



# City of Needles

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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 8, 2026

- 1. Palo Verde College Graduation Ceremony in Needles:** Staff is pleased to share that Palo Verde College will host its 2026 Graduation Ceremony at the Needles Educational Center on **Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 3:00 PM**. Earlier this year, the City Council strongly advocated for retaining the graduation ceremony in Needles following concerns regarding possible consolidation at the Blythe campus. The Council emphasized the importance of preserving this longstanding tradition locally for Needles students and families while ensuring equitable access to educational recognition within the community. Staff would like to thank the City Council for its leadership and unified support, as well as Palo Verde College leadership for working collaboratively with the community to help make this possible. The continued hosting of the ceremony in Needles is a positive outcome for the community and an important opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 close to home.
- 2. NIAA State Tournament Hosting & Facility Improvements:** The City of Needles, in partnership with the Needles Unified School District, will host the 2026 Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Class 2A State Softball Championship at Nikki Bunch Field and the Class 2A State Baseball Championship at Needles High School from **May 14–16, 2026**. Needles High School Boys Baseball and Girls Softball are both currently competing in the 2A Southern League Championship Tournament, with state tournament seeding to be determined following championship play this weekend. The City wishes both Mustang programs the best of luck as they continue representing the Needles community throughout postseason competition. In preparation for the upcoming tournament activities, City Public Works crews completed repainting and improvement work at the Nikki Bunch softball facility and surrounding areas to enhance the appearance of the complex ahead of the event. Hosting regional and state athletic events continues supporting youth athletics, community pride, and sports tourism within Needles.
- 3. Colorado River Short-Term Operations Plan (2026–2028):** The Lower Basin states of Arizona, California, and Nevada have advanced a joint short-term proposal aimed at stabilizing the Colorado River system through 2028 in response to ongoing drought conditions and declining reservoir levels. The plan

includes voluntary water conservation measures, operational adjustments, and reductions intended to help protect critical elevations at Lake Mead and Lake Powell while longer-term operating agreements are developed. The proposal also preserves existing protections under the “Law of the River,” with participating states reserving their legal and water rights positions. California’s senior water rights position continues to provide near-term protection for municipal users such as the City of Needles; however, staff will continue monitoring future negotiations that could impact conservation requirements, allocation structures, and overall system reliability. The City remains committed to proactive water management, infrastructure investment, and long-term resiliency planning to help ensure reliable water service for the community.

4. **SCAG Regional Conference & Senator Padilla Town Hall:** This week, Mayor Jernigan and City Manager Patrick Martinez participated in the 2026 Southern California Association of Governments Regional Conference and General Assembly in Palm Desert, the region’s largest gathering of elected officials, public agencies, and industry leaders. The conference emphasized regional collaboration and strategic coordination on issues including housing affordability, infrastructure investment, economic resiliency, mega-events, and the emerging role of artificial intelligence in government. While attending the conference, City representatives also participated in California State Senator Steve Padilla’s Coachella Valley Community Town Hall, providing an additional opportunity to engage directly on issues impacting communities throughout Senate District 18. Participation in events such as SCAG and Senator Padilla’s Town Hall continues to strengthen regional partnerships and supports the City Council’s goals related to infrastructure, economic development, and long-term community resiliency.
5. **State Recognition for Lucky Dhaba:** This week, staff from the office of Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez visited Needles to present a proclamation recognizing the opening of Lucky Dhaba and the investment made by Arjun Gossian and his family along the City’s west side corridor. The restaurant officially opened on **April 26, 2026**, reactivating a site that had remained vacant since COVID and bringing new investment to a key gateway corridor along Interstate 40. The City appreciates Assemblymember Gonzalez’s continued support of the Needles community and thanks Jacinto Delgado IV for traveling to Needles to present the proclamation. Investments such as Lucky Dhaba continue contributing to economic activity, corridor revitalization, and the ongoing momentum occurring throughout the community.
6. **Flip Mendez Golf Tournament & Sports Tourism Update:** This past weekend, the City of Needles hosted the 27th Annual Flip Mendez Youth Fundraiser Golf Tournament at Rivers Edge Golf Course and the Colorado River Conference Middle School Softball Tournament. The sold-out Flip Mendez Tournament welcomed 162 golfers and continued raising scholarship funding and support for local youth athletics and recreation programs. The City thanks the Flip Mendez Youth Fund, sponsors, volunteers, organizers, and JJ DeLeon, Director of Golf at Rivers Edge Golf Course, for their continued support of youth programs within the Needles community. The Middle School Softball Tournament also brought visiting teams, families, and spectators into the community, supporting local businesses and reinforcing Needles’ growing role

