

BUSINESS VOICE

ISSUE 176 | SEPTEMBER 2023



A PUBLICATION OF THE
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Business Voice is a publication of the
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Issue 176 September 2023

BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

Kristina Cross

September 2023

Here we are in September, with a promise of Autumn on the horizon, but Summer making sure we don't get cozy yet. What an interesting August. We were happy to see so many of you out at the Night Off Balsam early in the month. We hope that Tropical Storm Hilary didn't negatively affect you and want to hear if it did. We have gathered some information on resources which may be available to your business to aid with any damages. Reach out to the Ridgecrest Chamber office if you are in need. The construction on the sewer line along California Avenue is concluding and gearing up to cause "Carmageddon". With the 75-year infrastructure fix underway, the pipe replacement is going to disrupt China Lake Blvd from California Avenue to Argus Avenue for several weeks. Be sure to plan your commute times accordingly!

Looking into September I want to make sure you are aware of what the Ridgecrest Chamber has going on. We are offering a second round of HR Boot Camp provided from the California Chamber of Commerce on September 7 and 8. This program was well received in August and we hope to continue to provide these resources to the community. If there is a specific topic you want to learn about, let us know! We also have the Veteran's Business Outreach Center providing a Government Contracting class on Wednesday, September 20 at the Ridgecrest Chamber office. One on one consulting is also available. Contact the office for additional information.

The Ridgecrest Chamber resumes Coffee Club this month on the first Thursday, September 7. Stop by between 7:30am and 9:00am to get in some networking time. This month we will be participating in and hope to see you at the Parade of 1000 Flags on Saturday, September 9 honoring those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 attacks. This event demonstrates the community spirit that embodies Ridgecrest as we come together in solemnity and remembrance. This is the same sense of community demonstrated as we weathered Hilary together. The Ridgecrest Chamber is grateful to be building community together with you. As always, let us know how we can best serve you. And remember that we are stronger together.



Register Today at www.CerroCoso.edu

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

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

CERRO COSO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TAKE flight

CHAMBER LUNCHEON

RSVP today!



CHAMBER@RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM

September 12, 2023— Sierra Sands USD Superintendent, Dr. April Moore

Join the Ridgecrest Chamber at the **Historic USO Building on Tuesday, September 12 at 12pm**. Dr. Moore comes to us with 24 years of experience in education. She has served as high school assistant principal, coordinator of secondary education, principal, director, and Assistant Superintendent prior to taking her current position as Superintendent. Dr. Moore will be discussing the opening of the school year, themes from her listening tour, and celebrations. She will also address some areas for focus and future considerations and areas for community support.



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, September 8, 2023 to the Chamber office 760-375-8331 or chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com

Lunch will be provided by Classic Gyros.

\$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

The North Pole at Ridgecrest

Tony Malone's opinion is that "Every kid needs a toy for Christmas. If their family is struggling and they can't provide it, then that's where I come in." It all began a few years ago when Tony competed in The Great American Light Fight, and hundreds of people came to see his amazing Christmas decorated home with all his animated elves. He has always had a soft spot in his heart for "the little kiddos." He began by giving away little candy canes and small things. In 2019 Sam, from the Miscellaneous Store, surprised Tony with a donation of a pallet of toys. The message, if you are going to help a kid's Christmas, then do it right. It has exploded. In 2022 Tony gave away 350 bicycles, along with hundreds of kiddie cars, wagons, tricycles, dolls with strollers, doll houses, cuddly stuffed toys, trucks, cars, building sets, Lego sets, hover boards, scooters, and games and more. He has also turned his front patio into a heated seating area where his elves serve hot cocoa. Last year he served 5,000 cups of cocoa. His personal finances will not allow him to keep up with the demand, so he is looking for donors and volunteers to join his team of Santa's Elves. Tony is on Facebook at The North Pole display.



You can reach him at 760-793-2542 or 530-309-5262.

Information contributed by member

Guild Mortgage

Meet Jodi Lint, a dynamic and driven mortgage professional ready to make a lasting impact in our community as she re-opens Guild Mortgage's Ridgecrest branch as Sales Manager. With over 15 years of local mortgage lending experience, and a passion for helping people achieve their dreams of homeownership, Jodi brings a fresh perspective and a commitment to personalized, hometown services.

