



The parade on Sunday was welcomed with beautiful weather and many entries. For many, many years the parade has been capped off with local riders from the Blackhawk Saddle Club of Soldiers Grove and most notably Rod Olson and his dancing horse, Sammy. Rod passed away earlier this year, as did his faithful dancing horse. However the club presented a somber and moving memorial to Rod and his horse, with great granddaughter Shalee Nelson, left, and her mother Nicole Nelson leading a horse carrying Rod's familiar cowboy hat.



The 62nd Annual Gays Mills Apple Festival was one for the history books in more ways than one. Following the first ever canceled Apple Fest in 2020, many seemed delighted to be back in the Apple Capital of Wisconsin for the event. Above, Lance Ries was one of the many vendors at the Flea Market sponsored by the Gays Mills Lions Club and hosted at the Crawford County Fair Grounds. Waves of shoppers funneled into the grounds and many vendors reported good sales throughout the weekend. Top right, young Delilah Millane enjoyed a delicious apple from Sunrise Orchard during Sunday's parade.



# The 62nd Annual Gays Mills Apple Festival

September 24, 25 & 26, 2021

Photos by Emily Schendel



FRIENDS OF GAYS MILLS member Heather Mulholland, above left, donned the apple suit for Sunday's Parade. The Friends of Gays Mills worked at their booth downtown selling walking tacos, apple pies and hand pies to help raise funds for their various projects throughout the community. Above center, long time Apple Fest Fun Run participant and North Crawford Alumni Martin Spicer and his child Skip brought smiles to many faces as they wrapped up the children's portion of the annual run. Martin went on to also run in the adult five-mile portion of the event. Far right, Sunrise Orchard passed out apples down Main Street to celebrate the reason for the season. Lower right, Gays Mills Apple Queen Jahmuna Rogers enjoyed a Saturday stroll through the Arts and Crafts Fair portion of the festival. Through a lot of hard work and determination the Apple Festival lived on through another year. Thanks to the locals and visitors it was a success. We look forward to another wonderful and fun year of celebrating the Apple Capital of Wisconsin next year. See you then!

