



The Cherokee Strip Celebration was back as if it never missed a beat. Beautiful sunny weather and plenty of space for the large crowds lining downtown Enid welcomed parade participants back after taking a break last year due to restrictions on large gatherings.

Alan Clepper and Connie Cruise of 103.1 KOFM entertained the crowd while serving as emcees. Parade judges Dan Scheidel of United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma along with April Danahy of Security National Bank and Dwight Hughes of Autry Technology Center were chauffeured to the judges platform in style by Mark of Excellence Limo Service.

The Slash-O-Ranch Longhorns kicked off the parade through the generous support of signature sponsor, Bank of Kremlin. Tinker Federal Credit Union's platinum sponsorship of the Grand Marshall's for this year's parade featured the 2021 Connie Mack World Series Champion Enid Majors.



The impressive parade entries were comprised of a wide range of businesses and organizations including Vance Air Force Base and the United States Marshall's Posse based out of Oklahoma City who participated in the parade for the first time. Northern Oklahoma College students turned out in force alongside NOC President Dr. Clark Harris and NOC Enid Campus Vice President Jeremy Hise.

St. Paul's Lutheran School was awarded \$500.00 as the first place winner of the non-profit float competition while the Enid Community Clinic was the benefactor of the \$500.00 donation on behalf of Security National Bank which took first place in the commercial float category.

The parade featured the highest participation in several years by area marching bands which included Enid High Big Blue Band, Chisholm Stampede Band, Waukomis Marching Chief Band, Pioneer Pleasant Vale Band, That Garber Band, Pride of Hennessey and The Marching Goldbugs.

Marching band members as well as others that were on foot for the duration of the parade were especially appreciative of the Wild Horse Gang who as usual kept shoes clean by keeping the path clear.

Meanwhile, the courthouse lawn provided a spacious backdrop for vendors booths, food trucks and a petting zoo while attendees enjoyed the soundtrack of live music of the familiar Crooked Canyon Band and The Branders coming from the gazebo.

The annual celebration would not be possible without the support of the event sponsors as well as the Community Development Partners and volunteers such as Enid High Wrestling team's assistance with clean up. A very special recognition goes to this year's Cherokee Strip Parade Committee who went above and beyond alongside Chamber staff during a transition of directors in order to keep plans moving forward. The committee was comprised of Chair, Keri Haines along with additional valued members Joye Frye, Shuree Hix, Laura Burdick and Margaret Williams.

