



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: August 7, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Public Safety & Community Services

- Continued **week three of storm recovery**, with crews transitioning cleanup efforts from priority arterial streets to collector streets and residential neighborhoods.
- Partnered with the **Needles Unified School District on back-to-school safety** and beautification efforts, including welcome banners at Needles High School and reminders to motorists to drive safely near school campuses.

Economic Development & Legislative Affairs

- Advanced the City's **Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination** during the State's public comment period, with continued outreach encouraging community and regional support ahead of the **August 28 deadline**.
- Continued advocacy for AB 1756, which has advanced to the **Senate Consent** Calendar and is awaiting a final Senate vote to extend the City's OHMV Pilot Program through **January 1, 2033**.
- Expanded implementation of the **OHMV Pilot Program**, with California Nonresident OHV Use Permits now available for purchase locally in Needles and updated information provided to Arizona riders.

Parks, Recreation & Community Engagement

- Continued **back-to-school programming and outreach**, including free NAT rides for students, after-school programming, and fall youth sports registration.
- Celebrated a **sold-out Night Golf Tournament at Rivers Edge** Golf Course while promoting the upcoming August 29 Summer Scramble.
- Recognized **HMBL ZAY for completing his 3,000-mile**, 124-day cross-country walk from Philadelphia to Needles, raising more than \$200,000 for charity and concluding his journey in the Gateway to California.

1. **Storm Recovery Update – Week Three:** The City is entering its third week of cleanup and recovery efforts following the July 17 monsoonal storm. This week, City crews focused cleanup efforts along K Street and Bailey Avenue while continuing to address remaining storm-related debris and roadway impacts throughout the community. With priority work along arterial streets substantially completed, crews are transitioning cleanup efforts to collector streets and residential neighborhoods. **The City appreciates residents' continued patience and understanding as crews work systematically through the remaining affected areas.** Staff will continue to prioritize cleanup based on conditions and available resources until recovery efforts are completed. Residents are encouraged to report any remaining storm-related concerns by calling **760-326-5700** or by submitting a request through the **Needles Connect** app, available on the [City of Needles website](#). These reporting tools assist staff in identifying, prioritizing, and responding to any remaining issues as recovery efforts continue.
2. **Opportunity Zone 2.0 Public Comment Period:** The State's public comment period for California's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nominations is officially open through **August 28, 2026**. Although Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's census tract was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. This public comment period provides residents, property owners, business owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners an important opportunity to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Opportunity Zone designation would help attract long-term private investment, support new housing and business development, create quality jobs, and strengthen the City's economic competitiveness. Comments may be submitted through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**. To assist participants, the [California Department of Finance](#) has prepared a step-by-step instructional video explaining how to submit comments, and additional information about the Opportunity Zone 2.0 program is available on the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones webpage](#). **Letters of support may also be emailed to City Manager Patrick J. Martinez at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.** Every comment and letter of support helps demonstrate the broad community and regional backing for Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination, and the City encourages everyone to participate.
3. **AB 1756 – OHMV Pilot Program Extension Update:** This week, Assembly Bill 1756, authored by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, has advanced through the California State Senate following consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill has been read for a second time and placed on the Senate Consent Calendar, where it now awaits a final vote by the full Senate. If approved, the bill will be enrolled and presented to Governor Gavin Newsom for

consideration. Staff will continue to monitor the legislation and provide updates as it advances toward final passage.

