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TO OUR READERS

You voted,  
here are  
the results

Ventura County Star Readers:  
The results are in! These pages contain the results of the annual Ventura County Star Readers' Choice contest. We are honored to continue the 23-year tradition of surveying local residents on the best of Ventura County. You, our readers, have chosen the top choices in 119 categories in Community, Food & Drink, Services and Shopping.

Winners in each category were chosen for East County (Moorpark, Newbury Park, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village) and West County (Camarillo, Fillmore, Oak View, Ojai, Oxnard, Piru, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Somis and Ventura). The next highest vote recipients, up to three (or more in the case of a tie), were named Readers' Choice Favorites. They are listed alphabetically.

Enjoy browsing through the pages and thank you for voting!  
— Linda Martinez  
Editor, Readers' Choice

STAFF

PUBLISHED BY THE VENTURA  
COUNTY STAR

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# COMMUNITY





## COMMUNITY

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

## Beach

Full County Winner

## CARPINTERIA

5361 6th St., Carpinteria  
805-968-1033  
www.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=599

Seals and sea lions can be seen from December through May at Carpinteria State Beach, located 12 miles south of Santa Barbara. The area's tide pools contain starfish, sea anemones, crabs, snails and sea urchins.

The Spanish named the area Carpinteria because the Chumash tribe, which lived in the area, had a large seagoing canoe-building enterprise, or "carpentry shop" here. This was because of naturally-occurring surface tar, which was used to waterproof the canoes.

Recreational activities include bird watching, ocean swimming, surf fishing, nature walks and camping. Although dogs are not allowed on beach, there's a picnic area where canines are allowed to enjoy the outdoors as well.

## Favorites

- » Leo Carrillo State Beach
- » Ventura Pier/Surfers Point/Seaside Park
- » Zuma Beach

## City

Full County Winner

## VENTURA

805-654-7800



**California Lutheran University is the winner for best college/university in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

www.cityofventura.ca.gov

Located between Malibu and Santa Barbara on the Pacific Ocean, the City of Ventura is a coastal community that overlooks the Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands. Ventura, officially named San Buenaventura, was founded in 1782 when Saint Junipero Serra established Mission San Buenaventura, the ninth of the California missions. Serra named the mission after the Italian Saint Bonaventure, hence the nickname that Ventura is the "city of good fortune."

"What makes Ventura so special is that, of all the communities in the county, it is the only one with a real downtown that provides fun and interesting activities for every element of our diverse population," Mayor Neal Andrews said. "We are a city of a thousand interests and

celebrate everyone."

## Favorites

- » Camarillo
- » Moorpark
- » Oxnard

## College/University

East County Winner

## CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

60 W. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-492-2411  
www.callutheran.edu

At California Lutheran University, class sizes are small, and students can conduct research and engage in other experiential learning under the close mentorship of professors.

"The fact that Cal Lutheran is a small, independent university also enables us to respond more quickly to the needs of our students and the community with new programs and facilities," said Chris Kimball, president of the university.

"We will offer our first doctorate outside of Ventura County in June when we launch an Educational Leadership Program in Santa Maria," he said. "And, after opening the \$8 million William Rolland Art Center in August, we are now beginning construction of a \$30 million building that will more than double the amount of space dedicated to sci-

ence."

## Favorites

- » CSUCI Extended University
- » Moorpark Community College
- » Pepperdine University, Westlake Graduate Campus

West County Winner

## CAL STATE CHANNEL ISLANDS

1 University Drive, Camarillo  
805-437-8400  
www.csuci.edu

CSUCI serves Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, offering an affordable quality education. CSUCI's total enrollment as of fall of 2017 was 7,053, with 240 of those either graduate or post-baccalaureate students.

"We offer a top-quality, yet affordable education that make college accessible to those who would not otherwise be able to pursue higher learning," CSUCI president Erika D. Beck said.

U.S. News & World Report ranked CSUCI as 18th among the Top 25 Regional Universities (West).

"Our students receive hands-on, immersive learning experiences that prepare them for jobs in the 21st century innovation economy, improving their lives and circumstances and transforming entire families for generations to come," Beck said.

## Favorites

- » California Lutheran University, Oxnard Campus
- » Oxnard Community College
- » Ventura Community College

## Comedy Club/Nightclub

East County Winner

## THE ARENA GRILL &amp; LOUNGE

999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley  
805-915-1528  
arenasimi.com

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groups, including The Dingbats, The Regulars and Mike Scully, as well as cover bands like Operation 90s. Daily happy hour specials include 25 percent off appetizers, \$4 well drinks and \$1 off 16-ounce beers from 4 to 7 p.m. Menu items include burgers, pizzas, wraps and salads, plus several appetizers, including pot stickers and spud skins. There's also a large dance floor and stage for bands, a live disc jockey on the weekends, "and Lynnzee Fraye from 'American Idol' performs every Wednesday night," said Joseph Ronquillo, food and beverage director. "We also have a great happy hour."

#### Favorites

- » Borderline Bar & Grill
- » The Stonehaus
- » The Canyon

#### West County Winner

#### OXNARD LEVITY LIVE

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard  
 805-457-5550  
[oxnard.levitylive.com](http://oxnard.levitylive.com)

Oxnard Levity Live is unique in that it brings the biggest names in comedy to an intimate and fun setting. Levity Live offers a full-service kitchen, specialty cocktails, A-list entertainers and exceptional team members, all of which provides a VIP experience in the heart of Ventura County. The venue offers shows up to seven nights a week, and also provides private rental space for any event needs.

"Levity Live is also able to give back to the community by partnering with local nonprofit charities to help raise funds," said Heather Williams, event sales manager. "We provide meeting space for local corporations and business, private awards shows, team building space and so much more."

#### Favorites

- » Brendan's Irish Pub & Restaurant
- » Copper Blues Rock Pub & Kitchen
- » Ventura Harbor Comedy Club

## Community Event

### East County Winner

#### CAJUN & BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL

5005 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley  
 805-517-9000  
[www.simicajun.org](http://www.simicajun.org)

Now in its 29th year, the Cajun & Blues Music Festival hosted by The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is considered one of the largest festivals of its kind west of the Mississippi River. The event features live Cajun, Creole, Zydeco and blues music on multiple stages and more than 150 vendors, and brings in about 20,000 attendees.

"This is a family tradition, a communitywide event that involves hundreds of volunteers," said Larry Borovay, this year's event chairman. "The money that is earned is all donated to many things in our community, including bike projects, senior dinners, holiday giving events and smoke detectors. We've given back over \$2 million as of last year."

#### Favorites

- » Alzheimer's Association Walk
- » Conejo Valley Days
- » Thousand Oaks Chili Cook-Off & Craft Brew Festival

#### West County Winner

#### VENTURA COUNTY MUSIC AWARDS

590 W. Main St., Suite 270, Santa Paula  
 805-918-4141  
[www.vcmusicawards.com](http://www.vcmusicawards.com)

The Ventura County Music Awards is a community event in which local bands, singers, songwriters, music venue owners, managers, promoters, booking agents and fans gather to celebrate live music. This effort is made possible by Mark Rasmussen, CEO and co-owner, and Tim Amoroso, vice president and co-owner. "2018 will be our sixth year producing the VCMAs," Rasmussen said. "It is not about who wins the award that year; it is more about supporting and celebrating live music, musi-



Wendy Lemlin and Adrian Godina dance at a past Cajun & Blues Music Festival. The event was voted best east county community event.

STAR FILE PHOTO

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## COMMUNITY



cians and bands of Ventura County, and recognize their contributions to Ventura County.”

“We also give back to community by hosting charity food drive for Food Share,” Rasmussen added.

#### Favorites

- » Casa Pacifica Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival
- » Downtown Ventura Fourth of July Street Festival
- » Ventura County Fair

### Elected Official

Full County Winner

#### AL ADAM

805-449-2102

[www.aladamforcouncil.com](http://www.aladamforcouncil.com)

It's the top priority of any local elected official to keep the city safe and secure. “And that will be my top priority. We spend more of the budget on police enforcement than we do on anything else,” said Al Adam, a

Thousand Oaks City Council member who was the 51st mayor of the City of Thousand Oaks.

