

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOUSING COMMISSION CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025, AT 4:00 PM EL GARCES- 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES

THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TEAMS OR IN PERSON AND MAY SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO NOON ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING BY EMAILING cclark@cityofneedles.com

TO JOIN THE LIVE TEAMS MEETING: log into the City of Needles website at www.cityofneedles.com to access the agenda and Click here to join the meeting

If asked, enter the following: Meeting ID: 257 440 497#
OR listen in and participate by calling Teams: 1-323-488-2227 - Meeting ID: 257 440 497#
The meetings are being recorded.

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CONFLICT OF INTEREST
CORRESPONDENCE
INTRODUCTIONS

AS A COURTESY TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE, WE WOULD ASK THAT CELL PHONES BE TURNED OFF OR SET IN THEIR SILENT MODE. THANK YOU

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - Persons wishing to address the Commissioners on subjects other than those scheduled are requested to do so at this time. When called by the Chair, please announce your name and address for the record. In order to conduct a timely meeting, a three-minute time limit per person has been established by Municipal Code Section 2-18. Amendments to the California Government Code Section 54950 prohibits the Commissioners from taking action on a specific item until it appears on the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

(A ten-minute time limit per presentation has been established per Municipal Code Section 2-18.)

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Approve the Minutes of January 22, 2025

(ACT)

2. Housing Authority City of Needles Update

(INF)

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager's Reports for the weeks of February 7 and 14, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

INTERNET ACCESS TO HOUSING COMMISSION AGENDAS AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO HOUSING COMMISSION MEETINGS AT: http://www.cityofneedles.com

Posted: February 21, 2025

SB 343 - DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS - Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to a meeting is available for public inspection at the Needles Administrative Office, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Angelica Deermer, Housing Manager, at (760) 326-3222. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II)

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing Agenda was posted at the front entrance of City Hall not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

CITY OF WAREDLES

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOUSING COMMISSION CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025, AT 4:00 PM EL GARCES- 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Mauer called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Commissioner Larry Ford Commissioner Deana Tucker Chair Chris Mauer

ABSENT

Commissioner Tamera Kissell

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, second by Commissioner Ford, to approve an excused absence for Commissioner Kissell. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Ford, Tucker, Chair Mauer

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Kissell

Abstain: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Chair Mauer APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, second by Commissioner Ford, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Ford, Tucker, Chair Mauer

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Kissell

Abstain: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

INTRODUCTIONS – Chair Mauer acknowledged Mayor Janet Jernigan and Council Member JoAnne Pogue in attendance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - None

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Approve the Minutes of October 23, 2024

Commissioner Ford made a motion, second by Commissioner Tucker, to approve the Minutes of October 23, 2024. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Ford, Tucker, Chair Mauer

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Kissell

Abstain: None

2. Housing Authority Update - given by Housing Manager Deermer

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS – Commissioner Tucker asked about fencing the patio areas at each residence in the housing authority.

CITY MANAGER REPORT - given by City Manager Martinez for the weeks of January 3 and 10, 2025

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Mauer adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm

Chair Chris Mauer Interim City Clerk Candace Clark



 \square CITY COUNCIL \boxtimes HOUSING COMMISSION

City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

□ Regular □ Special

Meeting Date:	February 26, 2025
Title:	Housing Authority Update
meeting at 908 Sycamore Driv provide recommendations on t	On February 14, 2025, the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) held a re, Needles, California, with the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) to discuss and the HACN Five-Year Plan and Annual Agency Plan for submission to HUD. Another March 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., where public housing residents can provide further
	uring the regular Housing Commission meeting on March 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., at El dles, CA, to review the proposed amended Five-Year and Annual Agency Plan .
April 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at E	commends approval, a final public hearing will be held at the City Council meeting on El Garces, 950 Front Street, Needles, CA. At this hearing, HACN will receive and submitting the final agency plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban ore April 17, 2025.
 Families Await Families Select Housing Choice Voud Open and Pen Leased Up: 18 Issued: 5 Open:0 Veteran Affairs Supp Open and Pen Referrals Rece Leased Up: 6 Issued: 10 Public Housin Applicants on t Allows the pub Section 8 Housing Cl Applicants on t Opened July 1 Public submitte Attached Exhibits:	cies: 4 out of 52 units. ing Transfers:0 ted for Consideration from Waiting List: 4 chers (HCV): ding Eligibility: 0 out of 23 allocated vouchers. ortive Housing (VASH) Vouchers: ding Eligibility: 16 out of 30 allocated vouchers. eived from VA Loma Linda: 4 og Waiting List: the waiting list: 55
City Manager Approval:/	Patrick Martinez Date: 2/20/2025
Approved: Not Ap	proved:

HACN PUBLIC HOUSING / VOUCHER STATISTICS

FEBRUARY 2025

Public Housing = 52 un	its, 4 current vacancies
104- Vacated 6/10/2024*	Waitlist admission
106- Vacated 7/1/2024*	Waitlist admission
<u>1110- 1/1/2025</u>	Waitlist admission
<u>100- 1/10/2025</u>	<u>To be leased 2/27/2025</u>
*Units require extensive repair/renovation	
Units to be	transferred

Units to be transferred

HUD allocated HCV Vouchers = 23

HCV Vouchers leased up = 18*

HCV Vouchers issued = 5**

HCV Vouchers open = 0

*Port in Vouchers= 1

**Port out Vouchers=3

HUD allocated VASH Vouchers =30

VASH Vouchers leased up = 6

VASH Vouchers issued = 10* **

VASH vouchers open =16

VASH Referrals =4

*VASH Port-outs= 6 **VASH Relinquish=2

Current Waitlist Applicants

Public Housing: 55	HCV: 70	Jг
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817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363 (760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765 www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell Councilmember Tona Belt Councilmember Jamie McCorkle Councilmember JoAnne Pogue Councilmember Henry Longbrake Councilmember Zachery Longacre

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2025

1. The City of Needles remains committed to enhancing our community's cleanliness, safety, and overall appeal. The City Council has prioritized cleanup and beautification efforts, ensuring Needles remains a welcoming place for residents and visitors. Through coordinated efforts with city staff, volunteers, and partner agencies, we continue to improve public spaces and maintain a high quality of life. Recently, Public Works, Parks, Electric, Water, and Wastewater teams worked together on citywide maintenance, including removing dead vegetation at the cemetery, trimming trees downtown, and maintaining palm trees as part of proactive fire prevention and beautification efforts. These initiatives help keep our city clean, safe, and visually appealing.

Community involvement plays a crucial role in these efforts. The **Needles Pride Program** inspires residents to take an active role in keeping their neighborhoods clean. The most recent **Pop-Up Clean-Up Event**, hosted by **Military Moms**, was a great success. Volunteers gathered at **Broadway Street and G Street (The Needles Sign)** to clean Broadway Street, removing **over 20 bags of trash, brush, and debris**. This collective effort demonstrates the power of community engagement and civic pride. **Refer to the attached images for a glimpse of their transformative efforts**.

The City of Needles also recognizes and appreciates the ongoing support from Caltrans in keeping our roadways clean and safe. Last week, Caltrans conducted landscaping and vegetation removal along Interstate 40, including clearing trees and enhancing roadside aesthetics. Their work, which extended from O Street Market to Bush Street, supports regional beautification and ensures a well-maintained I-40 corridor. The next community clean-up event is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM, focusing on J Street Hill, near Dollar General (1500 Hospitality Lane, Needles, CA 92363). We encourage all residents to participate and help beautify our city while addressing littering concerns. Residents are also encouraged to report

maintenance concerns or issues through the appropriate channels. Reports related to California State Highway System concerns can be submitted directly to Caltrans at https://csr.dot.ca.gov/. For matters within the City of Needles, please contact (760) 326-2115 or use the Needles Connect app, on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Thank you to our residents, volunteers, and city staff for their dedication and hard work. Together, we can ensure Needles remains a clean, safe, and vibrant community for all.

2. City staff is pleased to share a recent code enforcement success story regarding 404 D Street. Nearly a year ago, the City Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the courts, successfully appointed a receiver to address longstanding code violations at the property. Through this process, the property transitioned into responsible ownership, and the new owner has since been actively rehabilitating the home. This achievement not only resolves a significant code enforcement issue but also aligns with the City Council's goal of enhancing infrastructure, improving neighborhood conditions, and addressing the housing shortage. By bringing a revitalized home back onto the market, this effort directly contributes to Needles' ongoing commitment to community development and responsible property management.

These successes require time, persistence, and collaboration, but they demonstrate the positive outcomes achieved when the City, legal resources, and property owners work together. Special appreciation is extended to city staff, the City Attorney's Office, and all involved partners for their dedication to ensuring properties are maintained to a high standard and neighborhoods continue to thrive. The City remains committed to proactively addressing code violations, improving livability, and supporting responsible property ownership to enhance all residents' overall quality of life.

