



City of Needles

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 Larry Ford

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: April 17, 2026

1. **Cal Cities City Leaders Summit – Panel Participation**

Next week, Mayor Jernigan and Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell will attend the Cal Cities City Leaders Summit in Sacramento to engage in statewide policy discussions and advocacy. The City Manager will serve as a featured panelist on *“The New Grants and Economic Development Playbook,”* sharing strategies to secure funding, leverage partnerships, and advance infrastructure and economic development based on the City’s recent successes. Participation in Cal Cities ensures Needles remains competitive for funding, connected to key decision-makers, and engaged in policies that impact our community. This recognition reflects the strong work being done across the organization—driven by a City Council with a clear vision, a strong internal effort to pursue opportunities, and partnerships that help us deliver results. The summit also provides a platform to share Needles’ story and bring back best practices that support Council priorities and long-term growth.

2. **Third Annual Community Fall Festival Celebrating the Route 66 Centennial**

The City is preparing for the Third Annual Community Fall Festival on **November 7, 2026**, from **9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at Santa Fe Park, celebrating the 100-Year Anniversary of Route 66 and reinforcing Needles’ role as the eastern gateway to California. This signature event is designed to attract regional visitors and position Needles as a premier Route 66 destination during the Centennial year. Planned activities include an OHMV car show, live entertainment, food vendors, a beer garden, kids zone, and a fireworks show to anchor the evening. Staff is actively advancing event logistics with a strong focus on vendor recruitment and sponsorship opportunities, with limited vendor space available and active outreach underway to secure event sponsors. The festival builds on prior success and is expected to draw increased attendance due to the national significance of the Centennial. This event directly supports Council priorities related to tourism, economic development, and community engagement. **Contact: Jennifer Valenzuela, Parks and Recreation, (760) 326-2814 or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.** Additional information is available on the [City’s Route 66 Centennial webpage](#).

3. **Needles Highway Improvement Project – Construction Update**
Construction will begin on **April 23, 2026**, and continue through **July 31, 2026**, for a San Bernardino County Public Works project improving approximately 2.32 miles of Needles Highway from David Drive to just north of Notchco Road. The project includes roadway rehabilitation, striping, signage, and related infrastructure upgrades. Initial work will include utility locating and pre-construction activities, followed by full construction. Work will occur Monday through Friday between **6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**, and the public should expect traffic control and potential delays. Residents are asked to follow posted “No Parking” signage and keep roadways clear during active work. We appreciate the community’s patience during construction. **Contact: Granite Construction – James Regan, (760) 625-5423; San Bernardino County Public Works, (909) 387-7920. Refer to the attached notice.**
4. **Lucky Dhaba – New Business & Ribbon Cutting**
The City is pleased to welcome Lucky Dhaba, a new Indian restaurant located on the west end of Needles at 2411 W. Broadway Street. The Needles Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting and food tasting on **April 25, 2026**, with the restaurant scheduled to officially open to the public on **April 26, 2026**. This new business reflects continued growth in Needles and highlights ongoing momentum in attracting investment and expanding dining options. The addition of Lucky Dhaba supports City Council goals related to economic development, business attraction, and enhancing local amenities. Residents are encouraged to support this new local business.
5. **NIAA 2A State Softball & Baseball Tournaments – Needles Host Site**
Staff met this week at the Jo Jo Garcia Memorial Sports Complex to prepare for the upcoming NIAA 2A State Softball and Baseball Tournaments, with games to be held at Needles High School. This event will bring teams, families, and visitors into the community, supporting local businesses and advancing the City Council’s goal of promoting sports tourism. The tournament is scheduled for **May 14–16**. City staff are actively coordinating operations and facility readiness to ensure a safe, well-organized event that showcases Needles. The Girls’ team will look to defend their State Championship title, while the Boys’ team will compete to build on last year’s runner-up finish. Hosting events of this scale strengthens partnerships with the Needles Unified School District and positions the City to attract future tournaments and continued economic activity.
6. **Route 66 Bike Week – Final Reminder**
Route 66 Bike Week begins next week, taking place **April 20–26, 2026**, and will bring a weeklong motorcycle ride experience along the historic Mother Road. Riders will travel through Needles and surrounding Route 66 communities, generating increased activity for local businesses and regional tourism. This is expected to bring an influx of visitors to the area, and the community should anticipate increased traffic and activity throughout the week. The event continues to highlight Needles’ role as a key destination along Route 66 and supports the City Council’s goals of promoting economic activity and community pride.