“I'd like to see Thousand Oaks in the future be a multi-generation city,” he said. “We're an aging city, and we want to make sure we have room for young people, housing and jobs. We take care of our seniors, but we have to make sure your young people can establish themselves in town, as well.”

#### Favorites

- » Julia Brownley
- » Geoff Dean
- » Tim Flynn

### Employer (over 50 employees)

East County Winner

#### AMGEN

1 Amgen Center Drive, Thousand Oaks  
805-447-1000

[www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com)

There are approximately 5,400 employees at Amgen in Thousand Oaks, a company that describes itself as serving patients by transforming the promise of science and biotechnology into therapies that have the power to restore health or save lives. “Amgen staff members are dedicated to Amgen's mission of serving patients,” said Lori Johnston, senior vice president of human resources. “We attract people who are smart, passionate and driven by work that has a meaningful purpose.”

#### Favorites

- » Comfort Keepers In-Home Care
- » In-N-Out Burger
- » Trader Joe's

West County Winner

#### 24HR HOMECARE

2401 E. Gonzales Road, Suite 170, Oxnard  
805-988-2205  
[www.24hrcares.com/locations/oxnard-caregivers](http://www.24hrcares.com/locations/oxnard-caregivers)

Founded in 2008, 24Hr HomeCare provides high-quality, customized, professional caregiving services to seniors and children and adults with developmental disabilities. “We have served over 10,000 clients, providing 15 million hours of care, while employing over 3,000 professional caregivers and internal employees,” said Susan Fink, director of marketing. “One of our company beliefs and values is working with and giving back to the community we serve, which makes it one of the reasons why it is one of the best companies to work for,” Fink said. “Through providing care to those who need it, we fulfill a greater purpose, allowing all of our employees to feel great about working hard for others.”

#### Favorites

- » Comfort Keepers
- » County of Ventura
- » Patagonia

### Employer (under 50 employees)

East County Winner

#### MUSTANG MARKETING

3135 Old Conejo Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-498-8718  
[www.mustangmktg.com](http://www.mustangmktg.com)

Mustang Marketing embraces a philosophy called “Strategically Driven Creative,” meaning, the company strives to incorporate a balance of strategy, creativity, seriousness and fun in each marketing campaign it develops for clients.

As a company, Mustang Marketing values the opinions of all its staff members — and knows that good ideas can come from anyone, and great ideas are a team effort, said Dianne McKay, president.

“Our goal is to partner with clients for a long time,” McKay said. “We embrace the community that has been so good to Mustang and give back however possible. We encourage our employees to dig in, as well. Mustang is blessed with great clients and staff in a community we love.”

#### Favorites

- » 805 Boot Camp
- » Affirmative Escrow
- » Rocket Fizz

West County Winner

#### BEAUTY LOUNGE MED SPA + WELLNESS

2475 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo  
805-991-0202  
[beautyloungemedspa.com/meet-the-team.html](http://beautyloungemedspa.com/meet-the-team.html)

Beauty Lounge Medspa + Wellness, which has been newly expanded to a full service 3,400-square-foot medspa, was created with the concept of making the world of celebrity beauty accessible and affordable to everyone.

The business is jointly owned by husband and wife Dr. Kurt Tamaru and Veronica Tamaru, a registered

# VACE

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nurse. Kurt Tamaru is a cosmetic physician specializing in nonsurgical treatment options for health and wellness, and Tamaru is a pioneering aesthetics nurse specialist with more than 15 years of experience and knowledge in the field. "Being a small business can be very challenging, but by having the right team working together with a caring and trusting staff gives you an army," Tamaru said.

#### Favorites

- » 805TOGO
- » Carey & Hanna Tax & Wealth Planners
- » Liberty Tax Service

### Golf Course

#### East County Winner

##### LOS ROBLES GREENS

299 S. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-495-6421  
[www.losroblesgreens.com](http://www.losroblesgreens.com)

Open seven days a week, Los Robles Greens, which was rated with 4.5 stars by Golf Digest, offers a 6,304-yard championship golf course, as well as a dual-sided, 32-station driving range, practice green and chipping area.

With mountain views, the course, noted for its conditioning and playability, features several tees per hole for players of all ages and abilities. This golf course also offers lessons for youths and adults who want to learn the rules and etiquette of the game, with instruction led by top PGA teaching professionals. In addition to the golf course, amenities include a world-class golf shop, and a 22,000-square-foot clubhouse.

#### Favorites

- » Westlake Golf Course
- » Lindero Canyon Country Club
- » Moorpark Country Club

#### West County Winner

##### RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB



**Arroyo Verde Park in Ventura is this year's winner for best hike in west county.** STAR FILE PHOTO

2401 W. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard  
805-983-4653  
[www.riverridge-golfclub.com](http://www.riverridge-golfclub.com)

There are five sets of tees on both courses at River Ridge Golf Club, giving everyone the opportunity to play the length of course they desire.

"The Victoria Lakes Course tops out at over 7,000 yards, and the Vineyard Course has a short course of slightly above 4,000 yards," said Susan Olson-Sipes, the club's head professional.

"Our full-time employees tend to stay here for a very long time," Olson-Sipes added. "The customers are able to build lasting relationships, and I think that makes a difference when choosing where to play."

#### Favorites

- » Buenaventura Golf Course
- » Seabee Golf Course
- » Spanish Hills Golf Course

### Hike

#### Full County Winner

##### ARROYO VERDE PARK

5000 Foothill Road, Ventura  
805-652-4551  
[visitventuraca.com/business/arroyo-verde-park](http://visitventuraca.com/business/arroyo-verde-park)

Arroyo Verde Park features 132 acres, including 14 open, grass, tree-lined spaces, as well as picnic and barbecue sites, hiking trails, a nature center and children's play areas. Hikers can catch glimpses of the Channel Islands, and those who hike

high enough will see Point Mugu and the Topa Topa Bluffs.

Despite the Thomas Fire, all trails are open and available to hikers, said Tom Martin, parks manager for the City of Ventura.

"This park is special because there are so many things you can do — it's not just a playground, it's not just hiking, it's a combination of all those aspects ... all in this 132-acre park that's located right here in town," Martin said. "You don't have to go far to get there and it offers so many different things; that's why it's so popular."

#### Favorites

- » Chumash Trail
- » Wildwood Park
- » Ventura Botanical Gardens

### Local Artist

#### Full County Winner

##### DAVID VELASQUEZ

4413 E. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard



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[www.lmvna.org](http://www.lmvna.org)



*Thank you Star Readers  
for your votes  
4 years in a row!*



## COMMUNITY

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

805-432-6082

David Velasquez has been drawing practically his entire life. "In high school, my teachers would say, 'you need to do this for a living,'" Velasquez said.

Making money was never a focus, he said. "My artwork was fun and it was a source of stress relief. Then it became a business by chance."

Today, he is known as "a hard line artist" for his work in pen, ink and pencil.

"I have such a variety of styles," said Velasquez, who draws clients through word of mouth. "I love letter fonts and I deal with letter fonts because I do pinstriping and lettering on hot rods and motorcycles so, it's a real wide variety of stuff."

**Favorites**

- » M.B. Hanrahan
- » Arlene Mead
- » Hiroki Yoshimoto



**The Ronald Reagan Library and Museum was voted best museum/gallery in east county.** CONTRIBUTED

**Local Band/Singer**

Full County Winner

**AARON PAX TAYLOR**

www.aaronpaxtaylor.com

Aaron Pax Taylor, known for his brand of high-energy, mainstream country rock, prides himself on making a connection with every person who comes to his shows, whether there are 20 people or 1,000.

"I want people to feel like they are part of the experience and making a new friend," he said. "I am honored when they show up ready to have fun with us."

"My band and I are very active playing shows, charity events and fundraisers here in Ventura County," he said. "Ventura County had a lot to deal with and overcome the past several months and we feel it is important for us to be involved with the entire community, especially if we can help other people."

**Favorites**

- » Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- » Dirty Rice
- » Ignition

**Museum/Gallery**

East County Winner

**RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley

805-522-2977

www.reaganfoundation.org

At the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum, "nothing makes us prouder than knowing people are enjoying our campus," said Melissa Giller, chief marketing officer for the The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

"Where else in California can visitors walk onboard an actual Air Force One aircraft that flew seven U.S. presidents, touch an authentic piece of the Berlin Wall, or lay a hand on a real steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center after 9/11?" Miller said.

