

# BUSINESS VOICE

ISSUE 181 | FEBRUARY 2024

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Business Voice is a publication of the  
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**Issue 181 February 2024**

# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

*Kristina Cross*

February 2024

Greetings, Ridgecrest Chamber Members!

Can you believe it? January has already bid us farewell, and here we are, diving headfirst into the hustle and bustle of February—a month that's undoubtedly one of the busiest for the Chamber.

As we step into a new month, let's take a moment to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the heartbeat of our community—you, our businesses and organizations that lend vitality to Ridgecrest. When we support independent stores, we're backing entities that invest in our local programs. Your commitment to our community doesn't go unnoticed, and I extend heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions.

Now, onto the exciting developments this month! We're in the final stages of gearing up for the 37th Annual IWV Economic Outlook Conference. Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 22nd as we host this significant event at the Kerr McGee Center. We've tweaked a few things this year to make it even more engaging and worthwhile for you. The Economic Outlook Conference isn't just a gathering; it's our largest networking opportunity of the year. We're working diligently to ensure it's an event that exceeds your expectations. Secure your tables and tickets early and join us for insights from local speakers and discussions on changing trends.

In addition to the Economic Outlook Conference, we have our monthly luncheon on February 13 and business after hours on February 15 providing additional opportunities for you to grow your network. And don't forget the upcoming HR Advantage classes. If you missed the January class there is still time to register for the remainder of the series.

Stay tuned for some upcoming changes to our community calendar. A more dynamic platform is in the works and we are excited for what Yodel Community Connections will provide Ridgecrest. If you are interested in learning more about how your organization can utilize the new platform, please reach out to the Chamber office.

We continue to want feedback regarding what your needs and aspirations are. You shape our focus, and we're eager to hear your suggestions for enhancing the events and opportunities we provide. Let's collaborate to make this relationship the best it can be!

Happy February,  
everyone!

- Kristina



Register Today at [www.CerroCoso.edu](http://www.CerroCoso.edu)

**The sky is the limit at  
Cerro Coso.**

**CERRO COSO**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**TAKE flight**

# CHAMBER LUNCHEON

RSVP today!



CHAMBER@RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM

## February 13 — Cerro Coso Community College

Join the Ridgecrest Chamber at the **Historic USO Building** on **Tuesday, February 13 at 12pm.**

This month we will hear from

Cerro Coso Community College CTE program. Mr. Matt Wanta and Ms. Melissa Bowen from the Allied Health Department will share information about new programs and offerings.



**Please RSVP by Friday, February 9, 2024** to the Chamber office 760-375-8331 or [chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com](mailto:chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com)

**Lunch will be provided by Casey's Restaurant.**

\$25 w/RSVP, \$30 for non-members or without an RSVP

The Historic USO Building is located at 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd

Your Chamber is dedicated to:

Building community

Strengthening the economy

Providing networking opportunities

Representing the interest of business to the government

Political action

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**(760) 446-2796**

**1600 N. Norma, No. 4  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555**

# NEW MEMBERS

## T & A Armory

*information provided by Laura Quezada*



Angel Jimenez, Owner of T & A Armory has been in Ridgecrest since he was stationed here in 2008. When he retired he decided to stay here and put his military training to good use for local citizens. In January, Jimenez had a soft opening of his storefront on North Downs with a grand opening to be held in February.

His intention is to educate. He wants to impart “knowledge that firearms are not bad. It’s the people that give it a bad name, just like with anything.” He wants to educate, “not to push it on them. Because not everybody is into firearms. I wasn’t into firearms growing up. I saw them as taboo as well. It was only once I joined the military and got the proper training, the proper education for me to take a liking to it and then going out with coworkers and learning the fundamentals of safety aspects.” He sees firearms as tools in a toolbox.

To that end he pursued his business plan. He describes the business as, “a firearm shop that caters to selling firearms, repairing firearms, manufacturing parts with the guidelines of California Rules and Regulations. Selling ammo, selling apparel, gear, clothing, T shirts, hoodies, and self defense clothing.

“We’re starting to sell and cater to self defense for women. Because not everybody is into firearms. So this is a safer, easier way to get into self defense and protection. We offer stun guns, pepper spray, self defense keychains that have an array of different self defense tools.”

Jimenez is becoming certified to become a Conceal Carry Weapon (CCW) instructor. Once certified he will begin offering classes. Classes will be offered as a combination of classroom setting and fire range. After a participant passes the classroom setting test they move on to the range. “You have to show that you can hit the target. There are certain intervals that you have to move backwards shooting; you have to score certain amount to pass and then you get a certificate which is good for two years.”

Jimenez tells us, “I’ve been welcomed with open arms in just a short period of time, from other gun shops. I am the new guy in the block offering some of the same traits that some gun shops offer but some don’t.

