



*City of Needles*  
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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com)

Mayor, Janet Jernigan  
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt  
Councilmember Tona Belt  
Councilmember Ellen Campbell  
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle  
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue  
Councilmember Henry Longbrake  
  
City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2024

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1. Needles Tourism proudly presented the inaugural Needles Art in the Park event in collaboration with the River Valley Artist Guild on **Saturday, March 23, 2024**. This cultural exposition showcased a remarkable collection of 125 pieces by 18 talented local artists, celebrating the vibrant art scene of Needles. Due to its overwhelming success, plans are underway to bring the event back next year. Additionally, the Crafts Fair at Santa Fe Park, which featured eight vendors from the Tri-State area, attracted visitors to our downtown, showcasing the area's beauty and community spirit. For more details, please see the attached photo.
2. Arrowhead Credit Union, in collaboration with the ArrowHeart Foundation, hosted the "Feeding Our Community" event on **Saturday, March 23, 2024**, dedicated to nourishing our neighbors. Community residents were welcomed to the Needles Senior Center and served a complimentary hot meal. The ArrowHeart Foundation served 350 meals in total. This initiative reflects our commitment to community support and giving back. For more details, please see the attached photo.
3. On **Monday, March 25, 2024**, the City Council Development Task Force, the Chair of the Planning Commission, and City Staff embarked on an insightful tour of motel-to-apartment conversion projects in El Centro, California. Highlighting a significant achievement in housing innovation, a developer has masterfully transformed twelve properties from motels into apartment units across several cities within Imperial County. Given the economic parallels between Imperial County and Needles, this initiative sheds light on a successful strategy to repurpose 900 motel rooms into apartment conversions, directly addressing the housing crisis in California. By creating efficiency units, also known as micro-apartments, this project offers a viable solution for workforce housing, demonstrating a practical approach to solving the state's housing challenges and inspiring similar development strategies in Needles. For more details, please see the attached photos.

4. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station, in collaboration with the Needles Police, generously supported the Needles High School Hiking Club through a charitable donation of \$2,425 at the **March 26, 2024, City Council meeting**. This contribution will enable the club to embark on an enriching weekend adventure in Sedona, packed with hiking and other health-oriented outdoor activities. The funds were raised through community donations and in honor of Steve Jernigan, reflecting a deep commitment to giving back. This donation was facilitated by the River Dayz Fund, an initiative by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station/Needles Police, dedicated to fostering charitable efforts that enrich the local community. For more details, please see the attached photo.
5. The Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) Staff held an open house on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024**, to share the latest developments regarding the allocation of 30 HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, a collaborative effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). HACN is excited to launch its HUD-VASH program in May, marking a significant step in a collaborative initiative. This program uniquely integrates HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with the VA's comprehensive case management and clinical services. The initiative is designed to provide stable housing solutions for the homeless veteran population in the Tri-State Region, underlining a commitment to supporting those who have served our country.
6. On **Thursday, March 28, 2024**, "Good Morning Needles, Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast," the Needles Chamber of Commerce welcomed San Bernardino County District Attorney Jason Anderson as the keynote speaker. Addressing a gathered audience of business owners and community members, DA Anderson outlined the mission of his office to deliver exemplary customer service and remain attentive to the community's needs. He shared updates on vital initiatives, including a comprehensive fentanyl awareness campaign and training programs. These efforts are part of the Awareness Campaign and Trainings (A.C.T), a strategic response by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office to the urgent need for accessible education and training resources. Aimed at empowering the community to counteract issues threatening its well-being, growth, and safety, such as the fentanyl crisis, human trafficking, and both teen and adult domestic violence, the office is committed to proactive engagement. Please follow the provided [link](#) for further information and access to educational videos and materials.
7. The City Council, supported by funding from the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority, took a significant step towards sustainability by allocating funds to aid a non-profit organization in reducing the city's organic waste disposal levels. This year, the City Council has decided to distribute the \$5,000 Edible Food Recovery grant among three deserving recipients: St. Vincent De Paul, Set Free Church of Needles, and Fire House Ministries. These non-profit organizations play a crucial role in the community, with programs that support edible food recovery and contribute to a substantial reduction in waste directed to landfills, embodying a

commitment to environmental sustainability and community welfare. Refer to the attached photo.

8. Tri-State Community Healthcare is excited to announce the return of its annual Needles Easter Egg Hunt for its second year. Children of all ages are invited to join the fun, with a chance to find 5,000 eggs hidden just for them. The event will be filled with festivities, including gift baskets, prizes, face painting, and memorable photos with the Easter Bunny. Set against the historic backdrop of Santa Fe Park at 950 Front Street, the hunt will occur from **10 am to 11 am on Saturday March 30, 2024 (tomorrow)**. This event is shaping to be a cherished community gathering, promising joy and excitement for families and children alike. Refer to the attached flyer for additional information.
9. The Needles Rodeo Association is thrilled to invite you to the 46th Annual Colorado River Round Up, a cornerstone event that embodies the spirit and heritage of the Tri-State region. 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. Scheduled **for Saturday and Sunday April 5-6, 2024**, at the iconic Needles Rodeo Grounds at 1001 San Clemente, this weekend promises an unforgettable rodeo experience.

But the excitement doesn't end with the rodeo; attendees can also relish in a variety of culinary delights from food trucks, local vendors, and delectable BBQ offerings. For those eager to ensure their attendance at this must-see event, we have an exclusive presale ticket offer **from April 1-4, 2024**. Don't miss out on this steal of a deal-tickets for both days are available for just \$ 10 and can be purchased from 10 am to 4 pm at the Rodeo Store, located at 920 West Broadway.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the excitement and community spirit of the Colorado River Round Up. For additional information, please refer to the attached flyer. Join us for a celebration of rodeo excellence and community camaraderie that will surely be your year's highlight.