7. Flip Mendez Golf Tournament – Final Sponsorship Opportunity

The 27th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament on **May 2, 2026**, at Rivers Edge Golf Course is sold out, reflecting strong community support. The tournament benefits the Flip Mendez Youth Fund, which provides scholarships and financial assistance for local youth to participate in sports and recreational programs. As the event approaches, this serves as a final opportunity for businesses and community members to participate as hole sponsors. Sponsorships will help maximize funding and ensure continued support for youth athletics and scholarships. For sponsorship opportunities or additional information, please contact Rhonda Mendez at (760) 927-2220 or Frank Mendez at (760) 927-2215.

8. Run for the Wall (RFTW) Needles – Event Update

The annual Run for the Wall (RFTW) procession will stop in Needles on **May 13, 2026**, commemorating the **35th Anniversary of the Gulf War**. Riders are expected to arrive at approximately **12:35 p.m.**, with activities taking place at El Garces and Santa Fe Park along Route 66. The event honors Veterans and raises awareness for POW/MIA accountability, and continues to draw strong participation from riders and community members. Local residents and Veterans are encouraged to attend and welcome the riders into Needles. Community partners are also accepting donations for food in support of the event. This event supports City Council goals related to community engagement, honoring Veterans, and regional tourism.

9. Chamber Spotlight – Needles Branch Library

The Needles Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a “Good Morning Needles” event featuring the Needles Branch Library, highlighting its free programs and community resources. Branch Manager Adela Covarrubias shared information on services that support education, digital literacy, and community engagement. Current programs include Storytime, Basic Internet Classes, and Family Game Time, with the Summer Reading Program launching in June. Residents are encouraged to [click the link](#) to learn more about available programs and upcoming events.

10. Needles Pride Program & Infrastructure Improvements

This week, staff continued advancing efforts that support community pride, safety, and system reliability. Public Works focused on weed abatement along J Street, a highly visible corridor, as part of ongoing beautification efforts. In preparation for increased seasonal activity, staff also striped lanes at Jack Smith Park to support safe access and economic activity at the boat launch. Infrastructure improvements continued under the Electric Circuit Reliability Program, including work along Lilly Hill Drive and Larchwood Circle to replace aging and inaccessible poles and improve overall system reliability. Additionally, concrete repairs were completed at the underpass sidewalk railing to enhance public safety. These efforts reflect the City’s continued commitment to maintaining a clean, safe, and well-functioning community.

11. Earth Day Transit Promotion – Fare-Free Service

In recognition of Earth Day, Needles Area Transit and Dial-a-Ride will offer fare-free transit services on **April 22, 2026**, encouraging residents to utilize public transportation and reduce environmental impact. This initiative provides an

opportunity for the community to experience local transit services at no cost while promoting sustainability and alternative transportation options. The program is supported in partnership with regional transit agencies and aims to increase awareness and ridership. This effort supports City Council goals related to environmental stewardship, accessibility, and community engagement.

12. Update – Penny Deposits

Arrowhead Credit Union has announced that pennies will no longer be accepted for deposit after **April 30**, and is encouraging customers to complete deposits prior to that date. This change is being driven at the federal level, as the U.S. Treasury reduces production of pennies due to rising manufacturing costs and declining use in circulation. The City is sharing this update to keep residents informed and avoid any confusion. Staff are also monitoring these broader changes and working toward practical solutions to ensure continued efficient cash handling operations, with additional information to be brought forward to City Council at a future meeting.

13. Bi-Annual Vaccination and Licensing Clinic – Next Weekend

This is a reminder that the City of Needles Animal Shelter will host its low-cost vaccination and pet licensing clinic **on April 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Animal Shelter (1662 Flip Mendez Parkway). In partnership with PetSmart Veterinary Services, the clinic offers affordable vaccinations and microchipping, helping reduce costs for residents. Pet licensing will be available at reduced rates, and all dogs will be licensed prior to leaving, ensuring compliance with City requirements and promoting responsible pet ownership. This event supports public health and improves overall licensing compliance. Residents from the tri-state area are welcome to participate. Dogs must be on leashes and cats must be in carriers.

14. Needles Women’s Club Flower Show – Final Reminder

The 96th Annual Needles Women’s Club Flower Show will be held on **April 25, 2026**, at the Needles Women’s Clubhouse. This long-standing community event highlights local talent in gardening and floral design and is free and open to the public. Entries will be accepted from **8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**, followed by judging from **9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, with public viewing from **12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Residents are encouraged to attend, participate, and support this community tradition. This event supports Council priorities related to community engagement and local pride. **Contact: Mary McNeil, (626) 705-3394**

15. Dance Trax 51 Spring Recital – Reminder

Just a reminder that Dance Trax 51 will host its Spring Recital on **May 1 and May 2 at 6:00 p.m. at** the Needles High School Auditorium. This event will showcase the talent and hard work of our local youth dancers. We encourage the community to come out and support these young performers.

