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Stargazing Spot

Lizard's Mouth

W. Camino Cielo

"Lizard's Mouth. It's Santa Barbara's top rock, where locals go to enjoy glorious sunsets, and even the name of a beer. The photogenic sandstone outcropping, perched on the crest of the Santa Ynez Mountains, is also a great place to go at night to marvel at the moon, the Milky Way, and millions of stars," said local hiking expert and author John McKinney (thetrailmaster.com). Ironically, though we asked him about night hiking, McKinney is also about to release a new 10-book series about the best area day hikes: *HIKE Santa Barbara*.

Runner-Up: Camino Cielo

Family Fun Spot ♦ Kids' Summer Camp

Santa Barbara Zoo

500 Niños Dr.; 962-5339; sbzoo.org

"I love how dedicated our community is to our animals," said JJ McLeod, education manager at Santa Barbara Zoo. "Capybaras, the world's largest rodents, just returned to the zoo after a gap of a few years. When we didn't have any on view, a kid made a sign that said, 'I won't nappy until you bring back our cappys.'" The awards mean a lot to the entire zoo, shares McLeod. "It takes every single department and a lot of planning to execute 10 weeks of summer camp while ensuring every guest and family that visits walks away with a unique experience and has fun! We are here to support our community the best we can, and being recognized as the Best Summer Camp and Best Family Fun spot is an honor."

Runner-Up (Family Fun Spot): MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation

Runner-Up (Kids' Summer Camp): Nature Camp @ Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Movie Theater The Arlington Theatre

1317 State St.; 963-4408; thearlingtontheatre.com

"I am awestruck every day by the history that this theater holds," said Karen Killingsworth, general manager of The Arlington Theatre, where guests can enjoy the recently renovated courtyard. There are even secret rooms hidden in the walls of this historic structure, one of which was found accidentally when a large spotlight was being carried to an area above the balcony and it hit the wrought iron handrail, knocking it — and much of the plaster — off the wall and leaving holes. "Light unexpectedly came through, revealing a large open space on the side of the building that had no floor and was completely open to the top of the structure — it showed another structure hidden within." The theater was built in 1930 on the site of the Arlington Hotel, which was destroyed in the 1925 earthquake.

Runner-Up: Camino Real Cinemas

Annual Event Old Spanish Days Fiesta

962-8101; oldspanishdays-fiesta.org

"Old Spanish Days Fiesta is a celebration that is meant to bring the community together. There is something for everyone, and the fun and celebratory atmosphere of the events leave wonderful memories for the participants, so everyone looks forward to the next one," said Barbara Carroll, 2019 La Presidenta of Old Spanish Days. "The Board of Old Spanish Days is very grateful for the recognition. It's a tremendous amount of work for a group of volunteers to put on such a large and encompassing festival, and this award means the community recognizes that and supports our efforts."

Runner-Up: Summer Solstice



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Stationery Store

Paper Source

1125 State St.; 845-0114;
papersource.com

This crafty hub is the answer to thoughtful gifts, unique wrapping paper, personalized stationery and labels, and quirky calendars. Whether you're looking to scrapbook about your latest trip, create and send handmade invitations for your next big soiree, or personalize your stationery to pen actual letters to friends, Paper Source has got you covered. The shop also offers creative crafting workshops on the lost art of hand lettering, washi tape card making, creative journals, and more.

Runner-Up: Letter Perfect Stationery

Caterer

Pure Joy Catering

111 E. Haley St.; 963-5766;
purejoycatering.com

Providing culinary expertise for special events such as weddings is indeed a joy for Pure Joy Catering, our readers' top pick for catering. A favorite part of the job is "helping to create special moments and memories around food," said Business Manager Lynee Bennett. "Sharing meals in times of celebration has been a tradition in human history for as long as we can remember. And being able to provide the first delicious meal for a newly married couple and their entire line of family and friends is such an honor. This award is a priceless honor that fills us with love and shows all of our future clients that we really are Pure Joy."

Runner-Up: Events by Rincon

Florist

Riley's Flowers

1106 Chapala St.; 965-1187;
rileysflowers.com

It's hard to resist digging into the beautiful buckets of flowers at this area floral institution, which began as a street flower stand in the 1970s. Now, Riley's Flowers is our readers' pick for the fourth year in a row, with no sign of slowing down its daily deliveries to stop and smell the roses. "Our favorite part of the job is working with the public and hearing how our creations bring joy to the ones they give them to, be it a loved one, a random act, or themselves," said Rachel, the shop second. "Thank you for recognizing our dedication and beautiful product."

Runner-Up: ella & louie

BEST

of Santa Barbara



ROMANCE

Bed & Breakfast/Inn

The Upham

1404 De la Vina St.; 962-0058; uphamhotel.com

Built by banker Amasa Lincoln (a relative of Abraham Lincoln) in 1871, the New England-style Upham Hotel was purchased by Cyrus Upham in 1898 and has remained in continuous operation all of these years. The Upham's Victorian main building and cottages occupy an acre of gardens and grounds. Also available is the Upham's century-old Tiffany Country House, a restored Victorian manor that holds eight traditional rooms. For a special romantic retreat, stay in the Penthouse, which occupies the entire third floor and has a living room, fireplace, spa tub, waterfall shower, and private terrace with mountain views.

Runner-Up: Simpson House Inn

Photographer

Kacie Jean Photography

705-6264; kaciejeanphotography.com

"What I love most about being a wedding and portrait photographer is that I get to be surrounded by so much love every day while documenting some of the best moments in people's lives," said Kacie Jean Fowle, owner of Kacie Jean Photography. "Whether it be on their wed-

ding day, welcoming their first baby, or chasing after their whole big family, I get to be right there along with them. How can you not constantly be smiling every day getting to be a part of something so special?" She added, "This was such an honor and special year to finally win the BEST photographer because it is my 15th year of being in business!"

Runner-Up: Ashleigh Taylor Portrait

Wedding Planner

Jill & Co. Events

110 W. Mission St.;
455-0722;
jillandcoevents.com

"Santa Barbara is an amazing place for a wedding celebration because it has the beaches, the mountains, and the most beautiful weather for such a long part of the year for outdoor celebrations," said Jill & Co. Events owner Jill Remy. "My favorite part of my job is getting to work with so many different clients on so many different events and seeing the vision come to fruition for all of my clients! I love that the community has been impacted by our work through some sort of event, whether that be one of our wedding clients' celebrations, one of our nonprofit clients' galas, or the Santa Barbara International Film Festival events."

Runner-Up: Wild Heart Events

Wedding Venue

San Ysidro Ranch

900 San Ysidro Ln.; 565-1700;
sanysidroranch.com

"From the elegant dining areas to the lush gardens filled with fragrant French lavender, magnolias, and roses, the property's historical characteristics and spirit foster a magical and romantic ambiance, perfect for weddings," said San Ysidro Ranch resort manager Maxine Rutledge. Tucked away in the hills of Montecito, San Ysidro Ranch has a long history of storied romance — the resort has hosted the likes of John and Jacqueline Kennedy and Vivien Leigh and Sir Laurence Olivier for honeymoon getaways. Rutledge added, "It is such a special honor to receive this recognition, especially following last year's devastation of the property from the mudslides and all of the team's hard work to restore everything back to the same look and feel that guests have loved over the years — the magic is still here."