Along with Jodi, Tiffany Moreno is also joining the branch, bringing her wealth of knowledge as a Loan Officer. Tiffany embraces the challenges and opportunities of her role, and looks forward to being an integral part of Ridgecrest's growth and success. With her passion, expertise, and genuine care for the people she serves, she is set to create a positive impact and help turn dreams of homeownership into reality.

"We pride ourselves on taking the time to understand the unique needs and aspirations of borrowers and ensure that each client receives tailor-made solutions that suit their individual circumstances. Our ability to navigate the complexities of mortgages and commitment to transparency and honesty make us a trusted resource for potential homebuyers and seasoned homeowners alike."

Guild Mortgage has served our community for many, many years and we are excited to carry it forward. Our vision for the branch extends beyond transactions; we offer it as a hub of support and knowledge for the entire community. We believe that homeownership is not just a transaction but a life-changing journey, and we are dedicated to guiding clients every step of the way.

Jodi Lint 760-446-7895, jlint@guildmortgage.net

Information contributed by member



NEW MEMBERS

Tacos & Burgers

Information provided by member

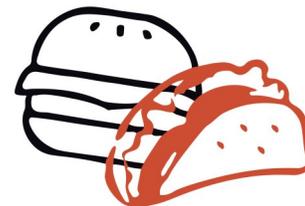
Tacos & Burgers is a new quick service restaurant with high quality food.

From the fresh, never frozen patties, to the newly styled Philly, they have something for everyone. Their tortillas are fresh and homemade every day. All Mexican Style Tacos come on a fresh handmade tortilla with your choice of meat, cilantro & onions.

There are multiple options for the kids and a great selection of drinks

(Lemonade, Horchata, Jamaica, Jarritos, & Mexican Cokes).

Visit Tacos & Burgers
501 N China Lake Blvd Suite C
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(442) 294-4029



Tacos & Burgers

Monday-Thursday 11am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 11am-9pm
Sunday 11am-2pm

Electrified Solutions Electric

Electrified Solutions Electric provides solutions to both homeowners and businesses. Operating with full licensing, and insurances their clients can be comfortable selecting Electrified Solutions Electric for their electrical needs. With attention to detail, years of experience, and stellar customer service, their team's experience provides the electrical solutions you need to keep your business or home running smoothly.



Before starting any job, they ensure they know all the services you need. They are up to date with current regulations ensuring code compliance. They are fully licensed and insured protecting all aspects of the job from the client and their assets to their employees. Clients receive professional and experienced technicians that arrive on schedule ready to work. Electrified Solutions Electric knows their clients time is valuable. They work to schedule electrical service and estimates at times convenient for the client even offering after work hours & estimates available for working families.

They strive to save you both time and money by combining experience, high quality parts and equipment, and exceptional electrical service. They will stick with the job until you are satisfied.

Contact Electrified Solutions Electric for your electrical needs at 760-977-7290, admin@electrifiedsolutionselectric.com or find them online at electrifiedsolutionselectric.com

Information provided by member

ICYMI

Information provided by member

Great news! Your favorite local lenders are still here! The Odeh Mortgages team has the same great service, with just a new look. Yusef Odeh is still your local Ridgecrest Branch Manager and we have had the honor and privilege of not only bringing our whole team over, but also adding to it! We have a gentleman who has over 20 years in the industry join our team as well as other friendly faces.

Snap Mortgage Inc, a division of Mortgage 1, is happy to continue to support the mortgage lending needs of our community. We are able to service all loan programs from first time homebuyers, down payment assistance, VA, conventional, FHA and more. With our expertise in the industry, we can promise you will be in good hands from open to close. We have a conveniently located office for in-person meetings as well as a friendly mobile app to be able to do mortgages on the go!

We look forward to working with you going forward and continuing to serve our community!

Your local lenders, serving your community.

Snap Mortgage Inc,
Team Odeh Mortgages
760-375-3861
OdehMortgages.com



Home Office SOLUTIONS

Create a workspace that works for you.