"And through special world-class exhibitions that change out twice per year, it's our goal to provide additional things for our community to come see and explore," Miller said. "We ... will never stop working hard for our community."

**Favorites**

- » Stagecoach Inn Museum
- » Strathearn Historical Park
- » Thousand Oaks Art Gallery

West County Winner

**MUSEUM OF VENTURA COUNTY**100 East Main St., Ventura  
805-653-0323

venturamuseum.org

"What is special and unique about this museum is that we make it our

own," said Anna Ríos Bermúdez, curator of collections and exhibits. Exhibitions are unique in that they authentically profile the work the museum does, and the amazing artifacts collected over 100 years. "In the past year, we've all had to take a look back at this museum and ask ourselves: What is unique about the collections, the institutional culture, the staff, and our relationship to other institutions and the local community?" Bermúdez said. "Our goal is to tell that compelling story that is ours alone and to show our constituents – that this is something that they've never seen before."

**Favorites**

- » Camarillo Ranch House
- » Channel Islands Maritime Museum
- » Commemorative Air Force WWII Aviation Museum

**Nonprofit**

Full County Winner

**CASA PACIFICA**1722 S. Lewis Road, Camarillo  
805-445-7800  
www.casapacifica.org

Casa Pacifica cares for abused, neglected and at-risk children and youth and their families, as well as emancipated foster youth, through programs and services that change the trajectory of lives.

Casa Pacifica is unique in the foster care network due to an extensive continuum of care, including intervention with families designed to keep youth in their homes; and programs and support that help foster youths thrive once they emancipate. "It is the compassion and unwavering commitment of our skilled staff to build positive, nurturing relationships with these youths that brings life-changing healing and hope," said Carrie Hughes, director of development and public relations. "Bettering the lives and skills of each individual strengthens the community as a whole."

**Underwood Family Farms**  
Moorpark, California

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in east  
and west  
county and  
"Favorite  
Place to  
Take  
Visitors"  
in east  
county

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www.underwoodfamilyfarms.com



## Favorites

- » Cats Cradle Rescue
- » FOOD Share
- » Ventura County Animal Shelter

## Park

East County Winner

### WILDWOOD PARK

928 W. Avenida de los Arboles,  
Thousand Oaks  
805-495-2163  
[www.crpdpd.org/parkfac/parks/wildwood.asp](http://www.crpdpd.org/parkfac/parks/wildwood.asp)

The best thing about Wildwood Regional Park is that it's right in the middle of a neighborhood, "so it's literally in your backyard," said Avery Akers, recreation coordinator for the Conejo Community Center and Outdoor Unit.

The park offers 14 trails covering 17 miles that people use for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and more. "The park is an extensive trail system and once you get down into Wildwood, you're surrounded by nature, where at a lot of different points. You can't even see any houses, you can't see or hear any of the road traffic nearby," Akers said. "So it's a place where you don't have to drive out a half an hour or 45 minutes to be surrounded by nature."

## Favorites

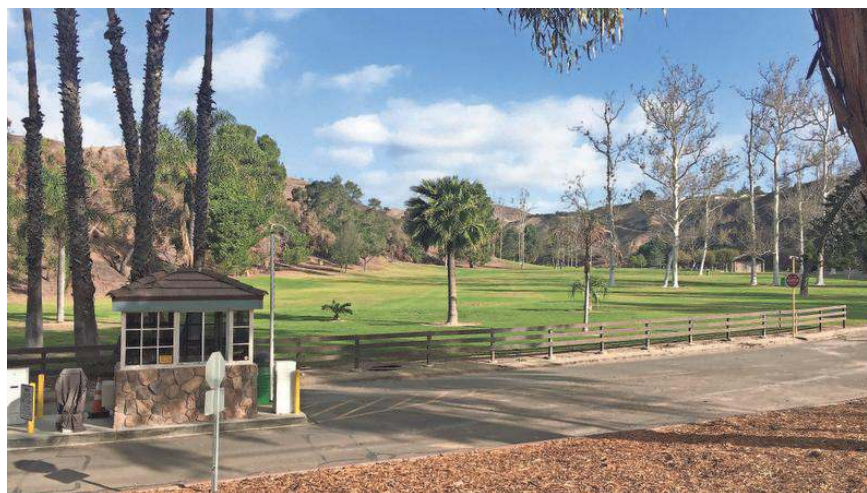
- » Conejo Creek North Park
- » Malibu Creek State Park
- » Sycamore Canyon Park

West County Winner

### ARROYO VERDE PARK

5000 Foothill Road, Ventura  
805-652-4551  
[visitventuraca.com/business/arroyo-verde-park](http://visitventuraca.com/business/arroyo-verde-park)

There are many things to do at Arroyo Verde Park, a 132-acre space that includes 14 acres of passive turf and approximately three miles of hiking trails, said Tom Martin, parks manager for the City of Ventura. The park offers outdoor meeting



**Readers chose Arroyo Verde Park in Ventura as the winner of the best park in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and picnic spots, barbecue grills and electrical outlets. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking and trail running. Dogs on a leash are allowed.

Despite the Thomas Fire, the park is open, and the BBQs and turf areas are all available, Martin said.

"Three structures were destroyed in the Thomas Fire and approximately 80 trees were damaged," Martin said. "The interpretive center, a pump house and one of the two playgrounds in the park were burned. There is, as of yet, no exact timeline for the replacement of these structures, but we are working on it."

## Favorites

- » Channel Islands National Park
- » Meditation Mount
- » Oxnard Beach Park

## Place To Entertain Children

East County Winner

### UNDERWOOD FAMILY FARMS

3370 Sunset Valley Road, Moorpark  
805-529-3690  
5696 E. Los Angeles Ave., Somis  
805-386-4660  
[underwoodfamilyfarms.com](http://underwoodfamilyfarms.com)

Families love to visit Underwood Family Farms, where they offer many varieties of fruit and vegetables at their farm market, or picked directly from the field.

"Educational farm tours bring school groups to learn about farm life and how and where their food is grown," Suzannah Underwood said.

The Farm Animal Center has animal displays, pony rides, activities and games.

"Parents can even host a children's birthday party by reservation," Underwood said.

During the summer, kids can participate in farm camp with one-week sessions, running from June through August.

"Don't miss our springtime Easter festival, pick your own Roma weekend, fall harvest festival, and Christmas on the farm in December," Underwood said.

## Favorites

- » America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College
- » Chuck E. Cheese's
- » Thousand Oaks Grant R. Brimhall Library

West County Winner

### GOLF N' STUFF

5555 Walker St., Ventura

805-644-7131

[golfnstuff.com/ventura/info.html](http://golfnstuff.com/ventura/info.html)

For more than four decades, Golf N' Stuff has been providing family entertainment for all ages, including miniature golf courses, Lit'l Indy Go-Karts, bumper boats and cars, and laser tag. Golf N' Stuff also has the most current and up-to-date video and prize arcade games.

"As far as the kids go, we were one of the first companies to create a rewards program for the schools, doctors, dentists and libraries to help encourage them in everything from engaging in activities to staying healthy," said David Blaser, general manager. "To me, that's one of the most important things we do to give back to the community — get the kids to engage in what's important, school and their health."

## Favorites

- » Sky High Sports Trampoline Park
- » Underwood Family Farms
- » Ventura County Fair

## Place to Hold an Event

East County Winner

### RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley  
805-522-2977  
[www.reaganfoundation.org](http://www.reaganfoundation.org)

The Reagan Library campus offers so much more to visitors than just a museum experience, said Melissa Giller, chief marketing officer for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

From groups as small as 10 or less to large company parties over 1,200 people, the Reagan Library can offer it all — intimate meeting rooms, auditoriums, grand settings and beautiful vistas, Giller said.

"Where else in Southern California can guests hold an event where their guests dance and dine beneath the wings of Air Force One?" Giller said. "Another reason why holding your event at the Reagan Library is more unique than a standard event space





The Camarillo Ranch was voted best place to hold an event in west county.  
CONTRIBUTED

**THE RONALD REAGAN**  
★★★★ PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM ★★★★★

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40 Presidential Drive • Simi Valley, CA 93065 • 805.522.2977

is guests at your event also get to tour the Reagan Museum.”

