



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: May 1, 2026

1. **Supervisor Rowe Stakeholder Luncheon**

On **May 1, 2026**, Supervisor Dawn Rowe hosted a community stakeholder luncheon in Needles, convening regional partners across federal, county, public safety, healthcare, education, and nonprofit sectors to align on shared priorities and strengthen coordination. Prior to the meeting, the City Manager provided a tour highlighting key infrastructure investments, economic development activity, and strategic opportunities within the community. Discussion focused on continued collaboration with the County and local partners to advance initiatives that benefit Needles. The City extends its appreciation to Supervisor Rowe for her continued investment in the community, including her support of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Master Plan and her leadership in hosting the annual San Bernardino County Resource Fair at El Garces. This engagement supports the City Council's goals of strengthening partnerships, investing in infrastructure, and enhancing quality of life for residents.

2. **Coachella Valley Business Conference – City Manager Participation**

On **April 30, 2026**, the City Manager attended the Coachella Valley Business Conference and Economic Forecast, gaining insight into current economic trends and regional conditions. A key takeaway is that, as costs continue to rise across California, Needles stands out as one of the state's most affordable communities, with utility rates below statewide averages, lower housing costs, and a streamlined permitting process—providing a strong competitive advantage for residents and businesses. Coupled with a high quality of life, access to year-round tourism, and continued investment in community amenities, Needles remains well-positioned for growth. The conference also provided an opportunity to engage with state and regional partners to advocate for infrastructure investment and economic development priorities. Participation supports the City Council's goals of fostering economic growth, strengthening partnerships, and positioning Needles to compete for future funding and investment opportunities.

3. **Jobs First Symposium – Mayor Participation**

On **April 23, 2026**, Mayor Jernigan participated in the California Jobs First "Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice" in Sacramento, joining

statewide leaders to shape policy and funding priorities for outdoor recreation and tourism. The session focused on removing barriers to implementation and advancing projects from planning to delivery. The Mayor's participation ensures Needles is represented in statewide strategy discussions and positions the City to compete for future funding and investment—particularly in areas aligned with our strengths in outdoor recreation and visitor activity. This engagement directly supports the City Council's goals of economic development, regional collaboration, and expanding tourism-based opportunities.

4. Lucky Dhaba – New Business & Ribbon Cutting Update

On **April 25, 2026**, the Needles Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting and food tasting for Lucky Dhaba at 2411 W. Broadway Street, with the restaurant opening on **April 26, 2026**. The project reactivates a site vacant since COVID and brings new investment to the City's west side corridor, a key gateway off I-40. Mayor Jernigan, Vice Mayor Campbell, and Councilmembers Longbrake and Pogue participated in the ceremony, reinforcing the City's commitment to supporting business growth and revitalization. The City thanks Arjun Gossian and his family for their investment and the Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the event. Residents are encouraged to support this new local business.

5. Contract City/Town Managers Meeting – Public Safety Update

The City Manager attended the Contract City/Town Managers Meeting on **April 28, 2026**, at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Headquarters. During the meeting, Sheriff Shannon D. Dicus provided updates on the Department's continued investment in public safety technology, including the deployment of the Drone as First Responder (DFR) program in Victorville. This program enables rapid drone response with real-time aerial intelligence, improving response times, enhancing officer safety, and supporting informed decision-making in the field. Victorville's implementation serves as a model for potential expansion across the County. These advancements reflect the County's ongoing commitment to leveraging technology to strengthen public safety services and support communities like Needles.

6. Needles Unified School District – Enrollment & Education Update

Needles Unified School District is actively promoting enrollment opportunities, including interdistrict transfers for families working within the City. The District offers strong academic and career pathways, supported by experienced teachers, 1:1 technology, and comprehensive student services. Notably, Needles High School maintains a **98–100% graduation rate**, with approximately **60% of students pursuing college or career pathways** and over **\$1 million in scholarships awarded annually**. These strengths position Needles as a competitive, family-friendly community and support the City Council's goals of family support, community engagement, and enhancing quality of life.