16. Behavioral Health Community Meeting – Public Outreach

The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will host a community meeting in Needles next month on **May 19, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Needles Council Chambers. The meeting will provide an overview of the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), along with information on programs and resources available to the community. Residents and stakeholders are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and provide input on behavioral health services in Needles. The City is supporting outreach efforts to promote attendance and ensure local engagement. This effort supports Council priorities related to community well-being and access to services.

17. “Our Water Ways” Film Screening at Palo Verde College

The “*Our Water Ways*” film screening was held on **April 11, 2026**, at the Palo Verde College Needles Educational Center and was well attended by the community. Hosted by Palo Verde College and led by Dean Jaclyn Randall, the event brought together regional and tribal voices to share perspectives on the cultural and historical significance of water. We appreciate Supervisor Rowe’s support in sending her Field Director, Steve Reyes, to participate.

The program featured speakers Paul Jackson and Nora McDowell (Fort Mojave Indian Tribe), along with Matt Leivas, former Chemehuevi Heritage Chair, who is also featured in the film. The discussion highlighted the Colorado River’s importance, emphasizing water rights, cultural connections, and the essential role water plays in sustaining life—reinforcing the need for continued stewardship in Needles as a Colorado River community.

18. Historic 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck Restoration

City Councilmember Larry Ford and Heather Timmons volunteered their time to refurbish original brass fire extinguishers from the City of Needles’ historic 1923 American LaFrance Fire Truck (as shown). Their efforts reflect strong community pride and a commitment to preserving the City’s history. With only a few finishing touches remaining, approximately \$15,000 is still needed to complete the restoration. Donations are welcome to help bring this project across the finish line. Those interested in contributing may contact Jesse Fragoso at jfragoso@cityofneedles.com.

19. Community Events Calendar Now Live

The City’s new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a single source for community events, civic meetings, and community programs. Local organizations are invited to submit or update events through the City Clerk’s Office to keep the calendar current and inclusive. Contact **Candace Clark at cclark@cityofneedles.com** to participate. Residents can subscribe and sync the calendar to mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed and engaged.

1. CAL CITIES PARTICIPATION

Join Us

for the

Cal Cities City Leaders Summit

SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Sacramento, CA

APRIL 23rd - 3:45pm

The New Grants and Economic Development Playbook



DALE SUMERSILLE
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
CAL CONSULTING
MODERATOR



LARRY KOSMONT
CHAIRMAN & CEO
KOSMONT COMPANIES



PATRICK MARTINEZ
CITY MANAGER
CITY OF NEEDLES



MICHAEL ANTWINE
CITY MANAGER
CITY OF BELL

This panel will explore effective strategies for pursuing grants and collaborative financing options, especially for cities working to rebuild their economies. The panel will discuss the Building a Better America initiative, as well as how special financing districts can support capital improvements, climate action, housing, and ongoing maintenance. Learn how combining tax increment financing with grants can help revitalize your community and drive sustainable growth.

****Please check program for room****



REGISTER NOW

CITY LEADERS SUMMIT

SACRAMENTO, CA

April 22-24, 2026



2. 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE!

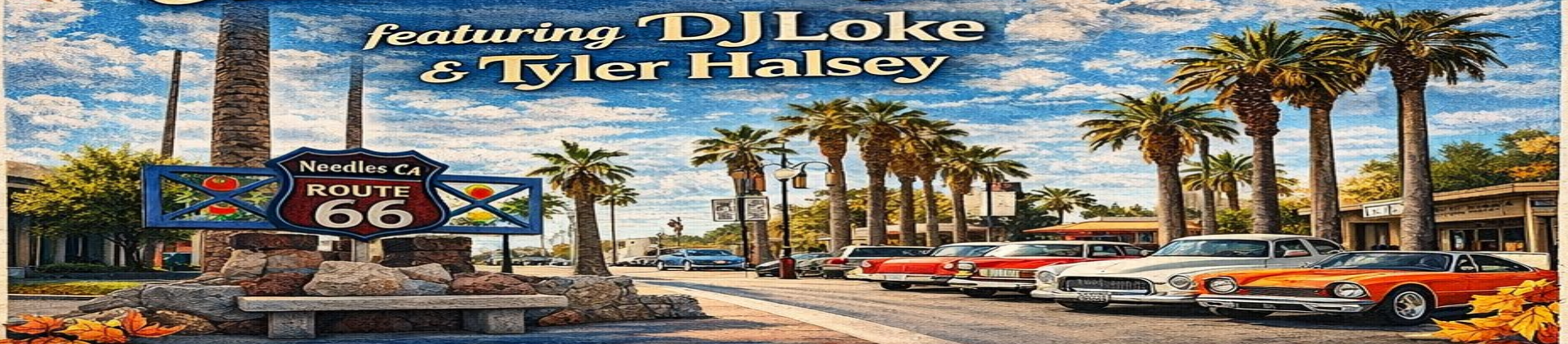
The City of Needles
★ *Third Annual* ★
**COMMUNITY
FALL FESTIVAL**



Celebrate the Route 66 Centennial!