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Continued

Tuxedo Rental

Mission Tuxedos
135 W. Mission St.; 569-3334;
missiontuxedos.com

Being a destination wedding city and home to lots of black-tie events throughout the year makes Santa Barbara a good place to be in the tuxedo rental business, according to John Murray, owner of Mission Tuxedos, *Indy* readers' favorite spot for tuxedo rentals. "Our favorite part of the job is being part of our community's celebrations and special events. Being named the best confirms our commitment to quality products and first-class service," he said. "We really appreciate our customers' opinions and feedback, and our gratitude to all our happy clients is endless!"

Runner-Up: Men's Wearhouse



ROMANCE
continúa

Limo Service

A and J Limousine

683-7772; aandjlimousine.com

Everyone is treated like a superstar when they ride in a limo from A and J Limousine's fancy fleet. "We get to drive the best and most interesting people on a daily basis," said Andrea Plackett, owner of our readers' favorite limo service for the second year in a row. "Being named the best for us means we are being recognized for our consistent quality service. It also means that the wonderful people of S.B. recognize our place in the community. We are really grateful that we have been able to build a successful business here."

Runner-Up: EOS Transportation

Event DJ

DJ Darla Bea

895-3400; djarlabea.com

"Santa Barbarans love a little Latin flair in their dance mix — 'Despacito' (no Bieber), 'Suavemente,' and any Pitbull," said Darla Bea, our beloved DJ for the fourth year running. Her favorite part of the job: "Making people get up and boogie! Having dudes Shazam the deep-cut song selections I'm playing. Watching kids do the 'Floss' dance. High fives, fist bumps, encores and singalongs at the end of the night to Queen, Journey, Toto, LCD Soundsystem, etc." Her funniest work story: "At a private Halloween party, Kenny Loggins, in full pirate costume, walked up to me and requested 'Footloose.' You can bet your Sunday shoes that I played it and the *Caddyshack* theme later!"

Runner-Up: DJ Hecktik



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BEST
of Santa Barbara

ROMANCE
continued

Wedding Cake Shop

Lilac Pâtisserie

1017 State St.; 845-7400; lilacpatisserie.com

"We love getting to know our customers and being a part of a community. It is so fun to be a part of people's celebrations throughout their lives, whether it is birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, kids' birthdays, or even just celebrating an ordinary day," said Gillian and Alam Muralles, proprietors of Lilac Pâtisserie, our readers' choice for best wedding cake shop. "We love what we do and are so grateful to receive such an honor and a compliment that our community recognizes the work we do through this award. Santa Barbara is such an amazing community. People genuinely care about putting their dollars to work locally to support small businesses during interesting times in the retail space."

Runner-Up: Crushcakes & Café

Event Rentals

The Tent Merchant

436 E. Gutierrez St.; 963-6064; thetentmerchant.com

John and Sherine Leenhouders, who own The Tent Merchant, say their favorite part of the job is "sharing the beautiful and memorable moments of each event. It is such a tremendous honor which we are forever amazed by." Getting this award means a lot to the Tent Merchant team, including that "all of our hard work, attention to detail, planning, and quality of work is appreciated by our community." In addition to event specialists, a foreman, and a kitchen team, the Leenhouders' dog, Hercule, is an important crew member. The handsome corgi greets guests in the showroom and is often requested as a rental for events.

Runner-Up: Town & Country

Restaurant with a View

[See Drinking: Bloody Mary]

Hotel

Four Seasons Resort

The Biltmore Santa Barbara

1260 Channel Dr.; 969-2261;

fourseasons.com/santabarbara

"Being the best means consistently providing our guests with exceptional service and extraordinary experiences. We know that there are a myriad of wonderful places to stay and visit in Santa Barbara. Our team has had the unique opportunity to master its craft over the past 90-plus years — to be called the best by our local community is an honor and proof that our hard work is paying off," said GM Karen Earp. She shared some little-known history: "During World War II, the Biltmore became an Army-Air Corps redistribution station for reassignment of overseas returnees. The soldiers temporarily stationed at the resort and paid an average of \$2.41 per day, including room, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and laundry. This story is a great example of what makes the resort so special — it's a place that welcomes guests of all kinds and hopes to provide the best experience for them while they're with us."

Runner-Up: San Ysidro Ranch

Continued

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LOOKING GOOD

Barber Shop

Richie's Barber Shop

1187 Coast Village Rd., Ste. 6;
845-9701;

richiesbarbershopsb.com

With a second location recently opened in Isla Vista, Best of Santa Barbara® winner Richie's Barber Shop is on a roll. "My favorite part of my job is the client interaction! I'm lucky to be able to hang out with my clients, who become friends/family. Dealing with the community first-hand is amazing," said owner Richie Ramirez. "Being the best means you have to do whatever you can to stay there. What can we do as a barber shop to keep that title? It keeps us on our toes, and it keeps us challenged. Every year, we are more and more honored to receive this award. It feels good to be appreciated. We feel grateful to be serving our community for nine years and going strong. Thank you!"

Runner-Up: The Barber Shop

Hair Salon

The Color Room

3003 State St.; 687-0777;

thecolorroomsantabarbara.com

From sophisticated color correction to skilled styling and expert color techniques, the Color Room is *Indy* readers' choice for best hair salon. "Thank you so much to all of the people that voted for us for best hair salon in Santa Barbara! Our favorite part about our job is to make people look and feel beautiful inside and out," said Sean VonHoetendorff and Pui Ryden, owners of the Color Room. "This award means recognition for our business that we have a wonderful team that works together to create beautiful work."

Runner-Up: Salon Patine

Tanning Salon

Honeys

209 W. Canon Perdido St.; 963-8300;

ilovehoneys.com

"Santa Barbara is the ideal place to cultivate a small business. Our tight-knit community is the perfect platform for word-of-mouth referrals," said Christine Starr, owner of Honeys, readers' top tanning salon. "My favorite part of my job is to instantly transform someone's look, therefore uplifting their confidence. Being a part of helping someone feel beautiful is the most fulfilling thing," Starr said. To her, this award means "that my dream of creating a

salon where attention to detail and an emphasis on customer service has been received and that people feel that. I manifested Honeys, dreamt it up, and it shines through. That's a beautiful thing!"

Runner-Up: Sweet Cheeks

Tattoo Shop

805 Ink

1228 State St.; 845-5805;

805ink.com

Santa Barbara's thriving tattoo culture, and *Indy* readers, have crowned 805 Ink as the top shop for the second year in a row. CEO JJ Ortiz and his talented team of artists have been providing our town with high-quality tattoos since 2008. In addition to Ortiz, an S.B. native whose tattoo style runs to fine-line black and gray, artists include Ken Knox, who accepts animal bones and tacos as tips; Chad Westmoreland, who deejays in his spare time; Jake Vantiger, who loves putting his own twist on bold American and neo-traditional designs; Danny Meza, whom many know from his work with students to paint murals around the city; Seth Singletary, who started tattooing alongside his father when he was only 15; and Grant Lockett, whose work is inspired by American traditional and Japanese tattoos and folk art.

Runner-Up: Golden Eagle Tattoo

Day Spa

Float Luxury Day Spa

18 E. Canon Perdido St.; 845-7777;

floatluxuryspa.com

"Working in a spa is really pretty amazing all around," said Float Luxury Spa owner Natalie Rowe. "Not only do I get to come to a gorgeous, tranquil environment every day, but I also get to provide a service to guests that is so very appreciated and necessary. The gift of treating oneself is often overlooked but so very important. I get to see people transform over the hour or two or three that they are with us. They leave here feeling relaxed, rejuvenated, and ready to take on their day. The thing we hear most commonly when people are leaving is, 'I need to do this more often!'"

