



# 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 Zachery Longacre

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: April 4, 2025

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1. **Put your boots on—Rodeo Weekend is back in Needles!** The **47th Annual Colorado River Round-Up Rodeo** takes place **tonight and tomorrow Saturday, April 4–5**, at the **Needles Rodeo Grounds** (1001 San Clemente Street) gates open at **4PM**. This **Grand Canyon Pro Rodeo Association-sanctioned** event delivers two action-packed days of **professional rodeo competitions, live music, and family-friendly fun**. Event highlights include the **Junior Barrel Race, Mutton Bustin'**, a lively **cornhole tournament**, and **local vendors** serving up food, drinks. Each night wraps up with the crowd-favorite **Rodeo Dance**, featuring live performances by **Littletown**. **Tickets are available at the gate:** \$10 per day for adults (18+), \$5 per day for youth (ages 6–17), and free for children five and under. This beloved tradition honors the **rich heritage, vibrant spirit, and strong sense of community** that makes Needles **unique**. It's a key part of the City's commitment to fostering local pride and supporting tourism. Come early, bring the family, and enjoy one of the most exciting weekends of the year. **See the attached flyer for more details or contact Judy Thornton at 760-333-5255. We'll see you at the Round-Up!**
  2. On City staff is honored to invite the community to the **ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Well No. 11 Treatment Plant** on **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** This \$8.9 million project isn't just another public works achievement—it's a defining moment for Needles. Congratulations to the City Council and staff for this monumental achievement. **This is how legacies are built.** Backed by over **\$14.3 million** in water infrastructure investment, Needles is rewriting the story of what's possible for rural communities. From advanced treatment systems and upgraded pump stations to new backup power and critical pipeline improvements, we're not just fixing old problems—we're future-proofing our city. Thanks to the unwavering support of the **State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. EPA, and California Climate Investments**, we've turned long-standing water challenges into a model of resilience. The plant will serve Wells No. 11, 12, and 15—delivering cleaner, safer water and restoring confidence in the systems our community relies on every day. **This is bold, forward-thinking**

**infrastructure—the kind California needs more of.** The Needles City Council is proud to lead with vision, because what we're building isn't just a treatment plant—it's the future of Needles. **Join us** as we celebrate this powerful step forward—together.

3. On **Saturday, March 29th**, a **community clean-up** was held along **Clary Drive** near the **Rodeo Grounds**, with a dozen volunteers participating. Led by **Councilmember Longacre** and the **Needles Pride Program**, the monthly effort targeted **litter** and **dead vegetation** ahead of the **Needles Rodeo**, reinforcing **civic pride** and **beautification**. **Public Works** crews completed **fire abatement** along Clary Drive and finalized **asbestos removal** at the former **Chamber of Commerce building (100 G Street)**. **Demolition** is set in the coming weeks to make way for potential **downtown redevelopment**. In advance of the **Palo Verde 5K Run**, **potholes** were repaired along **River Street** near **Ed Perry Park**. Weekly **citywide maintenance** continues. The “**Dead End**” and **directional signs** were reinstalled at **Front Street** to reduce **oversized vehicle issues**. We thank the **property owners** on the **1300 block of Broadway** for quickly bringing parcels into **compliance** following recent accidents that support **safety** and **community appearance along our major thoroughfare**. Residents can report issues such as **potholes, sidewalk damage, or vegetation overgrowth**; please call **760-326-2115 (press #9)** or use the **Needles Connect app** on [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple Store](#). This week's work reflects strong **coordination** between **volunteers, city crews**, and **property owners** to improve **safety, public spaces**, and **readiness for upcoming events**. Refer to the attached images for a glimpse.
4. In **January**, the **City of Needles** formed a **multi-agency task force** to address our community's growing concerns of **graffiti and vandalism**. I want to thank our partners at **Caltrans, Needles Unified School District**, and the **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBCSD)** for their continued efforts to work alongside the City to deter further criminal activity. Through **increased surveillance, strict enforcement**, and a clear message of accountability, we demonstrate our commitment to keeping Needles a **clean, safe, and welcoming community**. To support these efforts and enhance the documentation of incidents, **City crews installed new security cameras at Jack Smith Park** this week. **Additional security cameras have also been ordered for Duke Watkins Park and are currently being installed; they should be online within the next couple of weeks**, expanding our surveillance capabilities to further deter vandalism and protect public spaces. This initiative includes improved coordination for **incident reporting**, and we encourage residents to be part of the solution by reporting graffiti to **SBCSD's non-emergency line at 909-387-8313**. We thank **Caltrans, SBCSD, the Needles Unified School District**, and our **residents** for their ongoing support in confronting this issue. If you **see something, say something**—together, we can preserve the **pride, beauty, and vibrancy of Needles**.
5. On Saturday, **Billet Health** hosted the **Pancakes in the Park** event at **Santa Fe Park**, drawing approximately **120 attendees** to honor **Vietnam Veterans**.