- 3. The City of Needles and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station are pleased to invite the community to attend Coffee with a Cop on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 11:00 AM at The 19th Hole, 144 Marina Drive, Needles, CA. This event allows residents to engage in informal conversations with local deputies, fostering positive relationships, promoting transparency, and encouraging open dialogue. This initiative aligns with the City Council's goal of strengthening community engagement by creating meaningful connections between law enforcement and the public. There is no set agenda—just an opportunity for residents to meet, ask questions, and discuss community concerns in a welcoming environment. Events like these build trust, enhance public safety, and ensure a well-informed and engaged community. We encourage all community members to attend. For more details, please refer to the attached flyer.
- 4. This past week, Assistant Chief Bill Villarino, Division 4 of the San Bernardino County Fire District (SBCFD), updated the City Council on fire safety efforts in Needles. His presentation emphasized the importance of proactive fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and maintaining fire response resources. The Residential Assessment Program (RAP) was a

key topic that offers free home wildfire risk assessments for properties in high-risk areas. SBCFD conducts these evaluations to help homeowners identify hazards, improve defensible space, and enhance fire resilience. Residents are encouraged to participate by visiting www.sbcfire.org or calling (909) 386-8400. The City of Needles has also taken proactive steps in collaboration with SBCFD to enhance fire preparedness, ensure hydrant functionality, and mitigate fire risks. As part of these efforts, residents are urged to take responsibility for fire prevention by removing dry vegetation, clearing access routes for emergency responders, and maintaining defensible space around their homes. These fire safety initiatives align with the City Council's goals of improving infrastructure, fostering community engagement, and ensuring a safe and resilient city. We appreciate Assistant Chief Villarino and SBCFD's continued partnership and encourage the community to utilize available fire prevention resources.

- 5. The Rivers Edge Golf Course continues to be the **go-to destination for** competitive tournaments, community events, and top-tier golf experiences. With a challenging yet player-friendly layout, the course attracts golfers of all skill levels looking for a great time on the links. Last weekend, the Women's Club of Needles kicked off its inaugural tournament, drawing 30 competitors for a successful day of golf, camaraderie, and competition. Next is the Wilson Birthday Bash Tournament on February 22, 2025, followed by the Needles Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center Second Annual Lucky Greens Tournament on March 15, 2025. Twilight League play returns in March, giving players another shot at the weekly competition. For those looking to sharpen their game, golf lessons resume tomorrow, February 15, 2025, providing an opportunity to refine skills and gain an edge on the course. Rivers Edge Golf Course also offers event hosting for tournaments and group outings, complete with professional coordination to ensure an unforgettable experience. For more details or to lock in your next round, contact JJ DeLeon at (760) 326-3931. Step up, tee off, and experience the best of Rivers Edge Golf Course!
- 6. The Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Project ribbon-cutting ceremony, originally scheduled for March 4, 2025, will be rescheduled to accommodate representatives from key agencies who funded the project. This \$8.9 million project is a major step in strengthening Needles' water infrastructure, ensuring a long-term, reliable supply of high-quality drinking water. Final system calibration is underway, marking the near completion of this critical investment in our community. Once a new date is confirmed, we will share updated details.
- 7. This week, city staff met with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop a coordinated plan for the safe relocation of the four burros roaming on the Rivers Edge Golf Course. The Burro Extraction Team worked closely with staff to establish a designated feeding area, a critical first step in preparing a humane trapping method for their safe relocation. The burros have not been observed in the area recently, possibly due to recent

rainfall, which may have influenced their mobility patterns. While their absence suggests they may have moved on naturally, the city remains vigilant and prepared to proceed with relocation efforts if they return. Public safety remains a top priority, particularly as we approach the start of **boating season and the opening of the Jack Smith Boat Launch next month with weekend use**. The city will continue monitoring the situation to mitigate any potential hazards for drivers and visitors. **Refer to the attached images for a visual update on the extraction efforts.** We appreciate the collaboration with BLM and will provide further updates as needed.

8. City officials attended the 2025 Laughlin Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) Annual Meeting on February 13, 2025, at the Laughlin Bay Marina. This event provided valuable insights into regional economic development, infrastructure improvements, and collaborative opportunities that align with the City Council's goals for **business growth, infrastructure** investment, and community engagement. Key discussions focused on regional economic collaboration, infrastructure funding, and tourism expansion, reinforcing the importance of partnerships between Needles and neighboring communities like Laughlin. Strengthening these relationships supports the City's efforts to enhance economic opportunities, attract businesses, and improve public spaces. The meeting also highlighted state and federal funding opportunities for infrastructure projects, which aligns with Needles' commitment to securing grants and investments for road improvements, public amenities, and essential services. Participation in the **LEDC Annual Meeting** ensures Needles remains engaged in regional economic discussions and strengthens its position in California-Nevada border commerce and tourism development. The City looks forward to continuing collaboration with regional partners to drive economic growth, expand business opportunities, and enhance community development.

9. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- February 20, 2025 Needles Chamber "Good Morning Needles"
 Hosted by TriState WiFi, this networking event will take place at 7:30
 a.m. at 950 Front St., Needles. It provides an opportunity for local businesses and community members to connect and discuss ongoing initiatives. RSVP by calling 760-326-2020.
- March 1, 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
 The event will take place at the Needles City Public Works Yard (112 Robuffa Street) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Residents are encouraged to properly dispose of used motor oil, batteries, paint products, and household cleaners. For inquiries, contact the Household Hazardous Waste Program at 909-382-5401 or 1-800-OILY-CAT.
- March 19, 2025 3rd Annual Job and Resource Fair
 Hosted by San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, this event
 at the El Garces Historic Train Depot (950 Front Street, Needles, CA)
 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will provide networking opportunities for
 residents, city staff, and public officials to connect with agencies and
 organizations offering job placement and essential services.

- April 10-12, 2025 Art in the Park Save the date! The second annual
 Art in the Park will showcase art pieces from across the Tri-State
 region in partnership with the River Valley Artist Guild. This event
 celebrates local creativity and community engagement. More
 information to come.
- April 19, 2025 Needles' 1st Annual World-Famous Chili Cookoff
 Hosted by The River Community Coalition & Firehouse Ministries,
 this exciting new event will take place at 10:00 a.m. Santa Fe Park (950
 Front Street). Attendees can expect delicious chili, friendly
 competition, and a celebration of community spirit.
- April 21-27, 2025 Route 66 Bike Week
 This weeklong event celebrates the historic Route 66 with a scenic ride from Needles to Seligman, highlighting the spirit of the open road and motorcycle culture.
- April 24, 2025 Needles Animal Shelter Spay/Neuter Clinic
 The Needles Animal Shelter will host a spay/neuter clinic to promote responsible pet ownership. Space is limited, and residents must RSVP by completing an application and providing proof of residency. A portion of the cost is subsidized to make the service more accessible. For more details or to schedule an appointment, call (760) 326-4952.
- May 14, 2025 Run for the Wall (RFTW)
 This annual tribute honoring Vietnam Veterans will welcome over 300 motorcyclists passing through Needles. The riders will arrive at the historic El Garces at noon, offering a meaningful opportunity to honor their service.
- Community Calendar
 - Local organizations are encouraged to coordinate with the City Clerk's Office to add or update events, keeping the calendar accurate and beneficial for the community. To submit an event or request changes, contact Candace Clark at **cclark@cityofneedles.com**.

1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. COMMUNITY CLEANUP



1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION



1. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION



2. RECEIVERSHIP PROGRAM



3. SBCSD- COLORADO RIVER STATION





4. SBCFD

Residential Assessment Program (RAP)

Together we can help make your home Fire Safe and Defensible

In an effort to ensure the maximum level of wildfire preparedness, San Bernardino County Fire Department conducts **FREE** engine company residential assessments in rural areas that have high risk for wildfire.

Step 1 Fire Safe Checklist

Address clearly visible from street (4" tall min. on contrasting background).
Weeds and grasses need to be cut to 4" or less, 100 ft around structures and 10 feet from roadsides.
Within 100 ft (or property border) all trees over 12 ft have all foliage and limbs removed 6 ft above ground.
Tree trimmings and brush (in piles) on the ground, branches less than 4" in diameter, and leaves or shrub trimmings must be removed.
Combustible (flammable) debris must be completely removed from all areas of your property.
Pine needles over 2" in depth must be removed from

Clear chimney area of vegetation within 10'. Spark

Prune and/or remove shrubs to provide separation

all areas of the property.

arrestor of 1/2 inch mesh required.

Remove dead trees completely.

from ground and each other.

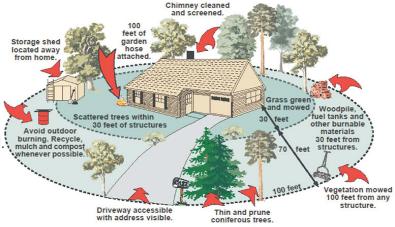
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information about making your home Fire Safe, call the Office of the Fire Marshal at (909) 386-8400. Visit our website at www.sbcfire.org and click on the Residential Assessment Program (RAP) link: wildfire

Additional information on wildfire prevention, legal outdoor fires and other helpful links are available at:

Please email us at <u>countyfirerap@sbcfire.org</u> to schedule an appointment and seek information about RAP.

Step 2 Complete Defensible Space



Step 3 Prepare Your Family

- Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans and rehearse it regularly. Include in your plan the evacuation of pets and large animals.
- Plan several different evacuation routes.
 Designate an emergency meeting location outside fire hazard area.
- Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers posted near your phone and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra emergency supply kit in your car in case you can't get to your home because of fire.