7. Route 66 Golf Activation – Rivers Edge Golf Course

Rivers Edge Golf Course, in coordination with the Route 66 National Golf Trail initiative, is being strategically positioned as a key destination along the historic Route 66 corridor. These efforts align the City's recreational assets with broader tourism strategies tied to Route 66 Centennial and increased visitor activity.

Golfers and visitors to Rivers Edge can experience Route 66-themed enhancements on-site, reinforcing the City's commitment to activating the corridor and elevating Needles as a destination. This work highlights Rivers Edge Golf Course as both a premier recreational asset and a driver of tourism, supporting the City Council's goals of economic development, community engagement, and enhanced quality of life. Attached images highlight the national Route 66 Golf Trail initiative and local course activation, with additional information available on the **Route 66 National Golf Trail [website](#)**.

8. Route 66 Centennial Caravan – Needles Stop

As part of the Route 66 Centennial celebration, the “Main Street of America” Caravan is scheduled to stop in Needles on **June 8, 2026, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM** in downtown Needles in front of Palo Verde College. The Caravan is a nationally coordinated effort led by the Road Ahead Partnership and Route 66 organizations, traveling from Santa Monica to Chicago along the historic 2,400-mile corridor across all eight Route 66 states to promote preservation, tourism, and the legacy of the Mother Road. The event will feature a community activation with food vendors, entertainment, and the Big Texan 72 oz. Steak Challenge. The Big Texan Steak Ranch, a historic Route 66 landmark and Texas icon, is world-renowned for its free 72 oz. steak challenge and brings national recognition to the event. The activation is expected to draw regional visitors and media attention, providing a unique opportunity to showcase Needles as a key destination along Route 66 while supporting the City Council's goals of tourism, partnership development, and community engagement. **Additional details will be shared as they become available.**

9. Peanuts Worldwide Recognition – Needles Spotlight

Peanuts Worldwide recently highlighted Needles as part of its 75th Anniversary “Take Care with Peanuts” initiative, which includes mural installations in hospitals across the globe. As part of this effort, Colorado River Medical Center was selected to receive a **one-of-a-kind Snoopy and Spike mural**, recognizing Needles' unique connection to “Spike,” a character created by Charles Schulz and inspired by the community. This recognition places Needles alongside a limited number of locations worldwide and reinforces the City's identity on a national and global stage. This effort supports the City Council's goals of promoting tourism, strengthening community pride, and expanding arts and cultural opportunities.

10. Board & Commission Recruitment Efforts

At the direction of the City Council, staff expanded outreach to fill Board and Commission vacancies, including development of a recruitment flyer distributed through utility billing and posting on Needles Connect. Efforts are focused on increasing participation for the Planning Commission and Housing Commission, where vacancies remain. Residents interested in serving may apply through the City Clerk's Office at 817 Third Street, by emailing cclark@cityofneedles.com, or by calling 760-326-5700 ext. 133. Resident involvement on these boards is critical to supporting the City's goals related to growth, housing, and community development, and staff will continue outreach until the vacancies are filled.

11. Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Pilot Program – Final Public Input Reminder

The City continues implementation of the OHV Pilot Program, with signage anticipated by the end of June. The program is not yet active, and OHVs are not permitted on City streets until officially launched. **Public input closes May 4, 2026**, for the City’s OHMV Staging Area Project grant application (Cycle G26), requesting approximately \$995,911 to support the 9.20-mile route network and improve access, safety, and amenities. Residents are encouraged to submit comments through the [State’s OHV grants portal](#) by selecting “Review Preliminary Applications” and choosing “City of Needles.”

12. Bi-Annual Vaccination and Licensing Clinic – Event Update

On **April 25, 2026**, the City hosted a successful vaccination and licensing clinic in partnership with PetSmart Veterinary Services. The event resulted in **70 licenses issued** and over **180 vaccinations administered**, improving compliance and supporting public health. The strong turnout reflects continued community engagement and proactive efforts to promote responsible pet ownership in Needles. This initiative supports the City Council’s goals of strengthening community engagement and fostering a safe, healthy, family-friendly environment.

