



# City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363  
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765  
[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

---

## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2025

---

**1. Vegetation Fire Jack Smith Park – Regional Response and Containment**

On Saturday, July 26, 2025, at approximately 7:26 p.m., a vegetation fire broke out near Jack Smith Memorial Park. The incident prompted a rapid and coordinated response from City staff, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, BNSF, and the Mohave Valley Fire Department. Thanks to this strong multi-agency effort, the fire was fully contained with no reported injuries or structural damage. This incident underscores the importance of regional collaboration, particularly with the Mohave Valley Fire Department, whose timely support was critical in helping contain the fire. The fire originated near a homeless encampment along the river's edge. A suspect, Shawn Brown, was located and arrested by deputies early the following morning. He remains in custody at the Colorado River Station, with bail set at \$30,000. See attached press release and event photos for additional details.

**2. Reminder: Night Pool Party – Tomorrow, August 2**

Don't miss the free Night Pool Party sponsored by Tri-State Community Healthcare tomorrow, Saturday, August 2, at the Needles Aquatic Center (1661 J Street) from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This fun-filled, family-friendly event will include complimentary hot dogs, chips, and drinks, water bounce house slides, a water balloon toss competition, and open swimming for all ages. This is a great opportunity to cool off, enjoy outdoor fun, and connect with neighbors in a safe and festive environment. Entry is free and all are welcome. See attached flyer for more details.

**3. Reminder: Backpack & School Supply Drive – Donations Due August 5**

The Colorado River Sheriff's Station / Needles Police Department is still accepting donations for its Backpack and School Supply Drive to benefit Needles Unified School District students. The deadline to donate is Monday, August 5, 2025. New backpacks, school supplies, and monetary contributions are welcome and will go directly toward helping local families prepare for the

new school year. Donations can be coordinated through Community Relations Officer Misti Hunt at (760) 326-9207 or [mhunt@sbcscd.org](mailto:mhunt@sbcscd.org). Checks should be made payable to “River Daze.” Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far—your support makes a difference!

**4. Citywide Maintenance and Beautification Efforts Continue**

The City of Needles remains focused on infrastructure, safety, and community pride through ongoing, visible improvements. Ahead of the new school year starting August 13, Public Works crews repainted crosswalks near school zones to ensure clear, high-visibility paths for students and families. Crews also trimmed trees encroaching on power lines at the Golf Course Maintenance Yard as part of fire abatement efforts, reducing hazards and protecting utility infrastructure. Pothole repair remains a top priority. The City continues to respond to road surface issues across neighborhoods, with a recent repair completed on D Street as part of these ongoing efforts to improve drivability and extend roadway life. Special thanks to Frontier Communications for clearing overgrown vegetation at their Front Street property and to the property owner on D Street for removing abandoned vehicles and cleaning up their parcel. These improvements enhance neighborhood safety, appearance, and quality of life. This work reflects the City Council’s commitment to maintaining clean, safe, and resilient community spaces through active partnership and stewardship. Photos from this week’s efforts are attached.

**5. Mayor Jernigan Showcases Needles on KNTR’s “Speak Out”**

On May 30, 2025, Mayor Janet Jernigan appeared on KNTR’s *Speak Out* radio show alongside Hanna Guy, Senior Director of Brand and Marketing for Peanuts Worldwide, to spotlight an exciting partnership between Peanuts Worldwide, the City of Needles, and local nonprofit Foundation for Hospital Art. The collaboration includes a community PaintFest on August 12 at the Colorado River Medical Center, where residents will help create two large-scale murals. One features the classic Peanuts gang, and the other highlights Spike—Snoopy’s desert-dwelling brother inspired by Charles Schulz’s time living in Needles. During the segment, Mayor Jernigan also highlighted the City’s broader tourism and community engagement efforts, including preparations for the Route 66 Centennial in 2026, the continued success of the City’s award-winning parks system, and Needles High School’s impressive 41 state championships. The discussion underscored Needles’ growing visibility through creative partnerships, historic pride, and local excellence.

[Click here to listen to the full interview.](#)

**6. Aquatic Center Wrap-Up & Extended Morning Programs**

The Needles Aquatic Center concluded its regular summer operations on August 1, 2025, after another successful season serving local families through swim lessons, open swim, youth camps, and private rentals. While the main pool season has ended, Morning Lap Swim and Exercise programs remain active through the first week of September, continuing to offer accessible, low-cost wellness opportunities for the community. Lap Swim is available Monday through Thursday from 6:30–8:00 AM, followed by Morning Exercise from 8:00–

9:15 AM. These early morning sessions remain popular with residents and reflect the City's ongoing commitment to public health and active living. Staff will now begin seasonal maintenance and prepare for next year's aquatic programming.