as a regional destination for sports tourism and youth athletics. The City also recognizes Animal Control Officer Tony Rubalcaba, who serves as head coach of the Needles Middle School girls softball team, for his continued involvement and support of local youth athletics.

7. **Colorado River Marine Enforcement Ride-Along:** This week, Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell and Councilmembers JoAnne Pogue and Henry Longbrake participated in a ride-along with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Colorado River Station Marine Enforcement Unit at the Jack Smith Boat Launch. The ride-along provided City leadership with firsthand insight into marine patrol operations, boater safety enforcement, emergency response coordination, and the ongoing efforts to keep the Colorado River safe during the busy summer season. With hundreds of thousands of annual visitors utilizing the river corridor each year, continued collaboration between local government and law enforcement remains critical to protecting residents, visitors, and recreational users throughout the region. Staff would also like to thank Captain Gault for his leadership and continued partnership in supporting public safety efforts along the Colorado River.
8. **Run for the Wall (RFTW) Needles – Final Event Reminder:** The annual Run for the Wall procession will arrive in Needles on **May 13, 2026**, with riders expected at approximately **12:35 p.m.** Activities will take place at El Garces and Santa Fe Park along Historic Route 66 as the community welcomes Veterans and riders participating in the national tribute ride honoring POW/MIA awareness. Residents are encouraged to attend and support this long-standing tradition recognizing those who served our country. The event continues to draw regional participation and supports community engagement, Veteran recognition, and tourism activity within Needles.
9. **Decoration Day Volunteer Effort – Riverview Cemetery:** Volunteers are encouraged to participate in the annual Decoration Day effort at Needles Riverview Cemetery on Friday, **May 22, 2026**, beginning at **6:30 a.m.** Volunteers will assist with placing American flags and white crosses throughout the cemetery in honor of veterans. Community members are encouraged to bring hand tools, clippers, weed eaters, and garbage bags to assist with cleanup and preparation activities. In preparation for the observance, City Electric Crews recently completed maintenance and preparation work on the cemetery flag pole in support of the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony. A second volunteer effort will take place on Monday, **May 25, 2026**, at **4:00 p.m.** to assist with flag and cross removal following the Memorial Day Ceremony. Community participation continues to support this long-standing local tradition. For additional information, please contact Cheryl Sallis at (760) 326-2113, ext. 115.
10. **Behavioral Health Community Meeting – Public Outreach:** The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health will host a community meeting in Needles on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026**, from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Needles Council Chambers. The meeting will provide information regarding the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), along with available behavioral health programs and community resources. Residents and stakeholders will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding local behavioral health services.

Staff continues supporting outreach efforts through community engagement and public notifications to help encourage attendance and participation. This effort supports Council priorities related to community well-being and access to services.

11. **Caltrans I-40 Pavement Rehabilitation Project Update:** California Department of Transportation has advised that pavement resurfacing activities on the Interstate 40 rehabilitation project between Fox Wash overflow and the L Street undercrossing have now been completed. This week, crews will transition to vegetation control operations along roadway shoulder areas as work continues on the project. Staff will continue coordinating with Caltrans and sharing updates with the community as needed.
12. **Rivers Edge Golf Course Summer Golf Camp:** Rivers Edge Golf Course will host its annual Summer Golf Camp beginning **June 10, 2026**, continuing a youth program that provides structured golf instruction and skill development opportunities for local participants. Led by JJ DeLeon, Director of Golf, the eight-week camp serves youth ages 5–17 and focuses on improving golf fundamentals, teamwork, physical fitness, technique, and overall gameplay. Beyond golf instruction, the program helps encourage discipline, confidence, and active youth engagement through organized recreational activities. The Summer Golf Camp continues supporting youth recreation opportunities within the community. Registration is currently open through Rivers Edge Golf Course.
13. **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](mailto: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. PALO VERDE GRADUATION