SBCFD Wildland Fire Safety

For more information: (909) 386-8400 or visit www.sbcfire.org

7. BURRO ACTIVITY JACK SMITH PARK





817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363 (760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765 www.cityofneedles.com

Mayor, Janet Jernigan Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell Councilmember Tona Belt Councilmember Jamie McCorkle Councilmember JoAnne Pogue Councilmember Henry Longbrake Councilmember Zachery Longacre

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2025

- 1. This week, the City Manager attended the League of California Cities City Managers Conference, a key event bringing together municipal leaders to address critical issues impacting local governance. The conference featured sessions on leadership, council transitions, economic development, homelessness solutions, and the evolving role of city managers. Discussions covered infrastructure funding, emergency preparedness, and best practices for enhancing **city operations**. This event provided an opportunity to connect with industry experts, exchange ideas with fellow city managers, and gain insights into strategies supporting Needles' long-term growth and resilience. While at the conference, the City Manager met with Tripepi Smith, the city's marketing consultant, and brainstormed for the future. With extensive experience in municipal marketing, the firm provides branding, digital outreach, and strategic communication support to enhance the city's visibility. Their presence at the conference, including a dedicated booth, highlighted their expertise and ongoing efforts to support Needles. Refer to the attached image for a glimpse of the conference and Tripepi Smith's participation.
- 2. City staff is pleased to announce the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Well No. 11 Treatment Plant Project, scheduled for March 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. This \$8.9 million project is a significant milestone in strengthening Needles' water infrastructure, ensuring a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water for years. With final system calibration underway, the project is nearly complete. Representatives from key agencies will attend, and we invite the community to celebrate this significant investment in Needles' future.
- 3. The Needles Pride Program continues to thrive, encouraging community-driven activism among residents dedicated to enhancing neighborhoods, fostering pride, improving property upkeep, and ensuring compliance with city codes. A key success of the program has been multiple community clean-up efforts, with the next pop-up clean-up event scheduled for tomorrow, February 8, 2025, at 8 AM. Hosted by the Military Moms, this event invites the

community to help clean Broadway Street. Those interested are encouraged to meet at the corner of Broadway Street and G Street (The Needles Sign) and bring gloves and enthusiasm to support the beautification of our city. Fire prevention has been a top priority for the city and its residents, with numerous property owners cleaning up their properties. This week, Public Works has been actively addressing fire risks by trimming trees and removing dead vegetation in key areas, including Jack Smith Park, Duke Watkins Park, the Aquatic Center, and Nikki Bunch Park. Next week, crews will begin trimming all palm trees at the cemetery, followed by tree maintenance throughout the city and other parks. Eighty palm trees will be cut as part of these proactive fire prevention and maintenance efforts in the coming weeks.

- 4. Rivers Edge Golf Course is experiencing a remarkable year, featuring some of the best greens in the Tri-State region. We are excited to host several upcoming tournaments, offering a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the game while supporting local causes. Tomorrow, the Women's Club will host its inaugural Scholarship and Operations Fundraiser, bringing the community together for a meaningful cause. Then, on March 15, 2025, the Needles Chamber of Commerce will present its second annual Lucky Greens Golf Tournament, promising a fun and competitive day on the course. We encourage golfers to book a tee time or host their tournament at Rivers Edge. As we grow into a championship-caliber golf destination, we remain committed to making Rivers Edge Golf Course a valued asset for the community. Book your tee time today or RSVP for these tournaments by calling 760-326-3931 or visiting our website to explore upcoming events.
- 5. City staff is pleased to share that Needles has been prominently featured in the newly rebranded South Valley Media Guide, formerly the Needles Relocation and Visitors Guide. This comprehensive publication by News West Publishing, Inc. highlights Needles alongside neighboring communities, reinforcing our city's economic growth, public infrastructure improvements, and expanding recreational opportunities. This feature aligns with the City Council's goals of fostering economic development, promoting tourism, and enhancing community engagement. By showcasing in a well-regarded regional publication, Needles strengthens its visibility to prospective businesses, new residents, and visitors, positioning our city as a thriving destination along the Colorado River. We extend our gratitude to News West Publishing, Inc. for including Needles in this year's guide and their efforts to promote our community. Refer to the attached South Valley Media Guide for more details on how Needles is highlighted, or click here to view it online.
- 6. Simon Sewer mobilized this week to begin hydro-vac cleaning of 30,000 linear feet of sewer main lines across several key areas, including Desnok, Cibola Street, Bazoobuth, Acoma, Palm Way, Quivera, Downey, D, E, 4th Street, and the mainline from Bailey Avenue to E Broadway. The hydro-vac process uses pressurized water to break down and remove built-up solids in the sewer mains, helping to extend the life of the pipes, improve system

efficiency, and reduce odors. This ongoing maintenance is a critical investment in the city's sewer infrastructure, aimed at preventing blockages, minimizing future repairs, and ensuring long-term system reliability. The work is progressing efficiently, and city staff will continue to monitor the project to ensure timely completion. Refer to the attached map for a detailed view of the areas currently being cleaned and images for a glimpse of their hard work.

- 7. On January 28, 2025, the City Council allocated funds for immediate enhancements to improve ADA accessibility at the City of Needles Rodeo Grounds. These upgrades aim to provide a safe and accessible path of travel for individuals with disabilities, ensuring compliance with ADA regulations and enhancing the overall experience for attendees. The improvements include two van-accessible parking spaces and 132 linear feet of an accessible walking path leading to seating and restrooms. These upgrades are scheduled for completion next week in preparation for the 47th Colorado River Round-Up on April 4-5, 2025. Celebrated as the oldest local rodeo, this event is endorsed by the Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo Association, ensuring a showcase of skill, courage, and cowboy tradition. Last year, the event drew 4,000 attendees over two nights, reinforcing its significance as a significant community gathering. The city would like to thank Western Construction Specialists, Inc. for their efforts in mobilizing quickly to complete the project on time. Refer to the attached photos for a project status update and the flyer for more information on the event.
- 8. City staff is making steady progress on the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Route Map, a key component of the OHMV Pilot Program aimed at designating city streets for off-highway vehicles to enhance recreation and tourism. In December 2024, staff submitted proposed route maps to the BLM Needles Field Office, developed in partnership with stakeholders and the city's traffic engineer to ensure safe and efficient connections. This week, BLM informed staff that, due to **new administrative priorities**, they have been aligning their work with updated directives, and their review of the maps is expected to conclude soon. Once finalized, the map will move forward for review by the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office, followed by engagement with the OHMV Subcommittee, Sheriff's Department, Planning Commission, and City Council for public hearings and community input for adoption of an Ordinance. These efforts mark an **essential step toward establishing a** well-connected OHMV network, reinforcing Needles as a destination for outdoor recreation. Staff will continue working closely with **BLM and regional** partners and provide updates as the process advances.
- 9. Last week, City staff was aware that four burros had been roaming between Jack Smith Park and the Needles Golf Course. In response, staff has communicated with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), responsible for managing and protecting wild burro populations. A Burro Extraction Team will arrive early next week to relocate them safely. It is believed that the burros may have traveled from the Chemehuevi Herd Area or the Dead Mountain Herd

Area, both located near Needles. A team from Ridgecrest will conduct the relocation process to return them to their herd. BLM is actively addressing the situation and working quickly to ensure a safe and humane resolution per federal protections for wild burros. In the meantime, drivers in the area are advised to use caution. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed. Refer to the attached images for a glimpse of the burros.

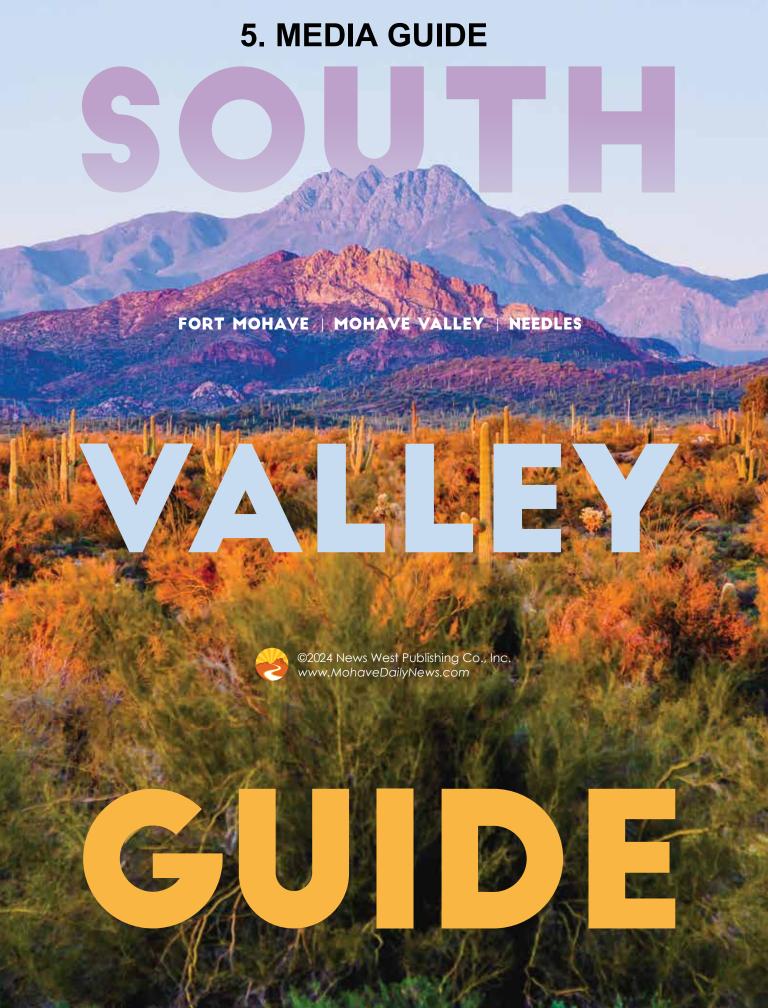
- 10. Last weekend, the BHHS Legacy Foundation and Legacy Connection hosted their annual event recognizing inspiring educators from the Tri-State area. This year, over 100 nominations were submitted, with 39 educators selected as winners. Among those honored, Needles was proudly represented by Needles High School's Matt Fromelt and Vista Colorado Elementary's Nicolle Wilson. Both educators received a \$500 prize to support their respective classrooms, recognizing their dedication to student success. Their achievement highlights the outstanding efforts of educators in the Needles Unified School District, and we extend our gratitude to all teachers who continue to make a difference in our community. We thank the BHHS Legacy Foundation and Legacy Connection for recognizing our Needles Unified School District educators and for all the work they do to support teachers and students across the region.
- 11. City staff has developed a **detailed events calendar** to keep residents informed about upcoming activities in **Needles**. This calendar aligns with the **City Council's goals** of **enhancing community engagement, fostering economic growth, and promoting recreational opportunities**. Below are some key upcoming events:
 - February 20, 2025 Needles Chamber "Good Morning Needles"
 Hosted by TriState WiFi, this networking event will take place at 7:30
 a.m. at 950 Front St., Needles. It provides an opportunity for local businesses and community members to connect and discuss ongoing initiatives. RSVP by calling 760-326-2020.
 - March 1, 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
 The event will take place at the Needles City Public Works Yard (112 Robuffa Street) from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Residents are encouraged to properly dispose of used motor oil, batteries, paint products, and household cleaners. For inquiries, contact the Household Hazardous Waste Program at 909-382-5401 or 1-800-OILY-CAT.
 - March 19, 2025 3rd Annual Job and Resource Fair
 Hosted by San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, this event
 at the El Garces Historic Train Depot (950 Front Street, Needles, CA)
 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. will provide networking opportunities for
 residents, city staff, and public officials to connect with agencies and
 organizations offering job placement and essential services.
 - April 10-12, 2025 Art in the Park
 Save the date! The second annual Art in the Park will showcase art
 pieces from across the Tri-State region in partnership with the River