**7. 2025 Summer Youth Programs Conclude with Strong Community Support**

The City of Needles successfully wrapped up its 2025 summer youth programs this week, providing community-supported activities for local families. The Summer Day Camp Program was offered at no cost thanks to generous support from The Legacy Foundation and River Daze with more than 150 participants. Alongside basketball and swim programs, these efforts provided safe, structured environments for local youth throughout the summer. Special thanks go to all the volunteer coaches who generously donated their time and energy to support the Jr. and Pee Wee Basketball Program. Their involvement was critical to the program's success and community impact. These programs reflect the City Council's continued commitment to accessible, family-friendly services. Staff will now shift focus to upcoming fall and winter programming with taking signups now for Soccer, volleyball and Flag Football. For any questions or assistance, please get in touch with Jennifer Valenzuela at (760) 326-2814 or via email at [jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com).

**8. Needles Showcased at Ontario International Airport**

The City of Needles is now featured at Ontario International Airport (ONT) as part of the new "Discover Inland Empire" campaign—a regional initiative launched to promote Southern California's most dynamic destinations. Spearheaded by Visit Inland Empire in partnership with ONT, the campaign introduces millions of travelers to the diverse attractions across the region, with Needles proudly highlighted among them. Digital displays inside the terminal showcase Needles' iconic imagery, including historic railcars and desert landscapes, helping position the city as a unique destination within the broader Inland Empire. This effort aligns with City Council's strategic priorities to promote tourism, expand regional visibility, and attract economic activity. This exposure not only elevates Needles' profile at one of the nation's fastest-growing airports, but also reinforces our standing as a welcoming and adventure-ready stop in Southern California. Photos attached show how our city is being featured in this high-traffic gateway.

**9. Jack Smith Park Lift Station – Pump Replacement Complete**

The Wastewater Department, in coordination with **EUSI, LLC**, the City's contracted provider for operational support services at the wastewater treatment facility, successfully completed repairs to the Jack Smith Park lift station this week. In May, both pumps at the site failed, requiring the procurement of two new Pentair Hydromatic grinder pumps. This week, crews pumped out the wet well and installed and tested both pumps. The lift station is now back to full operation. Staff logged motor hours, recorded amp readings, and documented the installation with photos of the equipment nameplates. This efficient and well-executed repair effort restored critical wastewater infrastructure serving the Jack Smith area. Refer to the attached images for a look at the repair.

**10. Fall Spay & Neuter Clinic Scheduled for September 25–26**

The Needles Animal Shelter will host its Fall Spay and Neuter Clinic on September 25th and 26th in partnership with Dr. Angelina Beeks of Angels Touch Mobile Vet. The event is by appointment only, and a non-refundable deposit is required. All are welcome to participate. To reserve a spot, residents must fill out an application and pay the deposit in person at the Needles Animal Shelter, located at 1662 Flip Mendez Parkway. This bi-annual clinic is in high demand and typically fills quickly, so early registration is encouraged. For more information or to schedule an appointment, residents can call the shelter at (760) 326-4952. This program continues to support public health, responsible pet ownership, and the City's broader animal welfare goals. Refer to the attached fly for more information.

**11. Youth Golf Camp Concludes with Community Support and Lasting Impact**

The 2025 Summer Youth Golf Camp at Rivers Edge Golf Course officially wrapped up this week, closing out a season of instruction, growth, and positive youth engagement. Operated in partnership with Touchstone Golf, the camp welcomed dozens of local youth and emphasized discipline, sportsmanship, and teamwork. A highlight of the final week was the annual Putting Contest hosted by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Colorado River Station, which included a generous \$880 donation from their nonprofit River Daze to support this year's program. We extend our sincere thanks to the Sheriff's Department for their continued presence and commitment to Needles youth—your support helped make this camp possible. Take a look at the attached photos for a glimpse of the event and the impact it had on our young participants.

**12. Route 66 Channel 2 Now Live**

As a quick update to the item from the manager's report two weeks ago — Channel 2 on Route 66 Broadband is now live. Community programming has officially launched and includes event calendars, City Council meeting replays, public notices, and community flyers on a continuous loop. This tool directly supports Council's public engagement goals by making timely City information more visible and accessible to residents. Appreciation again to Route 66 Broadband for helping make this happen.

**13. Summer Reading Program Wraps Up with Family Entertainment**

The Needles Branch Library successfully concluded its 2025 Summer Reading Program, *Tales of Enchantment*, which promoted literacy and lifelong reading through interactive, educational activities for all ages. Throughout the summer, the library hosted a series of live performances, culminating this past Tuesday, July 29, 2025, with a featured appearance by Comic Master Ventriloquist Joe Gandelman. His high-energy, family-friendly show was a fitting end to a season of storytelling, imagination, and learning. These events directly support the City Council's goals to foster youth engagement, literacy, and community enrichment. We thank the library team and community partners for their efforts in delivering a memorable summer experience. Photos and highlights from this week's performance are attached.