**PALO VERDE COLLEGE**  
*Needles Educational Center*



**GRADUATION**  
*Ceremony*

**THURSDAY, June 4, 2026**  
**3:00 PM**

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**Needles Educational Center**

725 W. Broadway, Needles, CA 92363  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 760.326.5033

# 2. BASEBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

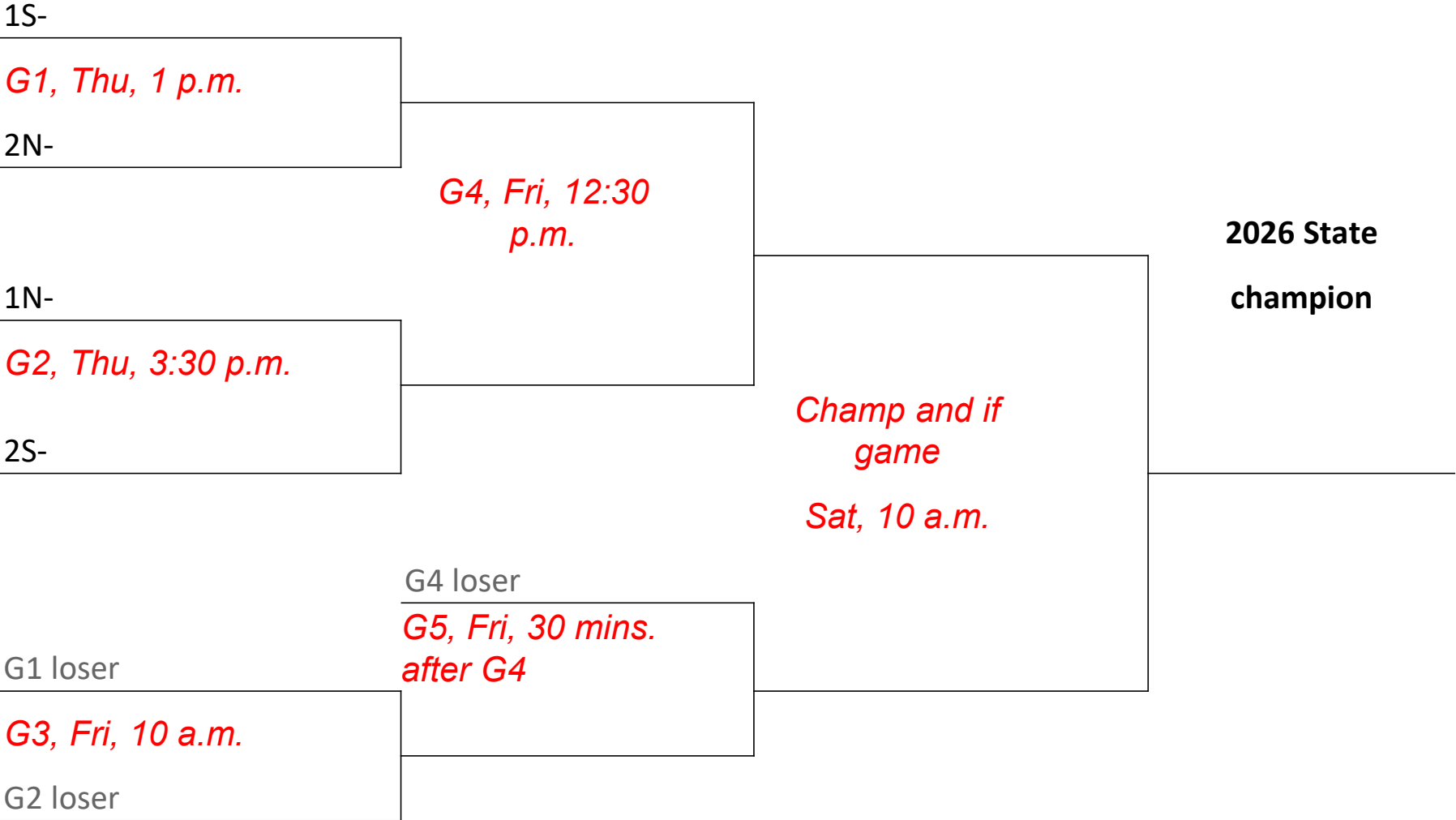
2026 Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