- **Valley Artist Guild**. This event celebrates local creativity and community engagement. **More information to come.**
- April 19, 2025 Needles' 1st Annual World-Famous Chili Cookoff
 Hosted by The River Community Coalition & Firehouse Ministries,
 this exciting new event will take place at 10:00 a.m. (Location TBD).
 Attendees can expect delicious chili, friendly competition, and a
 celebration of community spirit. Stay tuned for more details on
 participation and judging.
- April 21-27, 2025 Route 66 Bike Week
 This weeklong event celebrates the historic Route 66 with a scenic ride from Needles to Seligman, highlighting the spirit of the open road and motorcycle culture.
- April 24, 2025 Needles Animal Shelter Spay/Neuter Clinic
 The Needles Animal Shelter will host a spay/neuter clinic to promote responsible pet ownership. Space is limited, and residents must RSVP by completing an application and providing proof of residency. A portion of the cost is subsidized to make the service more accessible. For more details or to schedule an appointment, call (760) 326-4952.
- May 14, 2025 Run for the Wall (RFTW)
 This annual tribute honoring Vietnam Veterans will welcome over 300 motorcyclists passing through Needles. The riders will arrive at the historic El Garces at noon, offering a meaningful opportunity to honor their service.

Local organizations are encouraged to collaborate with the City Clerk's Office to add or update events, ensuring the calendar remains current and valuable for the community. To submit an event or make changes, contact Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com. Refer to the attached 2025 Community Events Calendar for more details.

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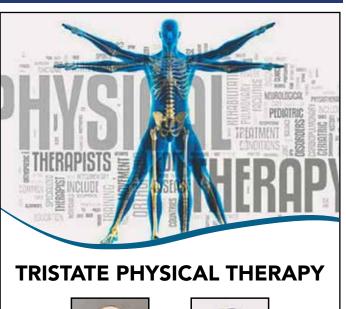
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ON THE INSIDE

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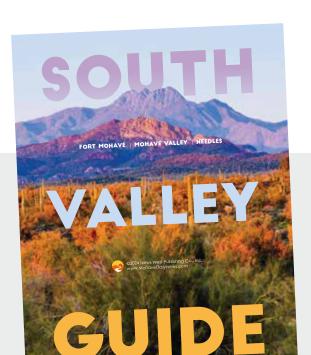
Needles City Council Prioritizes Community Engagement and Family Support

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SOUTH VALLEY RESOURCES

CHURCHES

Amazing Grace Fellowship

Amazing Grace is a Full Gospel Pentecostal Church with relevant worship, dynamic preaching and individual prayer. Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is Monday at 7 p.m. Men of Impact Bible Study is the third Tuesday of each month with the Ladies of Grace Bible Study on the fourth Tuesday. Kids Church and ELEV8 Teens Ministry are at 10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Wednesday. The church is at 4195 S. Lynn Drive in Fort Mohave. For information, call 928-758-6059 or go to www. MYAGF.com.

Calvary Chapel Mohave Valley

Sunday morning services are at 10 a.m. Evening service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. The Pregnancy Care Center is open the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The church is at 1620 Plantation Road. The pastor is Craig Burroughs. For information, call the church office at 928-788-3337.

Christian Growth Fellowship

Christian Growth Fellowship meets at 1863 E. Panadero Road in Fort Mohave. Meetings are held Sunday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. The pastor is Jerry Duke. For more information, call 928-201-7088.

Christian Joy Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. will be followed by Sunday worship service with a message brought by pastor Josh Wood. Children's church begins at 10:45 a.m. Mid-week studies are at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The church is at 1746 Joy Lane in Fort Mohave. For information, call 928-768-3070 or go to www.christianjoychurch.com.

Come As You Are Church

Come As You Are Christian Ministries of Fort Mohave meets for Sunday service at 9:45 a.m. with Pastor Miguel Penalosa. The church is at 5902 Highway 95, Suite 102, in Fort Mohave. Phone is 928-788-3361, fax is 928-788-2775 and email is cmasurmin@aol.com.

Desert Bloom Ministries

Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m. The church is at 1470 Hammer Road in Fort Mohave, across from Valley View Medical Center. Dr. Anna Rich is the pastor. James H. Rich is associate pastor. For more information, call 928-768-8882.

Family of God Lutheran Church

Regular worship services are at 10:15 a.m. Sunday with communion on the second and fourth Sundays. The church

is at 1863 Panadero Road in Fort Mohave. For information, contact Pastor Richard Fyffe at 928-763-5303.

First Baptist Church of Fort Mojave

First Baptist Church of Fort Mojave is open for worship service at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Evening worship and youth grades 7-12 at 6 p.m. Bible study for all ages is at 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Weekday adult prayer is at 11 a.m. Tae kwon do is at 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Griefshare is at 1 p.m. Thursday. The church is at 5360 Calle Valle Vista. Tristan Beloat is the new pastor. For more information, call 928-768-9797 or go to www.fbcfm.church.

First Southern Baptist Church of Mohave Valley

The church is at 1421 Commercial St. in Mohave Valley. Service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. The pastor is Lionel Grant. For more information, call 928-519-2977.

Harvest Bible Church

Harvest Bible Church, 6870 Highway 95, meets for Sunday worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with children's church at both services and junior high/high school at the 11 a.m. service. Bible study is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, women's Bible study is at 10 a.m. Saturday and men's Bible study is at 6 p.m. Monday. The church pastor is Randy Castillo. For more information, go to www.hbcaz.org or call 928-788-2225.

Mohave Valley Assembly of God

Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. with children's church at 11 a.m. Sunday evening praise and Bible study begin at 6 p.m. Thursday potluck is at 5:30 p.m., followed by Bible study. The church is at Mountain View & Regents. For more information, call 928-768-3000.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Mohave Valley United Methodist Church

Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. is being streamed on the church Facebook page. The church is at 1593 Lipan Blvd. The phone number is 928-768-3092. Pastor is Gene Stouffer. Church website is www.mohavevalleyumc.org.

New Life Church

Non-denominational services are at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at 2214 Laguna Road, Mohave Valley. Celebrate Recovery is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call Pastor Mike Cardello 928-788-1772.

Unity Spiritual Center of the Mohave Valley

Sunday in-person and online (Facebook) access to services led by the Revs. Natalie Lehman and Barry Terwilliger at Unity Spiritual Center of the Mohave Valley are at 10 a.m. for meditation and 10:30 a.m. for the Sunday Morning Experience. Saturday early bird bingo is at 11 a.m. and regular bingo is at 1 p.m. Contact the ministry at 928-763-6605 or email unityofmohavevalley@gmail. com for information. The center is at 967 Hancock Road, Suite 93.

HEALTH & SUPPORT

AA meetings

AA meetings are held at Chaparral Golf Course, 1260 Mohave Drive, at 6 p.m. Saturdays (Sober On the Mount) and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays (women's group).

AA meetings are held at the Mohave Valley United Methodist Church, 1593 Lipan Blvd. in Fort Mohave, at 7 p.m. Tuesdays (Fort Mohave group), 7 p.m. Wednesdays (Cone Mountain Newcomers groups) and 7 p.m. Thursdays (Top of the Hill group).

The Golden Valley-Mohave Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at Golden Paradise Landowners Building, 5055 Verde Road, at the corner of Verde Road and Highway 68. The Mohave Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays with a potluck at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. The Mohave Group also meets Thursday at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 800-864-1606.

Al-Anon

Four Al-Anon meetings are held weekly in the Bullhead City area. Valley Christian Church is the site of a meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and from 9-10 a.m. on Saturdays. An Al-Anon meeting is held at 6 p.m. Thursdays at Mohave Valley United Methodist Church, 1593 Lipan Blvd., Fort Mohave. Al-Anon meets from 2-3 p.m. Arizona time on Sundays in the food court at the Laughlin Outlet Center. For more information, call 702-509-0580.

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at New Life Church, 2214 Laguna Road, Mohave Valley. For more information, call 928-788-1772.