The program included a **JROTC opening ceremony, rifle spinning performance**, a **“Welcome Home” address by Commander George DeLeon (Post 404)**, a **POW/MIA remembrance**, and a **13-Folds Flag Ceremony**. Guests enjoyed a complimentary pancake breakfast in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere. **Mayor Janet Jernigan** spoke to thank veterans for their service and shared details about the upcoming **Run for the Wall event on May 14, 2025 at 12pm**. This well-attended event supports the **City Council's** community engagement and family support goals by honoring service members and fostering civic pride. **The attached images give a glimpse into the event—special thanks to Billet Health** for organizing a memorable community gathering.

6. City of Needles Lineman **Thomas DeLeon** participated in the **Vista Colorado Elementary STEM Class**, delivering an energetic and hands-on presentation on **electrical safety** to curious and engaged students. As part of the session, Thomas demonstrated **personal protective equipment**, explained the function of essential tools, and showcased one of the city's **bucket trucks**, giving students a rare behind-the-scenes look at the critical work linemen perform every day. This **interactive outreach** teaches important safety tips that students can carry with them and sparks interest in potential future careers in the trades and public service. It's a great example of City staff stepping outside their typical roles to **educate, connect, and inspire** the next generation. Participation in programs like this strengthens **community trust**, encourages **youth engagement**, and shows that the City of Needles is dedicated to positively impacting **both on and off the clock**. We thank Thomas for his commitment to safety, service, and community leadership. **Refer to the attached images to take a glimpse into the event.**
7. On **City staff is excited to welcome Mark Walters as the newest appointee to the Board of Public Utilities**. The Board plays a key advisory role to the City Council on all matters involving Utility Operations. This includes reviewing and making recommendations on the annual utility budget, capital purchases, system upgrades, and rate structures for water, wastewater, and electric services. The Board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at El Garces. **Welcome aboard, Mark — we're glad to have you on the team!**
8. **On Tuesday, April 8, 2025**, the **Needles Women's Club** will host a **Chicken Chili Verde Luncheon** to raise funds to support women's empowerment, youth programs, scholarships, and civic initiatives. For just **\$10**, attendees will enjoy a hearty meal featuring chicken chili verde, chips, and a cookie. Meals can be **picked up at the Needles Women's Club**, located at **305 W. Broadway Street**, or **delivered within the city** for orders of three or more. Orders must be placed by **5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7**, and can be submitted online by clicking [here](#). For assistance with ordering, residents may call or text **Karrie at 928-201-1836**. This event is a great way to support a longstanding community organization dedicated to empowering others and giving back to Needles.

9. Next **Saturday, April 12, 2025**, from **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, **Cindi's Kids** will host their annual **Father-Daughter Dance** at the **Needles Recreation Center**. This cherished event brings families together for **fun, music, and connection**. The dance is open to girls ages **3 to 18** and their **father figures**, including **grandfathers, uncles, big brothers, or proxy dads**. Admission is **\$15 per couple** and **\$5 for each additional daughter**. **Drinks and refreshments** are included, and **professional photos** will be available for purchase. **Community-centered events** like this continue to strengthen **family ties** and reinforce the importance of **positive male role models** in the lives of young girls. We encourage **council members** and **staff** to help spread the word and support this **heartfelt gathering**. **Refer to the attached flyer for details**.

10. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**

- City staff have **carefully curated a comprehensive community events calendar** to inform residents about **Needles' diverse activities and happenings**. The community events calendar can now **be found on the Needles Connect App!** Organizations are encouraged to **collaborate with the City Clerk's Office** to add or update events, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar. For contributions or modifications, please get in touch with Candace Clark at **[cclark@cityofneedles.com](mailto:cclark@cityofneedles.com)**. Your **active participation** helps strengthen our community and enrich local experiences. **Check the attached calendar for the remaining 2025 events**, and stay engaged with all Needles offers!

# 1. RODEO



## **47TH COLORADO RIVER ROUND UP**

**APRIL 4 & 5, 2025**

### **NEEDLES RODEO GROUNDS**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 4**

**4 PM: GATES AND VENDORS OPEN**

**6 PM: GCPRA RODEO PERFORMANCE**

**8 PM: RODEO DANCE FEATURING "LITTLETOWN"**

**RODEO QUEENS SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS**

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

**9 AM: GATES OPEN**

**RODEO SLACK**

**CORNHOLE TOURNEY REGISTRATION**

**10 AM: CORNHOLE TOURNEY PRESENTED BY THE  
HUNTER FAMILY**

**1 PM: JUNIOR BARREL RACE PRESENTED BY  
CAMPBELL REDI-MIX**

**1-3 PM: MUTTON BUSTIN' REGISTRATION**

**3 PM: MUTTON BUSTIN'**

**6 PM: GCPRA RODEO PERFORMANCE**

**8 PM: RODEO DANCE FEATURING "LITTLETOWN"**

**RODEO QUEENS SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS**

**Presented by Needles Rodeo Association**

**(No outside alcohol permitted)**





PRESENTS THE

## 47TH COLORADO RIVER ROUND UP

### APRIL 4 & 5, 2025

NEEDLES RODEO GROUNDS 1001 SAN CLEMENTE STREET

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#### \* RODEO DANCE \*

"Littletown"

Presented by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe



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#### \* SPECIAL EVENTS \*

# Junior Barrel Race presented by Campbell Redi-Mix

Call Mike Shott at 760-218-4891 to register.

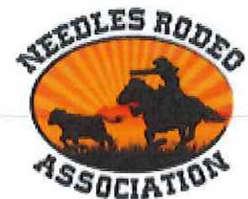
# 8th Annual Cornhole Tourney

Call Wade Evans at 760-220-1039

# Local Contestants -

Call Mike Shott at 760-218-4891 from March 1-26

# Mutton Bustin' - call Judy Thornton at 760-333-5255



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#### \* THE RODEO STORE \*

March 31-April 3

920 W. Broadway in Needles

10am-4pm

#### \* TICKETS \*

Ages 5 and under - free

Ages 6-17 - \$5

Ages 18 and over - \$10

#### PRESALE TICKETS

2-Day Adults - \$15

2-Day Kids - \$5

Rodeo Store only

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Coordinated by Needles Rodeo Association

Facebook at Needles Rodeo/CRRU

[needlesrodeo@outlook.com](mailto:needlesrodeo@outlook.com) [www.needlesrodeo.com](http://www.needlesrodeo.com)

For more info, call Judy Thornton @ 760-333-5255

**(NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED)**

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VIP AREA  
Presented by





### 3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION





### 3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION





### 3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION





### 3. CITY BEAUTIFICATION





## 4. VANDALISM PREVENTION





## 5. VIETNAM VETERANS





## 6. VISTA COLORADO ELEMENTARY





## 9. CINDI'S KIDS DANCE

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
CINDI'S KIDS

# *Father Daughter* **DANCE**

SATURDAY

APRIL  
**12**  
2025

6:00-8:00

Location: Needles Recreation Center

**\$15 PER COUPLE**

**\$5 EACH ADDITIONAL  
DAUGHTER**

**- AGES 3 TO 18**

**- DRINKS & REFRESHMENTS  
INCLUDED**

**- PICTURES AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE**

Please remember Father's include Grandfathers,  
Uncles, Big Brothers, & Proxy Dads