Class 2A State Baseball Playoffs

*Presented by Ice Shaker*

(May 14-16, 2026)

at Needles High School



# 2. SOFTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

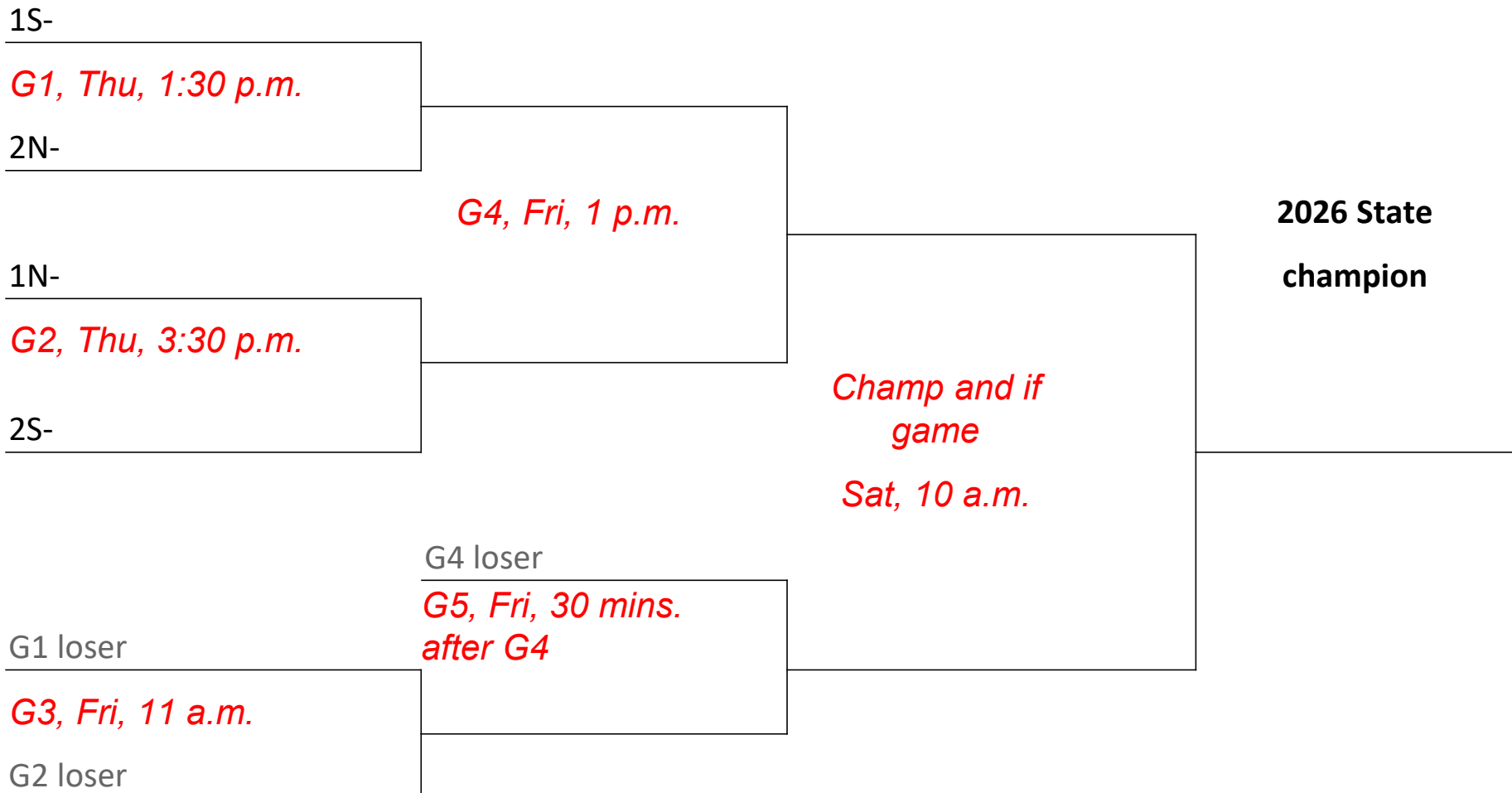
2026 Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