#### Favorites

- » Four Seasons
- » Hummingbird Nest Ranch
- » Westlake Village Inn

West County Winner

#### CAMARILLO RANCH

201 Camarillo Ranch Road, Camarillo  
805-389-8182  
camarilloranch.org

Located on 4.5 acres at the base of the Conejo Mountains, the Camarillo Ranch offers “unparalleled elegance paired with rich history,” said Marissa Lopez Elkins, chief operating officer.

“The ranch, once home to the city’s namesake, Adolfo Camarillo, boasts four separate outdoor spaces, a historic 1892 Queen Anne Victorian mansion and a renovated mule barn,” Elkins said.

Today’s visitors can tour the ranch’s original stables, stroll through the mature gardens, and explore a living museum expertly reconstructed inside the mansion.

“The historic buildings and lush gardens offer a rare setting for all kinds of events, especially weddings,” Elkins said. “We take great pride in fact that countless people are creating their own unique history at the Camarillo Ranch.”

#### Favorites

- » Limoneira Ranch
- » Palazzo Event Center
- » Spanish Hills Country Club

#### Place to Stay

East County Winner

#### FOUR SEASONS

Two Dole Drive, Westlake Village  
818-575-3000  
www.fourseasons.com/westlakevil-  
lage

In addition to Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village being on the map for travelers to Southern California, “we are proud that it’s a place to

stay for locals, as well,” said Robert Cima, regional vice president and general manager.

Many rooms and suites overlook the hotel’s gardens and waterfall, with Westlake Village views stretching to the Santa Monica Mountains. Accommodations include deluxe waterfall-view rooms, offering views of cascading waters and distant mountains; and the Malibu corner one-bedroom suite with floor-to-ceiling windows and views of the courtyard. “Our surrounding community can count on us for great service, unparalleled spa and wellness facilities, incredible dining and a beautiful setting – all within reach,” Cima said.

#### Favorites

- » Best Western
- » Hyatt Regency Westlake
- » Westlake Village Inn

West County Winner

#### OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA

905 Country Club Road, Ojai  
855-697-8780  
www.ojairesort.com

The Ojai Valley Inn & Spa offers numerous accommodations, including rooms and suites with contemporary Spanish hacienda designs, and private 1,500-square-foot penthouse suites with two bedrooms on the top floor.

Room amenities include complimentary internet, flat screen HD televisions, bedside in-room iPads, an oversized work desk, an in-room pantry and “honor” bar. Upon request, guests can also receive a complimentary mini-refrigerator and complimentary wooden cribs.

Guests have access to a golf course, multiple pools and several restaurants ranging from casual to fine dining. There is also spa on site that offers sound energy therapy, Shungri-La body treatments, organic facials and massage therapies.

#### Favorites

- » Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
- » Embassy Suites Mandalay Bay
- » Ventura Beach Marriott



## Place to Take Visitors

East County Winner

### RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley  
805-522-2977  
www.reaganfoundation.org

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is where visitors can immerse themselves in Ronald Reagan's path to the White House, said Melissa Giller, chief marketing officer for The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute.

"Starting back in his days as a sports radio announcer to his years as a Warner Brothers movie actor and then the host of GE Theater, visitors step into his shoes, through the use of green screen technology, and call a Cubs game, introduce a GE Theater, and even act in a movie," Giller said.

"Visitors may also enjoy the library's outdoor grounds, where you can stroll through a replica of the White House Rose Garden or the White House West Lawn," Miller said.

#### Favorites

- » America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College
- » The Stonehaus
- » Underwood Family Farms

West County Winner

### DOWNTOWN VENTURA

805-641-1090  
www.downtownventura.org

The allure and beauty of Downtown Ventura is that there's truly is something for everyone. "Bring your kids. Bring your dog. Bring your appetite," said Kevin Clerici, executive director of Downtown Ventura Partners. "You can dress up, or dress down. We cherish our friendliness and our funkiness." Located just a few blocks from the ocean, the area offers simple access to numerous places to eat and shop. "I think people love coming to Downtown Ventura because of its



**Daniel Cook, music director and teacher at Adolfo Camarillo High School, is this year's best professor/teacher in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

vibrancy and rich history and all of the cool events," Clerici said, "and that quirky sense that there will be something new to discover or see and experience."

#### Favorites

- » Channel Islands Harbor
- » Channel Islands National Park
- » Ventura Harbor Village

## Radio Station

Full County Winner

### RED LIGHT DISTRICT SHOW

2306 Otter Creek Lane, Oxnard  
805-754-5317  
redlightdistrictshow.com

Tim Amoroso created Red Light District Radio in 2009.

"Red Light is special because we really care about our community and music. We celebrate all different types and genres of music," Amoroso said. "We help local talents with their dream and we help business owners promote their products for free. We generally try to incorporate everyone in our community. We do this without pay."

"If anyone would like to be a part of these shows – if they are business owners or musicians or just have something to say – they can get a hold of us through Redlightdistrictshow.com, or our social media Red

Light District Show," Amoroso said. "We are for the people by the people."

#### Favorites

- » KCLU – 88.3
- » KHAY – 100.7
- » KVTM – 1590 AM

## Surf Spot

Full County Winner

### C STREET- SEASIDE PARK - SURFERS POINT

805-658-4726  
www.fun-in-ventura.com/surfers-point.html

Located between the Crowne Plaza and Ventura's Seaside Park, Surfers Point earned its name by the surfers who visit this beach virtually every day of the year. This surf spot is within walking distance to the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

"It has a diverse point break creating varying levels of surfing difficulty, from more advanced at the fairgrounds end and becoming milder and more toward the beginner level as you get closer to the pier," said Tom Martin, parks manager for the City of Ventura. "Additionally the rocky bottom makes for great wave structure and for long wave rides."

#### Favorites

- » County Line
- » Mondos
- » Rincon Beach

## Teacher/Professor

East County Winner

### AARON HERESCO

California Lutheran University  
60 W. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-493-3429  
www.callutheran.edu/faculty/profile.html?id=aheresco

As the assistant professor of communication at California Lutheran University, Aaron Heresco teaches in both the traditional undergraduate and the Bachelor's Degree for Professionals program.

"One of the things I find most rewarding about being a professor is seeing students make connections between their experience inside the classroom with their lives outside it," Heresco said. "Whether it is thinking critically about a film, analyzing a news source, or talking to friends and family members about something we discussed in class, I want students to see the way their education intersects with community and the larger outside world."

#### Favorites

- » Carley Haines – Hollow Hills Elementary
- » Frank Laguardia – Mates Charter School
- » Lynnette Shifman – California Lutheran University

West County Winner

### DANIEL COOK

Adolfo Camarillo High School  
4660 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo  
805-484-6362  
www.achsmusic.com/daniel-cook

Daniel Cook, who has served as the music director at Adolfo Camarillo High School since the fall of 2015, has watched the department's enrollment grow about 35 percent since he arrived and has added five new performing ensembles. Previously, Cook served as the assistant director of bands for five years at Moorpark High, where wind ensembles earned unanimous superior ratings.

"Being a music director is one of the most rewarding positions on any campus as we serve the entire campus and community with music and entertainment," Cook said, "while providing a rewarding and fulfilling music department that leaves lasting memories for our students."

#### Favorites

- » Adrienne Denny – Adolfo Camarillo High School
- » Annette Halpern – Santa Paula High School
- » Paulette Worthy – Gateway Community High School



# FOOD & DRINK





## Bagel

East County Winner

### WESTERN BAGEL

3825 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Westlake Village  
805-496-0344  
www.westernbagel.com/westlake-village

Western Bagel offers a variety of originals, including plain, onion, pumpernickel, poppy seed, jalapeno, sun dried tomato, rye, garlic, raisin, honey wheat and chocolate chip. Alternative bagels on the menu include cinnamon spice, blueberry and roasted onion, while specialty bagels include cheese onion, cheese everything, jalapeno cheese and pizza everything cheese.

A wide range of cream cheese is also available, including nova lox, vegetable, wild berry, honey nut raisin, sour cream onion and cucumber onion dill. There are also bagel sandwiches that can be made with turkey salad, pastrami or peanut butter.

"We're happy to be the favorite bagel in the Conejo Valley," Manager Mike Johnson said. "We bake fresh every day."

### Favorites

- » East Coast Bagel Co.
- » Noah's Bagels
- » Old New York Deli & Bakery Co.