#### **14. Advancing Regional Collaboration**

As part of the City Council's continued commitment to strategic regional collaboration, City staff recently met with Bullhead City Manager Toby Cotter and his Development Services team to explore opportunities for strengthening the economic vitality of the tri-state region. The discussion centered on shared priorities including regional economic development, housing production, retail growth, and hospitality development. By aligning efforts and leveraging each city's strengths, both Needles and Bullhead City aim to create a more resilient, prosperous, and interconnected region for residents, businesses, and future investment.

#### **15. Community Events Calendar Now Live on City Website**

As part of the City's newly launched website, we're excited to introduce a [comprehensive Community Events Calendar](#) designed to keep residents informed about the many activities and happenings across Needles. We invite local organizations and event organizers to collaborate with the City Clerk's Office to add or update events—helping ensure the calendar remains vibrant, inclusive, and reflective of our community's diverse offerings. To contribute or request modifications, please contact Candace Clark at [cclark@cityofneedles.com](mailto:cclark@cityofneedles.com). Your participation helps strengthen community spirit and enrich the local experience for residents and visitors alike.



# 1. JACK SMITH PARK FIRE RESPONSE





# 1. JACK SMITH PARK FIRE RESPONSE





# 1. SBSD PRESS RELEASE JSP FIRE

Full Notification



## SBSD - Colorado River Sheriffs Department

Monday July 28th, 2025 :: 10:39 a.m. PDT

Advisory

### **Suspect Responsible for Brush Fire near Jack Smith Memorial Park Identified and Arrested**

DATE/TIME: July 26, 2025, at approximately 7:26 p.m.

INCIDENT: PC 452(C) - Unlawfully Causing a Fire - Wreckless Burning

LOCATION: Jack Smith Memorial Park, Needles, CA

SUSPECT(S): Shawn Brown, 38-Years-Old, Transient of Needles, CA

VICTIM(S): State of California

SUMMARY: On Saturday, July 26, 2025, at approximately 7:26 p.m., deputies with the Colorado River Station / Needles Police department responded to a report of a large brush fire near Jack Smith Memorial Park in the City of Needles. Through investigation, it was determined the fire was started near a homeless encampment located within the dense brush near the river's edge.

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, at approximately 3:44 a.m., deputies located the suspect, identified as Shawn Brown, in the area. Brown was detained and interviewed at the Colorado River Station. During the investigation, Brown was found to be the person who unlawfully started the fire. Brown was subsequently arrested on the above mentioned charges and was transported to the Colorado River Station jail for booking. Brown remains in the custody of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department with a bail amount of \$30,000.00, awaiting a court hearing.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Deputy M. Yanez of the Colorado River Station at (760) 326-9200. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may contact the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78CRIME (27463) or may leave information on line at the We-Tip website, [www.wetip.com](http://www.wetip.com).

For press releases, news, and information follow the Colorado River Station on X at: [@CORiverStation](https://twitter.com/CORiverStation), Facebook and/or Instagram [@SBCSDColoradoRiverStation](https://www.instagram.com/SBCSDColoradoRiverStation).

Refer: Deputy M. Yanez

Station: Colorado River Station / Needles Police Department

Phone No. 760-326-9200

Case No. 212500546

SHANNON D. DICUS, Sheriff-Coroner  
San Bernardino County Sheriff-Coroner Department

More Messages

[See more messages from Needles, California »](#)

Navigate & Discover

Enter a town, zip code or address



## 2. TRI-STATE NIGHT POOL PARTY

This event is sponsored by

*tri-state*  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

**NIGHT POOL PARTY**

**FREE ENTRY**

**NEEDLES, CA**

6:00-9:00 PM  
SATURDAY - AUGUST 2  
1661 J STREET, NEEDLES CA

Free hot dogs, drink & chips  
Water Bouncy House Slides



### 3. BACKPACK AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Back to School



# Backpack & School Supply Drive

The Colorado River Station is hosting a backpack and school supply drive to help children in our community get ready for the new school year.

PLEASE BRING YOUR  
NEW DONATED ITEMS TO  
THE NEEDLES SHERIFF'S  
STATION BY  
AUGUST 5, 2025



Contact Community Officer M. Hunt at (760)326-9200 or [mhunt@sbcasd.org](mailto:mhunt@sbcasd.org) with any questions.



