



City of Needles

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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: June 19, 2026

1. **Route 66 Centennial Receives National Recognition**

The Los Angeles Times recently featured the Route 66 Centennial Caravan, a cross-country journey commemorating the 100th anniversary of the historic Mother Road. The article highlighted Needles as a featured stop along the caravan route, providing national exposure for the community and its ongoing Route 66 initiatives. This recognition supports the City's efforts to promote tourism, celebrate Route 66 heritage, and position Needles as a premier destination along one of America's most iconic highways.

2. **PublicCEO Features Needles OHMV Pilot Program**

PublicCEO, a statewide publication covering local government news, recently featured the City of Needles' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program and upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony. The article highlighted Needles as the only city in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly to surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems. The program is designed to expand recreational opportunities, support local businesses, attract tourism, and strengthen the local economy. This recognition provides valuable statewide exposure and reinforces Needles' leadership in outdoor recreation and economic development. The article may be viewed [at this link.](#)

3. **OHMV Pilot Program Media Outreach and Ribbon Cutting Reminder:**

The City recently distributed a press release announcing the official launch of the Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program and upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at 100 G Street. The press release highlighted Needles as the only city in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly to surrounding Bureau of Land Management trail systems and emphasized the program's anticipated benefits for recreation, tourism, and economic development. The release was distributed to regional media outlets, government organizations, and community partners as part of the City's ongoing public outreach efforts. Residents, businesses, OHMV enthusiasts, and community

stakeholders are encouraged to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and celebrate this historic milestone for the City of Needles.

4. **Needles Behavioral Health Center Expansion Underway:** In March 2024, City staff was notified by Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz's Office that the San Bernardino County Needles Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic and Recovery Clubhouse Project had been awarded \$1 million in federal earmark funding. The funding was intended to support the expansion and renovation of the existing behavioral health facility located at 1600 Bailey Avenue to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder services in the Needles community. The City is pleased to report that construction is now underway. The project includes facility-wide renovations, infrastructure improvements, expanded service areas, and additional space to support increased staffing and service capacity. Construction is currently anticipated to be completed in late November 2026. Additional information regarding a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be shared as the project progresses.
5. **Interstate 40 Gateway Signage Improvements:** The City would like to recognize the collaborative efforts of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 and San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe in supporting improvements to interstate wayfinding signage serving the Needles community. As the eastern gateway to California and San Bernardino County, Needles serves as the first impression for millions of visitors entering the state and county from the east. Approximately 8.4 million vehicles travel Interstate 40 through Needles annually, making the community one of the most heavily traveled gateways into California and San Bernardino County. Updated highway signage helps strengthen community visibility, promote tourism, and reinforce Needles' important role as a transportation, tourism, and economic gateway for the region. The City appreciates the continued partnership of Caltrans and Supervisor Rowe in supporting improvements that enhance the visitor experience and showcase San Bernardino County to travelers from across the nation.
6. **Route 66 Centennial Tourism Brings International Visitors to Needles**
This week, Needles welcomed approximately 40 motorcycle riders from Quebec, Canada, traveling Historic Route 66 as part of the Route 66 Centennial Celebration. The group began its journey in Chicago and stopped in Needles before continuing west to Barstow. During their visit, the riders toured the Needles Regional Museum and Santa Fe Park. Their stop highlights the international appeal of Route 66 and the growing interest surrounding the Centennial. Visits such as these support local businesses and reinforce Needles' position as a premier destination along the Mother Road.
7. **Colorado River Station Monument Sign Installation:** In October 2025, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department celebrated the completion of the newly renovated Colorado River Station, marking the facility's first major upgrade in more than 35 years. As a final component of that project, installation of a new monument sign at the Colorado River Station and City Council Chambers campus is scheduled to begin next week. The sign, funded through the Sheriff's Department, will provide improved identification for the Colorado

River Station, Needles Police Department, and City Council Chambers. The City appreciates the continued partnership and investment by San Bernardino County, Sheriff Shannon Dicus, and Supervisor Dawn Rowe in supporting public safety services and civic facilities in Needles.