Runner-Up: Evolutions Medical & Day Spa

BEST

of Santa Barbara®

Sunglasses Selection Occhiali Fine Eyewear

Two locations; occhialieyewear.com

"Salli and I wish to thank the voters for this honor," said Irwin Eve, optician and co-owner of Occhiali Fine Eyewear with his wife, Salli Eve. "Occhiali strives to offer a premier experience to our clients. We help them to find the perfect pair, asking questions and truly assisting in the selection process. It makes it a lot easier when you get to know the client with the trust generated in the collaboration. Choosing frames is the fun part. We annually attend shows in New York and the West Coast, and there has been a growth of new independent eyewear designers who are rocking it with beautiful quality and artistry."

Runner-Up: Sunglass Hut

Continued

LOOKING GOOD



Place to Get a Facial Skin Deep

3405 State St.; 687-9497; skindeepsalon.com

"Our community loves to support local businesses. Santa Barbara values longevity, track record, and integrity," said Nina Meyer, GM of Skin Deep. "One customer came in recently with friends, and as she opened the door, she smiled and said, 'Ahhh ... it's so nice to know some things never change.'" Celebrating its 40th year, Skin Deep truly is a family affair. Meyer's favorite part of the job is working with her sisters Tina (the shop's owner) and Gina, who runs the website and is the VIP club marketing director, together with all of the team at Skin Deep. "Every day, every year — our vision is focused on making our clients' experience enjoyable and always memorable."

Runner-Up: Evolutions Medical & Day Spa



Medical Spa Evolutions Medical & Day Spa 350 Chapala St., Ste. 103; 335-8605; evolutionsmedicalspa.com

"The medical aesthetic industry is always advancing and changing. We look forward to continuing to stay on the leading edge of the industry and bringing new and exciting treatments to our clients," said Brian Perkins, managing partner of Evolutions Medical & Day Spa, our readers' pick for top medical spa. "We have a wonderful staff that is not only good at what they do, but they are also interesting and fun people to work with, so it's a great place to come to work every day."

Runner-Up: G Spa

Resort Spa The Spa at The Ritz-Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara 8301 Hollister Ave.; 571-4210; ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/california/santa-barbara

The lap of luxury is within our grasp at the Spa at The Ritz-Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara, our readers' pick for best resort spa. Between the undisputedly killer ocean views and first-class service the Ritz is renowned for, the 42,000-square-foot spa features a full selection of amenities — starting with the cushiest robe you've ever imagined and including an adults-only saline swimming pool, redwood sauna, and eucalyptus steam room. Treatments include the Bacara Signature Massage with hot stones and heated herbal compresses, and the Hollywood Facial with therapeutic LED light therapy. Fireside lounges and a rooftop terrace offer more places to relax, restore, and enjoy the view.

Runner-Up: The Spa at Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore

Continued

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LOOKING GOOD



Clothing Boutique Lovebird Boutique and Jewelry

7 E. De la Guerra St.; lovebirdsb.com

There are loads of browse-worthy boutiques in town, but the range of products at Lovebird makes it truly unique. With an aim toward providing a fun and affordable shopping experience for mothers, daughters, and grandmothers, owner Jennifer Scarbrough's shop just off State Street has long thrived with a selection of women's clothing, accessories, intimates, jewelry, shoes, and gifts for women ages 18-80. Choose from fashions by Cino, XCVI, ADA Collection, BED | STU, Free People, and more, with handcrafted jewelry by Scarbrough herself, among others, as well as a nice array of accessories and gift items from our readers' choice for best clothing boutique.

Runner-Up: Crossroads Trading Company

Vintage Store [See Housing: Antique Store]

Consignment Store Crossroads Trading Company

1025 State St.; 892-5700;

crossroadstrading.com/location/santa-barbara-state-st

"We are thrilled to be recognized for our Santa Barbara location," said Christie Cook Cherensky, district manager for Crossroads Trading Company. "We have the best customers in the world who are just as obsessed with fashion as we are. Santa Barbara is a good place to have our business because we offer a way to shop sustainably and recycle your wardrobe, which is very in line with Santa Barbara's values. The S.B. community is creative but has a consciousness when it comes to the environment. We fulfill their desire for fashion but do it in a way that is in line with the community's core values of sustainability and less waste."

Runner-Up: The Closet Trading Co.

Dry Cleaner Ablitt's Fine Cleaners & Launderers

14 W. Gutierrez St.; 963-6677; ablitts.com

Not only does Ablitt's Fine Cleaners & Launderers go the extra mile to show your clothes great care and respect, but owner Sasha Ablitt went the extra mile to have many of the staff answer our questions! The best part of the job: "Meeting all our friendly customers and hearing their amazing stories" (Jon Hernandez); "Learning about how business works and coming up with ideas to make things happen" (Alfonso Antunez); "Hanging out with my coworkers and feeling the positive Ablitt's vibe" (Mercy Juarez); "Talking with my customers and petting their dogs" (John Fenner). When asked to share funny moments, Ablitt said, "We have discovered that Santa Barbara is not a shy community. We have multiple stories about customers walking outside their homes without clothes, or undressing on the spot and handing their clothes over to be cleaned. Literally giving Ablitt's the clothes off their back!"

Runner-Up: Eco Friendly Cleaners

Tailor

Lee's Tailoring

4141 State St., Ste. E-4; 910-1065;

leestailoringca.com

Lee Thompson's Lee's Tailoring has been measuring up the best on the Best of Santa Barbara® chart since he opened his Santa Barbara shop in 1991. The shop specializes in bridesmaids' dresses, and the employees are experts in the art of zipper repair. The wide range of alteration services includes dress resizing and dress design modification, mending worn-out clothes, and restoring old outfits to almost mint condition. They also repair leather jackets as well as worn-out jeans and pants, giving your favorite clothes a new lease on life.

Runner-Up: Ablitt's Fine Cleaners & Launderers

Continued

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LOOKING GOOD

Eyewear Selection [See Driving: Place to Get Tires]

Shoes

Nordstrom

Paseo Nuevo, 17 W. Canon Perdido St.; 564-8770; nordstrom.com

The shoe game at Nordstrom is strong indeed. With brands on display from Adidas to Zanzara and everything in between, it can be a bit overwhelming. Luckily, the sales staff is top notch, and the annual sales are even better, if you can brave the eager crowds. If the selection of shoes feels like too much, take a seat at the Nordstrom Café upstairs, relax, and breathe in the rarified air of the bygone-era ladies who lunch. The cilantro lime shrimp salad is a thing of beauty, and the Bistro Club, a comfort-food classic, will soon put you in the mood to shoe shop 'til you drop!

Runner-Up: Walking Company

Jewelry Store

Bryant & Sons

Two locations; bryantandsons.com

Diamonds really are forever at the venerable Bryant & Sons, which opened its flagship State Street location

in 1965 and added a Montecito store in 2001. "Thank you, Santa Barbara, for voting us best again! We have been in business 55 years and intend to be around for many more," said Mike Bryant, who's run the day-to-day operations of the family business since 1981 and is the son of founder Bob Bryant. "Thanks for your business. The *Independent* award means a lot to us, and I appreciate the support and recognition."

Runner-Up: 33 Jewels

Thrift Store

Alpha Thrift Stores

Multiple locations; 964-1123;

alphashb.org

A great place to search for Halloween costumes and bargains on everything from shoes, clothes, and jewelry to electronics, tools, books, and housewares, Alpha Thrift Stores' two locations not only keep discards out of the landfill but also help support community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities. You never know what kind of treasures you might find at our readers' choice for best thrift store, but for those who love the mystery and the thrill of the hunt, the joy is in the quest itself.