13. Needles Sandsharks Swim Team Tryouts

As City staff continues preparations for the summer season at the Needles Aquatic Center, the Needles Sandsharks Swim Team will be hosting tryouts on **April 30th and May 4th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. This program provides a strong opportunity for local youth to stay active, build skills, and participate in a structured team environment. The Swim Team remains a key component of the City’s summer recreation programming and supports the City Council’s goals of promoting youth engagement, enhancing quality of life, and expanding access to family-friendly activities. Residents are encouraged to participate as the City continues activating its recreational facilities for the upcoming season.

14. Needles Animal Shelter – Adoption Initiative

The Needles Animal Shelter is at capacity and needs the community’s help placing dogs into permanent homes. From energetic young dogs like Ronald and Pippa to loyal companions like Moe and Rex, there are pets ready for adoption. Spay and neuter vouchers are provided for unaltered animals at the time of adoption. Adopting locally helps reduce overcrowding and strengthens animal welfare in Needles. If you’ve been considering a pet, now is the time—these dogs are ready and waiting. Contact the shelter at **760-326-4952** or visit **1662 Flip Mendez Parkway, Needles, CA**, Monday–Friday, **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

15. Needles Women’s Club Pulled Pork Lunch Fundraiser

On **May 12, 2026**, the Needles Women’s Club will host a Pulled Pork Lunch fundraiser to support women’s empowerment, youth activities, scholarships, and civic initiatives. For \$10, the meal includes a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, chips, and dessert. Orders must be placed by **6:00 p.m. on May 11**, with delivery available within Needles for orders of three or more, or pickup at the Needles Women’s Club, 305 W. Broadway Street. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Women’s Club relies on community participation to continue its charitable work.

For assistance, contact Karrie at 928-201-1836. Residents are encouraged to place orders [online](#).

16. 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** 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. SUPERVISOR ROWE LUNCHEON



3. JOBS FIRST SYMPOSIUM



4. LUCKY DHABA RIBBON CUTTING



6. NUSD ENROLLMENT



NEEDLES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Interdistrict Transfer / Parent Employment

Under California Education Code § 48204(b), students may qualify to attend if a parent or guardian works within district boundaries.

WHY CHOOSE NEEDLES USD?

- ✓ Unified school year calendar
- ✓ Veteran teachers (12.2 avg. years experience)
- ✓ All schools located side-by-side
- ✓ Interscholastic athletics (Grades 6–12)
- ✓ 1:1 technology for every student

VISTA COLORADO ELEMENTARY (TK–5)

Transitional Kindergarten (Age 4 by Sept. 1, 2026)

🕒 7:40 AM – 2:10 PM

Grades K–3

🕒 7:40 AM – 2:10 PM

Grades 4–5

🕒 7:40 AM – 2:35 PM

★ Free After-School Program (until 6 PM)

★ Transportation to Needles Rec Center

★ Clubs & Tutoring (Grades 1–5)

★ Full-Day Summer School

★ Free Breakfast & Lunch

📅 Kindergarten Roundup: May 13

NEEDLES MIDDLE SCHOOL (6–8)

🕒 8:00 AM – 2:45 PM

✓ National Junior Honor Society

✓ STEM Club & After-School Programs

✓ Tutoring Available

✓ Daily PE

✓ Band & Chorus

NEEDLES HIGH SCHOOL (9–12)

🕒 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

✓ 53 Courses (5 AP Classes)

✓ Academic Olympics

✓ Band, Chorus & Drama

✓ AVID College Prep Program

✓ Athletics (10 Sports – NIAA)

