

# BUSINESS VOICE

ISSUE 179 | DECEMBER 2023

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

## 2023-2024 Chamber OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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Cerro Coso Community College

**Bernie Mondragon**  
Bernie's Landscaping

**Nancy Pace**  
Bake My Day

**Daryl Silberberg Jr.**  
IWV Insurance

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**Rebecca McCourt**  
Chamber Executive Director

Business Voice is a publication of the  
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Issue 179 December 2023

Kristina Cross

December 2023

As we embrace the festive spirit and the delightful frenzy of gift-buying, let's consider our local treasures before resorting to the online giants. Ridgecrest has an array of local businesses and Chamber Members deserving of our support. This December let's champion the "Think Local, Shop Ridgecrest" mantra.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of this season, let's not forget the invaluable support we can offer our local businesses and Chamber Members. Explore our online business directory for all your gifting needs, and remember that the Chamber stands ready to assist you as you plan for the new year. From California Employment Posters to a wealth of resources available through our dedicated staff, we're here to support your endeavors.

Looking ahead to 2024, the planning of our highly anticipated 2024 Economic Outlook Conference is underway. It is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024. Save the date. Opportunities are available to network your business during the business expo and tickets available to attend this informational event and learn what the future may entail for your business.

As we enter the new year, let's continue to foster the spirit of community and support that makes Ridgecrest truly remarkable. Your contributions to this community are deeply appreciated, and I am grateful to be part of such an incredible place. So take a moment amid the holiday rush to reflect on the abundance of blessings that surround us and seek opportunities to extend that abundance to others. Let's give back, express gratitude, and share love as we celebrate this season of giving.

- Kristina



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

A group of four people (three women and one man) smiling and standing outdoors. They are wearing dark blue polo shirts with the Cerro Coso Community College logo. The background shows trees and a building.

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

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

# CHAMBER LUNCHEON

RSVP today!



CHAMBER@RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM

## December 12 — Speed Networking and Chamber Check-in

Join the Ridgecrest Chamber at the **Historic USO Building on Tuesday, December 12 at 12pm.** This month will be our second round of Speed Networking, an opportunity for you to make multiple connections in a short amount of time. We will also be presenting a refresher on what the Ridgecrest Chamber offers its members.



Your Chamber is dedicated to:

- Building community
- Strengthening the economy
- Providing networking opportunities
- Representing the interest of business to the government
- Political action

**Please RSVP by Friday, December 8, 2023** to the Chamber office 760-375-8331 or [chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com](mailto:chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com)

**Lunch will be provided by Tacos and Burgers.**

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

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**(760) 446-2796**

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

# NEW MEMBERS

## Ella's Party Creations

Because every occasion is special, Ella's Party Creations knows how to make your event one to remember. Services include table and chair rentals, party tents, linen rentals, backdrops, and event decorations. Her website features a full portfolio to browse memories from past events.



Owner, Elsa Lara, strives for 100% customer satisfaction. From email updates throughout the planning process to managing the day of the event, they will support you the whole way through.

Ella's Party Creations is a local business located in Ridgecrest, CA. They will provide services in the surrounding areas including California City, Mojave, Rosamond, Lake Isabella, Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine, Trona, and many more.

Elsa offers a one hour consultation to discuss your event needs and begin the planning process. These can be booked through the website [ellaspartycreations.com/](http://ellaspartycreations.com/) or by calling (760) 677-1349. You can also find her on Facebook (@ellapartycreation) and Instagram (@ellaspartycreations)

*Information provided by member*

## US Bank, NA

US Bank, NA stands as a pillar in the financial landscape, renowned for its unwavering commitment to excellence and customer-centric services. With a rich legacy and a steadfast dedication to meeting the diverse financial needs of individuals, businesses, and communities across the nation, US Bank, NA has established itself as a trusted institution. Through innovative solutions, personalized support, and a strong emphasis on integrity, this institution continues to pave the way towards financial empowerment and success for its customers."

Contact them at 760-977-3909 or visit them at 144 N. China Lake Blvd or [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com)



# Home Office SOLUTIONS

Create a workspace that works for you.



# NEW MEMBERS

## California Breakfast Burritos

The distinct bray of a donkey, their long ears, soft muzzle, kind eyes, and their insatiable affection always bring a smile. We sometimes apologize to the neighbors for all the donkey sounds in the neighborhood, but universally they say they like it. Unlike barking dogs at midnight or the crowing rooster at 3am, burro sounds anytime can put joy in your heart. When treated right, they crave human contact, follow like a puppy, and give wonderful hugs. Donkeys are known for their therapeutic interactions with people. They are soothing to our souls, great friends and smart listeners. So smart that you might think you hear them giving you advice!

How did this all start you ask?