4. **California Nonresident OHV Permits Now Available Locally:** Staff continues to promote the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program through public education and visitor outreach. This week, the City announced through Needles Connect that NAPA Auto Parts, located at **949 W. Broadway Street**, is now the only authorized California Nonresident OHV Use Permit vendor in Needles. The addition of a local permit vendor provides eligible out-of-state riders with a convenient option to purchase required permits before accessing the City's designated OHMV route network, enhancing the visitor experience while supporting responsible recreation and tourism. Staff also published an updated Arizona Resident Information Sheet to assist visitors in understanding California permit requirements and local operating rules. Copies of the outreach materials are attached for the Council's reference.
5. **Back-to-School Campus Safety and Beautification Update:** As students prepare to return to school next week, the City's Electric Department assisted the Needles Unified School District with the installation of **welcome banners at Needles High School** to help kick off the new school year. During the summer, the District also completed several campus enhancement projects, including a new perimeter safety fence at Needles High School and new murals at District campuses celebrating school pride. These improvements create a safer, more welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors. As classes resume, the City reminds motorists to exercise caution in school zones, obey posted speed limits, and remain alert for students, school buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians around all Needles Unified School District campuses.
6. **Students Ride Free Program – Back-to-School Reminder:** As the new school year begins, the City is reminding families that K-12 and Palo Verde College students ride Needles Area Transit (NAT) deviated fixed-route services free of charge year-round, with a valid student ID or class schedule. The program provides students with a safe, reliable, air-conditioned transportation option while helping reduce transportation costs for students and their families. Staff will continue outreach efforts with local schools and the community to increase awareness and utilization of this transportation benefit. A copy of the updated outreach flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
7. **Needles Cactus Commuter Outreach:** Staff continues to promote the Needles Cactus Commuter, a mileage reimbursement program administered by the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) that assists eligible low-income Needles area residents traveling to the Victor Valley for qualifying medical and court appointments. Eligible participants may receive reimbursement for up to 1,100 miles per month. Staff will continue outreach efforts to increase community awareness and encourage greater utilization of this transportation resource. For additional information, residents may contact VVTA at 760-995-3561 or visit [VVTA Needles Cactus Commuter Program](#).
8. **After-School Program Enrollment Open:** As the new school year begins, the City of Needles Recreation Center, in partnership with the Needles Unified

School District, is accepting enrollment for its After-School Program serving students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The program provides a safe, supervised environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, positive role models, and daily snacks for participating students. A program flyer is attached for the Council's reference. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (760) 326-2814 or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.

9. **HMBL ZAY Completes 3,000-Mile Cross-Country Walk in Needles:** Last week, **HMBL ZAY** completed an extraordinary **3,000-mile, 124-day journey** from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to **Needles, California**. HMBL ZAY livestreamed himself walking each day throughout the journey and raised **over \$200,000 for charity**, while sharing a message of faith, perseverance, and opportunity with thousands of followers. The City congratulates HMBL ZAY on this remarkable accomplishment and is proud that **Needles, the Gateway to California, served as the finish of his cross-country journey**, providing a fitting conclusion to an inspiring demonstration of perseverance and purpose.
10. **Rivers Edge Golf Course – Summer Tournament Update:** This past week, **Rivers Edge Golf Course hosted a sold-out Night Golf Tournament**, demonstrating strong interest in the course's summer recreational events. Building on that momentum, Rivers Edge will host its **Summer Scramble on Saturday, August 29**, featuring a three-person scramble with a **7:00 a.m. shotgun start**, on-course prizes, and awards following play. Registration is **\$55 per player or \$165 per team**. Residents and visitors are encouraged to register early and enjoy another opportunity to experience Rivers Edge Golf Course. For additional information or registration, contact Rivers Edge at **(760) 326-3931**. A copy of the Summer Scramble flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
11. **Fall Youth Sports Registration Now Open:** Registration is now open for the City of Needles Parks and Recreation Department's 2026 Fall Youth Sports season and will continue through **September 14, 2026**. Boys and girls from throughout the Tri-State area are invited to participate in **Peewee Soccer, Flag Football, and Volleyball**, with the season running from **October through November**. The City's youth sports programs provide opportunities for children to stay active, build teamwork and sportsmanship, and enjoy a positive recreational experience. Sibling discounts are available, and scholarships may be available for qualifying families. A registration flyer is attached for the Council's reference. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at **(760) 326-2814** or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.
12. **Community Achievement Awards Nominations Open:** The Laughlin Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the **29th Annual Community Achievement Awards**, recognizing individuals, businesses, organizations, educators, students, volunteers, and young leaders whose leadership, service, and commitment have made a meaningful impact throughout the Colorado River Region. Last year, **George DeLeon** of Needles received the **Veteran Special Recognition Award** for his outstanding service to the community. The City encourages residents to help recognize the many

individuals and organizations making a difference in Needles by submitting nominations before the **August 24, 2026** deadline. Eligible nominees must work, reside, do business, and/or provide services within the Colorado River Region. Submit your nomination by [clicking here](#).

13. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a centralized location for community events, public meetings, and civic programs. Local organizations are invited to submit events or update existing listings through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe to and sync the calendar with their mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Beat the Heat Night Pool Party:** The City extends its sincere appreciation to **Dr. Folmsbee, Grace Hetch, Tri-State Community Healthcare, Route 66 Pharmacy**, and dedicated community volunteers **John** and **Connie** for their leadership and support in hosting this year's **Beat the Heat Night Pool Party** at the Needles Municipal Aquatics Center. During a period of extreme summer temperatures, the event brought families together for an evening of free swimming, inflatable water slides, music, hot dogs, and refreshments, providing a safe and enjoyable way to celebrate the close of summer and the beginning of the new school year. The City is grateful for the continued commitment of our community partners and volunteers whose generosity and service help strengthen the quality of life in Needles.

1. STORM RECOVERY UPDATE – WEEK THREE



2. OPPORTUNITY ZONE PUBLIC COMMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Invites Public to Support Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Residents, Businesses, Property Owners, and Community Organizations Encouraged to Submit Comments by August 28

NEEDLES, CA — The City of Needles is encouraging residents, business owners, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to participate in California's **Opportunity Zone 2.0** public comment process by submitting comments and letters of support for the City's nomination before the **August 28, 2026** deadline.

Although the City of Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's nominated census tract (**Census Tract 06071010700**) was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. The California Department of Finance is currently accepting public comments before California submits its final Opportunity Zone nominations to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Opportunity Zone Program is a federal economic development initiative established to encourage the reinvestment of private capital into economically distressed communities through long-term investment. Opportunity Zone 2.0 expands opportunities to support housing, infrastructure, business development, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, tourism, workforce development, and other job-creating investments.

The Needles nomination represents one of only **four eligible rural census tracts in San Bernardino County** and builds upon more than **\$28 million in recent public infrastructure investments**. As California's eastern gateway, Needles is strategically located along Interstate 40, Historic Route 66, the BNSF Southern Transcon rail corridor, and Needles Municipal Airport. Combined with municipally owned electric, water, and wastewater utilities and development-ready sites, the community is well positioned to leverage Opportunity Zone designation to attract long-term private investment, expand housing opportunities, create quality jobs, strengthen regional supply chains, and support sustainable economic development.

On **July 28, 2026**, the Needles City Council unanimously adopted **Resolution No. 2026-33**, supporting and ratifying the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination. In adopting the resolution, the City Council found that continued Opportunity Zone designation will strengthen the City's ability to leverage public investment and enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives to attract private capital, expand housing opportunities, support business growth, create quality jobs, revitalize underutilized properties, diversify the local economy, and advance the City's long-term economic

development strategy. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports sustainable economic growth, implementation of the California Jobs First Regional Plan, and continued revitalization of the City of Needles.

The public comment period provides an important opportunity for residents, businesses, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Every public comment and letter of support helps reinforce the community's commitment to attracting long-term investment and expanding economic opportunity in eastern San Bernardino County.

How to Support Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Community members are encouraged to support the City's nomination by:

- **Submitting comments** through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**.
- [Watching the California Department of Finance's step-by-step instructional video](#) explaining how to submit comments.
- **Learning more** about Opportunity Zone 2.0 by visiting the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones 2.0 webpage](#).
- **Submitting a letter of support** by emailing **City Manager Patrick J. Martinez** at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com. Organizations are encouraged to customize the City's sample letter of support template for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.

The public comment period closes **August 28, 2026**.

