the Annual Comanche Nation Fair Powwow



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



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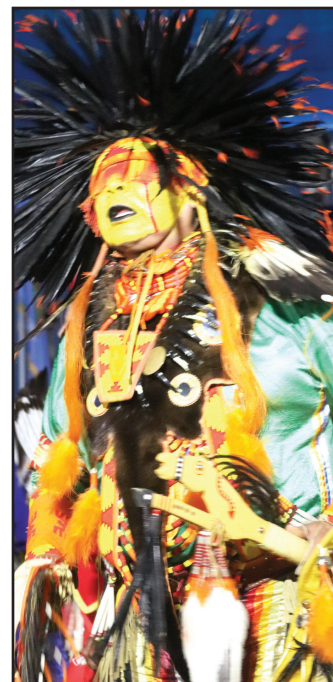


Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

For more photos of the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair, go to the Comanche Nation PIO Facebook Page, The Comanche Nation News



Annual Spirit Walk Draws Hundreds to take a Morning Stroll for Serenity on September 28



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Courtesy Photo

SOFTBALL WINNERS. The Comanche Nation Softball Tournament took place at the Elgin Softball fields in Elgin, Oklahoma.
2025 Comanche Fair Co-Ed Softball Tournament Winners.
Brew Jays 1st
Burrows Cattle Company 2nd
Pitches 3rd
Midnight Star 4th
Home run Derby Winners
Women's Sia Tieyah
Mens Chance Caldwell



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

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