From humble beginnings training and running with our own burros, California Breakfast Burritos was what we called our weekend outings running and hiking with a few friends, our donkeys, and then a stop to share a lunch or breakfast. We tell folks “we run with the donkeys and eat the loser”, obviously that is a joke, but it starts conversations. Formally incorporated as a charitable non-profit in 2020, our mission is to foster the sport of pack burro racing; to train, care for, and adopt wild and domestic burros; and to educate the public in the care, use, training, and welfare of burros. We host regular events to hike, run, pack, train & learn about burros introducing many new people to these amazing animals each year. Events also include visits to assisted living facilities, trail work with pack burros for the Bureau of Land Management, parades, and hosting the return of pack burro racing to California. Our annual Run With The Burros has runners and burros covering distances of 10, 17.5, and 26 miles through the canyons of the Eastern Sierra Nevada. California Breakfast Burritos also re-trains and re-homes about a dozen burros each year.

Learn more at <https://californiabreakfastburritos.org> or

Contact John or Karin at [RunWithTheBurros@gmail.com](mailto:RunWithTheBurros@gmail.com)



## CALIFORNIA BREAKFAST BURRITOS

Donking Around in Ridgecrest, CA

*Information provided by member*

**Stay tuned to learn more about new members in a future newsletter:**

### T&A Armory



### Hyla Nursery



# NEW MEMBERS

## Simple Rooter and Plumbing Handyman

Hello neighbors, this is Leo the owner of Simple Rooter and Plumbing Handyman. I'm here to make professional drain cleaning and plumbing repair services at an affordable rate. I have my special \$73 drain cleaning or its FREE, meaning if I can't get the drain to clear I don't charge a fee, plus any additional drain gets 25% off. For customer reviews and more about the business checkout my website at [simple-rooter.com](http://simple-rooter.com), for scheduling call (760) 495-2545.



At SIMPLE Rooter & Plumbing Handyman, my mission is to be your very own handyman plumber and provide you with top-quality drain cleaning services. I believe that everyone deserves access to clean and functioning plumbing, and I'm committed to making that a reality for my customers. I offer a wide range of drain roter services tailored to homeowners, commercial, and industrial properties.

With over 10 years of experience in residential and commercial plumbing service, I've just about seen it all. From minor repairs to major installations, I have the expertise and knowledge to handle any plumbing job. I've serviced customers from all walks of life and worked for the biggest to the smallest plumbing companies. I'm here in Ridgecrest and cover Inyokern and Trona to serve you with the best plumbing repair service, drain cleaning and be your exclusive handyman plumber.

Simple Rooter and Plumbing Handyman  
(760) 495-2545  
[simple-rooter.com](http://simple-rooter.com)

*Information provided by member*

## Sienna Wellness Institute & Sienna Podiatry

Spearheaded by Dr. Robert Gross and Dr. Holly Spohn-Gross, Sienna Wellness has extended its compassionate healthcare vision to the community of Ridgecrest, CA. Founded by Dr. Gross, a graduate of Michigan State University, this institute emerged from a passion for delivering exceptional care amidst the natural beauty of the region. In November 2008, they established their clinic in Lake Isabella, offering a haven focused on preventive care and an array of services. Their recent expansion to Ridgecrest provides the community with additional care options.



Embracing a holistic approach to wellness, Dr. Gross, an Osteopathic Internal Medicine specialist, advocates for preventive strategies, prioritizing lifestyle adjustments over solely relying on medication. His ethos revolves around patient empowerment through education and fostering a collaborative relationship between patients and healthcare providers. At Sienna Wellness Institute in Ridgecrest, the patient experience is carefully curated, aimed at promoting relaxation and reducing stress.

Their services encompass internal medicine and podiatry, catering comprehensively to adults' healthcare needs, from routine wellness checks to managing intricate medical conditions. The team, well-versed in advanced clinical procedures, is dedicated to providing compassionate care and embracing a holistic approach to nurturing a healthier community amidst the serene landscape of Ridgecrest, California.

Learn more by visiting [www.siennawellness.com/](http://www.siennawellness.com/) or calling 760-379-8630

*Information provided by member*

# NEW MEMBERS

## Decanter Lounge

Tucked away at 901 N Heritage Drive in Ridgecrest is Decanter Lounge. This beautifully remodeled lounge adds a touch of elegance and soothing comfort for those who love good wine or beer, paired with charcuterie boards and cheese platters.



Owner George Saad was drawn to Ridgecrest two years ago, appreciating the quiet environment. It didn't take him long to notice that there really wasn't anywhere for the members of the community who prefer a calm and cozy atmosphere to get together. Now there is, thanks to his many years of world travel and restaurant/bar experience.

His introduction started as a teen. He tells us, "My first job was when I was 16. I worked in a place called Half Shell in Boston." He began as a dishwasher, moved on up when he was 17 to prepping salads. Eventually he became a master at shucking oysters and clams and became the Oyster Manager. He loved the environment, the camaraderie with co-workers, and the chatting with customers. He shares, "I think my mistake was I did not pursue it. I went to study administration."

He loved and excelled in Administration and eventually spent 17 years with the United Nations with The World Food Programme. This took him all over the world. He lost his Boston accent and developed what can only be called a "worldy accent" since he understands multiple languages. The nature of his work required an indistinguishable accent.

While he worked with The World Food Programme, he also returned to his love of hospitality. He opened several places: Dragon Bar, The Core, and Italian restaurants in different countries of the world.