“I joined the Chamber of Commerce to help further my knowledge, what’s out there, I’m just learning this side of the business and I wanted to be able to learn what is out there to help me succeed in our town.” He continues, “getting to meet and mingle and become a better ambassador of my business to other businesses, and then likewise, learning their trade or what they’re offering and see how I can learn to operate in the same mindset.”

T & A Armory, LLC.,  
Angel Jimenez - Owner / Gunsmith  
1615 North Downs Suite C,  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555,  
(760) 590-1992

# NEW MEMBERS

## The Royal Womb

*information provided by Laura Quezada*

The Royal Womb is a California City based holistic health and wellness store owned by Quesha Bernard. The store offers a comprehensive range of herbs, supplements, and holistic wellness services. Bernard became a Womb Wellness Practitioner and Goddess Gemstone Sensuality Coach because of her personal experience with fibroids and the option given led her to explore holistic methods. She became certified as a Fibroids Relief Specialist from the Love My Womb Academy in Atlanta, GA, USA, and now assists women with reproductive health issues using natural remedies.



Bernard believes that proper nutrition plays a crucial role in the body's ability to repair itself, but it requires decluttering and maintenance. The Royal Womb provides simple solutions, the use of hands, and natural remedies to assist those dealing with health issues guiding individuals towards good health and happiness.

Bernard joined the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce to seek to increase the credibility of her business, expand her networking, connect with the community, and give back. The Royal Womb can be found at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds in Ridgecrest on flex Fridays and at the RCC Farmers Market on flex Saturdays. Find us online through various platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and <https://royalwomb.com>

Quesha Bernard, Wellness Consultant, (661) 450-8054

## High Desert Fitness

*Information provided by member*

Since 2010, High Desert Fitness has been a place of community, support and wellness. Wherever you may be in YOUR journey, we are here for you. Our team consists of professional, knowledgeable and compassionate people who will help you achieve your goals, with the utmost care. We're excited to watch you flourish.



With offerings that vary from Personal training and group fitness to specialized workshops like this month's fall prevention course, High Desert Fitness is about creating solutions to unique and overlooked aspects of fitness. Contact them today to learn more!

Brandon Temple, owner, (760) 377-7417  
[www.highdesertpersonaltraining.com/](http://www.highdesertpersonaltraining.com/)

## FEEL CONFIDENT AT WORK



**JOIN THE HR ADVANTAGE:**  
Tools for Thriving Organizations

Limited seating,  
register today  **Meith**  
- presented by OPERATIONAL SOLUTIONS

# NEW MEMBERS

## The Window Guy

I have built the foundations of The Window Guy out to be a beacon of quality and customer centered care. As a local, family-owned business, our commitment to excellence goes beyond the installation process, emphasizing unparalleled service from start to finish.



What sets The Window Guy apart is our dedication to preserving the integrity of homes. We handle installations with precision, ensuring that interior and exterior trims remain undisturbed, leaving homes looking pristine. This attention to detail has gained multiple repeat customers, establishing The Window Guy as a go-to choice.

Beyond the technical expertise, we place customer service at the forefront of our operations. From the initial consultation to the final walkthrough, clients experience a seamless journey marked by clear communication and personalized attention. Every step of the way, we ensure that clients are well-informed, comfortable, and we create a relationship built on trust and transparency.

A hallmark of our service is the commitment to follow-up at every stage of the process. Understanding that peace of mind is essential for homeowners entrusting us with their window, patio door and window covering needs. By providing regular updates and addressing any concerns promptly, we strive to not only meet, but exceed customer expectations.

The Window Guy shines as a local gem, adhering to the values of a family-owned business deeply rooted in the community. For those seeking not just windows, doors and blinds, but an exceptional experience, go to The Window Guy for quality craftsmanship, delighted customer service, and a genuine commitment to getting a better night's sleep.

For all your Window, Door and Window Covering needs, check out The Window Guy at [www.thewindowguy395.com](http://www.thewindowguy395.com).

*Information provided by Laura Quezada*

Home Office **SOLUTIONS**

Create a workspace that works for you.

*Mom's*  
FURNITURE



**The Window Guy**



**Sam's Auto Body & RV**

**FULL SERVICE LAW OFFICE**

**LAW OFFICE OF  
DENNIS M. SCHUSTER**

123 GRANDE WAY STE E

760-371-1126 SCHUSTERLAWGROUP.COM

February 15 @ 5:30pm

# Business After Hours

MIXER & NETWORKING

Host: **Bernie's Landscaping**  
Location: **124 W. Upjohn Ave**

presented by Ridgecrest Chamber



SAVE - THE - DATE



FEB 24, 2024 @ 5pm  
City Center 100 W. California Ave.

And Safe Grad **CHILI COOKOFF** Limited Entry Spots! Email or Call to Register!  
Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place!

Thank you to these supportive local sponsors:  
Flight Line Tap Room, Casa Corona, RAW Media Productions, & Catering Thyme.