First Baptist Church Grief Share

Grief Share support group meetings are held from 3-5 p.m. on Fridays at First Baptist Church, 5360 Calle Valle Vista in Fort Mohave, behind Valley View Hospital. For more information, call 928-768-9797.

Tops Club

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 4 p.m. Tuesdays at Mohave Valley United Methodist Church, 1593 Lipan Blvd. The first meeting is free. For more information, visit www. tops.org.

CLUBS

Colorado River Corvette Club

The Colorado River Corvette Club is looking for new members from the Bullhead City, Fort Mohave, Mohave Valley, Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Laughlin areas. For more information, go to www.coloradorivercorvetteclub.net or call Steve at 928-278-7528.

Colorado River Treasure Seekers

If you are interested in metal detecting, Colorado River Valley Treasure Seekers might be the club for you. The Seekers meet from October to April on the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Mohave Valley United Methodist Church, 1593 Lipan Blvd. in Fort Mohave. For more information, call Sheryl at 402-750-3601.

Craps Flyers Club

The Colorado River Aircraft Pilots Society, AMA Local Chapter 656, invites RC flyers to join the club in Fort Mohave. For more information on the club, go to www.crapsflyingclub.com.

Daughters of the American Revolution

Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer service organization whose members are dedicated to historical preservation, education and patriotism. For more information, contact our chapter at fortmohavedar@ amail.com.

Fort Mohave EAA

The Experimental Aircraft Association Local Chapter 1558 meets at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Sun Valley Airport, 5050 Bison Ave. The airport is 1.8 miles off of Highway 95 on El Rodeo Road. For more information, call 310-871-3708.

Los Lagos Golfers

The Los Lagos Golfers is a coed golf club that meets every Wednesday morning year-round at Los Lagos Golf Club, 6365 S. Entrada Via Verdes in Fort Mohave. For information, call Phil Robinson at 661-435-1144, Rod Tower at 562-716-5577 or email loslagosgolfers@gmail.com.

PEO Chapter EX

PEO Chapter EX, Mohave Valley, is a local member of PEO International. PEO is a Philanthropic Educational Organization focusing on education of women beyond high school. For more information, contact Karen Barns 928-279-4000.

Red Hat Society

The Red Hat Society meets at 5 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Casa Serrano, 5230 Highway 95, Fort Mohave. For more information, contact Queen Mum Norma Thornton at 907-598-7099.

River Cruizers

The River Cruizers Car Club is seeking new members for the purpose of encouraging restoration and preservation of special-interest autos and trucks and to raise funds for distribution in the Tri-state. The River Cruizers meet at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Chaparral Golf & Country Club, 1260 Mohave Drive, Bullhead City. For more information, go to www.rivercruizers.com.

Rotary Club

The Sunrise Rotary Club of Fort Mohave meets at 7 a.m. Wednesdays at Los Lagos Golf Club in Fort Mohave. For more information, call 620-343-0182 or visit the Sunrise Rotary Club's Facebook page.

Tri-State Shooting Park

Tri-State Shooting Park meetings are at 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at the shooting park. For more information, call 928-704-0274 or 702-371-1532 or go to www. tristateshootingpark.com.

VETERANS

American Legion Post 127

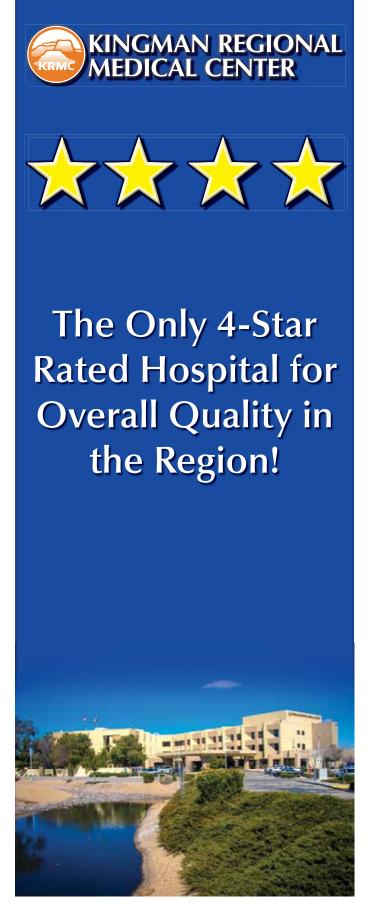
The Mohave Valley Post 127 Ladies Auxiliary meets at 9:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at 7968 King Place in Mohave Valley. For more information, email sharonmathies@frontiernet.net.

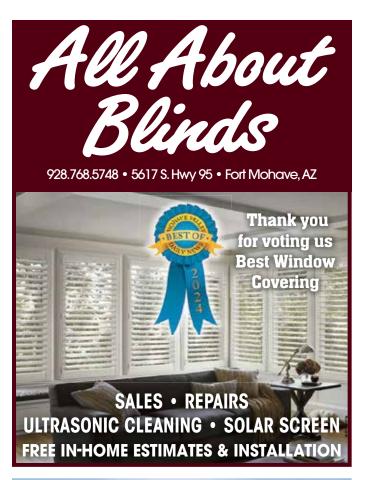
AMVETS Post 19

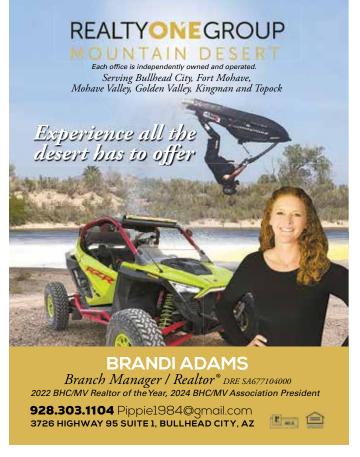
The AMVETS Post 19 is a member's only club. General and post meetings are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the post, 4310 S. Highway 95 in Fort Mohave. The phone number is 928-299-5041. The canteen opens at noon Monday through Saturday and at 11 a.m. Sunday. It is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is allowed on the back patio and in the front. Weekly events include 8-ball pool tournament, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday; 3-ball pool tournament, noon Wednesday; bunco, 6 p.m. Wednesday; Queen of Hearts (members only) 50/50, 5 p.m. Friday; karaoke, 6 p.m. Friday; 9-ball pool tournament, 6 p.m. Saturday; karaoke, 7 p.m. Saturday; karaoke, 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information, contact Post Commander Jimmy Reyes.

VFW Post 404

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 404 offers a variety of special activities for members and guests. The post is at 10287 Barrackman Road in Mohave Valley. For more information, call 928-788-3202.







NEEDLES CITY MANAGER LETTER

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I continue to serve as City Manager for the remarkable community of Needles. Over the past six years, I've had the honor of witnessing our city's extraordinary growth, fueled by the resilience and potential of its people.

Often referred to as the "East Coast" of California, Needles is on an upward trajectory, driven by economic expansion and infrastructure development. Our commitment to fostering a pro-business environment has attracted \$100 million in new investments across various sectors, including hospitality, retail, and industrial development. Key examples



of this progress include the nearly one million square feet of cannabis production facilities, which have generated over 605 jobs and contribute 36% of our city's annual budget.

Our dedication to economic growth is also reflected in the opening of the Hampton Inn & Suites, our first interior-entrance hotel. Tourism continues to play a pivotal role in Needles' prosperity, with increased hotel revenues and a growing visitor base at key attractions like the Jack Smith Boat Launch, which welcomed over 500,000 visitors last year.

In addition to economic growth, we are investing heavily in infrastructure improvements. Over the past two years, we have allocated millions of dollars to upgrade streets, water systems, and public spaces. A prime example is the \$20 million commitment to vital projects such as water treatment, electricity, and park enhancements. Notable projects include the modernization of our water system, with key initiatives like the Well 11 Treatment Plant nearing completion.

One of our proudest achievements is the recognition of Needles as the first rural city to receive the California Department of Housing and Community Development Prohousing Designation, positioning us as a leader in housing development. This honor, along with substantial grants, will allow us to continue building a sustainable and resilient future for all.

Beyond economic opportunities, the natural beauty of Needles is one of our greatest assets. With its expansive off-highway vehicle trails and easy access to the Colorado River, Needles offers countless recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. These outdoor attractions, combined with ongoing efforts to enhance our parks and public spaces, make Needles a vibrant and attractive place to live.

As we continue to reinvest in our city's future, I remain committed to building on the foundation of progress we've achieved. Together, we will unlock the full potential of Needles and ensure a brighter, more prosperous future for everyone.

CITY OF NEEDLES

COMMITS TO ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SPACES

Needles, CA - The City of Needles has set an ambitious goal to improve its infrastructure and public spaces, enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors. As part of the City Council's 2024-2025 goals, a range of initiatives focused on sustainable development, clean-up efforts, and the revitalization of key community spaces, including parks and the Rodeo Grounds, are already underway.

The Needles City Council emphasized the critical importance of these projects in their recent public statements. "We are committed to creating a sustainable, attractive, and functional environment," the council noted, "Our goal is to make Needles a welcoming gateway to California, where families, businesses, and tourists can thrive."

KEY ASPECTS OF THE PLAN INCLUDE:

Infrastructure Development: The City has allocated millions of dollars for road and water infrastructure improvements, with a significant portion already invested through the 15year Pavement Management Plan. This plan has completed 39% of the city's road network, with \$8.5 million spent since 2020. These investments aim to improve transportation and access throughout Needles.

Beautification and Clean-up Initiatives: In line with the council's vision, Needles is working hard to maintain the city's charm by launching clean-up initiatives that focus on both public and private spaces. These efforts include collaborations with state programs, such as Governor Gavin Newsom's Clean California initiative, which recognizes Needles as the first city to earn the Clean California Community Designation. This milestone highlights the city's commitment to creating a safer and more vibrant community.

