



# The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 22, 2026

### Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo Returns May 29–31, 2026, as Official Cheyenne Frontier Days Qualifier

#### Nationally Recognized Navajo Rodeo Continues Growth at Dean C. Jackson Arena

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and the Navajo Nation Fair Office proudly announce the return of the 2026 Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo, set for May 29 - 31, 2026, at the Dean C. Jackson Arena at the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock, Arizona.

Now nationally recognized as an official qualifier for the world-renowned Cheyenne Frontier Days, the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo continues to gain momentum and recognition throughout professional rodeo following the official rebranding and restructuring of the event in 2024.

Chosen from rodeos across the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association season schedule, the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo was selected as one of only ten qualifying rodeos that will help determine which competitors earn the opportunity to compete at Cheyenne Frontier Days, known worldwide as the “Daddy of ‘em All.”



“This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication that has gone into rebuilding and strengthening this rodeo over the last several years,” said W. Mike Halona, Division Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources. “When we officially established the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo in 2024, our vision was to create a stronger, more competitive event that proudly represented the Navajo Nation on a national stage. Today, the PRCA and WPRA are taking notice, and that is something our rodeo families and Navajo fans should be proud of.”

Since the 2024 name change and scheduling shift, the rodeo has experienced significant growth in visibility, attendance, and professional recognition. In 2025, the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo earned national honors from the Women's Professional Rodeo Association as one of the Top Three Best Ground Award winners in the Turquoise Circuit through the WPRA Justin Best Footing Awards®. The recognition honored the rodeo committee’s commitment to arena safety, livestock care, and high-quality competition conditions.

“The Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo has become a point of pride for our Navajo Nation,” Halona said. “This recognition belongs to our rodeo committee, our Navajo Nation Fair Office

Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources

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event specialists, our partners, sponsors, and the many Navajo cowboys and cowgirls who continue to share their knowledge and commitment to rodeo excellence. Most importantly, it belongs to our fans. The Navajo Nation has some of the best rodeo fans anywhere in the PRCA.”

The continued growth of the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo is also reflected in the increasing number of Navajo professional rodeo contestants competing for opportunities on the national stage. This year’s rodeo will feature a strong lineup of Navajo PRCA and WPRA athletes



competing throughout the weekend for a chance to improve their standings on the road to Cheyenne Frontier Days and the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Organizers say the growing presence of Navajo contestants across rough stock, timed events, and barrel racing reflects the continued strength of rodeo traditions within the Navajo Nation and the increasing visibility of Navajo athletes in professional rodeo competition.

Friday night competitors are scheduled to include Matthew Tuni, Rooster Yazzie, Malachi Pablo, Ty Pablo, Adriano Morgan, Faron Candelaria, Duane Charley, Calvert Dixon, Cody Lansing, Arviso James, and Xavier Hunt.

Saturday night competitors are scheduled to include Evan Betony, Brad Begay, Derrick Begay, Quentin Pahi, Taniah Nez, Danielle Lowman, and Clay Wagner.

Sunday night competitors are scheduled to include Michael Bates, Aaron Tsinigine, James Arviso, Creighton Curley, Chantel Tsinigine, Jareth Curley, Fallon Doka, Justine Begay, Janae Todacheenie, Kassidy Dennison, Brad Moreno, Tara Seaton, and JaCauy Hale.

The rodeo weekend will also showcase the next generation of Navajo rodeo talent through the Junior Barrel Racing events sponsored by Native Land Insurance. The Buckaretttes division on Friday night will feature Paige Willie, Paysan Yazzie, Skylar Murphy, Braeleigh Klade, Maggie Willie Nez, and Paysan Yazzie. Saturday’s Lil Wranglers division will feature Maya Garduno, Bryn Boone, Savannah Young, Tayten House, Bristol Towne, and Laney Colorado. Sunday night’s Rising Stars division will feature Shandelier Willie, Riggin Betony, Ariel Perry, Maysa Yazzie, Kiana Lee, and Stormy Granger.

“One of the most exciting things for us is seeing more Navajo contestants competing at this level every year,” Halona said. “These young athletes represent the future of Navajo rodeo, and events like the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo give them an opportunity to compete alongside some of the best athletes in professional rodeo while inspiring the next generation watching from the stands.”

One of the major highlights of the 2026 Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo weekend will be the return of live country western entertainment immediately following the Friday and Saturday night rodeo performances. Fans from across the Navajo Nation and surrounding communities

will have the opportunity to continue the celebration with two nights of music and dancing featuring Billy Crawley II and The Good Ol Boys on Friday night and Western Edge Band 2 on Saturday night. The post-rodeo dances have become a growing tradition of the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo experience, bringing together rodeo fans, families, and visitors for an exciting atmosphere of western entertainment, community celebration, and Navajo hospitality under the lights at the Dean C. Jackson Arena.

The 2026 event will feature three nights of PRCA rodeo action, carnival attractions, live entertainment, food vendors, arts and crafts vendors, and family activities throughout Memorial Day weekend.

### **2026 Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo Schedule of Events**

#### **Thursday, May 28**

- 6 PM – 10 PM Carnival

#### **Friday, May 29**

- 9 AM PRCA Steer Roping (*Free Admission*)
- 5 PM Rodeo Gates Open
- 5 PM Food Vendors and Arts & Craft Vendor Booths Open
- 6 PM – 11 PM Carnival
- 7:30 PM Performance 1
- 9:30 PM Dance featuring Billy Crawley II and The Good Ol Boys  
Admission: \$15

#### **Saturday, May 30**

- 9 AM PRCA Timed Event Slack (*Free Admission*)
- 3 PM – 11 PM Carnival
- 5 PM Rodeo Gates Open
- 5 PM Food Vendors and Arts & Craft Vendor Booths Open
- 7:30 PM Performance 2
- 9:30 PM Dance featuring Western Edge Band 2  
Admission: \$15

#### **Sunday, May 31**

- 3 PM – 9 PM Carnival
- 5 PM Rodeo Gates Open
- 5 PM Food Vendors and Arts & Craft Vendor Booths Open
- 7:30 PM Performance 3

#### **Rodeo Admission Prices**

- Adult: \$20

- Senior (65 and older): \$15
- Child (6–12 years old): \$15
- Parking: \$10

Admission to the carnival is free. Carnival tickets and wristbands will be available for purchase on-site at carnival ticket booths.

As one of the premier professional rodeos in Indian Country and the Southwest, the Home of the Navajo PRCA Rodeo continues to attract top PRCA and WPRA competitors while showcasing the deep rodeo traditions of the Navajo Nation.

“This rodeo continues to grow because our community continues to support it,” Halona said.

“We are proud to welcome competitors and fans from across the country to Window Rock and showcase what the Navajo Nation represents in the world of professional rodeo.”

For more information, visit [www.nnfair.org](http://www.nnfair.org).