8. **SUN Bucks Summer Food Assistance Program:** The California Department of Social Services has announced the return of the SUN Bucks Summer Food Assistance Program for June through August. The program helps families purchase nutritious food during the summer months when children may have limited access to school meals. Eligible children may receive \$120 in food benefits to purchase fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, whole grains, and other qualifying food items at participating grocery stores, farmers markets, and retailers that accept CalFresh EBT. Many children receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or Medi-Cal benefits may automatically qualify for the program. Residents seeking additional information or eligibility requirements may visit the California Department of Social Services [SUN Bucks website](#).
9. **IEHP Rural Area Support Collaborative Meeting:** Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) recently hosted its quarterly Rural Area Support Collaborative meeting in Needles. During the meeting, local healthcare providers and community partners discussed efforts to address food insecurity and improve access to healthy food options for residents. Presenters highlighted the connection between nutrition and overall health outcomes, noting that increased access to healthy foods can help prevent chronic disease and reduce healthcare costs. The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to explore collaborative strategies aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Needles community. The meeting also highlighted innovative healthcare-based nutrition programs designed to improve health outcomes while reducing long-term healthcare costs.
10. **Needles Chamber “Good Morning Needles” Coffee:** The Needles Chamber of Commerce recently hosted its monthly Good Morning Needles Coffee at El Garces. The featured guest speaker was Captain J. Gault of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Colorado River Station, who provided attendees with updates on public safety issues and law enforcement activities affecting the Needles community. The event provided an opportunity for residents, business owners, and community leaders to engage directly with local law enforcement and discuss matters of community interest. The City appreciates the Chamber's continued efforts to foster community engagement and collaboration through programs such as Good Morning Needles.
11. **Needles Library Summer Reading Program Performance – California Joe:** Needles Branch Library will host a free magic show featuring California Joe on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. as part of the Library's Summer Reading Program. The performance is open to the public, and registration in the Summer Reading Program is not required to attend. The City encourages residents and families to take advantage of this free educational and family-friendly community event and to explore the many programs and resources offered by the Needles Branch Library.

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

13. **Behavioral Health Community Meeting Follow-Up:** On **May 19, 2026**, the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health hosted a community meeting in Needles to discuss implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), which replaced the Mental Health Services Act following voter approval of Proposition 1. The new framework expands the focus of behavioral health funding to include both mental health and substance use disorder services, while placing greater emphasis on housing stability, homelessness prevention, and services for vulnerable populations. County staff also highlighted suicide prevention and overdose prevention as key countywide priorities. In addition, the County reported it is working with Pacific Clinics to identify opportunities to increase and expand Clubhouse services available to Needles residents. Expanded Clubhouse services could provide additional peer support, wellness activities, and recovery-focused resources for local residents.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Needles** Eagles Aerie 2599 Sponsors Free Swim Admission for Children: Needles Eagles Aerie 2599 will host the Swim With an Eagle event on Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Needles City Aquatics Center. Through the generosity of Needles Eagles Aerie 2599, admission for children will be free. Residents are encouraged to attend this family-friendly community event.

1. ROUTE 66 NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Route 66 still beckons at 100 as a caravan takes off from Santa Monica - Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles Times

TRAVEL & EXPERIENCES

At 100, Route 66 still beckons as a cross-country caravan takes off from Santa Monica



By Christopher Reynolds

Staff Writer | [Follow](#)

Photography by **Christina House**

June 6, 2026 12:59 PM PT



**National Recognition
for Route 66**

The Los Angeles Times featured **Needles** as a stop on the Route 66 Centennial Caravan, providing national exposure for the community and its Route 66 initiatives.



2. PUBLICCEO FEATURE

City of Needles to launch historic off-highway motor vehicle pilot program with ribbon cutting ceremony



The City of Needles is proud to announce the official launch of the Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at 100 G Street, Needles, California.

The Needles OHMV Pilot Program represents a significant milestone for the community and establishes Needles as the only city in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly from the community to surrounding Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trail systems. The program is designed to enhance recreational opportunities, support local businesses, attract tourism, and strengthen the local economy.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will celebrate the culmination of years of planning, coordination, public outreach, and collaboration among City staff, elected officials, public safety agencies, community stakeholders, and federal land management partners.

"This project represents a major accomplishment for the City of Needles and our community," said Janet Jernigan, Mayor of the City of Needles. "The OHMV Pilot Program creates new recreational opportunities while supporting tourism and economic development. We are excited to officially launch this program and showcase Needles as a premier destination for outdoor adventure."