For additional information or assistance with submitting comments or letters of support, please contact the Office of the City Manager.

Community participation is critical to demonstrating the broad local and regional support behind Needles' nomination. The City encourages everyone to submit comments before the August 28, 2026 deadline.

Media Contact

Office of the City Manager

Patrick J. Martinez

City Manager, City of Needles

817 Third Street

Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760) 326-2115

Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com

CONSENT CALENDAR—SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY—Continued

288

A.B. No. 1756—Jeff Gonzalez.

An act relating to vehicles.

Vote required: 21

2026

May 21—Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 73. Noes 0. Page 5195.)

May 21—In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Jun. 3—Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and N.R. & W.

Jun. 24—From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on N.R. & W. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Jul. 1—From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Aug. 3—From committee: Be ordered to second reading file pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8 and ordered to Consent Calendar.

Aug. 4—Read second time. Ordered to consent calendar.

4. NAPA AUTOPARTS NONRESIDENT PERMITS



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Arizona Resident Information Sheet

Disclaimer: This information is provided as a public service and is not legal advice. Riders are responsible for complying with all applicable California laws, including the California Vehicle Code, California Code of Regulations, California State Parks requirements, and DMV requirements. Permit requirements may change without notice. Riders should verify current requirements before operating an OHV in California.

California Nonresident OHV Permit Requirements

Planning to ride your ATV, UTV, Side-by-Side, or Dirt Bike in Needles, California?

Arizona residents should be aware that California law may require a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit before operating an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) on public lands or designated OHMV routes within the City of Needles. Riders using the City's OHMV Pilot Program must comply with all applicable California registration, insurance, and licensing requirements.

Why Is a California Permit Required?

Effective January 1, 2022, California no longer recognizes another state's OHV registration program unless that state provides reciprocal recognition to California OHVs.

Because Arizona requires certain nonresident OHVs operating in Arizona to purchase an Arizona OHV decal, Arizona residents operating OHVs in California are generally required to obtain a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit. Riders should verify current California State Parks requirements before operating in California.

Important:

- An Arizona OHV Decal alone does not satisfy California's permit requirements.
- An Arizona "RV" plate is considered title identification and is not equivalent to California OHV registration.
- Even street-legal Arizona OHVs may need a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit when used for off-highway recreation in California.

What Do Arizona Riders Need in Needles?

Before operating on designated Needles OHMV routes or connecting to surrounding trail systems, riders should have:

- ✓ Valid Driver's License
- ✓ Proof of Insurance / Financial Responsibility
- ✓ Proper Vehicle Registration
- ✓ California Nonresident OHV Use Permit (when required under California law)
- ✓ Operational Brake Light
- ✓ Rubber Tires
- ✓ Helmet and Required Safety Equipment

The City of Needles OHMV Pilot Program also prohibits operation during hours of darkness and requires riders to stay on designated routes.

Where Can Arizona Residents Purchase a California Nonresident OHV Permit?

Online

Arizona residents can purchase permits directly through the California State Parks OHV Program:

California State Parks OHV Program

<https://ohv.parks.ca.gov>

Select "Nonresident OHV Use Permit" for permit information and purchasing options.

Local Permit Vendors Near Needles (Authorized California State Parks Permit Vendors)

For convenience, permits may also be available through authorized vendors near Needles:

Vendor	Location	Phone
NAPA Auto Parts (Needles' Local Permit Vendor)	949 W Broadway St. Needles, CA 92363	(760) 326-2668
Action Sports	1651 N McCulloch Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ	(928) 854-7463
All American Fuel Station	1041 Acoma Blvd S Lake Havasu City, AZ	(928) 453-2277

Hours subject to change. Riders are encouraged to call ahead to confirm permit availability.