Runner-Up: Crossroads Trading Company



Nail Salon

Ocean Nails & Spa

5768 Calle Real, Goleta; 683-3490

Offering just about all types of nail spa service you can imagine (manicures, pedicures, acrylics, French tips, gels, nail art, paraffin wax, silk wraps, and more), Goleta's Ocean Nails & Spa is this year's Best Of winner. "My favorite part of my job is to see the smiles from my customers after their services," said owner Kathy Bui. "Thank you for your support and referrals. Our team achieved this award by working together."

Runner-Up: Modern Nails

Continued

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BEST

of Santa Barbara



LIVING WELL

Bookstore Chaucer's Books

3321 State St.; 682-6787; chaucersbooks.com

Chaucer's is so much more than just a place to buy books and pick up a copy of your favorite local weekly paper. While many stores have come and gone, Chaucer's has remained a thriving literary hub since 1974, in no small part due to the book-loving staffers such as events coordinator Mary Hershey, who said, "So many of our customers tell us that they are making a conscious decision to shop local. It warms and inspires us!" It's a good thing the staff is so book-smart. Recent customer requests for the best-selling *Where the Crawdad Sings* include "What Are the Crawfish Singing," "Swamp Girl," "Where Are the Crawfish Singing and Dancing," "Where the Mudbugs Play or Dance or Something," and "A Mystery Set in the South with Grasshopper in the Title."

Runner-Up: The Book Den

Musical Instrument Store Jensen Guitar & Music Co.

2830 De la Vina St.; 687-4027; jensenguitar.com

Since 1973, Chris Jensen and his crew have been offering help to musicians of all ages. "We are honored by a musical community who appreciates our being here," said Jensen, whose favorite part of the biz is "to see new and returning customers every day, and to be able to provide them with music lessons, on-site service, and repair of their instruments." Musicians aren't the only ones who make themselves at home at Jensen's. "A big, beautiful cat walked

into the shop one day and adopted us as her people," he said. "She would lay down on her back with her feet in the air right in the middle of the store and take a nap. Someone brought in some miniature orange traffic cones and set them around her while she slept. It became a regular thing, and all who saw her there got a good laugh."

Runner-Up: Nick Rail Music

Gift Shop

Plum Goods

909 State St.; 845-3900; plumgoodsstore.com

"My favorite part of the business is working with artists and helping them grow their business and connecting with customers from Santa Barbara and all over the world," said Plum Goods owner Amy Cooper, whose store has been named our readers' favorite gift shop year after year after year. The eco-friendly Plum Goods showcases an eclectic mix of one-of-a-kind treasures, inventively displayed to the tunes of the store's visual director Fabian Ojeda's ever-evolving soundtrack. "This award makes a huge difference to our business because during the slow months, visitors see that locals love us and want to come by," said Cooper. "And personally, and for all of the staff, we take a lot of pride in being chosen."

Runner-Up: Lewis & Clark

Art/Craft Supply Store

Art Essentials

32 E. Victoria St.; 965-5456; sbartessentials.com

Santa Barbarans love to indulge their creative spirits and stock up on supplies at Art Essentials, which has offered an impressive array of products for both beginners and professionals since 1987. The store (still owned by one of the founders, Sam Winkelmeyer) has weathered recessions, fires, and online competition from the Amazons of the world, but is still our readers' favorite place to scratch their creative itches. It's also home to an excellent array of books, toys, and gag gifts.

Runner-Up: Michaels

Frame Shop

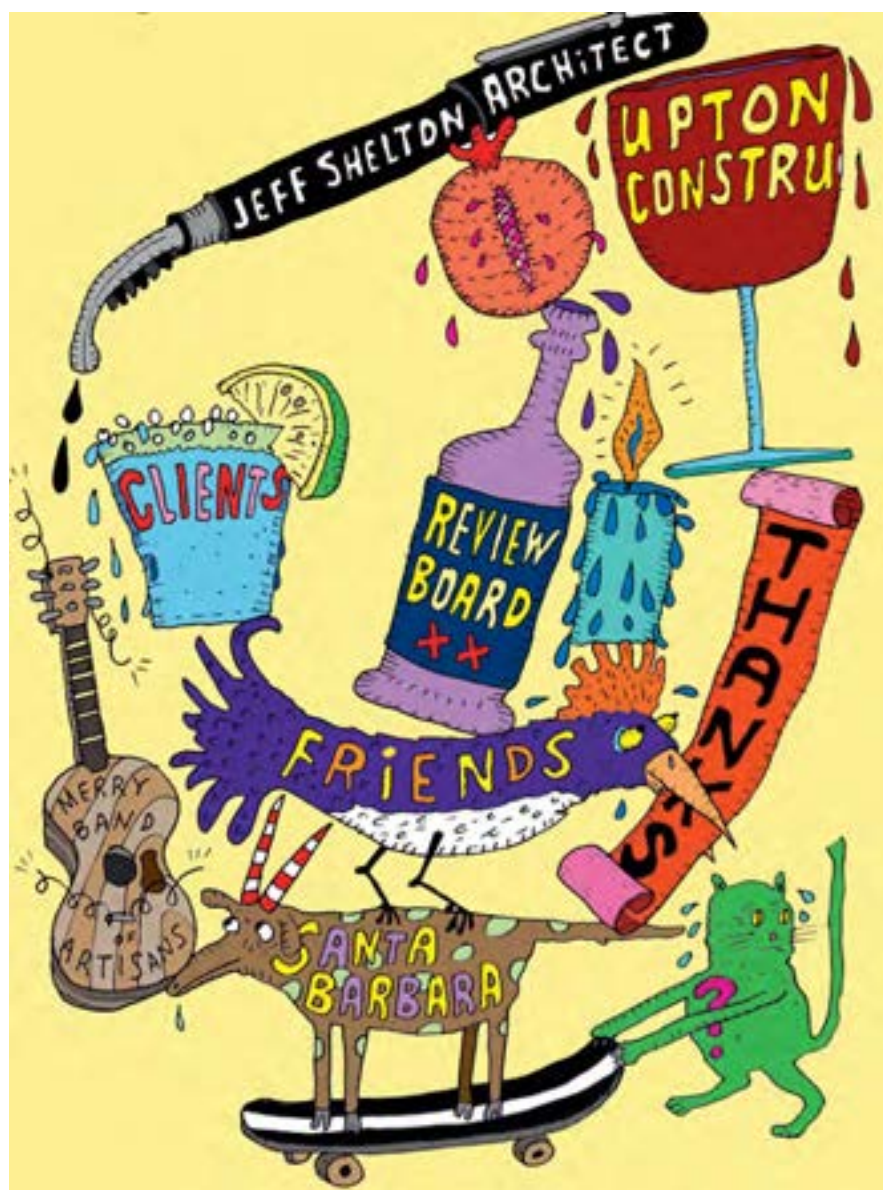
Michaels

187 N. Fairview Ave., Goleta; 967-7119; michaels.com

Providing the perfect frame can make—or break—your most treasured artworks. Whether you are framing photographs, paintings, or arts and crafts creations, this big-box retailer has framing options to suit your style. The Goleta store is also part of the largest arts and crafts retail chain in North America, stocking just about everything you would ever need to unleash your inner maker. Thankfully, for those of us who have a bit of craft supply hoarding issue, there's an app for that, delivering dozens of special deals and coupons on your phone and at your fingertips.