ENROLL TODAY! | Needles Unified School District

7. ROUTE 66 GOLF CENTENNIAL



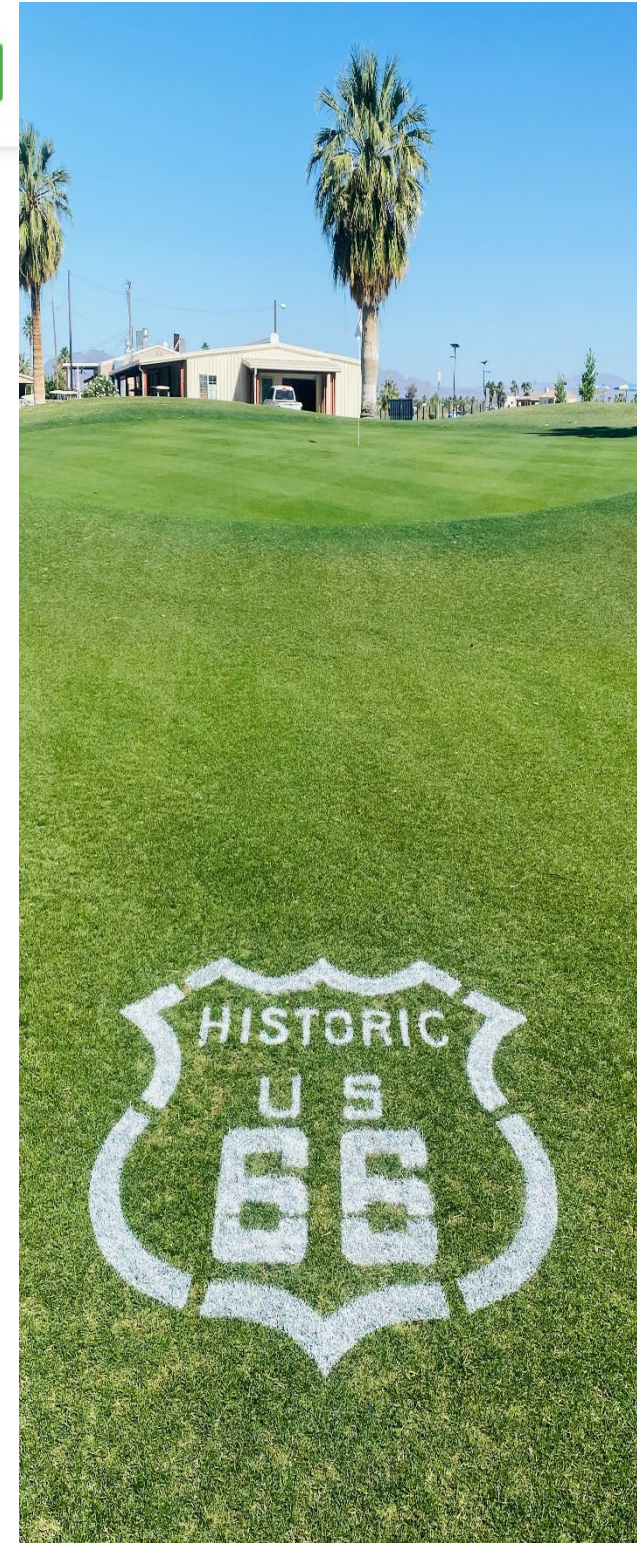
[The Trail](#)

[The Clubhouse](#)

[Leaderboard](#)

[Route 66 Icons](#)

[Login](#)



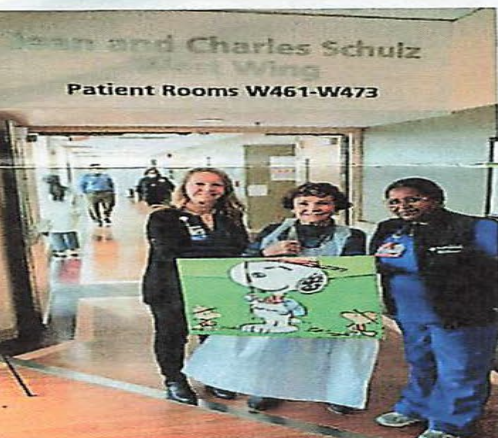
8. CRMC SPOTLIGHT

Peanuts' 75th Anniversary

We were honored to be a part of this milestone for Peanuts Worldwide.