Cruisin' the Century in Needles

featuring **DJ Loke
& Tyler Halsey**



 **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026**

 **9:00 AM – 8:00 PM** •  **SANTA FE PARK, NEEDLES, CA**



OHMV Car Show



NOW ACCEPTING VENDORS

 **Fireworks Show**

**LOOKING FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**



Food Trucks



**Beer Garden at
Red Dog Saloon**



**Kids Zone &
Games**



JOIN US FOR A HISTORIC CELEBRATION

Experience the energy of Route 66 and a Fall Festival like
never before — OHMV, culture, community, and the Colorado River

Contact Jennifer Valenzuela at 760-326-2814
or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com



★★★ **CITYOFNEEDLES.COM** ★★★

3. NEEDLES HIGHWAY PROJECT 1C



NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF NEEDLES

San Bernardino County Department of Public Works has contracted with Granite Construction for the construction of Needles Highway in the Needles area. The construction shall include road paving and road shoulder work.

This work will be performed between the dates of April 23, 2026 and July 31, 2026.

Normal working hours will be between the hours of 6:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

There will be "No Parking Signs" posted on your street indicating the specific dates work will be performed on the street. During the time we are working, access to the public will be limited and we ask the following:

1. Do not park your vehicles on the roadway
2. Do not allow water to run on the roadway
3. Do not allow children to play in the roadway
4. Do not place trash cans or other debris on the roadway

We regret any inconvenience that this work may cause you and we thank you for your cooperation in assisting us in rebuilding your street.

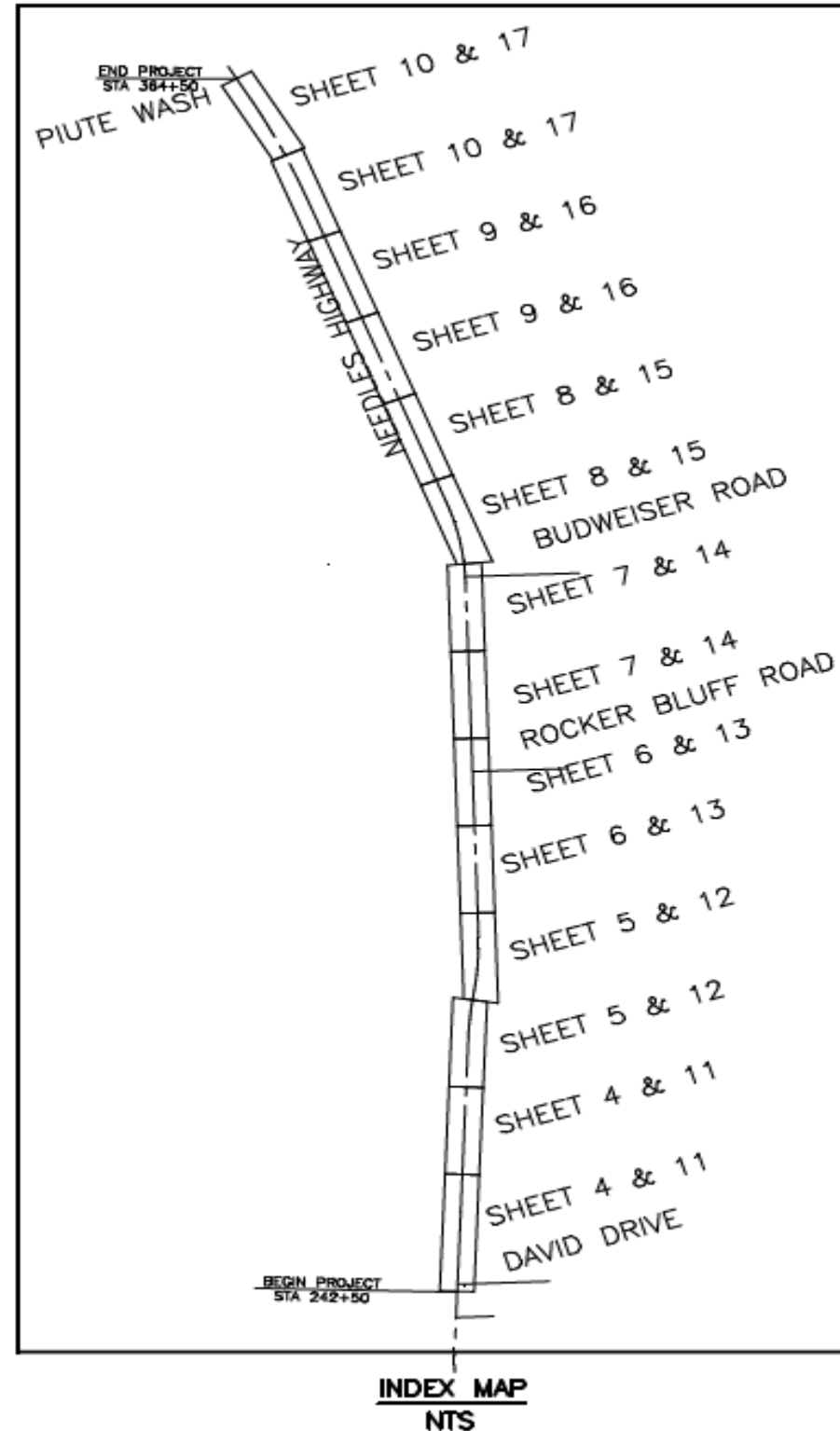
Thank you.