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## 2. STATE TOURNAMENT PREP



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# 3. SHORT TERM PROPOSAL

May 1, 2026

## LOWER DIVISION STATES' PROPOSAL

### Short-Term Operations of the Colorado River (2026-2028)



#### OVERVIEW

The Lower Division States have proposed a voluntary framework for short-term Colorado River operations through the end of 2028. The proposal includes at least **3.2 MAF** of savings, consisting of **1.25 MAF** annual reductions in 2027 and 2028 and an additional **700 KAF** of conservation, along with operational tools and commitments to protect the system and reduce litigation risk.



#### LOWER BASIN REDUCTIONS (2027-2028)

	ARIZONA	<b>760 KAFY</b>
	CALIFORNIA	<b>440 KAFY</b>
	NEVADA	<b>50 KAFY</b>



#### ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION

Minimum	Target
<b>700 KAF</b>	<b>1.0 MAF</b>



#### TRIBAL POOL

- Approx. 280 KAF through 2028
- Primarily a federal responsibility
- Intended to support Tribal water commitments in Arizona



#### LAKE POWELL RELEASE FRAMEWORK



##### WATER YEAR 2026

- Expected release: **6.0 MAF**
- Additional releases possible if Powell projected above **3,530'**



##### BEGINNING WATER YEAR 2027

- **8.0 MAF** release if Powell  $\geq 3,540'$
- **7.0 MAF** release if Powell  $< 3,540'$
- Releases may be adjusted to protect Powell from falling below **3,500'**



##### IMPROVED HYDROLOGY

- Releases may increase to **8.23 MAF** or greater
- Applies if Powell projected above **3,565'**



#### UIU OPERATIONS

- Releases above baseline begin in 2027
- Minimum **600 KAF** above baseline if Powell projected below **3,515'** in minimum projection
- UIU releases treated as system water



#### ICS WITHDRAWAL LIMITS

(Use of ICS for Delivery and to Offset Reductions)

LAKE MEAD ELEVATION January 1, Year N (feet MSL)	MAXIMUM WITHDRAWAL OF ICS IN YEAR N (KAF)		
	CA	AZ	NV
Above 1025'	400	200	50
1025' - 1010'	267	100	50
1010' - 1000'	133	33	33
Below 1000'	0	0	0



#### IMPLEMENTATION TERM

Covers Calendar Years 2026-2028



#### VOLUNTARY & NON-PRECEDENTIAL

Does not waive, relinquish, or modify any party's rights under the Law of the River.



KAF = Thousand Acre-Feet  
MAF = Million Acre-Feet

## 4. SENATOR PADILLA TOWN HALL



# 4. MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT



# 5. LUCKY DHABA STATE RECOGNITION



# 6. FLIP MENDEZ GOLF TOURNAMENT



# 7. SBCSD RIDE ALONG



## 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. MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

## MEMORIAL DAY ★ CEREMONY ★

Join us as we come together as a community to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country.

 **Needles Riverview Cemetery, Needles, CA**



**May 25, 2026  
11:00 AM**

This special program will include a heartfelt tribute to our fallen heroes, patriotic observances, and a time of remembrance.

**ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
Let us stand together in gratitude and reflection. ★

 *We remember. We honor. We never forget.* 

# 9. MEMORIAL DAY PREPARATION



# 10. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PUBLIC MEETING

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
SERVICES ACT



Behavioral Health

## COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING CITY OF NEEDLES

Learn about the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), explore San Bernardino County Behavioral Health programs and resources available to the Needles community, and most importantly, share your voice and be part of the conversation.

**Tuesday, May 19**  
**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Needles Council Chambers**  
**1111 Bailey Ave., Needles**

A white oval containing the text "MHSA IS NOW BHSA" in blue and green. "MHSA" is in blue, "IS NOW" is in a smaller blue font, and "BHSA" is in a larger green font.

MHSA  
IS NOW  
BHSA

If you speak another language, language assistance services are available to you free of charge by dialing (888) 743-1478. TTY users dial 711. DBH complies with applicable federal, civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, disability, or LEP.

# 11. I-40 PAVEMENT REPAIR UPDATE

State of California • Department of Transportation

## News Release



**Date:** April 7, 2026  
**District:** [08-1M040](#)  
**Contact:** [Jas Hampal](#)  
**Phone:** 909-553-6837

**For Immediate Release**

### Interstate 40 Pavement Repairs Needles April – May 2026

**SAN BERNARDINO** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) crews continue the pavement improvement project on Interstate 40 (I-40) near Needles, between Fox Wash overflow and L Street undercrossing. The \$6.9 million project is funded through Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

Work will include:

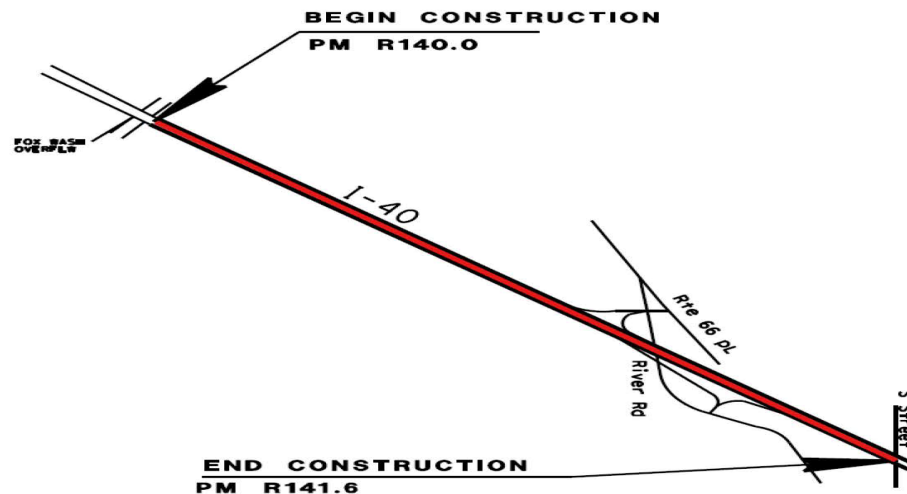
- Pavement resurfacing using cold plane asphalt concrete (AC) and rubberized hot mix asphalt (RHMA).
- Vegetation control
- Guardrail installation
- Safety improvements include grinding and replacing pavement, and barrier work.

The goal of this project is to extend pavement life, improve ride quality, and enhance safety for motorists.

#### **Work Schedule:**

Motorists can expect daytime work, **Monday through Friday, between 8 am to 4 pm.**

#### **What to Expect:**



**BE WORK ZONE ALERT**



## 12. SUMMER GOLF CAMP

# SUMMER GOLF CAMP



**RIVERS EDGE GOLF COURSE**



**JJ DeLeon, Golf  
Instructor**

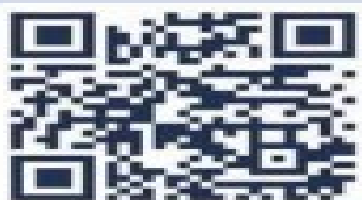


**Ages 5-11 from 7-8:00am  
Ages 12-17 from 8-9:00am**



**Excels at All Ages**

**Begins June 10th 2026  
8 Week Camp - \$60**



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