## 4. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION





## 4. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION





## 4. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION





## 4. CITYWIDE BEAUTIFICATION





## 5. AQUATICS CENTER WRAP-UP



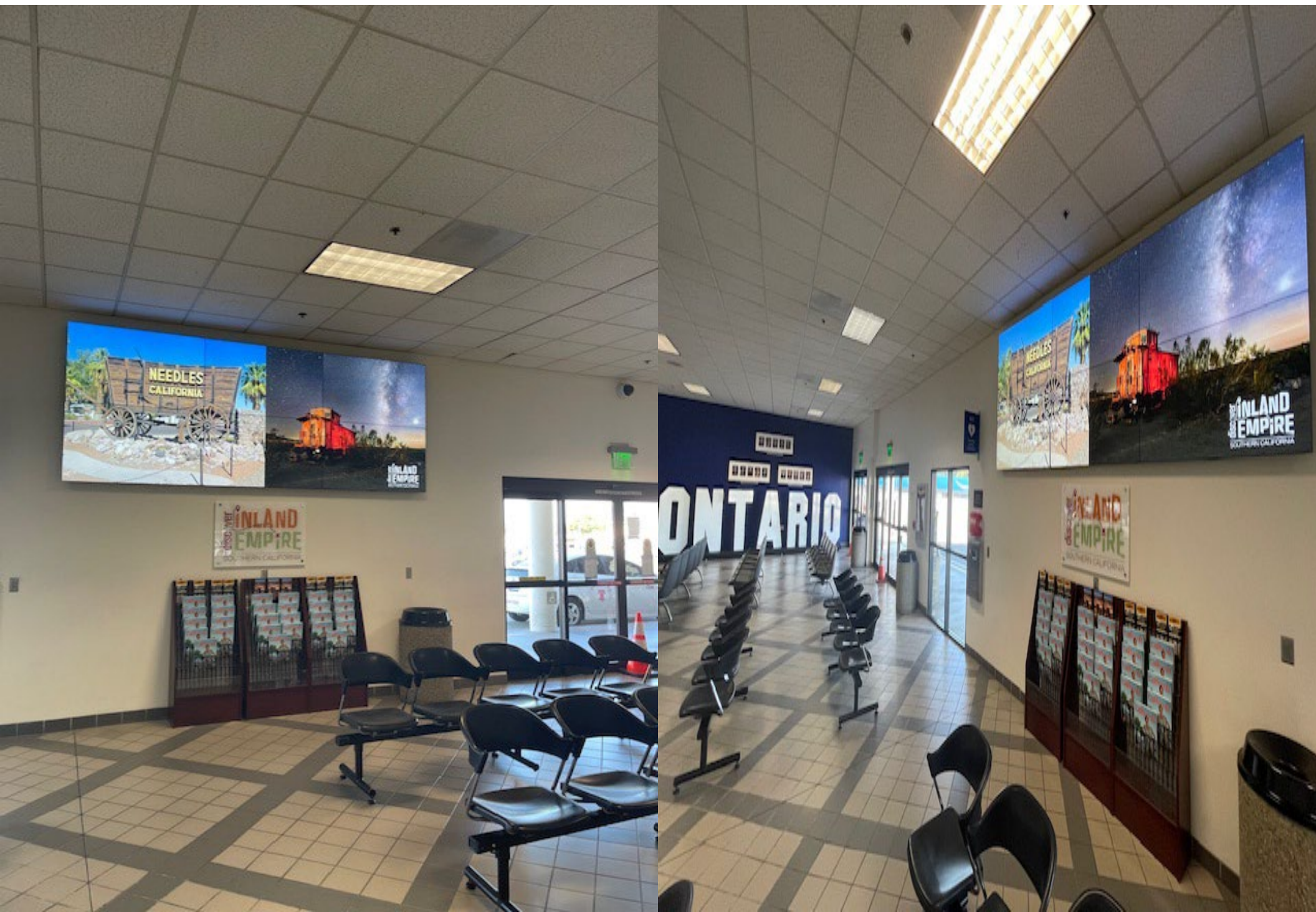


## 7. SUMMER CAMP WRAP-UP





## 8. ONTARIO AIRPORT FEATURE





## 9. JACK SMITH PARK LIFT STATION





## 10. FALL SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC



### **Needles Animal Shelter Fall Spay and Neuter Clinic September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**



Dr. Angelina Beeks  
Angels Touch Mobile Vet



By Appointment Only  
Non-Refundable Deposit Required

***All Welcome!***

**MUST FILL OUT APPLICATION AND PAY DEPOSIT  
AT THE NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER**

**1662 FLIP MENDEZ PKWY**

**NEEDLES, CA 92363**

**(760)326-4952**





## 11. GOLF SUMMER CAMP WRAP-UP





## 13. SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM WRAP-UP