Granite Construction

James Regan

(760)625-5423

If you need further assistance, contact the Department of Public Works at (909) 387-7920.



4. NEEDLES CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING



The Needles Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center

INVITES YOU!

TO THE

OFFICIAL **RIBBON CUTTING** CEREMONY

Join us as we officially open the doors
Celebrating a New Beginning on Rt. 66 in Needles, CA



Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

**Location: 2411 West Broadway Street
Needles, CA 92363**

For More Information Please Contact The Needles Chamber of Commerce at 760-326-2050

5. HOSTING NIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



6. ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK SELIGMAN

ROUTE 66 BIKE WEEK

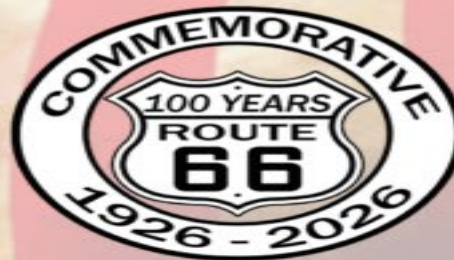
A WEEK LONG "BENEFIT" RIDE, SPANNING 8 STATES TO
SUPPORT THE MOTHER ROAD & PROMOTE MOTORCYCLE TOURISM.

April 20-26, 2026

**ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT THE
SMALL BUSINESSES
YOU SHOP AT.**



**START, STOP & SHOP
ANYWHERE YOU WANT**



**BIKER RALLY ACTIVITIES
@ THE SADDLE SORE RANCH
IN GOLDEN VALLEY, AZ
WED THRU SUN.**

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

ROUTE66BIKEWEEK.COM



7. FLIP MENDEZ SPONORSHIPS

THE FLIPS

27th Annual

Flip Mendez Youth Fund Golf Tournament

Rivers Edge Golf Course

Saturday, May 2, 2026

*The Flip Mendez Youth Fund Golf Tournament Committee thanks you for your support.
In 2025 contributions to the Flip Mendez Youth Fund provided funding for:*

4 College Scholarships to NHS Graduating Seniors

Over 200 Youth Sports Scholarships

Donations to the following sports:

Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Football,

Volleyball, T-Ball and many other donations for the youth.

Tee Sponsorship – \$75 – Per Hole

Sponsorship fees must be received by April 20th for signs to be placed on course.

Sponsor Names: _____

Tee Sponsor: \$75.00 x's _____ hole(s) = \$ _____

Other Amount = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Flip Mendez Youth Fund

Mail to: Frank or Rhonda Mendez 2101 El Monte Street, Needles, CA 9236

Tax ID# 47-3448436

For Questions Call - Rhonda Mendez at (760) 927-2220 Or Frank Mendez (760) 927-2215

27th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament

2101 El Monte Street Needles, CA 92363

Phone (760) 927-2220

Dear Sponsor,

We are proudly preparing for the annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament which will be our 27th ANNUAL and is scheduled for May 2, 2026.

As you may know, Flip Mendez had a passion for helping young people and their families, and often quietly paved the way for many to participate in community sports leagues, and other activities. The Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament was established to assist children by sponsoring them so that they may play sports and provide new equipment that is needed. We do not want any child to go without playing sports due to financial hardship. The Flip Mendez Youth Fund is here to assist any child that needs help. The Flip Mendez Committee has continued Flip's legacy of generosity in the community where he grew up and raised his own family. The Flip Mendez Youth Fund is a Tax Exempt, Non-Profit Organization; our Tax ID # is 47-3448436.

