Celebrating heritage: 94th Annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial

Written by Staff Report Photos by Tom Hartsock
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Cultural ties only grow stronger. The 94th Annual Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial celebrates the culture of indigenous groups – both local and afar – with families and friends sharing and showcasing their traditional attire, dances and customs during parades, dances and/or powwows.

The photos on this page were taken during the Ceremonial parade in downtown Gallup Aug. 8.

As for the business of the Ceremonial, the Gallup City Council waived the nearly $61,000 in fees the Ceremonial racked up for usage of Red Rock Park Aug. 5-9, and councilors vowed to get even more involved in supporting the event in the years to come when they met for their regular meeting Aug. 11.

Executive Director Hilda Bowman didn’t have the financial report ready to present to the council

to show how the five day event faired, but she thanked city workers and the council for their support. She noted that the INFR tour rodeo component of the five-day Ceremonial Rodeo attracted about 600 contestants from places such as Montana, South Dakota and Colorado.

“It was a great rodeo. It was a great Ceremonial,” she said.

Kahlaya Rose McKinney (Dine, Paiute, Muskogee Creek) of Shiprock, NM was crowned Ceremonial Queen for 2015-2016.