West County Winner

### NOAH'S BAGELS

608 Las Posas Road, Camarillo  
805-388-5090  
locations.noahs.com/us/ca/camarillo/608-las-posas-rd  
1413 S. Victoria Ave., Suite D, Ventura  
805-650-1413  
locations.noahs.com/us/ca/ventura/1413-s-victoria-ave

The most popular menu items at Noah's Bagels are the jalapeno bagel and the six-cheese bagel, and, like all bagels, everything is cooked from scratch on site.

"It's all in the process. We bake them

with tender loving care," said Ron Ramos, manager of the Ventura location. "It's not just a job. It's a passion and they bake with passion and love for the bagels."

Spreads include butter, honey, strawberry jelly and peanut butter, Nutella and hummus.

"From the raw bagel to the display case, it's quite a bit of steps," Ramos said. "A lot of bagel places bring in bagels that are already cooked. But here, everything is made from scratch."

### Favorites

- » Bagel Rock Coffee
- » Manhattan Bagel
- » Old New York Deli & Bakery Co.

## Bakery

East County Winner

### CARRARA PASTRIES

476 W. Los Angeles Ave., Unit A-13, Moorpark  
805-552-4250  
www.carrarapastries.com

Featuring family recipes from Italy, Carrara Pastries offers a wide range of baked goods, including cannoli shells filled with fresh ricotta and orange-zest dipped in chocolate chips and pistachios; maraschino-soaked sponge cake with hazelnut and pistachio cream; and shortbread tarts filled with crunchy rice cereal and Nutella.

All pastries are "expertly crafted" with the freshest ingredients and creamy, flavorful mousse.

"Carrara Pastries is an authentic pasticceria, bringing our family recipes from Italy to the states," said Damiano Carrara, chef and owner. "The combination of our passion and use of the freshest and finest ingredients from the Italian territory allow us to create incredible pastries that everyone will love."

### Favorites

- » Nothing Bundt Cakes
- » Skiff's Cakes
- » Viktor Benes Continental Bakery



Readers chose Bread Basket Cake Company in Camarillo as winner for best bakery in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**(805) 648-4555**

**CAMARILLO**  
4850 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo  
**(805) 384-0334**

**VENTURA**  
5100 Telegraph Rd., Ventura  
**(805) 642-5111**

**THOUSAND OAKS**  
604 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks  
**(805) 494-9777**

VC-1972595



## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR**West County Winner**  
**BREAD BASKET CAKE COMPANY**

83 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo  
805-482-1337  
www.breadbasketcake.com

The Bread Basket Cake Company, owned by Gilbert and Paul Delagnes, has impressed customers with rich and delicious desserts for more than two decades.

"The fact that we use fresh ingredients all the time, like fresh berries from local growers, makes us stand apart," Paul Delagnes said.

They are known for their cakes with fruit basket filling that includes strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries with fresh cream. Other menu items include Florentine cookies, bread, brownies, tarts and bundt cakes, as well as specialty cakes.

They also created a line of doggie treats, Bruno's Cookies, named after their late pet.

"They're all-natural ingredients including gluten-free flour, cranberries and blueberries," Paul Delagnes said. "We have these cookies, so we'll keep his memory and legacy alive forever."

**Favorites**

- » Café Ficelle
- » Nothing Bundt Cakes
- » Sugar Lab Bake Shop

**Bar**

East County Winner

**THE STONEHAUS**

32039 Agoura Road, Westlake Village  
818-483-1152  
the-stonehaus.com

The Stonehaus bar offers a range of beers and wines in a charming setting that's part of the Westlake Village Inn.

The wine flights range from sparkling wines and Champagne to Rhone varietals and cabernet sauvignon. Each flight features a choice of wines within that varietal, and guests can pair their flight with one of the charcuterie or formaggi boards.

"We're a four-diamond resort, so we go above and beyond," said Grayson Brugh, manager. "We're a part of the hotel, so we hold ourselves to the highest standards. Our staff loves what they're doing and when you're passionate it's easier to connect with customers. And a lot of people love the bar itself because it's beautiful with all copper countertops."

**Favorites**

- » Bandits Grill & Bar
- » BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
- » Cronies Sports Grill

West County Winner

**INSTITUTION ALE**

3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo  
805-482-3777  
www.institutionales.com



**Wood Ranch is the winner for best barbecue in Ventura County. The meat might be good, but the menu includes other delicious food such as the new Farmhouse Salad.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**(805)648-7270**



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At Institution Ale, "our awesome staff and loyal patrons have turned our once hole-in-the-wall tasting room into something special," said Hope Weber, tasting room manager. "The quality of the beers that the brewers pump out is insane, and the kitchen kills it with the pizzas and pretzels."

Guests have their pick from a rotating selection of beers. There's indoor seating with five televisions, as well as an outdoor patio with a fire pit.

"It's awesome to see so many people excited about and appreciating great beer," Weber added. "The

Ventura County beer scene is on the rise, and the tasting rooms throughout the county are awesome places for people to hang out and enjoy the fresh, local brews.

**Favorites**

- » Cronies Sports Grill
- » Lure Fish House
- » Ventiki Tiki Lounge & Lanai

**Barbecue**

Full County Winner

**WOOD RANCH**

5050 Cornell Road, Agoura Hills  
818-597-8900



540 New Los Angeles Ave., Moorpark Plaza, Moorpark  
 805-523-7253  
 1101 Daily Drive, Camarillo  
 805-482-1202  
 3449 E. Main Street, Pacific View Mall, Ventura  
 805-620-4500  
[www.woodranch.com](http://www.woodranch.com)

Usually you'll see a barbecue place focus exclusively on smoked meats, "but at Wood Ranch, we recognize that not everyone wants to eat barbecue all the time and we strive to provide options so that folks can visit us more often," said Alex Benes, a partner and executive chef who's the director of culinary development. Wood Ranch offers salads, a great veggie burger and many gluten-free items. In new offerings, the restaurant has added the Farmhouse Salad, which provides an option for anyone who is vegetarian or wants to fulfill a week's worth of fiber requirements.

"Also, we've started a test of beer flights at our Camarillo restaurant," Benes said. "Folks should check all that out."

Wood Ranch specializes in both steaks and barbecue, Benes said. "We serve mainly certified Angus beef center-cut filet, KC strip and ribeye steaks, as well as burgers. Of course, the most popular dishes continue to be the tri tip, baby back ribs and barbecue chopped chicken salad."

Quality and value are important at Wood Ranch, Benes said.

"We try to make sure that a dish you have one day is just as good the next time," he said. "We try to hold prices steady, and create options within the menu so that everyone can enjoy visiting Wood Ranch," Benes said.

#### East County Favorites

- » Bandits Grill & Bar
- » Green Acres Farm Market and Catering
- » Red's Barbecue & Grillery

» Stonefire Grill

#### West County Favorites

- » Bandits Grill & Bar
- » CJ's BBQ
- » Marshall's Bodacious BBQ

### Breakfast

Full County Winner

#### EGGS N' THINGS

2955 Cochran St., Simi Valley  
 805-527-0055  
 1542 Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks  
 805-497-1711  
 92 Daily Drive, Camarillo  
 805-987-4497  
 4020 E. Main St., Ventura  
 805-642-3190  
[www.eggsthings.net](http://www.eggsthings.net)

The owners of Eggs N' Things, Ed and Manette McCarthy, never skimp on quality, making their breakfast menu a top favorite in West county at two locations, said Bettina Haddad, manager at the Simi Valley

location.

Morning specials include chicken fried steak and eggs, breakfast burritos, chile verde huevos with shredded pork, eggs Benedict, banana nut pancakes, fresh baked cinnamon roll, french toast, and macadamia crusted french toast with coconut flakes and syrup.

"They're very into hand-picking everything, and they taste everything," Haddad said. "Manette is an exceptional cook and baker. Whatever ideas and recipes come from her, we make what she wants us to make."

The traditional bacon and eggs, and the California omelet are among the most popular breakfast items at Eggs N' Things, Haddad said.

"And everybody loves our Swedish pancakes," Haddad said. "Our quality is always at the top of the level."

The owners don't sway from the top-notch of everything – the best bacon, the best quality of eggs – they just really make sure that the quality of what we purchase is

# Limón y Sal

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photo credit: #hangryvegans

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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

something that everybody would eat. We don't cut corners. The quality is always very consistent."