In the past, you were a generous sponsor of this event, and your contribution is much appreciated and needed.

In previous years, we were able to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Sports scholarships for over 340 kids
- ❖ Scholarships for Graduating seniors
- ❖ Generous Donations to the NHS Baseball, CRAGS, Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, Football along with Pee Wee Tee-Ball, Pee Wee Basketball, Needles Little League, Pop Warner Football, Cheer and many other sports donations.

Your faithful support of this event is appreciated by the Mendez family, the Tournament Committee, and the citizens of the community. You may choose to be a \$75 Hole Sponsor or sponsor multiple holes. (A sign will be placed on a hole with business' name on it for however many holes you sponsor.) You may also choose to sponsor any dollar amount you wish, just fill out the form and put the amount you wish to donate. We have included a *Hole Sponsor Request Form* and a *Team Registration Form* for your convenience. Please let us know if we can count on your generous support again this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Irene Mendez & The Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Tournament Committee

Frank Mendez Rhonda Mendez* Frank Valenzuela* Jennifer Valenzuela* Rick Huebner

8. RUN FOR THE WALL



RUN FOR THE WALL

MAY 13, 2026

**EL GARCES AND SANTA FE PARK
ON ROUTE 66 IN NEEDLES, CA**

**HOSTED BY THE CITY OF NEEDLES
AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

**DONATIONS FOR FOOD ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT
DECO FOODSERVICES AT 700 W BROADWAY IN NEEDLES.**

**RIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT 12:35 PM
AND LOCAL VETERANS AND RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED
TO WELCOME THE RIDERS INTO TOWN.**

For more information, call 760-333-5255



9. NEEDLES CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Bring A Friend
or Two**

Thursday

April 16, 2026

7:30 a.m.