For any updates visit [www.Ridgecrest-CA.gov/Events](http://www.Ridgecrest-CA.gov/Events)  
Questions or to Register for Chili Cookoff: [imedina@ridgecrest-ca.gov](mailto:imedina@ridgecrest-ca.gov) or Call 760.499.5065

FEBRUARY 22

02  
22

TWENTY 24

Kerr McGee Center  
8am to 12pm  
7am Networking

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

The premiere economic forecast event in the region.

TICKETS & INFORMATION

(760) 375 8331 | 128 E. CALIFORNIA AVE  
[RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM/EOC](http://RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM/EOC)



## THANK YOU 2024 Economic Outlook Conference Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor:



Platinum Sponsors:

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**Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union**

Speakers' Reception:

**Alta One Federal Credit Union**

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**DCS Corporation | New Directions Technologies Inc.**

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**Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors, WM,  
The Daily Independent, Continental Labor, State  
Farm - Gary Charlon, JT4 LLC,  
Bernie's Landscaping**



# January Member Visits



Ridgecrest Spa & Massage



Vaughn Realty



Arrowhead Mobile Home Park



IWV Insurance



Continental Labor & Staffing Resources



**Business After Hours at Decanter Lounge**



**Bloom Fitness Studio  
Ribbon Cutting**



## LABOR LAW CORNER

### Labor Commissioner FAQ Ties Paid Sick Time Off to Work Day Length

By David Leporiere, January 26, 2024

*I understand that the state is now requiring employers to provide more time off for paid sick leave than it did in previous years. My employees work an alternative workweek consisting of four 10-hour shifts per week. How many hours of paid sick leave must I allow my employees to use each year?*



You are correct that beginning January 1, 2024, California state law requires additional time off for paid sick leave. Last year, the California Legislature passed SB 616. That bill amended the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 by increasing the time off for paid sick leave from 24 hours or 3 days, to 40 hours or 5 days.

The amount of time off required can be found in California Labor Code Section 246, which contains the language requiring employers to provide “40 hours or 5 days” of paid time off.

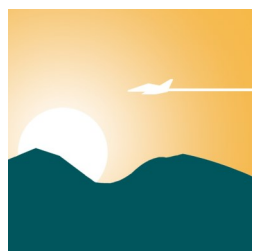
The California Labor Commissioner (which oversees the paid sick leave law in California) has made it clear that this phrase means that the employee is entitled to the greater of either the 40 hours or 5 days of time off. In its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from December 21, 2023, the Labor Commissioner’s office addressed your specific question.

In FAQ number 2, the Labor Commissioner states that if an employee works 10-hour days, under the new law, the employee would be entitled to use 50 hours of paid sick leave per year.

However, if an employee works only 6 hours per day, that employee still would be entitled to use 40 hours of paid sick leave per year.

If you have any further questions regarding the new paid sick leave law, review the Paid Sick Leave section in the HR Library on the HRCalifornia website.

*Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred members and above. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at [www.hrcalifornia.com](http://www.hrcalifornia.com).*



do business with

**M E M B E R S**

## RENEWING MEMBERS in December 2023

Cherokee Community of Central  
California

Cosner-Neipp Corporation

Edward Jones Financial Advisor:  
Vincent Avalos

Frontier Real Estate

Historical Society/Upper Mojave  
Desert

Hockett's Builders Supply, Inc

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

IntelliBridge

Law Office of Wayne Silva

NET = Natural Energy Touch  
Massage Therapy

Perrygo Consulting Group

Police and Community Together  
(PACT)

Scott Miller Keller Williams Realty  
Ridgecrest

Snap Mortgage Inc. A division of  
Mortgage 1 Inc. Company

VCA Crestwood Animal Hospital

Women's Center- High Desert, Inc.

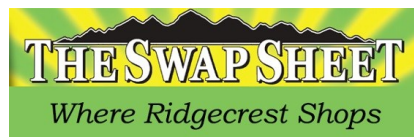
YouVee Solar, LLC

**Tj. Frisbee**  
**BICYCLES**

Phone: 760-375-4202  
217 N. Balsam, Ridgecrest CA 93555



# CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE MEMBERS



## PLATINUM & GOLD MEMBERS

RIDGECREST REGIONAL  
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

SIENNA PODIATRY - DR. HOLLY  
SPOHN GROSS, DPM.

SYNECTIC SOLUTIONS, INC.

TEYA DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Bowman Asphalt, Inc.

Burkey, Cox, Evans & Bradford

Cerro Coso Community College

Desert Empire Fairgrounds

Electrified Solutions Electric, LLC

Electronic Payments, Inc.

Holiday Inn Express

Immanuel Christian School

IWV Water District

JT4, LLC

Liberty Ambulance

MWR (Morale Welfare & Rec.)

Oliver Law

Opportunities For Learning

PG&E

Power Market

Primerica

RBD California Restaurants / KFC

Saalex Solutions

Sienna Wellness Institute

Sierra Sands Unified School District

Southern California Edison

Southern Inyo Healthcare District

T-Mobile

Toyota of Ridgecrest