

Quality will remain the same

Gallup residents have likely noticed a change in the gas stations around town in the past week.

Gas stations once called Giant have now been rebranded as Speedway. Some building designs and signs have changed their appearance, and the Giant Rewards tags are now being replaced by Speedy Rewards tags.

This is because Giant and parent company Western Refinery recently became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum, which has a refinery east of Gallup at 92 Giant Crossing Rd., north of the Flying J Travel Center.

V.J. Smith, government and public affairs manager for Marathon Petroleum, was present at the Gallup City Council regular meeting June 11 to discuss this transition, as well as the importance of the company's convenience stores across the region.

"Giant has operated for years in Gallup and the Navajo Nation," Smith said during the meeting. "They have provided fuel, valuable goods and services, as well as employment opportunities for [their community]."

Smith said that there are no transfers of titles to property or assets with this rebranding, and that the current managers and employees will remain in place across Four Corners stations.

The changes started in Gallup this past week and will move into the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks, Smith added.

“We are very proud of the role we play in this community,” Smith said. “We will continue to have a commitment to good service at our stores.”

Smith then presented the other speaker, Mark Maryboy, former Navajo Nation council delegate and former San Juan County commissioner, the first Native American elected to the position in Utah.

“[Gallup residents] appreciate business in Gallup and want to see the community grow,” Maryboy said.

Maryboy said that while working with Smith on the station rebrandings, he has received positive comments from members of the community and wants to assure them the station will continue to strive to provide the goods and services they expect.

“This is just a name change,” Maryboy said. “The merchandise will be the same, the quality of gas and diesel will be the same.”

By Cody Begaye
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