950 Front Street.

Needles Ca 92363

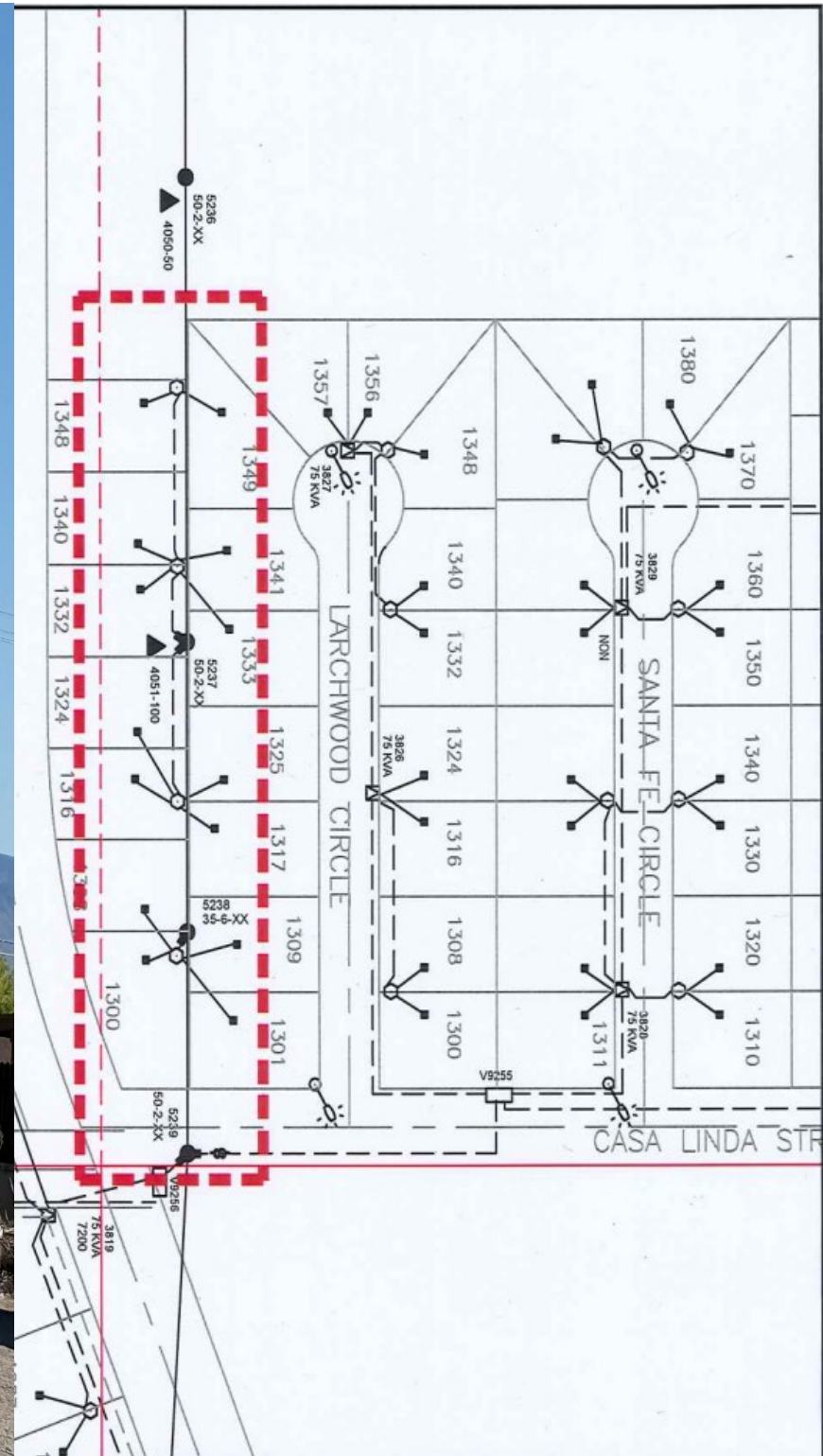


Guest Speaker Adela Covarrubias

San Bernardino County Branch Manager - Needles, California

For More Information Please Contact The Chamber At 760-326-2050

10. ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS- LARCHWOOD



10. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION- J STREET



10. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION- BOAT LAUNCH



10. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION- UNDERPASS



11. EARTH DAY FREE TRANSIT

Try transit fare-free on Earth Day!



April 22

12. ARROWHEAD CREDIT UNION

Last Call for Penny Deposits

Pennies will no longer be accepted after April 30.
We're happy to accept deposits before then!



Visit our coin machine for
fee-free coin exchange!¹

¹ Fee-free coin machine use for Arrowhead members only.

13. VACCINATION CLINIC



PETSMART
VETERINARY
SERVICES™

Needles Animal Shelter

Low Cost Vaccination and Licensing Clinic

April 25th | 9:00-12:00

1662 Flip Mendez Pkwy, Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-4952

All of tri-state
welcome!

Services provided by:

PETSMART Veterinary Services
Dr. Joseph Velasco

-  Rabies **\$10**
-  DA2PP **\$15**
-  FVRCP **\$15**
-  Bordetella **\$15**
-  Microchips **\$30**

SPECIAL PRICING

 **FOR CITY LICENSE** 

ALTERED

\$10

UNALTERED

\$20

CASH ONLY

Dogs must be on leashes
and cats must be in carrier

14. WOMEN'S CLUB FLOWER SHOW

Show off your gardening talents at the
***96th Annual Needles Women's Club
Flower Show***

Saturday, April 25, 2026

**Needles Women's Clubhouse
305 W. Broadway, Needles**

Entries Accepted 8:00-9:30 am

Judging.....9:30 am-12:00 pm

Public Viewing.....12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Live entries must be at least 3 months old

Roses

Fruit

Herbs

Vegetables

Nuts

Succulents

Fresh Cut Flowers

Potted Plants

Cactus

Dish Gardens

Dried Flowers

Bouquets

Sponsored by the Needles Women's Club

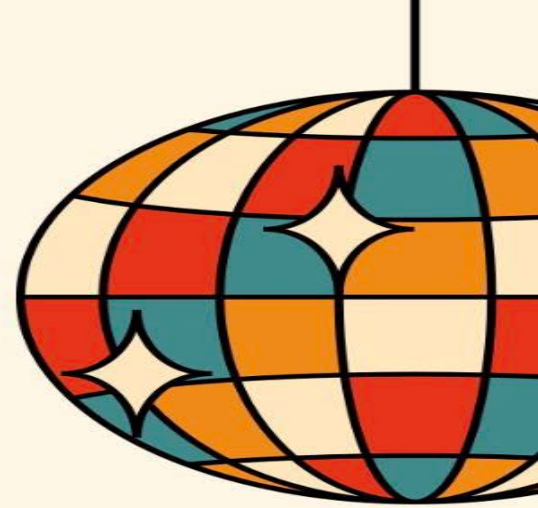
Free to the Public

Opportunity Drawing/Plant Sale

Questions? Call Mary (626) 705-3394

15. DANCE TRAX 51 RECITAL

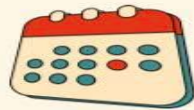
LET'S DANCE!



Dance Trax 51 **SPRING RECITAL**



Needles High School
Auditorium



May 1st & 2nd
6:00 PM

DON'T MISS IT!