Needles OHMV Pilot Program Rules

When riding within the City of Needles:

You May:

- ✓ Use designated OHMV routes
- ✓ Travel between lodging, services, and trail access points
- ✓ Access surrounding federal trail systems through approved connections

You May Not:

- ✗ Ride on non-designated city streets
- ✗ Exceed 35 MPH on OHMV routes (or lower posted speed limits)
- ✗ Ride during hours of darkness
- ✗ Operate without required registration, insurance, or licensing
- ✗ Operate recklessly or create excessive noise
- ✗ Stage or unload OHVs in residential neighborhoods

The Needles OHMV route network consists of approximately **9.2 miles of designated routes** connecting the community to surrounding public lands and recreation opportunities.

Before You Ride

Ride Legal. Ride Safe. Ride Respectfully.

The success of the Needles OHMV Pilot Program depends on responsible riding and respect for local neighborhoods, businesses, and visitors. Riders are encouraged to review all program rules before operating within the City of Needles.

For route maps, program updates, and local regulations, visit the City of Needles OHMV webpage at <https://cityofneedles.com> or contact City Hall.

City of Needles

817 Third Street
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5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



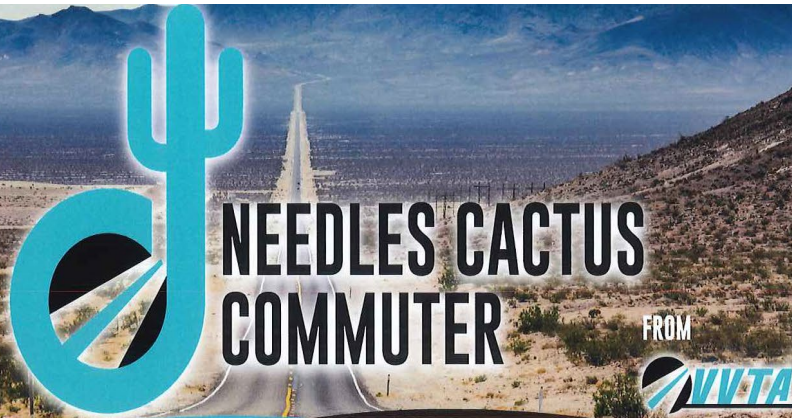
5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



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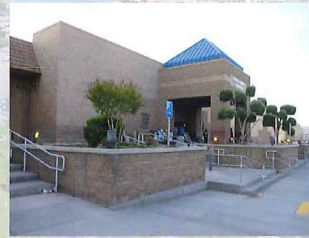
6. & 7. TRANSIT ACCESS TO RESIDENTS



DO YOU NEED TO DRIVE OR NEED A RIDE TO THE
VICTOR VALLEY AREA FOR MEDICAL OR COURT APPEARANCES?

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

- Open to Low Income Needles Area Residents
- Mileage Reimbursement Program
- Up to 1,100 Miles Monthly
- Trips only to Medical Appointments or Court Appearances in the Victor Valley Area



SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

NCC@VVTA.ORG • 760-995-3561
vvta.org/ncc

You're now free to GO.



STUDENTS (K-12) RIDE FREE
every day, on every bus system
in San Bernardino County.



Visit NAT's website to find out how to ride free.

Only students 6 or older may ride unaccompanied.



cityofneedles.com/transit

powered by



San Bernardino County
Transportation Authority

Plan your trip
with Google Maps



Just
click
the
transit
icon!

8. NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER



CITY OF NEEDLES
& N.U.S.D.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

KINDER ~ 8TH GRADE

Looking for
quality care
after school?

Give your child a safe,
fun, and enriching
place to grow after
school!

Our After-School
Program provides:

Homework assistance

Enriching activities

Safe, supervised care

Positive role models

Mon~Fri
2:30pm to 6:00pm
All minimum days
begin at 12:30pm

**Free for ALL who attend!!
There are 2 snacks/milk
provided daily**

Call: 760~326~2814 or email us at
parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com



9. 3,000- MILE CROSS-COUNTRY WALK

HMBL UNIVERSITY

Empowering Underserved Teens with Hands-On Skills for a Brighter Future!

Walking from
PHILADELPHIA to
CALIFORNIA
to Build a Trade School
for Teens!

