

GON Horse and Rider Regalia Parade honors Horse Nation



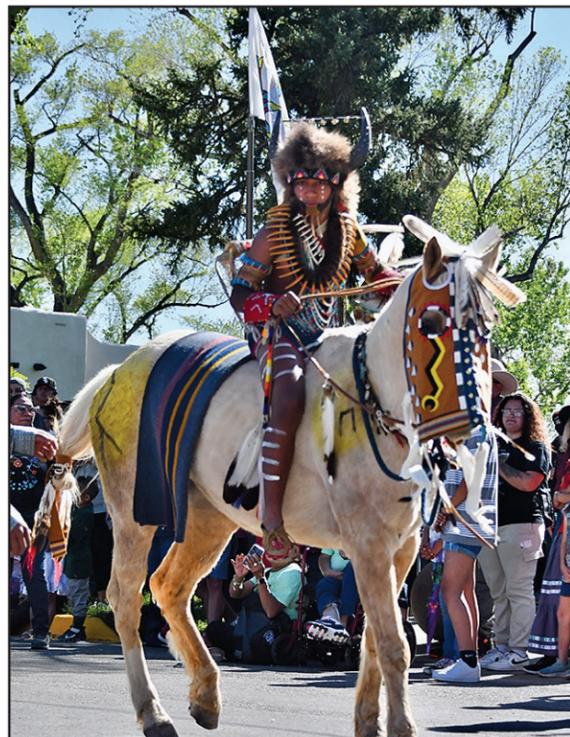
Event Coordinator, Rose Ann Abrahamson, with Horse Tail dancers on Saturday, April 29. (Roselynn Yazzie photos)



GON Horse and Rider Regalia Parade Best of Show winner, Raquel Sam with her horse, Lakota Spirit.



Grand Marshal Tashina Red Hawk.



A male horse rider participant.



Singer Dan Nanamkin sings a horse traveling song.

By **ROSELYNN YAZZIE**
Sho-Ban News

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

The Gathering of Nations Horse and Rider Regalia Parade honors the Horse Nation by showcasing the unique heritage and culture of the North American tribes through horsemanship and intricate dress.

The crowd pleasing spectacle began in 2018 and was an idea from Gathering of Nations founder Derek Mathews and Shoshone-Bannock tribal member Rose Ann Abrahamson, who was an experienced horse parade rider in her youth.

She explained the Shoshone-Bannocks are a horse nation tribe.

"They started the relays. They were a horse people for, I guess you could say, they were warriors of the plains because of the horses," she said.

The parade honored the horses through song from the Black Eagle drum group, and on Saturday Colville Tribe's, Dan Nanamkin, sang a horse traveling song.

"The horses, long ago, they understood our language and they understood our songs. And so we call it the horse calling," said Abrahamson.

The rarely seen Horse Tail Dancers were also invited to dance in respect.

Emcee, Bart Powaukee, of the Nez Perce/Northern Ute, said it was the horse nation that kept the Native people going.

There were a total of 28 participants who competed before a well-rounded panel of specialized judges with artistic backgrounds. They were organized by Shoshone-Bannock member, Dustina Abrahamson. There were categories for females, males and the

coveted award for Best of Show. Judging consisted of horsemanship, regalia; such as beadwork, weaving, applique, leatherwork and silverwork.

This year's grand marshals were the Red Hawk family.

Noella Red Hawk, who descends from the plains and Seminole people, is the mother of two-time Horse and Rider Regalia Parade Champion and Best of Show, former 2022 Miss Indian World, Tashina Red Hawk. She explained their family has paraded their leopard appaloosas, who are registered back to Iron Gyro in Livingston, Mont. and are Chief Joseph bloodline horses, throughout Indian Country.

All of the regalia on their horses are earned by their riders. The designs and beadwork are specific to the rider. Tashina's regalia belonged to her great, great, great grandmother. It took three years to bead her horse's regalia to match hers.

The Gathering of Nations Horse and Rider Parade is a platform for them to show what their family has been building for the last 15 years on a world stage.

"Any competitor, whether it's horseback riding or in sports, always wants to compete at the highest level possible and achieve that. And so it's our honor as a family to have been involved with the Horse Parade, to be involved with the Abrahamson family. We're very honored to have rekindled those ties," she said.

Results of the Horse and Rider Regalia Parade are as follows:

Women's first place



Emcee Bart Powaukee and Dustina Abrahamson. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)

Raquel Sam with horse, Lakota Spirit from Albuquerque, N.M.; second place



Horse Tail Dancers Levi Black Wolf and Tipits Walsey.

Aurora Peyketewa with horse Sundance from Zimi, N.M.; third place Cajun Cleveland with horse Cabella from Church Rock, N.M.; fourth place Taylor Archuleta with horse Buddy from Ohkay Owingeh, N.M.

Men's first place Tommy

Sam with horse Midnight from Albuquerque, N.M.; second place Vernon Sam with horse Little Thunder from Albuquerque, N.M.; third place Eddie Sam with horse Nevada from Albuquerque, N.M.; fourth place Mylan Archuleta with

horse Thunder from Ohkay Owingeh, N.M.

Best of Show first place winner is Raquel Sam with horse Lakota Spirit; second place Aurora Peyketewa with horse Sundance and third place Mylan Archuleta with hose Thunder.

More Gathering of Nations scenes



Clockwise, from top left, Donzia Gift Shop staff sell goods at the Gathering of Nations. (Lori Ann Edmo photo) Gator Boyd in Saturday's grand entry. Lyman Dixey takes to the dance floor. (Roselynn Yazzie photos) The Whitehorse family greet MIW contestant Kaycee Dixey after the Traditional Talent Show. (Lori Ann Edmo photo)