17. PALO VERDE COMMUNITY EVENT

Our Rivers, Our Ocean

*A Sacred Places Institute for
Indigenous People Production*

Our **WATER WAYS** *Screening*

APRIL 11, 2026 @ 1 PM

A California Tribal Story

YOU'RE INVITED to join us at the Palo Verde College Needles Educational Center for a tribal community screening of the film highlighting the tribal communities' deep connection to our precious resource - water.

In conjunction of the Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, PVC hosts this screening to celebrate and show the voices of the ancestors and leaders who discuss the personal and ancestral relationships with the Colorado River and Pacific Ocean.

Meet Matt Leivas, previous Chemehuevi Heritage Chair and featured in the film.

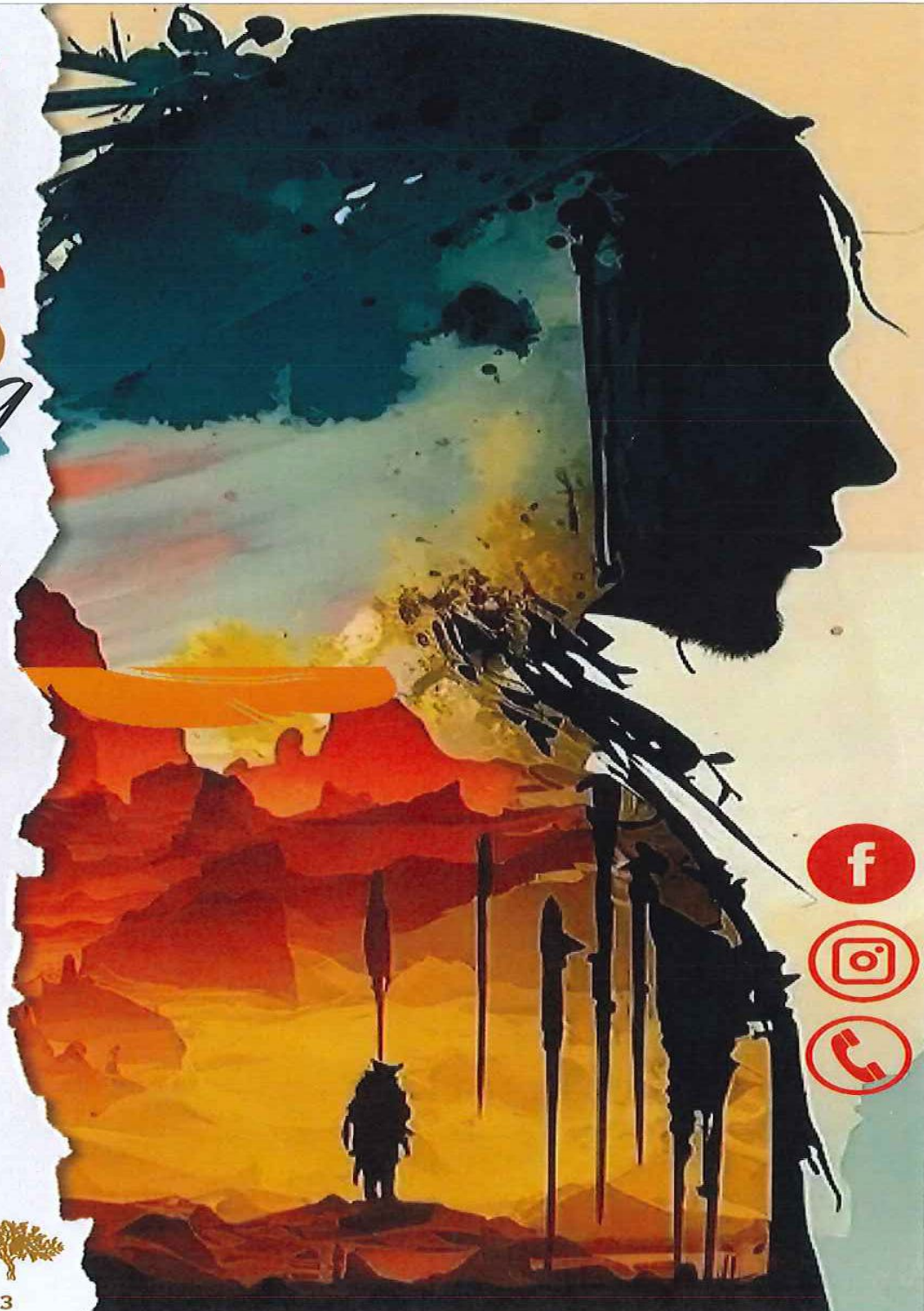
Event starts at 1 p.m. followed by a program, screening, and Q&A.

Presented by

PALO VERDE COLLEGE

Needles Educational Center

725 W. Broadway St., Needles, CA 92363



17. PALO VERDE COMMUNITY EVENT



18. HISTORIC FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION EFFORT

