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The year in review: a look back at 2013 in Needles (Exerts Regarding Rick Daniels)

NEEDLES — The 100th year of Needles incorporation as a city saw work continue toward selling the local hospital; the El Garces intermodal transportation facility move closer to completion; and increased focus on economic development issues. Some highlights:

July 31 — Rick Daniels, city manager of Desert Hot Springs, Calif., was tapped for the city manager spot in Needles. A commemorative coin was minted for celebration of the city's 100th anniversary of incorporation in October. Bus fares went up a dime. Congressman Paul Cook asked for federal review of the proposed Cadiz Project and was set to visit Needles on Aug. 7. A lease with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway made it possible to double the size of Needles Little League facility. The Sandsharks turned in a strong showing at Cottonwood. The landmark Wagon Wheel Restaurant celebrated 35 years.

August 14 — The Cadiz water project topped the list of concerns discussed when Congressman Paul Cook visited Needles. **Finalizaing a contract with new City Manager Rick Daniels was on the city council's agenda.** Marie Armijo was named principal at Vista Colorado Elementary School. Mustang football practice was beginning.

August 21 — A \$155,00 appraisal was reported to have been completed to buy the Bureau of Land Management out of reversionary rights for property at Colorado River Medical Center. **City council voted unanimously to enter a contract with Rick Daniels as city manager.** Renovation of the El Garces intermodal transportation center continued. Amy Avila was named principal of the middle and high schools. Caela Castillo was named Hi-Point Overall winner of the year for the Sandsharks swim team.

September 25 — **New City Manager Rick Daniels assumed his duties, faced immediately with an emergency declaration resulting from severe storm damage and marketing efforts for the city.** Members of the Needles Chamber of Commerce, Needles Downtown Business Alliance and Needles Economic Development Corporation attended a tourism summit in Highland, Calif., put on by Discover IE (Inland Empire), a tourism marketing association for the region. Last-minute activity accelerated as the centennial celebration of the city's incorporation approached. Mustang football beat Calvary Chapel 31-0; Lady 'Stangs volleyball lost to the same school.

October 9 — The famous El Garces Harvey House, now becoming an intermodal transportation center, was resurrected for an evening inside Needles BPO Elks Lodge 1608 during a banquet commemorating 100 years of incorporation for the city. Speakers included State Senator Jean Fuller, Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, Needles Mayor Ed Paget M.D., Bullhead City Mayor Jack Hakim, Needles City Councilman Jim Lopez, **Needles City Manager Rick Daniels**, and several others. Jerry Lewis gave the keynote address on the history of Needles. Mustang football beat White Pine 31-0.

November 20 — **Needles City Manager Rick Daniels laid out 10 steps for economic development. City council approved a development consulting services agreement with Development Management Group.** A cost of living adjustment was applied to water and wastewater rates. A new roof was a possibility for Needles' historic theater, more than a year after a storm tore off the old roof. The Needles High cheer squad was warming up for basketball season.