**East County Favorites**

- » Brent's Delicatessen & Restaurant
- » CiCi's Cafe
- » Country Harvest Restaurant

**Favorites**

- » Allison's Country Cafe
- » Café Nouveau
- » Waypoint Cafe

**Brewery**

East County Winner

**ENEGREN BREWING CO.**

444 Zachary St., Suite 120, Moorpark  
805-552-0602

[www.enegrenbrewing.com](http://www.enegrenbrewing.com)

Enegren Brewing Co. is German inspired and lager focused, "meaning we specialize in lagers, mostly German style, though we have a few ales such as our Valkyrie German Style Amber — Altbier — Schöner Tag hefeweizen and Enegren IPA," said John Bird, master of festivities and co-owner.

The goal at Enegren is to expand beer knowledge, especially about lagers.

"Usually 10 of 13 beers on our menu are lagers — from very light and/or low ABV, to very dark and/or high ABV and everything in between," Bird said. "We are here to educate people that lager does not just mean light beer."

**Favorites**

- » BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
- » Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co.
- » Ladyface Ale Companie

West County Winner

**INSTITUTION ALE COMPANY**

3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo  
805-482-3777

[www.institutionales.com](http://www.institutionales.com)

The brew team at Institution Ale Company has worked hard to make the best beer possible, "and we've ramped up production along the



**Institution Ale Company in Camarillo was named best brewery in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

way," said Shaun Smith, co-owner. "The milestones have been dialing in our lager production and installing a new canning line for our limited release beers," he said. "We're at a sweet spot right now where we're big enough to have specialized roles in the brewery, and cool new toys to play with, but still small enough to experiment with recipes and brew the beers we enjoy drinking — not just brew what is trendy," Smith added. "We can't thank our county enough for supporting us for the past five years."

**Favorites**

- » Anacapa Brewing Company
- » MadeWest Brewing Co.
- » Topa Topa Brewing Co.

**Brunch**

East County Winner

**EGGS N' THINGS**

2955 Cochran St., Simi Valley  
805-527-0055

1542 Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks

805-497-1711

[www.eggsthings.net](http://www.eggsthings.net)

Eggs N' Things is considered a popular brunch spot, especially on Sundays when folks leave church, said Bettina Haddad, manager at the Simi Valley location.

"We get a lot of church people who feel very welcomed. Our staff is really friendly and the food is really good, and we can accommodate big parties," Haddad said.

Some brunch orders are "to go," including large platters of bacon, eggs, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy.

The brunch items are the same as breakfast, which is served from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"It's just as good at 2:30 p.m. — the

biscuits are still just as fresh, hot right off the grill," Haddad said.

**Favorites**

- » Brent's Delicatessen & Restaurant
- » Cheesecake Factory
- » Mediterraneo

West County Winner

**CAFÉ NOUVEAU**

1497 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura  
805-648-1422

[www.cafenouveau.net](http://www.cafenouveau.net)

Owned by husband and wife Carlos Acevez and Tes Wolf, Café Nouveau offers a range of brunch menu dishes, including Belgian chocolate chip pancakes, caramelized green apple waffles, bananas foster French toast, breakfast tacos and traditional bacon and eggs.

Other brunch favorites include the Nouveau green bean omelet, white chili scramble, eggs Florentine, ba-



nana pecan pancakes, blueberry cherry crumble French toast, coconut macadamia waffles and bacon maple beignets. A variety of omelets include Mediterranean, bacon avocado and jack cheese, and chorizo jalapeño.

There are also several side orders, such as the sweet potato biscuits, blueberry corn muffins and southern-style biscuits.

#### Favorites

- » Danny's Deli & Grill
- » Marie Callender's
- » Waypoint Cafe

### Business Lunch

Full County Winner

#### LURE FISH HOUSE

30970 Russell Ranch Road, Westlake Village  
 818-651-6611  
 60 California St., Ventura  
 805-567-4400  
 259 W. Ventura Blvd., Camarillo  
 805-388-5556  
[www.lurefishhouse.com](http://www.lurefishhouse.com)

All three Lure Fish House locations in Ventura County offer private dining rooms where business associates can enjoy extended meetings during lunchtime, said Micah Thomas, vice president of operations.

"Our restaurants aren't fine dining, per se, but they're a place where you can dress up and go to. So, it's a mix of casual and business," Thomas said. "It's a comfortable environment for people that are doing business." "We do a good job with the speed of service at lunch because we know that people don't always have a long time for lunch," said Micah Thomas, vice president of operations. The lunch menu features dinner items that are discounted. "It's the same amount of food at lunch, but it's a better value at lunch, and that's a big attraction," Thomas said.

The lunch menu includes a sandwich

and fresh-grilled taco section. "We have a new item — blackened salmon tacos with mango salsa, which is really good," Thomas said.

#### East County Favorites

- » Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar
- » Mediterraneo
- » Presto Pasta

#### West County Favorites

- » Aloha Steakhouse
- » Presto Pasta
- » Wood Ranch

### Chinese Food

East County Winner

#### P. F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO

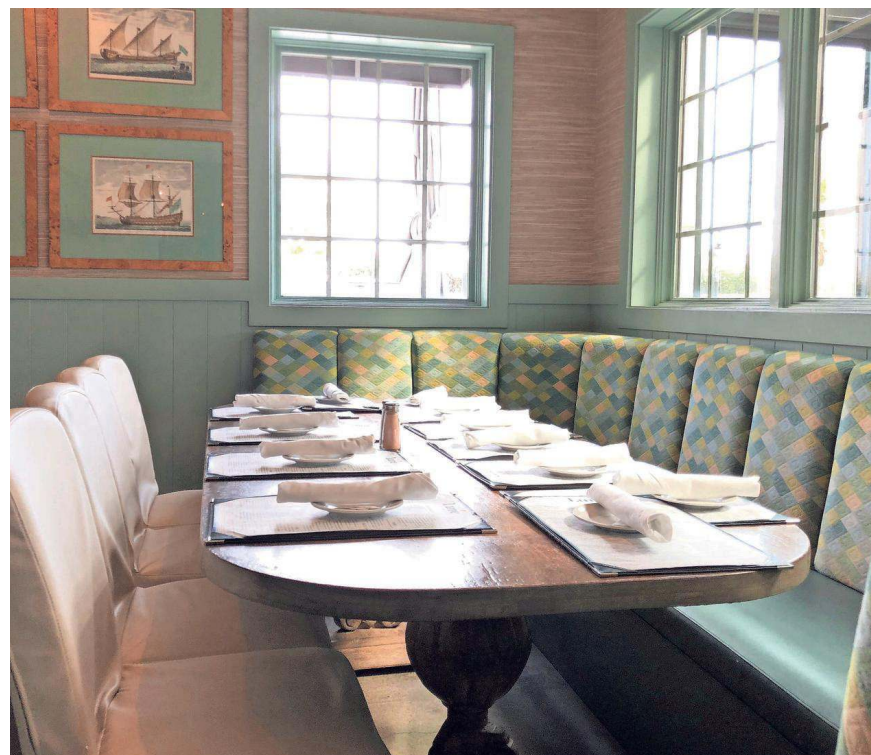
2250 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
 805-277-5915  
[www.pfchangs.com](http://www.pfchangs.com)

Making recipes from scratch every day, P.F. Chang's food philosophy is "farm to wok," in which they offer one of the purest forms of cooking with "purposeful ingredients" selected for their flavor and nutritional benefits.

One of the newest items on the menu is the Thai Harvest Curry, which is made with red curry, butternut squash, five-spice tofu, rustic vegetables and Asian mushrooms topped with Fresno peppers. Other items include salads, soups, dim sum and sushi, as well as several side dishes, including wok-charred Brussels sprouts, chili-garlic green beans and Sichuan-style asparagus. For dessert, offerings include banana spring rolls, Vietnamese chocolate lava cake, and The Great Wall of Chocolate, which is six layers of frosted chocolate cake with semi-sweet chocolate chips.