FULL SERVICE LAW OFFICE

LAW OFFICE OF
DENNIS M. SCHUSTER

123 GRANDE WAY STE E

760-371-1126 SCHUSTERLAWGROUP.COM



Moe's Music Ridgecrest



Studio P121



**Desert Community
Orchestra Association**



Purple Sage Shrine # 108



Daisy Dickerson Art



Tacos & Burgers Ribbon Cutting



ribbon cutting!



**Tuesday,
September 5,
at 12:00 PM**

Moe's Music Ridgecrest
207 W. Ridgecrest Blvd




**RIDGECREST
CHAMBER**

HR BOOTCAMP

- Thursday, September 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PT (Part 1)
- Friday, September 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PT (Part 2)

Contact us today to register!
chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com



Join us

7:30-9:00am



**CHAMBER Coffee Club
September 7**

Coffee & Conversation @ the Chamber Office



**September 20
4pm - 6pm**



**VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS
GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION/CONTRACTING
HYBRID WORKSHOP**

**RIDGECREST
CHAMBER** 

LABOR LAW CORNER

Religious Beliefs, Gender Identity and Harassment Prevention Training

This article is reprinted from CalChamber (08/18/2023), By Dana Leisinger

We have a new hire who says the harassment prevention training section on gender identity is against her religious beliefs and asks to skip this section of the training and testing. This is the first time we have had such a request. Isn't this a required part of the training for California?



Yes, the harassment prevention training referenced above started as a California requirement for larger employers, but was amended in 2019 to include smaller employers. Even before that, changes were made to require training in gender identity/expression beginning January 1, 2018.

Training Objectives

As explained in the regulations implementing the law:

“The learning objectives of the training mandated by Government Code section 12950.1 shall be: 1) to assist California employers in changing or modifying workplace behaviors that create or contribute to harassment based on ‘sex,’ ‘gender identity,’ ‘gender expression,’ and ‘sexual orientation’ as those terms are defined in California and federal law, where applicable”

Protections for transgender rights have increased in recent years, which now conflicts with many individuals’ religious beliefs. Many individuals believe that sex is ordained divinely and assigned to people at birth and cite sections of the Bible to support their beliefs.

Religious Objections

Disputes involving this subject often relate to restrooms or sports and sports facilities. However, the training required as described above is now being challenged as violative of religious beliefs.

The decision in one case, *Meriwether v. Hartop*, 992 F.3rd 492 (2021), ultimately supported a professor’s challenge of a university’s policy forcing faculty to use students’ preferred pronouns. This was a victory for one religious objection, but there appear to be no cases on the new hire’s objections noted above.

Hopefully, an open discussion can be held, asking the new hire to listen, but not requiring her to change her beliefs. Until there is case law to guide employers, if the individual refuses to take the training on transgenders, it would be wise to seek legal counsel on how to proceed.

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.



do business with

MEMBERS

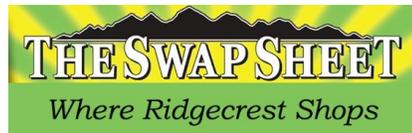
RENEWING MEMBERS in July 2023

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bertrand RV & High Desert Supplies | Michael's Certified Air |
| Cerro Coso Community College | New Directions Technologies, Inc |
| Clint Freeman, Broker Associate | Oliver Law |
| EconoLodge Inn & Suites | PG&E |
| Edward Jones Financial Advisor –
Suzan Halsey | Quality Inn |
| Grocery Outlet of Ridgecrest | RBD California Restaurants/KFC |
| Guide Dogs for the Blind PRC | Ridgecrest Adventist Elementary |
| High Desert Training Services | Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory Council |
| Houchin Community Blood Bank | Sienna Podiatry – Dr. Holly Spohn
Gross, DPM |
| IWV Airport District | T J Frisbee |
| Kiwanis Club of Ridgecrest | The Lighthouse |
| Mediacom | |





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

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

RBD California Restaurants / KFC

Saalex Solutions

Sierra Sands Unified School District

Southern California Edison

Southern Inyo Healthcare District

T-Mobile

Toyota of Ridgecrest