Providence Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA



Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Santa Rosa, CA



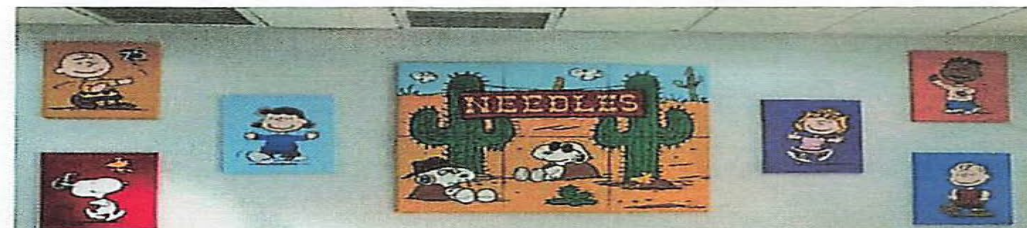
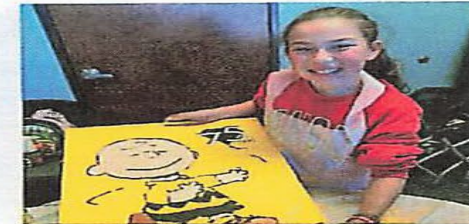
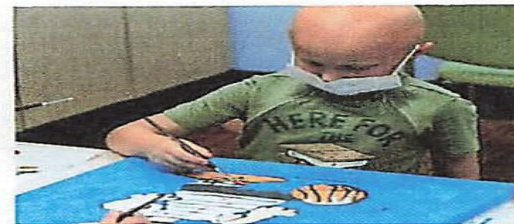
Meanwhile, at Colorado River Medical Center in Needles, CA, a one-of-a-kind custom mural was created to celebrate 50 years of Snoopy's brother, Spike. Charles Schulz created this character based on his time in the Needles area and since then the town has claimed Spike as their unofficial mascot. The local hospital was thrilled to paint and hang the custom piece featuring their favorite Peanuts character.

Over the past 75 years, the Peanuts characters have become recognizable and beloved everywhere. It's been our joy to spread love and comfort one Peanuts Character at a time.

In celebration of the 75th Anniversary year of Charles Schulz's beloved "Peanuts" comic strip, Peanuts Worldwide partnered with the Foundation for Hospital Art to paint 75 murals in hospitals around the world.

Hundreds of healthcare facilities on all seven continents received murals from Peanuts Worldwide as part of a multi-year "Take Care with Peanuts" initiative. Launched in 2020, the initiative encourages everyone to "Take Care of Yourself," "Take Care of Each Other," and "Take Care of the Earth."

The celebration kicked off at the hospital where Charles Schulz received his cancer care, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. This year, Santa Rosa Memorial also celebrated their own 75th anniversary and opened a new wing dedicated in honor of Jean and Charles Schulz. The Charles Schulz Foundation still maintains a special relationship with the hospital and together with Peanuts Worldwide and the Foundation for Hospital Art, a PaintFest with patients, staff, volunteers, and Jean Schulz kicked off the celebration of 75 years of Peanuts. The murals painted at this event are now hung in the new wing, bringing in the joy of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang.



Colorado River Medical Center, Needles, CA

9. ROUTE 66 CARAVAN STOP



72oz STEAK TOUR



- June 4TH SANTA MONICA, CA
- June 6TH PASADENA, CA
- June 7TH BARSTOW, CA
- June 8TH NEEDLES, CA
- June 10TH FLAGSTAFF, AZ
- June 15TH AMARILLO, TX
- June 17TH OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 4.1K
- June 18TH TULSA, OK
- June 23TH SPRINGFIELD, IL 167
- June 24TH JOLIET, IL



The Big Texan Steak R...

Show your support

Follow

573

10. CITY COMMISSION POSITIONS



City of Needles

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Councilmember Larry Ford*

City Manager Patrick Martinez

WE NEED YOU, NEEDLES.
Your City. Your Voice. Your Opportunity.

NOW RECRUITING BOARDS & COMMISSIONS VACANCIES

Step up and help shape the future of Needles.

OPEN POSITIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION

- One vacancy
 - Term expires December 31, 2027
 - Meets first Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
- Guide growth and development decisions.

HOUSING COMMISSION

- One vacancy
 - Term expires December 31, 2027
 - Meets fourth Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
- Support housing and community stability.

REAL IMPACT. REAL DECISIONS.


If you care about where Needles is headed, this is your chance to be part of it.