# 1. ART IN THE PARK EVENT





## 2. ARROWHEART FOUNDATION





### 3. DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

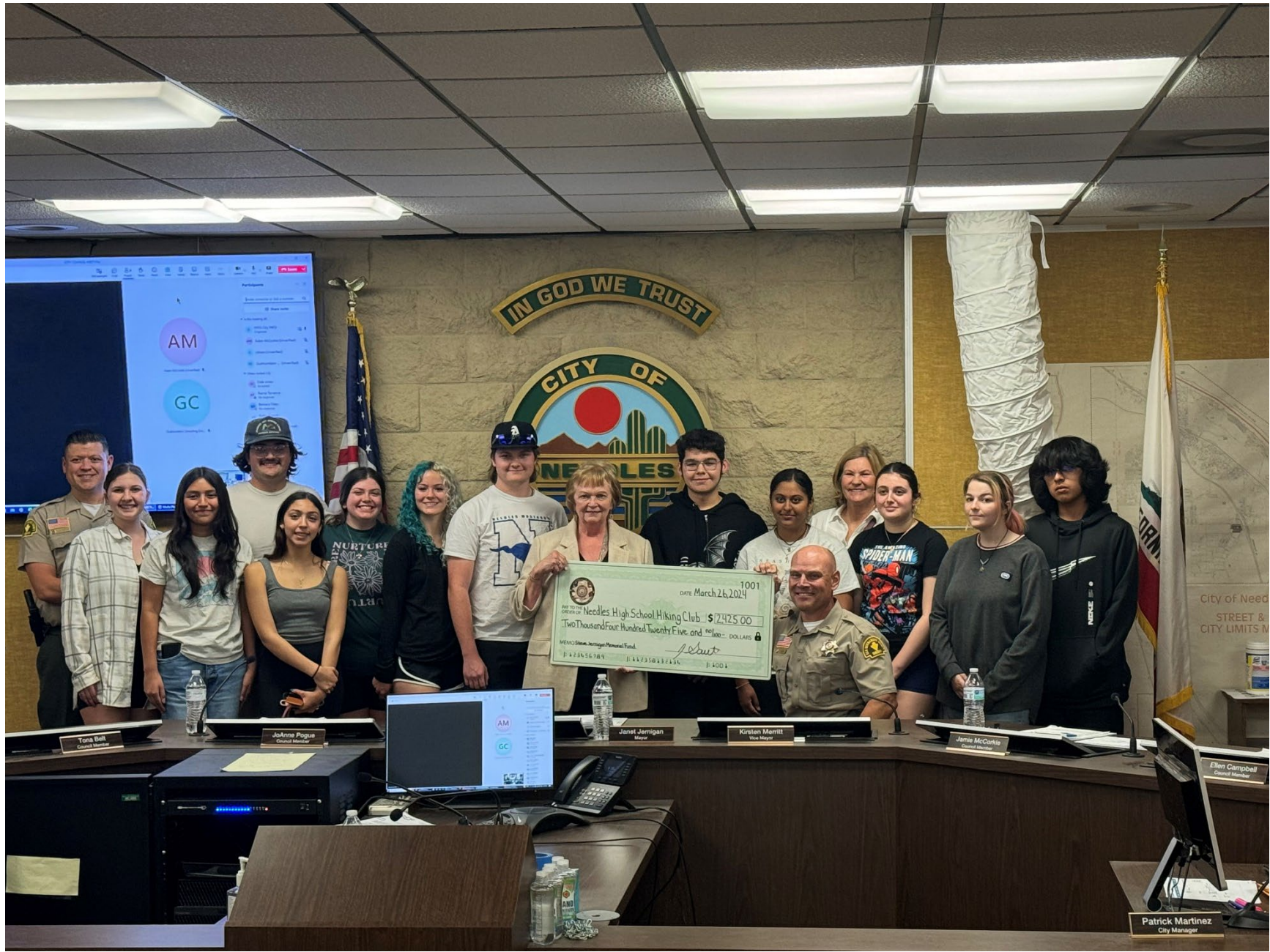








## 4. NEEDLES HIKING CLUB





## 6. NEEDLES CHAMBER BREAKFAST





## 7. EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY GRANT





## 8. EASTER EGG HUNT

A colorful poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. The background is a soft, pastel wash of yellow, pink, and blue. At the top left, a yellow banner with black text reads "5,000 Eggs Gift Baskets & prizes". The word "NEEDLES, CA" is written in a purple, serif font. Below it, the word "Easter" is written in a large, black, cursive script. Underneath "Easter", the words "EGG HUNT" are written in a large, purple, serif font. Below that, "SATURDAY- MARCH 30" is written in a black, serif font. Further down, "10:00-11:30" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below the time, "Hunt starts at 10:30" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "Santa Fe Park" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below the park name, "FACE PAINTING & PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY" is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "This event is brought to you by:" is written in a black, sans-serif font. Below this text is a blue rectangular box containing the "tri-state" logo in white cursive script, with "COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE" written in a white, sans-serif font below it. At the very bottom, the phone number "(844) 444-1424" and the website "www.tristateclinics.org" are written in a black, sans-serif font. The bottom of the poster is decorated with green grass and several colorful Easter eggs.



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46th Colorado River

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# ROUND UP



**APRIL 5 -  
6, 2024**

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Grand Canyon Professional  
Rodeo Association  
sanctioned rodeo

*"Oldest local rodeo in the  
tri-state area put on by locals"*

*Needles Rodeo Grounds*

**1001 SAN CLEMENTE • NEEDLES, CA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL NEEDLES RODEO ASSOCIATION**

**760-333-5255**