Recent News



City of Riverside names James Johnson as city attorney
June 18, 2026



City of Arroyo Grande appoints Krystin Rice as director of community development
June 18, 2026



Diamond Bar City Council selects Ryan McLean as new city manager
June 17, 2026



CARB'S latest ACF rules add confusion and cost, reduce public safety
June 17, 2026



Staff Report of the Month: Emergency support for communities
June 16, 2026



3. OHMV PILOT PROGRAM PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles to Launch Historic Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

NEEDLES, CA — The City of Needles is proud to announce the official launch of the Needles Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at 100 G Street, Needles, California.**

The Needles OHMV Pilot Program represents a significant milestone for the community and establishes Needles as the only city in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders directly from the community to surrounding Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trail systems. The program is designed to enhance recreational opportunities, support local businesses, attract tourism, and strengthen the local economy.

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“This project represents a major accomplishment for the City of Needles and our community,” said Janet Jernigan, Mayor of the City of Needles. “The OHMV Pilot Program creates new recreational opportunities while supporting tourism and economic development. We are excited to officially launch this program and showcase Needles as a premier destination for outdoor adventure.”

The City has recently completed installation of the adopted OHMV wayfinding and educational signage network throughout the designated route system. The signage provides route guidance, safety information, and educational resources to help ensure responsible and lawful use of the program.

The event will include:

- Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Remarks from City Officials and Community Partners
- Overview of the Needles OHMV Pilot Program
- Recognition of Project Partners
- Photo Opportunities

Members of the public, OHMV enthusiasts, local businesses, community organizations, and regional partners are encouraged to attend and participate in this historic event. Additional information regarding the Needles OHMV Pilot Program, including route maps, FAQs, and program requirements, is available on the [City's website](#).

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Media Contact

Office of the City Manager – Patrick J. Martinez

City of Needles, California

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Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com

You're Invited!
— CITY OF NEEDLES —
OHMV
PILOT PROGRAM
RIBBON CUTTING
Ceremony

Join us as we celebrate the official launch of the *Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program!*

Experience one of California's most unique OHMV destinations, where riders can connect directly from the community to the trail system while enjoying scenic desert vistas, spectacular Colorado River views, and world-class outdoor recreation.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
- REMARKS FROM CITY OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS
- OVERVIEW OF THE OHMV PILOT PROGRAM
- CELEBRATION OF A MAJOR COMMUNITY MILESTONE
- PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

DATE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

TIME
10:00 A.M.

LOCATION
**100 G STREET
NEEDLES, CA 92363**

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Needles is one of the few communities in California with a designated OHMV route network connecting riders from town to trail. From breathtaking desert landscapes to spectacular views of the Colorado River, the Needles OHMV experience offers a unique opportunity to explore the outdoors while supporting local businesses, recreation, tourism, and economic development.

SCAN HERE for more INFORMATION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
760-326-2115 ext. 145

