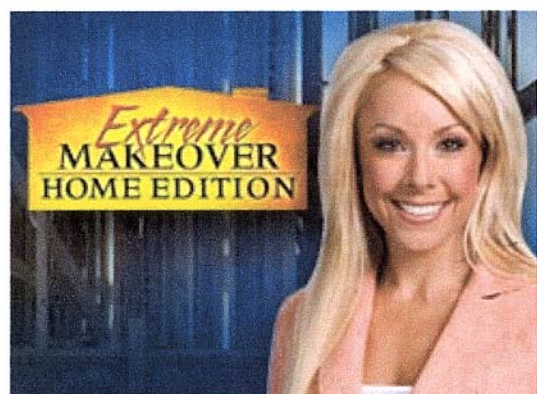


Apr 19, 2007 10:00 AM

### 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition' comes to Arizona



The cast of the hit ABC show is transforming the life of a family in the Navajo Nation this week. ABC15's Jenn Burgess is blogging from the scene in northern Arizona. Follow the progress...

Click the play button on the video window to the right to see Jenn's latest update from the scene.

By Jenn Burgess

Posted: 4/17/07 10:13 p.m.

Wow. As I sit here, reflecting back on the events of today...I'm almost at a loss for words. I guess the best way to describe it would be miraculous. First of all, the weather was incredible! We had a crystal clear day, warm, but with a nice breeze to keep things relatively cool for the hundreds and hundreds of folks who came to celebrate with this family.



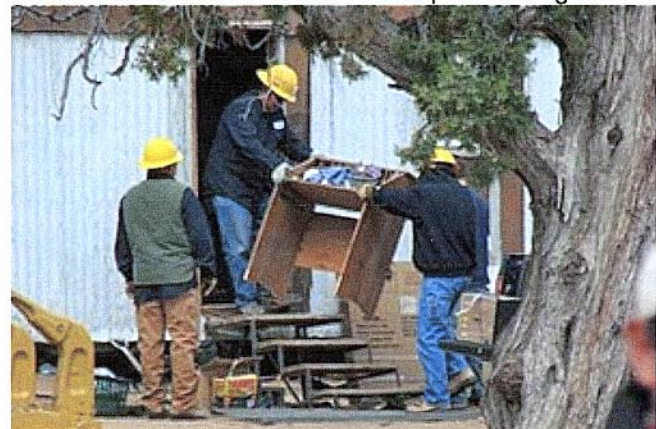
Second, I know I've been saying the Yazzie house will not only benefit them, but the extra power generated from their solar and wind equipment will be funneled into the Pinon grid. But, even more good news tonight - I've been told the extra furniture (I guess someone did a little too much shopping) will be donated to extended family and friends. I was also told there are a lot of additional furnishings. So, in this case, I guess over-shopping was a very, very good thing!

Third, but no less important, is simply the fact that a week ago, none of us up here knew what to expect. Yet, tonight, there is a family whose dream has come true. Tonight, tucked away in a small, northeastern Arizona community, are two Hogans -- a mother Hogan and a daughter Hogan, sitting on a hill, facing east, awaiting the sunrise.

By Jenn Burgess

Posted: 4/11/07 7:10 p.m.

As I type, there are some rather foreboding clouds moving in from the west. You know something else? The wind, which has been relatively calm all day, gosh - up until this moment, has just started howling and gusting! I can see a wall of dust moving along the main street. Hmmm. Did I mention yet that there isn't much in the way of pavement up around the Yazzie homesite? Perhaps I'm being a little too gracious with that statement.



There is no pavement around the Yazzie home. Not for miles. You all know what happens to dirt when it gets wet, right? Yep. A three letter word that start with "m" and ends with "ud." Now, I hope I'm not jinxing anything here, but I can't help but wonder if we're going to wake up to some form of precipitation. I'm not saying we don't need the rain! I just can't help but think what kind of a challenge that could pose to the construction. After all, we've only got six days to build a house, people!

By Jenn Burgess

Posted: 4/11/07 6:57 p.m.

\*This blog is NOT sponsored or endorsed by Paul DiMeo.\*  
However, because Paul DiMeo is one cool guy, he deserves some props.

For those of you still wondering exactly who Paul DiMeo is, he is a member of the design team, headed up by Ty Pennington. Ok - need another hint? He's the guy in the glasses who usually has a bandana around his neck.



ABC15 photographer Jeff Cochran, Jenn Burgess and Paul DiMeo

I am writing about him, specifically, because he is a reporter's dream come true...as well as incredibly down-to-earth and genuinely nice. Since we've been here, Paul has offered to show us around, he's been available for on-camera interviews...in a sense, he really understands our job as a television crew.

Yes, I know he works on a reality show, but it's still different. I know Jeff, Carlos and I greatly appreciate him showing up on time for our live shots, and volunteering to try new things for stories that air on ABC15.

Also, he told us a little more about the plans for the Yazzie familv's new home: it's going to be solar and wind-powered! He said they're really trying to follow the beliefs of the Navajo people - to use what the earth gives you.

That's pretty cool, in my book!

As for being nice... he just is! He's one of those people that you feel instantly comfortable around. And get this - Paul and his wife are going to adopt a couple of dogs from this area and give them a good home. That's one thing I may not have mentioned - there are a lot of dogs around here. They're kind of like community dogs - they meander from home to home - and they're really cute. I'll try to get a picture.

Anyway, I always love giving props to the folks who deserve them. Paul, it's truly an honor to have met you.

By Jenn Burgess

Posted: 4/11/07 5:27 p.m.

You know the saying, "time changes everything?" Well, it's true. In just a day, Georgia Yazzie and her kids boarded a plane and touched down in Disneyland. Her yard, which was once just an empty hillside covered in brush, now looks like an RV Park.



There are huge white tents set up all over - when I say huge, I mean huge. These are the kind of tents that people rent for large wedding receptions and the like. It seems fast, it is fast, and it must be fast. They've got one day down, and six to go.

I need to give all of you a big heads-up. Tomorrow is the monumental day: when the builders, design team and volunteers march up the hill to "build that house!" Tomorrow (or so I hear) is also the day the old house comes down. I encourage you not to miss a moment of our

live coverage on ABC15 Daybreak and Sonoran Living Live. We're also going to have stories running throughout the evening as well! I have a feeling we're going to see a lot of action tomorrow - and I will work to fill you in here, on ABC15.com, as well as live on our air!