Learn • Build • Thrive

PLUMBING ELECTRICAL
ACCOUNTING FINANCIAL LITERACY

3,000 MILES • 100 DAYS • 1 MISSION

Trips to Africa for Our Students

GOAL: RAISE \$200,000 TO BUILD HMBL UNIVERSITY!
Invest in Their Future!

DONATE NOW AT
GoFundMe

REVOLT

**STREAMER HMBLZAYY
COMPLETED HIS WALK
FROM PHILLY TO CALI
AFTER 124 DAYS**

HE WALKED 3,000 MILES AND RAISED
NEARLY \$200,000 FOR CHARITY

10. SUMMER TOURNAMENT UPDATE



SUMMER SCRAMBLE 2026

TOURNAMENT

ENJOY THE
LAST GOLF
TOURNAMENT
OF THE
SUMMER
MONTHS



RIVERS EDGE
GOLF COURSE

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29th**

AWARDS & PRIZES
AFTER GOLF

SHOTGUN STARTS
AT 7:00AM

REGISTRATION
OPEN AT 6:00AM

ON COURSE PRIZES:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONG DRIVE

TOURNAMENT FEE:
\$55 PER PLAYER
\$165 PER TEAM

3-PERSON SCRAMBLE

CALL RIVERS EDGE AT (760) 326-3931

CONTACT US (760) 326-3931

OR JJDELEON@GOLFNEEDLES.COM

11. NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER

OPEN REGISTRATION

City of Needles Recreation Fall Sports

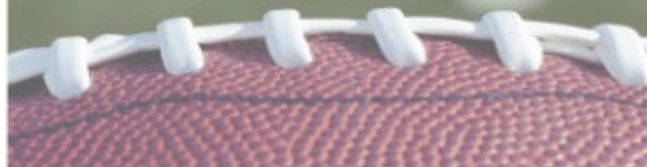
PEE WEE SOCCER



AGES: JR PEE WEE 3YR~5YR OLDS
PEE WEE 6YR~7YR OLDS
GAMES: SATURDAYS

FLAG FOOT BALL

GRADES: 2ND ~ 5TH
GAMES: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS



GRADES: 3RD ~ 6TH
GAMES: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



VOLLEY BALL

REGISTRATION DATES:
AUG. 3RD ~ SEPT. 14TH
SEASON: OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER
COSTS: RESIDENTS \$45 NON \$50
PEE SPORTS RESIDENTS \$35 NON \$40

SIBLING DISCOUNTS GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE AVAILABLE

*All Recreation Sports are open to
Boys & Girls in the Tri~State area*

Questions call 760~326~2814 or email
parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com

12. LAUGHLIN CHAMBER AWARDS



COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Judicial Philosophy

The Community Achievement Awards are not competitions - they are celebrations. Each nominee represents the heart of the Colorado River Region: individuals, businesses, and organizations who move our communities forward through leadership, compassion, and service.

Each year, a diverse panel of judges review dozens of nominations with care, considering not only accomplishments but also each nominee's alignment with our community's values, mission, and impact. This includes service, integrity, and the ability to inspire others. Finalist selections are made by majority vote following interviews, and the decisions are final.

To ensure this legacy is upheld, our judging process centers on more than achievement. It is grounded in character, impact, and alignment with our shared community values. Judges evaluate not only what a nominee has accomplished, but how they've done it - with humility, respect, and an unwavering commitment to community.

Judges review nomination packets, conduct in-depth interviews, and cast their final votes by secret ballot. The process is confidential, impartial, and rooted in fairness - intended to reflect the dignity of this regional honor.

Chamber staff administer the nomination process and provide procedural guidance to the judging panel but do not participate in deliberations, vote on finalists, or influence the outcome of the awards.

Final award selections are tabulated and verified by independent third-party observers to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voting process.

The result? Finalists and awardees who inspire trust, unity, and admiration - the very people we are proud to uplift.

COMMUNITY EVENTS I



COMMUNITY EVENTS I