Fast forward to Ridgecrest where he found watering holes that he describes, "It's usually loud music. So a bar usually has sports and TVs." He goes on, "As you can see, I don't have all these things. This is a luxury for you to sit. You can get your thoughts together, reply to your emails, do some business or just relax by yourself and nobody bothers you. So that was my idea of the whole thing. That's why I put these couches. I made something fancy and elegant for people just to sit there, let go and relax."

Saad joined the Chamber for many reasons. "This is a good way to meet people, actually. In any business you do, you have to join the Chamber of Commerce to put your name out there. Let the community know who George is, what he's doing, why he's opening. A lot of owners of bars or restaurants are coming here. All of them are saying, 'It is beautiful, you went over and beyond. We're going to come and enjoy.'"

Decanter Lounge, George Saad, Owner, 901 N. Heritage Drive, Unit 104, Ridgecrest, 760-977-7656

*Information provided by Laura Quezada*



T&A Armory



California Breakfast Burritos

FULL SERVICE LAW OFFICE

LAW OFFICE OF  
DENNIS M. SCHUSTER

123 GRANDE WAY STE E

760-371-1126 SCHUSTERLAWGROUP.COM



## LABOR LAW CORNER

### Workers' Comp: Pay for Follow-Up Doctor's Appointments Not Required

By Dana Leisinger—November 17, 2023

*My employee sustained an injury on the job a few months ago. He is claiming that we have to pay for his doctor's and therapy appointments. Is this true?*

Generally, an employer is required to pay the employee only on the day of the injury/for time spent waiting for and receiving treatment.

#### Day of Injury

The U.S. Department of Labor has addressed this issue, stating, "Time spent by an employee in waiting for and receiving medical attention on the premises or at the direction of the employer during the employee's normal working hours on days when he is working constitutes hours worked."

Employers should not try to dodge this requirement by having the employee seek treatment after their shift. The law is very protective of injured workers, and treatment should be prompt.

#### Follow-Up Appointments

However, follow-up appointments and therapy appointments are not dictated by the employer, and therefore are not payable as work time for hourly employees.

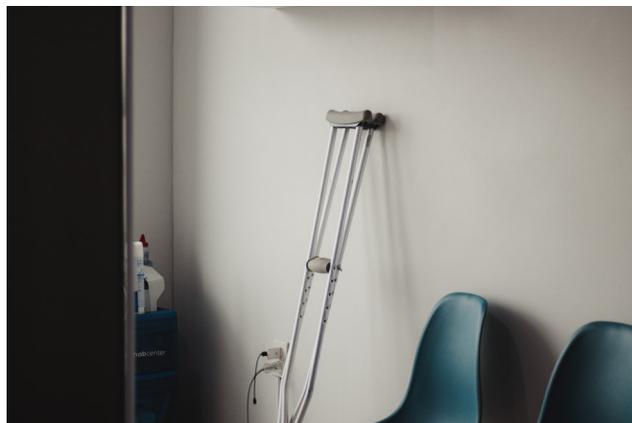
Employees can use their sick leave, paid time off (PTO) or vacation pay to cover these appointments, like any other doctor's appointment. They also can schedule these actions after their shift, if possible.

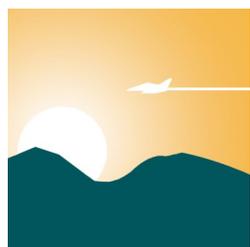
It is also important to remind employees to keep these appointments, as failure to do so could result in their claim being terminated.

Lastly, keep in mind that not all injuries require medical treatment at all. Injuries that can be treated with first aid do not require a trip to the doctor or emergency room.

Also, some employees don't want to go to the doctor, and unless their injury is severe, the employer cannot force them to do so. In those situations, it is recommended to have the employee sign an acknowledgement that they do not wish to seek medical attention.

*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

# MEMBERS

## RENEWING MEMBERS in October 2023

3R WoodworX, LLC

A & L Tire

Country Boi Photography, LLC

CRL Technologies

Deanna Lukens Infant and

Family Services

Hampton Inn & Suites

Mary Lundstrom,

Coldwell Banker Frontier

Mission Linen Supply

Omni Family Health

Operation Family Fund

RAD Custom Graphics

Reese Hogg III - Real Estate

Professional with REAL Broker

Ridgecrest Cinemas

Searles Valley Minerals

Select Medical

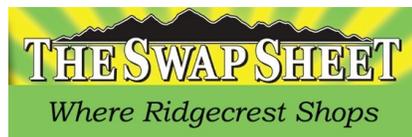
T & T Alignment

**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.

Guaranteed Rate

Holiday Inn Express

Immanuel Christian School

IWV Water District

JT4, LLC

Liberty Ambulance

MWR (Morale Welfare & Rec.)

Oliver Law

Opportunities For Learning

PG&E

Primerica

RBD California Restaurants / KFC

Saalex Solutions

Sierra Sands Unified School District

Southern California Edison

Southern Inyo Healthcare District

T-Mobile

Toyota of Ridgecrest