Runner-Up: The Frame-Up





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BEST
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LIVING WELL
continued

Bank ♦ Mortgage Company

Montecito Bank & Trust

Multiple locations; montecito.bank

“Santa Barbarans have a deep love and loyalty for supporting their local businesses. And as a locally owned community bank, we feel their love,” said George Leis, president and chief operating officer of Montecito Bank & Trust. “We also know that this community values customer service and philanthropy, and those are two things that are at the core of who we are. Because our mission is to make the communities we serve better places to live and work, those in our community who choose to do business with Montecito Bank & Trust know that by doing so, they are in turn also giving back to their community (they donated more than \$1.4 million last year) — Santa Barbarans get it!”

Runner-Up (Bank): Chase Bank

Runner-Up (Mortgage Company): Guaranteed Rate Mortgage

Place to Work

University of California, Santa Barbara

893-8000; ucsb.edu

“UC Santa Barbara is proud to be recognized for the third year in a row as Santa Barbara’s best place to work,” said University spokesperson Andrea Estrada. “Celebrating its 75th anniversary as part of the UC system, the university is a unique environment that thrives on academic exploration, cutting-edge research, and the vital exchange of ideas. We value being part of the community — the wellspring of our workforce — whether it’s through our partnerships with local industry, Arts & Lectures performances at the Granada and Arlington theaters, our relationship with Harding University Partnership School, or the thousands of locals, of all ages, that we welcome to campus each year for educational programs and public events. We are gratified to call Santa Barbara home.”

Runner-Up: Cottage Health

Computer Repair

The Apple Store

928 State St.; 560-1500; apple.com/retail/statestreet

The Genius Bar is a pretty genius idea: providing hands-on hardware support for any and all Apple products. It’s better — and faster — if you make an appointment in advance, but coming in and waiting your turn for help is certainly better than watching that annoying rainbow pinwheel of frustration twirl round and round on your device. Plus, rumor has it that this store’s ever-patient tech support staff also gets bonus points for saving a few marriages and parent-child relationships.

Runner-Up: MacMechanic

Retirement Residence

Casa Dorinda

300 Hot Springs Rd.; 969-8011; casadorinda.org

Sometimes all of Santa Barbara feels like a luxury retirement community, so it’s no surprise that one of the highest-rated facilities in the U.S. is in Montecito. Our readers also give Casa Dorinda top props. “What I enjoy most about working at Casa Dorinda is the opportunity to meet and engage with the residents that join our community. It’s a collection of people with multiple professional and educational accomplishments; many are well-traveled and have fascinating stories to share,” said Brian McCague, president and CEO. The facility is in the process of expanding its Personal Care and Memory Care services, adding a new casual dining venue, 22 new apartments, and two bocce courts. “The residents can’t wait for those to be installed,” said McCague.

Runner-Up: Maraville



Travel Agency AAA — Automobile Club of Southern California

3712 State St.; 682-5811; calif.aaa.com

While they're probably best known for roadside assistance, AAA — Automobile Club of Southern California offers a huge variety of travel services, everything from booking a cruise to scheduling a flight to landing luxury hotel deals and budget-minded B&Bs. The favorite part of the job for *Indy* readers' top Travel Agency: "Making people's dreams become reality," said Branch Manager Chris Olvera. "The award is validation that what we are doing resonates with the community." As for the funniest thing that's ever happened? "So many stories, but I think it's funny when people ask questions like, 'Do I need different money when I travel to Hawai'i?' not realizing Hawai'i is part of the U.S.," Olvera said.

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Travel Bureau

LIVING WELL
continued



Continued

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BEST
of Santa Barbara

LIVING WELL
continued

Acupuncturist

Healing Heart Herbs and Acupuncture

2425 Bath St.; 450-4891

"I enjoy waking up each day knowing I can help solve problems that patients have suffered for months or years. Whether it is nagging pain or emotional imbalance, the satisfaction of bringing relief to a patient is boundless. I love my patients and constantly learn from them," said Charles Sciutto, LAc BSN, of Healing Heart Herbs and Acupuncture. As for being "the best," to Sciutto, this "means never being satisfied with my present knowledge base. I strive to constantly learn new modalities to enhance my patients' experience. This year, that has meant adding functional medicine along with regenerative healthcare to our services. If I want the best for my patients, I need to constantly grow."

Runner-Up: Anthony Kar

Chiropractor

Craviotto Family Chiropractic

2922 De la Vina St.; 563-0007; craviottochiropractic.com

"Thank you to all of my past and current patients over the last 32 years. I can't tell you how honored I have felt that you would allow me to take care of you and your families," said Dr. John Craviotto. His favorite part of the job? "Helping people who are in pain to feel better and to get their lives back. It means a lot to me that my patients think enough of me to vote for me. I value their loyalty." He added, "To win means that many of my patients cared and took the time to vote. It also means a lot to my business, as many locals seek out a service using the *Independent's* Best Of list."

Runner-Up: O'Hara Chiropractic

General Practitioner

Dr. Mara Sweeney

1509 State St.; 560-6675; marasweeneymd.com

Our readers' top choice for general practitioner for the third year running, Dr. Mara Sweeney was born and raised in Santa Barbara, and she consistently received high praise from her hometown clientele. She stated that she believes "the doctor-patient relationship is built on trust ... and trust is earned by doctors who take the time to listen to their patients as well as explain to their patients what options they have in every health-related situation." As a patient testimonial on her website reads, "In the fast-paced world we live in today it's refreshing to find a doctor that actually cares about my well-being, takes her time, and gives you 100% of her attention."

Runner-Up: Dr. David Phreaner

Herbalist/Holistic Practitioner

Pura Luna Women's Apothecary

2009 Chapala St.; 450-2484; puralunaapothecary.lunabellamakeupart.com

"With a truly humbled heart, we extend our utmost gratitude for those that took the time to nominate and vote for us," said Ashe Kelly-Brown, owner of Pura Luna Apothecary, the Best Of pick for the second year in a row. "This win symbolizes the changing tide of what it means to support black-women-owned alternative holistic health businesses." Her favorite part of the job? "The ability to help women heal themselves with herbal remedies, earth-based practices, and community. Nothing brings us more joy than to help a woman in need and give her the power to heal herself. We also love hosting workshops and classes that help educate and inspire women."

Runner-Up: Healing Heart Herbs and Acupuncture

Continued

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Dentist

Montecito Dental Group
1165 Coast Village Rd.; 565-9837;
montecitodentalgroup.com

It seems like there's another research study every other week about the importance of keeping your mouth healthy. Luckily, *Independent* readers have Montecito Dental Group in their corner. "Being voted the best means that our patients appreciate what we do! And this award recognizes the effort our team makes every day to be their best," said Dr. Lynda J. Benedetto, one of the three dentists (along with Dr. Gregory Scarcello and Dr. Cris Shepard) who make up Montecito Dental Group. One of the funniest things that's ever happened was asking a patient how often he flossed, shared Benedetto. The response: "Twice a year—you do it!" Those checkups really are so important!

Runner-Up: Kendall, Rohde & Associates

Orthodontist

White & Grube Orthodontics
Two locations; whiteandgrube.com

The year-round sunshine gets a lot of credit for Santa Barbara's smiles, but as our readers' pick for best orthodontist for the fourth year in a row, White & Grube Orthodontics should probably also receive some kudos. A favorite part of the job? "The day our patients finish their orthodontic treatment is very satisfying. Knowing they can look

forward to a lifetime with a healthy and beautiful smile is perhaps the best part of our profession," said Dr. Brett Grube. "This honor is a nice reminder to our office that we are appreciated by the people of our town that expect the highest level of care and experience."