info@cityofneedles.com

4. NEEDLES BEHAVIORAL EXPANSION



5. INTERSTATE 40 GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Jun 12, 2026 at 10:16:21 AM

I-40 W

Needles CA 92363

United States



6. INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 TOURISM



7. COLORADO RIVER STATION SIGN



8.SUN BUCKS SUMMER FOOD ASSISTANCE

Free summer meal program ensures children have adequate nutrition

May 28, 2026

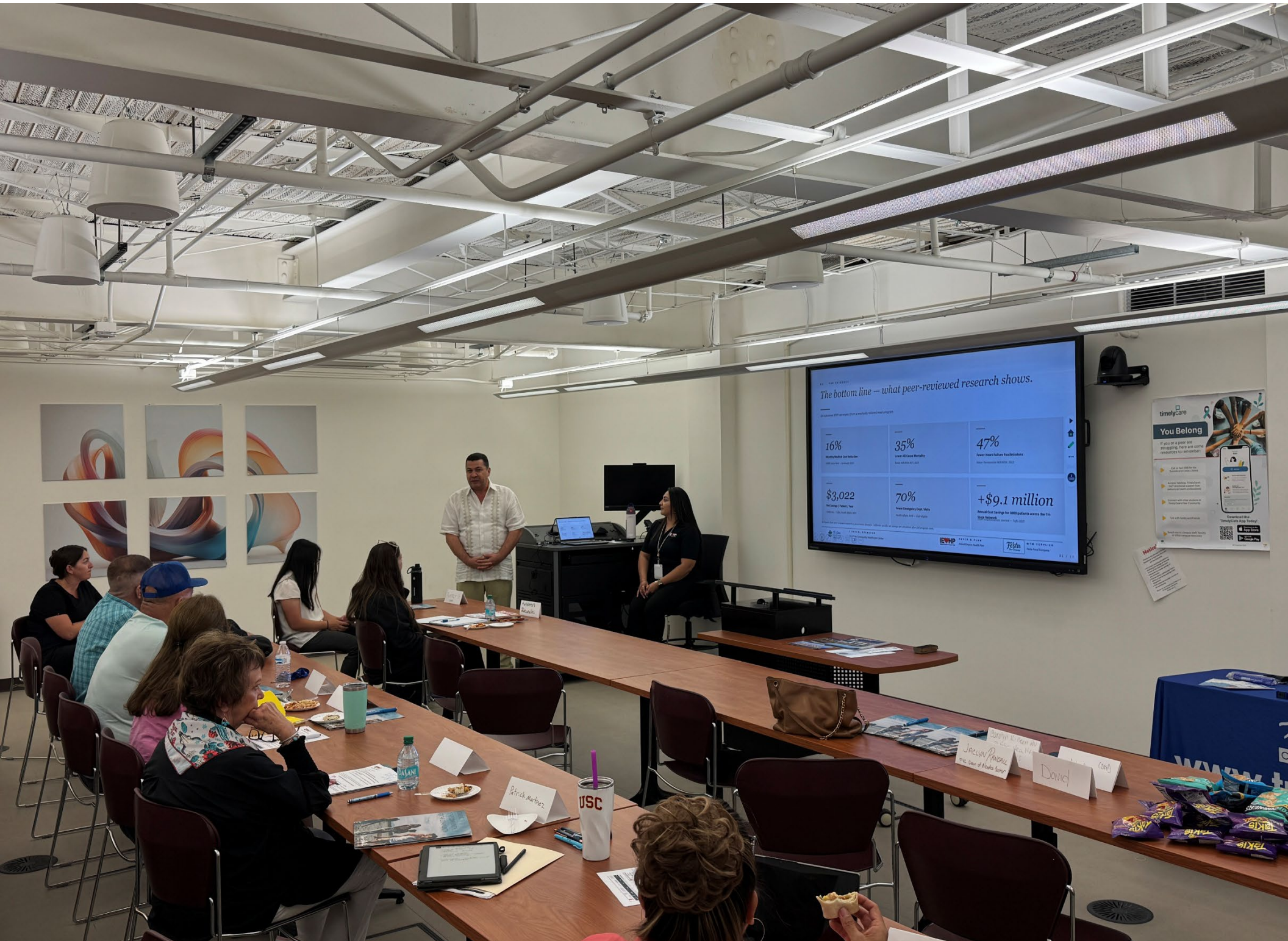
[COUNTYWIRE](#) | [TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT](#) | [UNCATEGORIZED](#)

472165353



The SUN Bucks program is back, helping families keep children fed and healthy with access to nutritious food while school is out.

9. IEHP RURAL AREA SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE



10. GOOD MORNING NEEDLES



11. NEEDLES LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAM

NEEDLES BRANCH LIBRARY

1111 Bailey Ave., Needles, 92363
760-326-9255 | library.sbcounty.gov

SUMMER READING PROGRAM June 8 - August 2

Wednesdays • 2:30pm
Storytime

Stories, songs, and crafts for all-ages.



PERFORMERS • Tuesdays • 1:00pm

June 9 • MOBILE ZOO OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 16 • PALO VERDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

June 23 • CALIFORNIA JOE

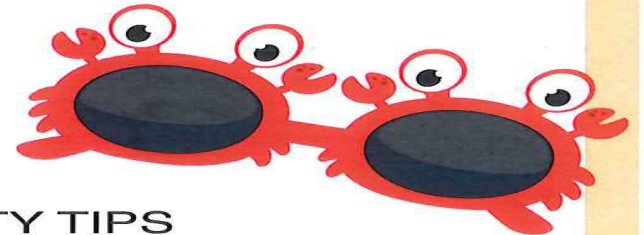
June 30 • SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: PROBATION &
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

July 7 • PARTY PUPPET SHOW

July 14 • BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

July 21 • JOE GANDELMAN

July 28 • CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL: SAFETY TIPS



**All County Library branches
will be closed on June 19 & July 3-4**



Library



Scan the QR Code or visit:
library.sbcounty.gov/session

MON 11am-7pm • TUE 11am-7pm
WED 11am-7pm • THURS 10am-6pm
FRI closed • SAT 9am-5pm • SUN closed

I. EAGLES POOL PARTY

SWIM WITH AN EAGLE

Join Us for a Unique and Fun Event!



**AT THE
NEEDLES
CITY POOL!**

**WHEN: Saturday, June 27, 2026
2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

FREE FOR CHILDREN