Maximizing Community Spaces: Community engagement is at the heart of Needles' growth strategy. Public spaces, such as the Rodeo Grounds, parks, and local swimming pools, are being revitalized to better serve the public. A prime example is the Marilyn Hohstadt Mathews Walking Trail, a 1,600-foot path in Jack Smith Park that now features seven fitness stations. This addition not only improves health and wellness but also honors a beloved local educator. In addition, Duke Watkins Park is receiving a \$3.96 million upgrade that includes a Route 66-themed splash pad and a bicycle pump track, which will offer exciting new recreational activities for residents and visitors alike.

Public works have also focused on maintaining parks and

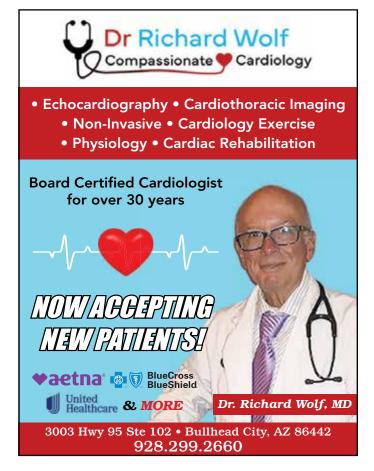


city infrastructure, ensuring facilities are in excellent condition. These projects contribute to the long-term sustainability of Needles, driving economic growth by attracting more visitors and new residents to the area.

As part of the city's broader goals, community spaces like the Rodeo Grounds will be better utilized for events, such as the popular annual rodeo, which continues to grow in attendance and community spirit.

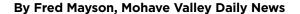
With these enhancements in place, the City of Needles is taking concrete steps toward becoming a more attractive, family-friendly destination along the Colorado River. As the Needles City Council expressed, "Together, we are building a vibrant future, one project at a time."

For more updates on the city's ongoing infrastructure improvements and events, visit the official City of Needles website or follow the city on its "Needles Connect" mobile app.



MUSIC **ACADEMY**

AIMS TO REINVIGORATE INTEREST IN ARTS



Bullhead City, AZ - Junior high school students have the opportunity to explore musical education at the high school level through a new program offered by the Colorado River Union High School District.

Dubbed the Music Academy, Fox Creek Junior High School and Mohave Valley Junior High School seventh and eighth graders are able to participate in music electives connected to either Mohave High School or River Valley High School respectively.

In Bullhead City, students are able to attend classes at MHS in either a choir or band track, with the possibility of earning high school credits. The classes are held in addition to existing musical offerings at FCJHS.

"We're very excited to work with Fox Creek administration and music teacher Jodi Crowley to build music in our community and make music seen, hopefully, as more important and one of the essential course studies for the students." band director Michelle Ribelin said.

Transportation and "everything the students require" is provided by the high school district. Ribelin said.

MHS music director Cameron Pruitt said the Music Academy aimed to generate interest in the fine arts, which has been lagging locally since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"We've seen a little bit of a decline in the kids' ability and in the overall fine arts. We wanted, as a professional learning

community between the high school and the junior high, find a way to enrich them so that when they get to the high school, they're ready for the level that is expected of them," Pruitt said.

MHS currently has a marching band and multiple choir programs, many of which participate in competitions throughout the year.

"Ultimately, the goal is to have a sixyear 'program,' where the first two years are at the Music Academy in seventh and eighth grade. Once they get to the high school, they're ready to go and can compete in regional competitions and maybe even at state," Pruitt said.

For students at MVJHS, the Music Academy is coming to them - which may be their first exposure to music in an educational setting, as the school has been without a musical program for many years.

Mohave Valley Elementary School District Superintendent Cole Young said he was excited to bring back music to his students.

"Band is a huge component when it comes to kids and the left brain thinkers that are out there. We want to be able to offer that piece," Young said. "By working with (CRUHSD superintendent) Dr. Richard, we were able to come up with an idea where he had some sections that were available at River Valley with his music teacher. They cooperatively came (to) talk to me in relation to how could we do some sharing when it

comes to some of the talents that we have within the area. "

Music teacher Jackie Woodson came to MVJHS to teach two music sections at the junior high school, Ribelin said. "Jackie is really excited about it, because she can build what she needs for the high school at the junior high level," Ribelin said.

"At one time long ago, before me, there was a band program. We're going and digging out instruments that we do have available ... Working with (CRUHSD) will give us an idea of what the baseline is and then we'll kind of build from there," Young said.

Regardless of whether it's at RVHS or MHS, musical programs are beneficial for students in many ways, Pruitt and Ribelin agreed.

Even if a student doesn't want to pursue a career in music, those involved in the fine arts are statistically more likely to succeed academically both in high school and college.

"High schools with really good music programs can boast 95% graduation rates," Pruitt said. "People who participate in middle school and high school music are 30% more likely to get into college ... It does so much for school culture, it does a lot for students and I think to get our area on track academically and culturally, we need to have a stronger music program."



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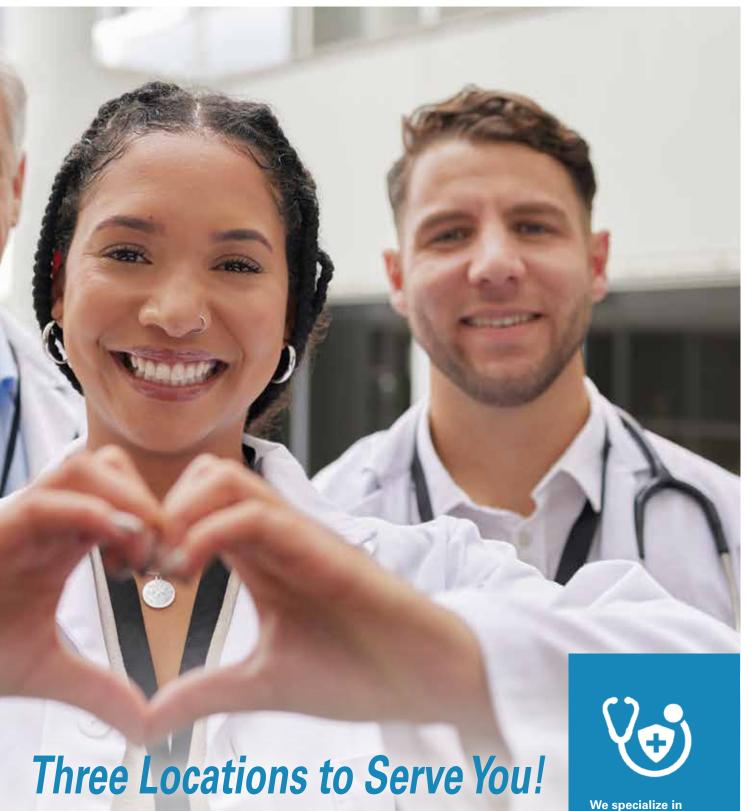
The Tri-State Community Healthcare Center was founded in 2012 by two entrepreneurs who were concerned for rural and underserved communities that lacked access to healthcare facilities. They obviously got great help and support from community members, healthcare professionals, and business associates.

Their goal was to remove the financial barriers that prevented low-income families from accessing essential health care and other support services.

Today, Tri-State Community Healthcare Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) offering primary and specialty care at ten locations throughout California, Nevada, and Arizona. We are dedicated to bringing quality, compassionate care to uninsured, underinsured, and underserved individuals and families.

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NEEDLES CITY COUNCIL **PRIORITIZES** COMMUNITY **ENGAGEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

Needles, CA - The Needles City Council is taking bold steps to enhance the quality of life for residents by prioritizing community engagement and family support. As part of its 2024-2025 goals, the council aims to foster stronger community connections, promote family-friendly amenities, and position Needles as a vibrant and welcoming destination for both residents and visitors.

Community Engagement: Strengthening Local Identity and Connections

The City of Needles is committed to fostering a connected and vibrant community by organizing a diverse array of cultural events, public celebrations, and activities that strengthen local identity. The council has worked tirelessly to create opportunities for residents to come together and engage with one another, helping to cultivate a strong sense of belonging and pride in Needles' unique heritage.

Notable events such as Farmer's Markets, food truck gatherings, and scavenger hunts are just a few examples of how the council is making local activities more accessible and enjoyable for the community. The city's signature event, the Needles Rodeo, recently set a new attendance record with over 3,000 attendees, celebrating the rich history and spirit of the Tri-State region. Other notable events like the Run for the Wall, which honors Vietnam veterans, continue to highlight the city's dedication to community engagement and cultural heritage.

These initiatives are designed to strengthen Needles' identity as a close-knit, active community. By bringing people together, the council aims to promote trust in local government and build lasting connections among residents.

Family Support: Enhancing Amenities and Promoting Recreation

A major focus of the Needles City Council is to create a family-friendly environment that attracts and retains families by enhancing local amenities and promoting sports and recreational activities. Through investments in public spaces like Duke Watkins Park, the council is ensuring that Needles offers high-quality recreational opportunities for families.

Recent upgrades to the park include a Route 66-themed splash pad, a bicycle pump track, and modernized play-



ground equipment with shaded picnic areas. These improvements create a safe and welcoming space where families can enjoy outdoor activities, further enhancing the city's appeal to both residents and visitors.

To support youth development, the city has implemented recreation programs for children as young as three years old. Programs such as summer basketball camps, fall flag football, and after-school activities provide children with opportunities to grow and succeed, fostering both athletic and community involvement. These efforts contribute to the council's broader strategy of promoting athletic tourism, which has the potential to draw more visitors to the area while supporting local economic growth.