APPLY TODAY

City Clerk's Office

817 Third Street, Needles

 cclark@cityofneedles.com

 760-326-5700 ext. 133

 Must be a registered voter

OPEN UNTIL FILLED

11. PUBLIC INPUT GRANT

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) GRANT APPLICATION

PUBLIC INPUT REQUEST – CITY OF NEEDLES

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OHV ACCESS IN NEEDLES

The City of Needles is seeking community input as part of its application to the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Grant Program (Cycle G26).

The City has submitted a \$995,911 grant application for the proposed:

OHMV STAGING AREA PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project supports the City's 9.20-mile OHMV route network, connecting BLM trails to local businesses, including fuel, lodging, and services.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

SCAN HERE



OR Visit:

- https://olga.ohv.parks.ca.gov/egramms_ohmvr/User/home.aspx
- Select "Review Preliminary Applications"
- Choose "Needles OHMV Staging Area Project"
- Submit your comments



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Designated trailer parking
- Reduced roadside staging and congestion
- Protection of natural resources and habitat
- Improved ADA accessibility
- Restroom and sanitation facilities
- Enhanced traffic flow and safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

City of Needles
817 Third Street,
Needles, CA 92363

(760) 326-2113 ext. 140
www.cityofneedles.com



12. BI-ANNUAL VACCINATION CLINIC



13. SANDSHARK SWIM TEAM

NEEDLES

SANDSHARKS

**SWIM TEAM
TRYOUTS**

**APRIL 30TH & MAY 4TH
4-6 PM**

**AT THE
NEEDLES
AQUATIC CENTER**

14. ANIMAL SHELTER ADOPTION

TOGETHER IS THE PERFECT WAY TO BE

ADOPT A PET, DON'T SHOP

OUR PALS AT THE SHELTER ARE LOOKING
FOR FOREVER HOMES



**A SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHER WILL
BE GIVEN AT THE TIME OF
ADOPTION FOR UNALTERED
ANIMALS**

VISIT US!

THE NEEDLES ANIMAL SHELTER | MONDAYS TO

FRIDAYS

1662 FLIP MENDEZ PARKWAY

NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

8 AM TO 2 PM

760-326-4952

Needles Animal Shelter *Adopt Us*



DAISY

HEELER MIX
FEMALE
APROX 2 YEAR OLD



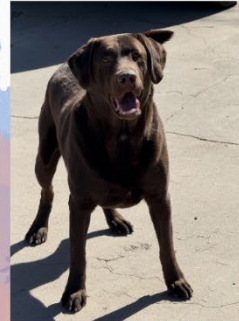
RONALD

PIT/DACHSHUND MIX
APROX 6 MONTHS OLD



RENO

BLACK MOUTH CURR
MALE
APROX 2 YEARS OLD
NEUTERED



MOE

CHOCOLATE LAB
MALE
APROX 6 YEAR OLD



REX

DOGO ARGENTINO
/PITBULL
MALE
APROX 5 YEARS OLD



BUDDY

GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX
MALE
2 -3 YEARS OLD
NEUTERED



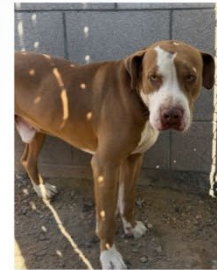
PIPPA

PITBULL MIX
FEMALE
1-2 YEARS OLD
SPAYED



SLATE

PITBULL MIX
MALE
APROX 1-2 years old
NEUTERED



MAVERICK

PITBULL
MALE
2-3 YEARS OLD



RAVEN

RETRIEVER MIX
FEMALE
SPAYED
1 YEAR



PERRY

RETRIEVER MIX
MALE
1-2 YEARS OLD

15. NEEDLES WOMEN'S CLUB FUNDRAISER

PULLED PORK SANDWICH, COLESRAW, CHIPS & DESSERT

FUNDRAISER FOR NEEDLES WOMEN'S CLUB



TUESDAY, MAY 12
LUNCH & DESSERT ONLY \$10

Order for pick up or delivery
<https://bit.ly/May-PP>

*Making a Difference
in Needles*