#### Favorites

- » Hunan Restaurant
- » Sesame Inn
- » Szechuan Garden Restaurant



Lure Fish House was named the best place for a business lunch in Ventura County. Each location features a private room. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Ventura 806 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001  
 Camarillo 311 Carmen Dr, Camarillo, CA 93010  
[www.SpencerMakenzies.com](http://www.SpencerMakenzies.com)





#SpencerMakenzies



## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

Brent's Delicatessen & Restaurant is the winner in the east county deli category. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

West County Winner

### CHESTER'S ASIA CHINESE RESTAURANT

2216 Pickwick Drive, Camarillo  
805-482-6564  
www.chestersasia.com

At Chester's Asia Chinese Restaurant, which has been in business for more than five decades, "we always keep the same recipes from Mr. Chester, the founder of the restaurant," said Keith Kwan, owner. "We also have some new recipes." The most popular items on the menu include the orange chicken, sesame chicken and the honey black pepper beef. Chef's specials include shrimp with walnuts, sweet and pungent chicken, Asia crispy beef, lemon sliced fish and kung pao made with shrimp, chicken and beef. "If you want your food a certain way, I can do that for you, too," Kwan said. "I've been here over 35 years myself. My customers have been coming for three to four generations now."

#### Favorites

- » Lee's Chinese Food
- » Panda Express
- » Peking Chinese Restaurant

### Coffee House

East County Winner

#### STARBUCKS

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.starbucks.com

With more than 25 locations in east Ventura County, including kiosks at stores like Vons and Ralph's, Starbucks is known for its wide range of coffee and espresso drinks and more.

Roasts brewed daily include the "extra smooth and subtly sweet" Veranda Blend; and the medium-roasted Pike Place Roast. Starbucks drinks include the Iced Cinnamon Almond Milk Macchiato made with cinnamon dolce syrup and finished with a caramel drizzle. There's also a

variety of frappuccino blended beverages, including caramel cocoa cluster, cinnamon roll and strawberries and cream.

There are also several food options, including chicken sausage and bacon biscuits, chicken artichoke on ancient grain flatbread, chocolate chip cookies, apple fritters and caramelized apple pound cake.

#### Favorites

- » The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
- » Peet's Coffee & Tea
- » Ragamuffin Coffee Roasters

West County Winner

### SIMONE'S COFFEE & TEA

7818 Telegraph Road, Ventura  
805-659-0860  
www.simonescoffee.com

Simone's Coffee & Tea is going on 22 years of business.

"We are family owned and connected to the community," said Simone Covault, owner. "We always try to support our other local businesses and providers. Our roaster is local along with our baked goods."

Coffee drinks include one created with hand-mixed chocolate, which makes Simone's mochas very popular, "as well as our blended drinks, since we use espresso in our coffee blended and we use real fruit for our smoothies," Covault said.

"Our welcoming, friendly and kind staff makes Simone's even more of a family establishment," Covault said. "We are excited to announce that we will be opening a second location right outside the doors of the new Community Memorial Hospital."

#### Favorites

- Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
- Palermo
- Starbucks

### Deli

East County Winner

### BRENT'S DELICATESSEN & RESTAURANT

2799 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village



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805-557-1882  
www.brentsdeli.com

At Brent's, "we hire people who share our values for great food and service, striving to make everyone feel like family the moment they walk through the doors," said Marc Hernandez, partner at Brent's in Westlake Village. "We make it our goal to give our very best to every person walking through the doors." The most popular menu item is the pastrami reuben. Other deli favorites include cheese blintzes, potato latkes, kasha varnishkas, knish, fried kreplach with grilled onions and gefilte fish.

"It's the fact that we are so dedicated to consistently providing the best quality food with the same excellent service that keeps our customers coming back, time and time again," Hernandez said.

#### Favorites

- » Green Acres Farm Market and Catering
- » Jersey Mike's Subs
- » Italia Deli & Bakery
- » Pickles Deli & Restaurant

West County Winner

#### DANNY'S DELI & GRILL

3263 Telegraph Road, Ventura  
805-289-9200  
www.dannysdeli.com

The most popular menu items at Danny's Deli & Grill include the hot pastrami sandwich, the hot corned beef sandwich, "and our fabulous homemade chicken soup that's my mom's recipe," said owner Wendy Collings. Other dishes include double-decker baked ham and turkey breast sandwich, and a range of "super salads" including grilled mango salmon, Greek salad and Chinese chicken salad. Traditional deli entrees include potato pancakes, stuffed cabbage and liver and onions. They also serve beer and wine. "We've been here for 18 years," Collings said. "Our meats, our breads,

our dressings, our soups – we offer great portions at reasonable prices. And we get to know our customers and make them feel like they're part of the household."

#### Favorites

- » Jersey Mike's Subs
- » Old New York Deli & Bakery Co.
- » Ventura Sandwich Company

#### Dessert

East County Winner

#### CARRARA PASTRIES

476 W. Los Angeles Ave., Unit A-13,  
Moorpark  
805-552-4250  
www.carrarapastries.com

Made with ingredients from secret family recipes, the desserts at Carrara Pastries include a pistachio sponge cake made with pistachio mousse and a crunchy dark chocolate center, covered in white chocolate pistachio glaze. Other desserts on the menu include shortbread tarts filled with Chantilly cream and topped with an assortment of berries, and tiramisu made with fresh mascarpone cheese and coffee-soaked sponge cake topped with chocolate.

"Our desserts are expertly crafted with the freshest ingredients, creamy flavorful mousses, authentic Italian gelato, and more," said Damiano Carrara, chef and owner. "We believe that each and every one of our products represents who we are."

#### Favorites

- » Little Calf Creamery and Café
- » Nothing Bundt Cakes
- » The Cheesecake Factory

West County Winner

#### MCCONNELL'S FINE ICE CREAMS

3241 E. Main St., Ventura  
805-650-6410  
www.mcconnells.com

The most popular desserts at McConnell's Fine Ice Creams of Ven-



Readers chose Carrara Pastries as the winner for desserts in east county.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

tura include the brownie sundae with hot fudge made with real Hershey's chocolate, as well as the salted caramel chip ice cream with caramelized toffee notes.

"My personal favorite is the whiskey pecan praline," said Michael Grigsby, a manager at the Ventura shop. "And the brownie sundae is really good because of the way the hot fudge and the brownie mixed together." With 48 flavors to choose from, "here in Ventura you can get as many favorites as you want per size," he added. "You can mix and match as many ways as you like."

**Favorites**

- » Bread Basket Cake Company
- » Nothing Bundt Cakes
- » Sugar Lab Bake Shop

**Dive Bar**

East County Winner

**CROWN AND ANCHOR**

2891 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

805-497-0070  
crownanchor.com

A staple in the Conejo Valley for 22 years, Crown and Anchor is a family-owned British pub and restaurant where customers come as a stranger, and leave as a friend.

"We are a mom-, dad- and daughter-owned restaurant and pub," said Kim Miller, whose parents, Ged and Maggie Peel, own the Crown and Anchor. The menu offers homemade English and American fare, including fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and bangers and mash. Guests can watch sporting events on televisions or throw darts with their mates.

"The pub is a good feeling, friendly staff, a home away from home, a walk into the British Isles, your neighborhood pub that makes us unique and a step above the rest," Miller said.

**Favorites**

- » Azar's Sports Bar
- » Lucky Fool's Pub
- » The Junkyard Café

West County Winner

**THE RUDDER ROOM**

2929 Ocean Drive, Oxnard  
805-985-6096

Owned by brothers George and Jim Olcovich, The Rudder Room offers views of the ocean with sunsets every night, "making us totally different from most places," said George Olcovich, who started helping out with the business when he retired from the Navy in the 1990s. Before that, he and older brother, who have since passed away, bought The Rudder Room in the mid-1970s.

"This has been a local cocktail lounge and bar since the early 1960s, so a lot of the local generations of families come here," George Olcovich said. "Their grandparents came in the old days and the kids still come today."



**Greek House Cafe** was voted best Greek food in east county.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Favorites**

- » El Rey Cantina
- » San Souci Cocktail Lounge
- » Star Lounge

**Food Truck**

Full County Winner

**SCRATCH**

805-290-2276  
www.scratchsandwiches.com

Tim Kilcoyne, who operates the Scratch Sandwich Counter at The Annex in Oxnard, is known for his food truck called Scratch.

"Just like the name says, we make everything from scratch," Kilcoyne said. "Most food trucks and restaurants purchase in ready-made products. All of ours are made in house so it is fresher and has our signature flavors."