Removing Barriers to Engagement and Supporting Inclusivity

In addition to promoting sports and recreation, the council has made it a priority to remove barriers to engagement by identifying obstacles that may prevent residents from participating in local events and activities. By addressing these challenges, Needles is becoming a more inclusive and welcoming city for all.

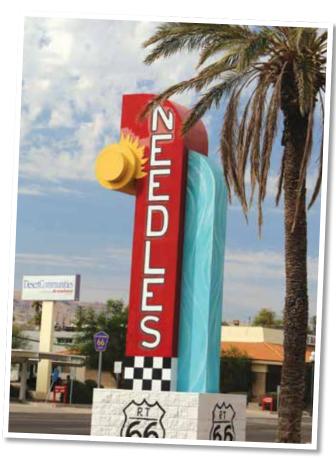
The council has also strengthened its partnership with the Needles Unified School District, a key player in enhancing family life in the community. The school district's excellent academic and athletic programs, including a 100% graduation rate, have made it an attractive option for families considering moving to the area.

Creating a Thriving, Connected Community

By focusing on community engagement and family support, the Needles City Council is building a brighter future for its residents. Through the promotion of cultural and recreational activities, the enhancement of public spaces, and the removal of engagement barriers, Needles is becoming an ideal place to live, work, visit, and raise a family. These initiatives not only strengthen the local identity but also contribute to the city's broader goals of fostering economic growth and enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents.

For more information on the city's upcoming events and programs, visit the official City of Needles website or stay connected via the "Needles Connect" mobile app.









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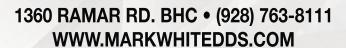












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VALLEY VIEW MEDICAL CENTER AND FORT MOJAVE MESA FIRE

HOST FLAG CEREMONY FOR NOAH WELCH



Fort Mohave, AZ - Firefighters and medical staff gathered to honor Noah Scott Jentri Welch with a flag ceremony at Valley View Medical Center.

"He will be greatly missed," said Fort Mojave Mesa Fire Chief Chris Pardi

The 23-year-old man, known for his broad smile and passion for teaching others lifesaving skills, died Sept. 1, after a lifetime of health challenges.

"He had a very positive attitude and the fighting spirit of a warrior," said his mother, Maureen Welch. "When he was born, they said he would never survive, let alone grow â€" he became an amazing young man, everyone loved him."

Noah was born on Nov. 13, 2000, with many health conditions that required lifelong intervention from healthcare providers.

"He came into our care as a foster child and was our adopted son for 23 years," Maureen Welch said. "He experienced surgeries of his brain, his abdomen, his spinal cord and more."

When it became obvious Noah wasn't coming home this time, Fort Mojave Mesa Fire Department dispatched an honor crew to stand watch in his room at Saint Rose Dominican Hospital in Las Vegas.

"Noah and his mother are part of our firefighting family, they've been an integral part of our annual CPR and Basic Life Support/Advanced Life Support annual certification and other specialized training," said John Clark, FMMFD Fire Marshal. "He'll be missed; our folks enjoyed his being a part of our training and having him present."

The Welch family worked together in their own company, Specialty Life Support, an American heart training center.

Noah became an instructor and also graduated from an emergency medical technician program. A student at Mohave Community College, Welch carried a 4.0 GPA and was three classes away from earning his associates degree in IT technology.

"Noah had to work harder to get satisfactory grades and he was never satisfied with a grade that was just okay," Maureen Welch said. "We planned on traveling the country and teaching people CPR in the under-served communities of Arizona."

Noah's spirit lives on through his decision to be an organ donor, his mother said. The family was informed nearly immediately that his decision had already given the gifts of a lung, two kidneys and a liver.

"At Saint Rose, organ donors are announced hospital-wide before disconnecting life support," Clark said. "FMMFD, hospital staff and volunteers, Air Methods crews and others lined the hallways to pay their respects as Noah was taken on an honor walk through the hospital. It was very solemn, but very neat that they did that."

Afterward, Noah and his family were escorted home to Valley View Medical Center, where Maureen Welch has worked for many years. They were greeted by Welch's Valley View family and their firefighting family.

"He was the loveliest thing I had in my life," Maureen Welch said after the ceremony. "My heart is so full; we appreciate that our lives were touched by him and now without him here, we'll try to figure out how to go on."



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NEEDLES CITY COUNCIL ACCELERATES ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BUSINESS **DEVELOPMENT**

Needles, CA - The Needles City Council continues to lead a dynamic effort to foster economic growth and create a business-friendly environment that attracts a wide range of industries. In the past five years, the city has experienced an economic renaissance, with over \$100 million in new investments across sectors such as retail, hotels, industrial, and housing.

This transformation has been driven by the City Council's focus on streamlining permitting processes and forming key partnerships with regional, state, and federal government entities. These efforts have resulted in the construction of over 20 new industrial buildings, primarily focused on the production and purification of CBD and cannabis-related products. This surge in industrial development has led to the creation of more than 600 permanent jobs, significantly boosting local employment.

In addition to industrial growth, Needles has witnessed an



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increase in hospitality and tourism, highlighted by the opening of the Hampton Inn & Suites. This new 80-room hotel, part of the Hilton Hotels family, is the first interior-entrance hotel in the city's history and contributes to the ongoing influx of visitors. As tourism plays an increasingly important role in Needles' economy, the city has seen record numbers of visitors, driving economic activity across local businesses.

One of the key pillars of Needles' economic growth is the cannabis industry, which has generated over \$4 million in tax revenue for the city each year for the last four years. These revenues have been reinvested in critical infrastructure projects, helping to modernize roads, water, and wastewater systems.

The City Council is also keen on addressing the growing demand for housing. Significant investments are being made in both remodeling existing homes and constructing new properties, including custom homes along the Colorado River. With available land for development, the city is well-positioned to accommodate new residents while attracting further investment in housing.

To support sustainable growth, the Needles City Council has allocated funds for infrastructure improvements, including the enhancement of public spaces like Bob Belt Park and the ongoing repaying of roads. The city has also committed to upgrading water and wastewater infrastructure, ensuring that the foundation for future growth is both modern and resilient.

In recognition of its efforts, Needles was recently awarded the California Department of Housing and Community Development Prohousing Designation, making it the first rural city in San Bernardino County to receive this honor. The city continues to encourage new development, with streamlined permitting processes that simplify business operations.

As Needles continues its upward trajectory, the City Council remains dedicated to fostering a diverse economy, supporting small businesses, and improving the quality of life for all residents. With a bright future ahead, Needles is fast becoming a vibrant hub of economic activity and a prime destination for businesses, families, and tourists alike.

For more information on economic opportunities in Needles, visit the city's official website or download the "Needles Connect" mobile app.

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DEVILS YOUTH PROGRAM

MAKES 2024 HOME DEBUT AGAINST WICKENBURG

By Bill McMillen, Mohave Valley Daily News





The River Valley Devils cheerleaders perform at halftime. The squad, a component of the Devils K-8 youth program, has 25 members this year.

Mohave Valley, AZ - The River Valley Devils made the first of four home appearances in September, hosting the Wickenburg Wranglers in a youth football tripleheader at River Valley High School's stadium.

Playing for the third time of the new season, the Mighty Mites, Minors and Majors all saw the home field for the first time on what turned into a long, hot day of football.

"We have 125 kids this year," said River Valley Devils board vice president Heather D'Amico. "We have 45 in cheerleading and the rest (80) in football."

The program is for grades K-8, essentially ages 5 to 14, with the program split into three age groups. The Mighty Mites is for grades K-2, the Minors for grades 3-5 and the Majors for grades 6-8. Participation in the Devils program is open to grade school and middle school/junior high students in Mohave County.

"There's no residency requirement; they can live anywhere in Mohave County," she said.

The Devils program was launched in 2017. Prior to that, D'Amico said, the Vipers program existed for "15 or more years" in Mohave Valley.

The program competes in the Northern Arizona Youth Foot-

ball League, part of the nationwide USA Football program. The Devils are the lone Mohave County member of the league.

D'Amico said the program fills several needs for the community. First, it is an organized, competitive program. "It teaches kids discipline, honesty, accountability, teamwork, trust in each other," she said.

And it provides a supervised activity 10 months of the year.

"It gives them something to do," she said. "It teaches them skills they can use in other things as they get older."

The Devils program offers flag football and tackle football for boys and cheerleading for girls. The flag football season runs from late winter to spring, then the tackle football season occupies late summer through fall.

D'Amico said signups for the 2025 Devils program will begin in January.

Another component of the program is "20 to 25" volunteers, D'Amico said, serving in capacities as board members, coaches for football and cheerleading and "team moms" who play a key role at each level giving the coaches and players additional support.



TOROS, WARRIORS USHER IN NEW ERA OF YOUTH FOOTBALL

By Bill McMillen, Mohave Valley Daily News

Mohave Valley, AZ - The Tri-State Toros and Tri-State Warriors ushered in a new era of youth football in the area in August during a quadruple-header at River Valley High School.

The Bullhead City-based Toros and the Fort Mohave/Mohave Valley-based Warriors battled in games for 9-and-under, 11-and-under and 13-and-under before the Toros took on the Phoenix Wildcats in a 7-and-under game. The Warriors aren't fielding a 7-and-under

It was the inaugural tackle football action for both the Toros and Warriors, members of a newly formed six-team River Cities Conference. They are joined by programs from Yuma, Parker, Lake Havasu City and Kingman.