Runner-Up: Kubisch & Ferris Orthodontics

Licensed Massage Therapist

Cindy Gutierrez at Skin Deep
3405 State St.; 687-9497; skindeepsalon.com

There's nothing like a massage to melt away muscle tension and promote relaxation and recovery. "I would like to thank all of my clients at Skin Deep for this wonderful recognition," said Cindy Gutierrez, whom *Indy* readers voted as the best licensed massage therapist. "While practicing massage therapy for over 20 years, I have enjoyed mastering many modalities—Swedish, deep-tissue, hot-stone, and trigger-point therapy. My treatments bring relaxation and rejuvenation. I think of myself as a stress buster!"

Runner-Up: Sheena Lopez

Optometrist

Eye & Vision Care
5300 Hollister Ave.; 692-6977; eyenvision.com

All eyes—and all of our readers' eyes—were on Eye & Vision Care, which has been providing services to the Santa Barbara community for the past 30 years. "Our favorite part of the job is getting to see the patients back over time, getting to know them, becoming part of their lives, and being able to watch some grow from children to adults," said optometrist Dr. Luke Werkhoven, a co-owner. "We always want our patients to feel comfortable and well taken care of from the moment they walk into our office. We are always grateful for your continued confidence in our office and ongoing support throughout the years."

Runner-Up: Bream Optometry

Continued



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SPORTING LIFE



Bicycle Shop Bicycle Bob's

320 S. Kellogg Ave., Goleta; 682-4699; bicyclebobs-sb.com

"My favorite part of the job is that I truly enjoy interacting with people, I look forward to it every day," said Bob Zaratzian, owner of Bicycle Bob's, voted best bike shop in Santa Barbara for 29 years running (or should we say riding). "The best part, though, is seeing kids super happy and excited when they get a new bike; it's awesome!" Bob's has an extensive inventory of mountain bikes, road bikes, hybrids, commuters, and children's bikes, as well as beach cruisers, e-bikes, apparel, and accessories. Santa Barbara's a good place for business, said Zaratzian. "People here are great, as is the climate and area that can support cycling so well."

Runner-Up: Hazard's Cyclesport

Fitness Program

Killer B Fitness

1107 State St.; 448-2222; killerbfitness.com

"We love having a local business in Santa Barbara/Goleta because the community is incredible and people love to be healthy and active," said Bob Wilcher, owner of Killer B Fitness, which was voted our readers' top program. "Working out at Killer B directly proves its value when someone lives an active lifestyle. Our cardio machines directly translate to being stronger on the local hikes, cycling, and the beach and water sports. We are thankful for the local farms and feel fortunate to have access to our farmers' markets, which is especially helpful during our four-week Eat Clean and Fitness Challenges."

Runner-Up: Bond Fitness

Yoga Studio

CorePower Yoga

Two locations; corepoweryoga.com

"Our favorite part of the job is witnessing how relaxed, invigorated, and content students are when exiting the classrooms," said Cara Ferrick and Brandon Cox, co-owners of CorePower Yoga, our readers' favorite studio. "Also being with people and watching them transform through yoga and community. We would not be where we are today without the people who show up. Thank you for your motivation and all you add to your community." For Ferrick and Cox, getting this award means "all the training, hard work, and teamwork pays off. We know our teachers and team create a powerful experience. We are grateful for each of them."

Runner-Up: Yoga Soup



Pilates Studio

Fit Buddha

330 State St.; 901-3440; fitbuddha.com

"The favorite part of my job is teaching and seeing how effective our workout is by the looks on our clients' faces and the shaking in their bodies. Our Pilates routines are always challenging and innovative, so it never gets old and is deeply rewarding," said co-owner Marcus Kettles. "Being the best means that we have really gone the extra mile to connect with the needs of our clients and provide that service to them with a loving heart and a smile on our face." That smile includes bringing the fun with the fitness. "One of our top trainers, Kyle, taught an entire morning on Valentine's Day in nothing more than short red booty shorts and angel wings. It's always a big crowd pleaser and lots of fun."

Runner-Up: La Playa Pilates & Wellness

Snowboard/Ski Gear Store

Mountain Air Sports

14 State St.; 962-0049; mountainairsports.com

Active, outdoorsy types flock to Mountain Air Sports for all of their outdoor adventure gear. "Our community has kept this place rolling for 40 years. You make us who we are and give us the motivation to keep the stoke going for another 40 years," said Joey Duddridge, self-titled director of "yeeeeeeeew!" "Our family thanks you so much for all the love and support over the years. We owe it all to you, and we hope to see you in Mammoth this winter." Duddridge's favorite part of the job? "Seeing our customers come back from a trip with a huge smile and pumped on the gear we set them up with, and a six-pack for the crew — you know who you are. Thanks!"

Runner-Up: REI

Place to Get Athletic Shoes

Santa Barbara Running

1046 Coast Village Rd., Ste. D; 899-8802;

sbrunningco.com

"We are honored," said Joe DeVreese, owner of Santa Barbara Running, voted the best place to get athletic shoes. "There is no question that the landscape of retail brick-and-mortar stores is changing, and people are shopping online more than ever. So, when the community chooses to purchase their athletic shoes at our shop, it means we get to keep the doors open and provide jobs within the community. And for that, we are very grateful. Thank you for believing in us and allowing us to get you into the best fitness gear for you. The caliber of athletes and fit people in this community is amazing. That's super helpful for us, because active people can never have enough running shoes in their closet."

Runner-Up: Big 5 Sporting Goods



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Campground

El Capitán State Beach

968-1033; parks.ca.gov/elcapitan

"What being voted best campground means to us is that the public that visit California State Santa Barbara Parks, which includes El Capitán, are choosing to visit here. They are choosing this over other vacation, camping, and recreational opportunities. This makes us very happy," said Dion von der Lieth, supervising state park peace officer (Lifeguard). "We would like to say thank you in recognizing El Capitán State Beach campground. There is so much to do and learn about this park and this area.

We very much look forward to your next visit, or your first visit. If you have not had the chance to enjoy the serenity and diversity of the Gaviota Coast and Santa Barbara Sector State Parks, now is the time."

Runner-Up: Refugio State Beach

Camping Gear Store

REI

321 Anacapa St.; 560-1938; rei.com

Santa Barbara loves the great outdoors, and REI is the place to get just about everything you need to enjoy being outside. From kayaks to camping equipment, foam rollers to climbing harnesses, this is the ideal place to gear up for your next adventure. Not only that, the store offers classes on bike chains and derailleurs, outdoor photography basics, and road-side geology of Southern California, among other topics. With so much to offer, it's no wonder our readers have embraced this big-box store for several years in a row.

Runner-Up: Mountain Air Sports

Martial Arts Studio

Paragon Academy

Two locations; paragonhjj.com

People really love their workouts at Paragon Academy. "Several times over the years, we will have a packed gym during our evening classes when the power goes out and the building is pitch black! One hundred percent of the time, everyone finishes the workout in the dark, with a little help from phones and using primal senses," shared Sean Apperson, co-owner of Paragon Academy, which features boxing, kickboxing, jiu-jitsu, wrestling, TRX suspension training, a Rock Steady/Parkinson's program, and a kids/teens program. "My favorite part of my job is witnessing individuals fundamentally change their life by getting outside of their comfort zone into the unknown and forcing themselves to garner new skills in dealing with the new challenges."

Runner-Up: Martial Arts Family Fitness



BEST

of Santa Barbara

SPORTING

LIFE

continued

Dance Studio

[See Out & About: Dance Company]

Surf Shop

Channel Islands Surfboards

36 Anacapa St.; 966-7213; cisurfboards.com

Surfboard names such as Fred Rubble, Dumpster Diver, and Taco Grinder belie the serious chops of Channel Islands Surfboards, a home-grown company started in 1969 by Al and Terry Merrick. Now under the guidance of their son Britt, who carries on the tradition of shaping high-performance boards for top surfers like Lakey Peterson, Parker Coffin, Bethany Hamilton, and Dane Reynolds — as well as loads of local dawn patrollers — it may be the largest surfboard brand in the world, but Channel Islands Surfboards is still our favorite local surf shop.

Runner-Up: Surf N' Wear Beach House

Swimwear Store

Bikini Factory

2275 Ortega Hill Rd., Summerland; 969-2887; bikinifactory.com

Some things never go out of style, and bikinis are on that list. The original Bikini Factory opened on Chapala Street in downtown Santa Barbara in 1965 and is still going strong in its Summerland location. Stocked with hundreds of bikinis as well as one-pieces, cover-ups, and other accessories, there's swimwear for every style and body type here. Along with a wide in-store selection, customers can also custom design their own bathing suit to fit their unique needs and preferences.

Runner-Up: Surf N' Wear Beach House



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Health Club

Santa Barbara Family YMCA

36 Hitchcock Wy.; 687-7727; ciymca.org/santa-barbara

People love to work out at the Santa Barbara YMCA so much so that “one afternoon, the lights went out in the entire facility, and we went around to check on our members, and most people were content continuing their workout in the dark. They are a committed group,” said Craig Prentice, executive director. “The Santa Barbara Family YMCA has been supporting the community since 1887. This award is validation that we are relevant and make an impact in people’s lives for over 132 years.”

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Athletic Club, SWELL

Skateboard Shop

Powell-Peralta

30 S. La Patera Ln., Goleta; powell-peralta.com

The reviews are in and the crowd-sourcing consensus is clear: Boarders love Powell-Peralta — and so do *Indy* readers, who picked it as their top skateboard shop. “Top-notch skate hub! Cannot go wrong in here. Everything you want and need all in one. Great workers and customer service. Highly recommended,” said customer Calvin K. “Excellent products, excellent help! Not for locals only; while there saw pilgrims from many lands scooping up new gear — all things skateboard and sweet tees, caps, shoes, stickers, patches, etc., it’s all good,” agreed B.C. And as for the Powell-Peralta team’s thoughts on the win, staff member Wonton “Animal” Chin, said, “It is flattering since we aren’t the easiest place to find. It feels great to be recognized by the community.”

Runner-Up: Lighthouse Skateshop

BEST

of Santa Barbara

Place to Shoot Pool

Dargan's Irish Pub & Restaurant
18 E. Ortega St.; 568-0702; darganssb.com

Come for a pint from the Emerald Isle and stay for the pool. Dargan's was established in Santa Barbara in 1997, but the family surname has been associated with public houses in Ireland since the beginning of the 20th century. This authentic taste of true Irish hospitality is still hopping after all these years. The poolroom part of the pub can accommodate up to 170 people (and they are all there for any big-time soccer match), with a cozy bar, four pool tables, and a jukebox.

Runner-Up: Don Q Family Billiard Center

Golf Course

Sandpiper Golf Club

7925 Hollister Ave.; 220-9646; sandpipergolf.com

Established in 1972 as Santa Barbara County's first resort course open to the public, Sandpiper is an inspiring 18 holes of seaside golf on an extraordinary, natural terrain of rolling flatland, steep barrancas thick with chaparral, and chalky bluffs and dramatic cliffs offering spectacular views of white sand beaches and the Pacific Ocean below. Designed by renowned architect William F. Bell and named by *Golf Digest* as one of the top 100 public golf courses in the United States, it's no wonder that this memorable golf course is our readers' top choice.

Runner-Up: Glen Annie Golf Club

Hiking Trail

Inspiration Point

"The mind-clearing fresh air, uphill workout, and stellar payoff vista will shake free all your great ideas. Inspiration Point is the slam dunk of hikes—a good workout with a great finish with its on-top-of-the-world view," said Katie Davis, chair of the Santa Barbara Sierra Club. Our area Sierra Club hikes in a variety of spots, including Inspiration Point, every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day. See sierraclub.org/los-padres/santa-barbara/hike-schedule for the schedule.

Runner-Up: Cold Spring

Continued

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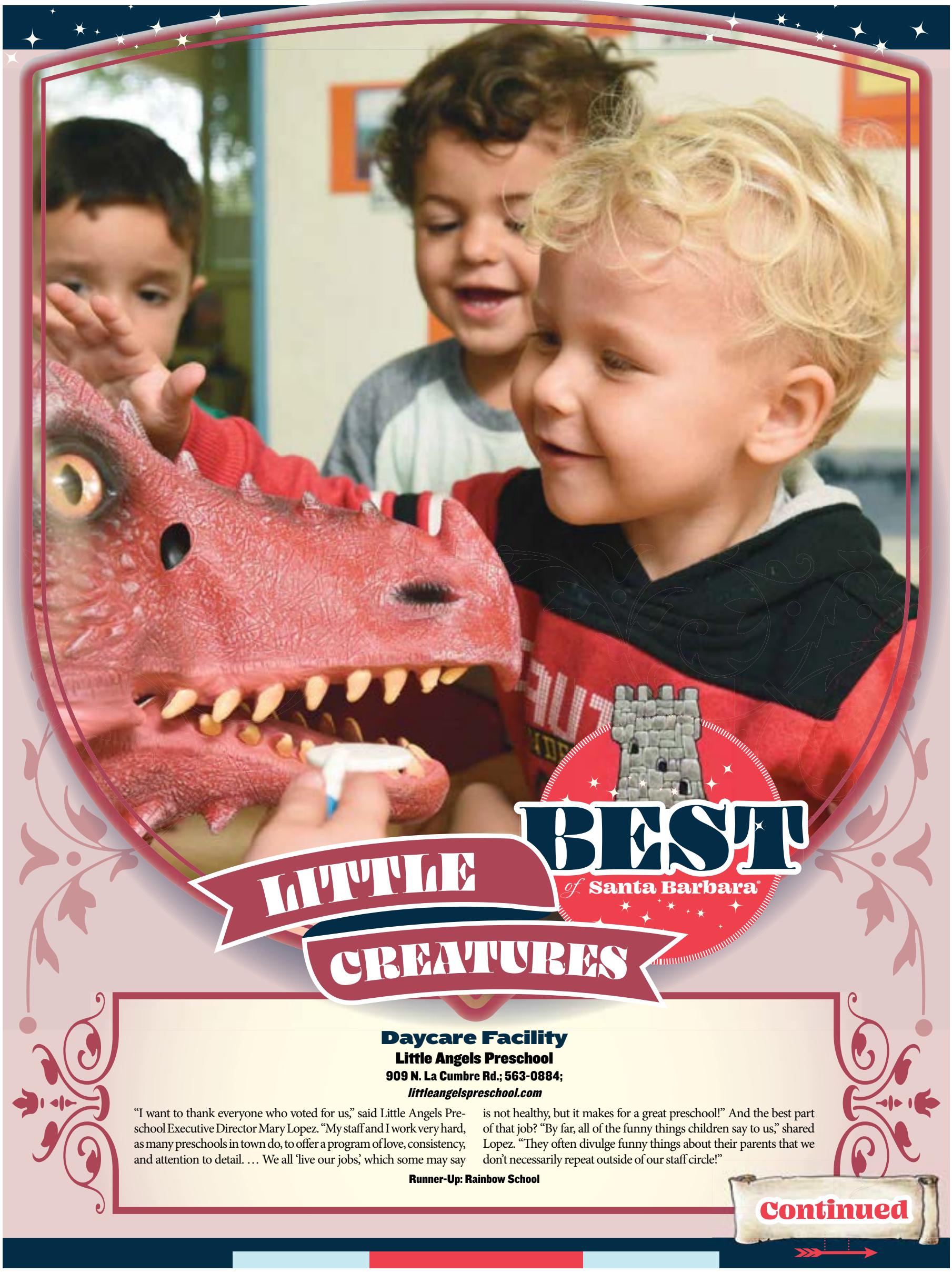
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LITTLE