"I thought it was pretty successful," said Corey Fawcett of the Warriors. "It was a learning experience, especially for our younger players who hadn't played a real game before. But I think it went well. We brought all the (Warriors) teams together and the kids got to see what it's like to play football. Now, it's back to work on Tuesday."

Fawcett said the team - and league formed because of the many changes going on in the community.

"It's going better than we thought it would," said Natalie Tynda, president of the Tri-State Toros board. "We thought there would be more hiccups. There have been a few, but for the most part it's gone pretty smoothly."

The Toros have 92 players on four



Tri-state toros: JuJu Vasquez, of the Tri-State Toros, breaks past two Phoenix Wildcats defenders on the way to a 40-yard return of the opening kickoff in Saturday's 7-and-under football game at River Valley High School.

age-defined teams and there are 49 cheerleaders involved in three squads. The Warriors had 63 players and 21 cheerleaders for its three age-specific teams.

Tynda said the organizers of the Toros are trying to make sure that they are running the program to not only promote football and cheerleading but also to advance and advocate academic success.

"We're serious about it," Tynda said. "If you don't make the grades, you don't play. It's that simple."

And for participants struggling academically, tutoring help is available at every practice. She said several area high school students are tutoring the youngsters.

"It's a win-win," she said of the arrangement that helps the young students while giving the high school mentors an opportunity to earn credits for performing community service.

"The parents want it to be about the kids," Tynda said. "Not the adults; the kids. Everything we try to do is kids first."

Safety is also paramount. Teams have full equipment and, Tynda said, "they don't practice if they don't have all their equipment."

There also are certified medics, many with professional experience.

"We want it to be safe for our kids," said Tynda, who has a son on the 7U team.





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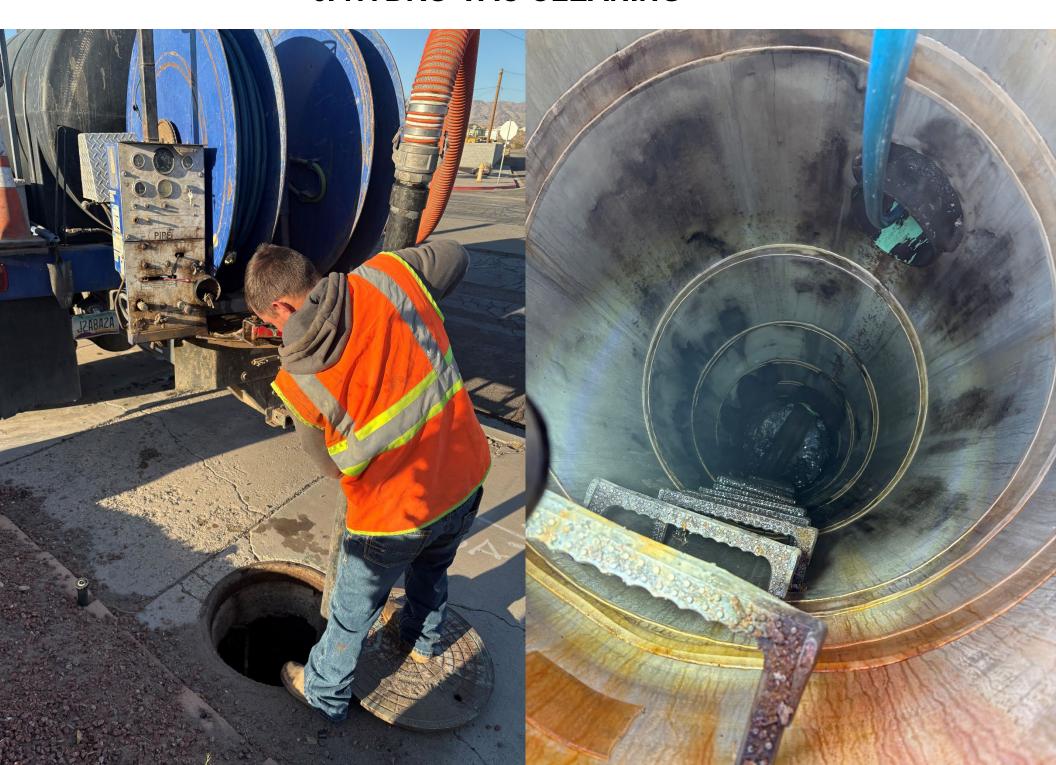
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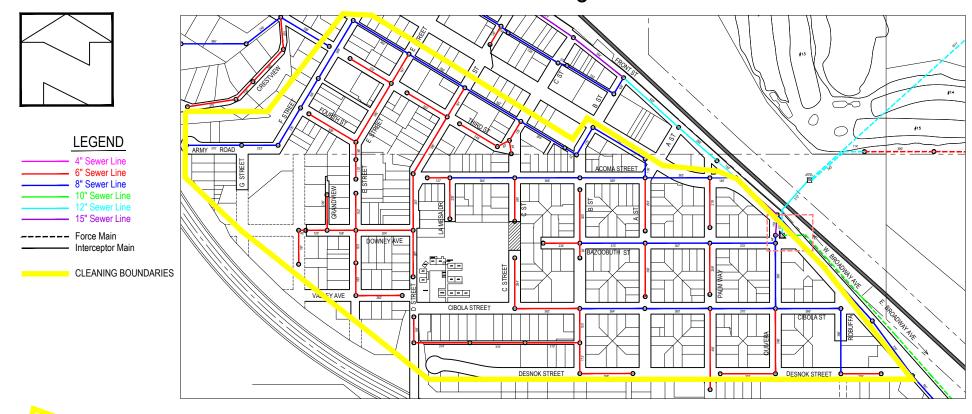
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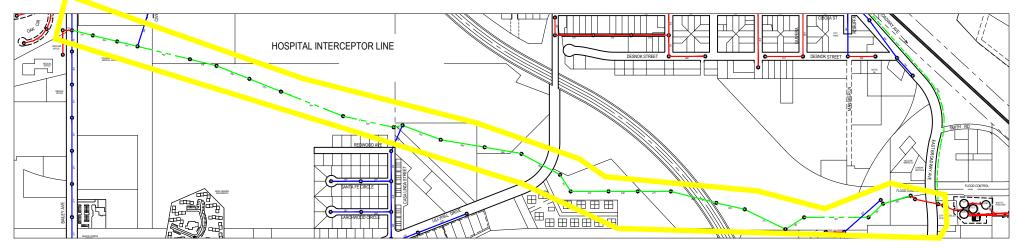


6. HYDRO-VAC CLEANING



City of Needles SEWER COLLECTION Manhole Cleaning





7. RODEO GROUNDS ADA



7. RODEO GROUNDS ADA





47TH COLORADO RIVER ROUND UP APRIL 4 & 5, 2025 NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

ADDED MONIES HAS BEEN CHANGED

\$3000 ADDED TO BULL RIDING \$1500 FOR ALL OTHER EVENTS \$800 ADDED TO INCENTIVE EVENTS

9. BURROS JACK SMITH PARK



11. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	VASH RIBBON CUTTING SAGE MOTEL 11AM	PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS ON BROADWAY 10AM - 2PM	9	10	11
12	13	14 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	15	16	17	COMMUNITY CLEAN UP THIRD STREET 10AM
19	20	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	HOUSING COMMISSION	23	24	25 BULKY WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT FREE DISPOSAL OF TRASH & BULKY ITEMS SELLIF RECOVERY WITH SOLACEPTO SATURDAY, January 25th, 2025 8 am to moon— Formal divide disposition in an an annual property of the pro
26	27	28 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	29	30	31	

February 2025

		99				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	WOMEN'S CLUB OF SOURS OF TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT BEREITS WOMENS CLUB OF SOURS OF TOURNAMENT BEREITS WOMENS CLUB OPERATIONS
9	10	11 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	PLANNING COMMISSION 4pm	13	14	15
16	17	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	Goin us for Cofffee with a Cop! Fro 19th HOO am NO AGENDA ENJOYERSATION COVERSATION DEPUTIES THE 19TH HOLE NEEDINGS, CA	20	21	22
23	24	25 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	26 HOUSING COMMISSION 4pm		28 NDO RIVER INVITA NOOL SOFTBALL TO	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CITY PUBLIC WORKS YARD 112 ROBUFFA 7AM - 11AM
2 16TH ANNUAL SPRING CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 3RD-8TH GRADES MAY 1 - 2	3	4 WELL 11 TREATMENT PLANT RIBBON CUTTING 10AM BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	CITY COUNCIL 6pm	12	13	14	LUCKY GREENS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RIVER EDGE GOLF COURSE
16	17	18 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR EL GARCES 10AM - 2PM	20	21	22
23	24	25 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	26		28 IN THE P GARCES - SANTA FE P	

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	2	3	4 47th ANN COLORADO ROUND I	RIVER
6	7	8 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	16	17	18	19
20	21 ROUT	CITY COUNCIL 6pm E 66 BIKE \	23 NEEK	SPRING SPRING THE NEEDER ANNAL SHEETER IS SPONSONING A SPAY/REUTER CLINIC FOR NEEDER SHEEDENE, PET OWNER PAYS SPONSON SHEETER ANNAL SHEETER IS SPONSONING AS SPAY/REUTER CLINIC FOR NEEDER SHEEDENE, PET OWNER PAYS SPONSON SHEETER ANNAL SHEETER NEEDER ANNAL SHEE	25 APRIL 2	²⁶ 21 - 27
27 ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK	28	29	30			

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	RUN WAII	15	16	17
18	19	20 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4Pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	28	29	30	31

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	27	28	29	30

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	29	30	31	

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	12	13	14	15
16	17	BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	26	27	28	29

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES 4pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 CITY COUNCIL 6pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			