BEST
of Santa Barbara

CREATURES

Daycare Facility
Little Angels Preschool
909 N. La Cumbre Rd.; 563-0884;
littleangelspreschool.com

"I want to thank everyone who voted for us," said Little Angels Preschool Executive Director Mary Lopez. "My staff and I work very hard, as many preschools in town do, to offer a program of love, consistency, and attention to detail. ... We all 'live our jobs,' which some may say

is not healthy, but it makes for a great preschool!" And the best part of that job? "By far, all of the funny things children say to us," shared Lopez. "They often divulge funny things about their parents that we don't necessarily repeat outside of our staff circle!"

Runner-Up: Rainbow School

Continued

WUTTHE

CREATURES continued

Pet Boarding Dioji K-9 Resort & Athletic Club

Two locations; dioji.com

If Santa Barbara is a dog paradise, then Dioji K-9 Resort & Athletic Club must be dog nirvana. Offering resort amenities and a variety of grooming options and sleeping quarters, this doggie daycare is really more like a luxury doggie spa. It's no wonder Dioji is our readers' top pick for Fido and friends. "First and foremost, thank you for voting us Best Pet Boarding for 12 years in a row," said Dioji owner Jeannie Wendel. "The title of 'the best' is a true honor, and we are so thankful that our continued efforts toward excellence continue to be recognized by the community. We are happy to announce that we now offer the same great cage-free boarding at our newly expanded Santa Barbara facility."

Runner-Up: Camp Canine



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CAL COMMUNITY
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Urban HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
FOR SANTA BARBARA
RESIDENTS, PLANNERS & DEVELOPERS



Gregory Morrow, Ph.D.
Exec. Director, Real Estate Development +
Design Program, UC Berkeley CED



Nina
Johnson
City of Santa Barbara



John
Campanella
City of Santa Barbara



Anthony
Grumbine
City of Santa Barbara

OCTOBER 23, 2019, 6 PM
5:30 PM - Networking

IMPACT HUB SB - DOWNTOWN
1117 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

TICKETS: FREE

REGISTER

GM23.eventbrite.com

Join us for a special program addressing both economic vitality and the local housing crisis while preserving Santa Barbara's urban character with residents, developers, planners, and government leaders. Open to the public.

Featuring thought leader, Gregory Morrow, Ph.D., bringing over 20 years of experience in sustainable urban development, planning and design.

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Comments from community leaders and a discussion with Q&A will follow. The discussion will be moderated by Anthony Grumbine, featuring John Campanella, Nina Johnson and Peter Lewis.

Hosted by the UC Berkeley Community of Santa Barbara and Ventura, this program celebrates the upcoming 60th Anniversary of UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design.



Pet Hospital/Clinic

La Cumbre Animal Hospital

110 S. La Cumbre Rd.; 967-0121; lcah.com

"We love helping pets and their families," said Dr. Beverly Holmes and Dr. Eve Kuesis of La Cumbre Animal Hospital. "Our favorite part of our jobs is every wet nose, purr, tail wag, or nuzzle. We strive to offer the best care for every furry friend that we meet. It is truly an honor to have our community see our efforts." Founded in 1959 by Dr. Francis Knoop, the practice is now owned by Holmes and Kuesis, who added, "This award is a tribute to our talented, hard-working staff for all they do every day. Thank you for trusting us to care for your loved ones!"

Runner-Up: St. Francis Pet Clinic

Toy Store ♦ Children's Clothing Store Chicken Little

1236 State St.; 962-7771; chickenlittlekids.com

From strollers to sleepers and bottles to breast pumps, plus every sort of onesie, toddler tog, and soft stuffed creature imaginable, Chicken Little has been delighting locals and visitors alike since 1981 (it actually opened in 1979 as "Chicken Lips"). This charming, family-owned shop has got the kids and the grandkids covered, with knowledgeable staff plus a great baby registry service for new parents. A fun place to browse and an easy place to buy, it's no wonder that Chicken Little is our readers' pick for best toy store and children's clothing store for the second year running.

Runner-Up (Toy Store): Peanuts Maternity & Kids

Runner-Up (Children's Clothing Store): Happy Little Hippo

Kids' Summer Camp [See Out & About: Family Fun Spot]

Continued

Thank You.

Runner-Up! →

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Sansum Clinic Congratulates

Dr. Saida Hamdani

for being recognized as the

Best Pediatrician

in the 2019 Best of Santa Barbara issue



Thanks also to:

Best General Practitioner finalists

Dr. David Phreaner • Dr. Liana Gonzalez • Dr. Rachel Kernoff

and

Best Pediatrician finalist

Dr. Jerold Black



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INTIMATE CREATURES

Tutor

Santa Barbara Tutoring

81 David Love Place, Ste. 222; 973-7463; sbtutoring.com

Offering private tutoring services in all subjects, as well as assistance for the sometimes-stressful test prep, Managing Director Steven Efada said, "We're convinced that we offer a better product than our competitors, and we're glad your readers agree! We love that our growing team takes pride in learning to better serve our clients each and every day." Grateful for the honor, Efada added, "Thank you! We look forward to continuing to help your family and friends reach their academic goals."

Runner-Up: California Learning Center

Pediatrician

Dr. Saida Hamdani

51 Hitchcock Wy.; 563-6211

All of the best parenting advice I ever got was either through word of mouth or from a pediatrician. For Dr. Saida Hamdani, getting our readers' nod combines the best of both of those worlds. Her favorite part of her job? "Talking to parents and children. I love to hear their stories. Being the best means being honored by this community as I try to do my best," said Hamdani, who is affiliated with Sansum Clinic. "It is an exceptional honor to be voted for by readers who are truly independent minded, curious, and insightful. I promise to do the very best that I can in listening, learning, and then using my knowledge to prevent adverse events and maintain good health in all its modalities."

Runner-Up: Dr. Patricia Erbe

Pet Store

Lemos Feed & Pet Supply

Multiple locations; lemospet.com

Mike Lemos started the business in 1972, delivering hay and other ranch products to his neighbors. Now, almost 50 years later, the Central Coast-based store's staff still carries every large bag of pet food to each customer's car and trains the team every month to ensure they know what products will work best for your pet. It's that kind of customer- and critter-based service (plus the multitudes of chew toys, grooming products, and food choices) that earns Lemos Feed & Pet Supply awards year after year. "My favorite part of my job is being able to help find solutions for pets that improve the life of the pet and of their owners," said store manager Raymond Padilla.

Runner-Up: Pet House