The most popular menu items include the breakfast sandwich and the smoked pork, "which you can get all the time now at our space in The Annex at The Collection," Kil-

coyne said.

As far as finding the food truck is concerned, "currently we are now just focusing on private events with the truck, as well as our spot at The Collection," he said.

**Favorites**

- » Cousin's Maine Lobster
- » Grilled Cheese Truck
- » In-N-Out Burger

**Greek Food**

East County Winner

**GREEK HOUSE CAFÉ**

2375 Sycamore Drive, Suite 5, Simi Valley  
805-955-9899  
greekhousecafe.com

At the Greek House Café, "we offer the real deal, no imitation sauces. Everything we make is made from scratch — absolutely no short cuts," said Spiro Kokkinos, owner and manager. "We make everything fresh daily."

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www.yolandasmexicancafe.com



The most popular menu items are the chicken souvlaki, lamb souvlaki, gyros, roasted lemon potatoes, traditional homemade green beans, spanakopita, falafel and baklava. "What makes us stand apart is our authenticity and consistency in making home-style traditional-style Greek food," Kokkinos said. "We pride ourselves in this and stand behind what we do. We are passionate about putting out quality food at an affordable price. We love our customers. They keep coming back."

#### East County Favorites

- » Ali Baba Restaurant
- » Daphne's Greek Café
- » Mama's Hummus

West County Winner

#### THE GREEK MEDITERRANEAN STEAK & SEAFOOD

1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura  
805-650-5350  
www.thegreekventura.com

The location — just steps from the beach — makes The Greek the only waterfront Greek restaurant in Southern California, said Lynn Mikelatos, co-owner with husband Makis Mikelatos.

Many of the dishes were created by the couple, including the Blue Mediterranean Salad, which is a traditional Greek Salad with house-made vinaigrette topped with fresh sliced avocados and char-broiled chicken breast.

"It is one of our best-selling dishes, along with mouth-watering char-broiled baby lamb chops, freshly sliced gyros meat from the vertical spit served as a platter, or pita sandwich with our own tzatziki sauce," said Lynn Mikelatos.

Fresh fish is always available, along with ribeye, porterhouse or filet mignon. Greek fare includes vegetarian and gluten-free Moussaka, and Dolmades stuffed grape leaves.

#### Favorites

- » It's Greek to Me
- » Mama's Hummus
- » Stephen's Market & Grill



**Little Calf Creamery and Cafe** was voted best ice cream/yogurt shop in east county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

#### Hamburger

Full County Winner

#### IN-N-OUT BURGER

Locations throughout Ventura County  
800-786-1000  
www.in-n-out.com

From the first bite of a burger to the last french fry, quality is the most important ingredient of all at In-N-Out Burger, which doesn't freeze, doesn't pre-package and doesn't over-process. In-N-Out just makes things the old-fashioned way.

The company says its commitment to quality starts with their hamburgers, and the burgers begin with the patties. They are made from fresh, 100-percent beef, and free of additives, fillers and preservatives. But the focus on quality starts well before the hamburger patties are delivered to the stores. In-N-Out owns and operates its own patty-making facilities in Baldwin Park, California, and Dallas, Texas.

Since it only serves burgers, fries and drinks, making a high-quality hamburger patty is everything to In-N-Out.

#### East County Favorites

- » Hook Burger
- » The Habit Burger Grill
- » Umami Burger

#### West County Favorites

- » Blvd Brgr Company
- » The Habit Burger Grill
- » Hook Burger

#### Hot Dog

Full County Winner

#### COSTCO

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.costco.com

Two things make the hot dogs stand out at Costco they are 100-percent beef or Polish, served on gourmet buns, and cost only \$1.50 — and that price comes with a soft drink.

"They've been \$1.50 forever and, according to our CEO, they're going to stay at that price," said Peter Huerta, a senior manager at the Simi Valley location. "That's one of the biggest attractions — you get such great value for \$1.50 because you get the hot dog and the soda." All the fixings are free, including ketchup, relish and onions, deli mustard and regular mustard, and sauerkraut upon request.

#### East County Favorites

- » Cupid's Hot Dogs
- » Dog Haus
- » Wienerschnitzel

#### West County Favorites

- » Hot Dog on a Stick
- » Wienerschnitzel
- » World Famous Franks

#### Ice Cream/Yogurt Shop

East County Winner

#### LITTLE CALF CREAMERY AND CAFE

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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

805-497-2000

[www.littlecalfcreamery.com](http://www.littlecalfcreamery.com)

The Little Calf Creamery and Cafe is a locally-owned business, founded in Ventura County.

"We love our community, give back to our community, and have been thoroughly embraced by it," said Scott Levin, owner. "Whether coming in for lunch or dinner, celebrating a birthday, having a team party, or just meeting up with friends, Little Calf offers the space and menu to satisfy everyone."

The most popular ice creams are milk and cookies, and peanut butter fudge.

"People rave about our turkey brie melt, grilled cheese and tomato soup, and probably most unique are our sweet potato wedges with garlic aioli and chipotle mayo," Levin said. Little Calf is also unique because the cafe appeals to everyone.

"Grandparents come with their grandkids, couples come here on dates, people have business meetings here, students meet up after school to share a treat, and families come to dine and have conversations," Levin said.

**Favorites**

- » Baskin-Robbins
- » Cold Stone Creamery
- » Yogurtland

West County Winner

**MCCONNELL'S FINE ICE CREAMS**

3241 E. Main St., Ventura



**Readers voted Saffron in Newbury Park as the winner for best Indian food in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

805-650-6410

[www.mcconnells.com](http://www.mcconnells.com)

Featuring 48 flavors, McConnell's Fine Ice Creams offers all-natural ice cream with no GMOs and zero processing, said Michael Grigsby, a manager at the Ventura shop.

"It's all made up in our factory in Oxnard," Grigsby said. All ingredients are the freshest and of the highest quality. "If it's a fruit ice

cream, we'll make it with pure natural fruits that are chopped up. And for the cookie dough ice cream, instead of using normal cream, it's a special type of cream."

"We also have sorbets. We have mango, blackberry lime, pink lemonade and Mexican chocolate," said Grigsby. "And our coffee flavors are getting really popular. We have Brazilian coffee, Turkish coffee and black coffee chip."

**Favorites**

- » Baskin-Robbins
- » Ben & Jerry's
- » Cold Stone Creamery

**Indian Food**

East County Winner

**SAFFRON**

579 N. Ventu Park Road, Suite A,  
Newbury Park  
805-499-7115  
[www.saffronnewburypark.com](http://www.saffronnewburypark.com)

What makes Saffron unique is the "incredible energy and soul" that flows through the restaurant, said Kuldeep Singh, owner.

"From the moment our guests walk through the door, they are treated like family," Singh said. "This is why we have so many regulars that return day to day."

Popular menu items include the nirvana curry, which is a creamy coconut curry with fresh red bell pepper and onion; and the saag, which is spinach curry.

"You can add your choice of meat, tofu, paneer or mixed vegetables to any of these curries," Singh said. Saffron offers an extensive bar selection, with Indian fish and chips made fresh with homemade batter. "We also offer daily drink specials, including our own infused cocktails."

**Favorites**

- » Bollywood Cafe
- » Himalaya
- » Karma Indian Cuisine

West County Winner

**HIMALAYA**

35 W. Main St., Ventura  
805-643-0795

[www.himalayacuisine.com](http://www.himalayacuisine.com)

The most popular menu items at Himalaya are chicken tikka masala, sherpa curry chicken, samosas and momos — as well as pizza, burritos, and "fusion creations" like saag naan, which is naan filled with spinach dip. Desserts include homemade ice creams, with mango, pistachio and coconut flavors among the favorites.

Himalaya offers a "unique combination" of foods that are healthy, fresh and full of flavors, said Anup Rimal, owner.

"We offer authentic tastes from Himalayan region — Nepal, India and Tibet — as well as some of the Californian fusion food, such as pizzas on the naan bread, burritos and quesadillas," Rimal said. "Everything is made to order here. So if you want

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breaking-sweat spicy, we can make to your taste.”

#### Favorites

- » Café India
- » Curry Leaf
- » The Taj Café

### Italian Food

Full County Winner

#### PRESTO PASTA

Locations throughout Ventura County  
[prestopasta.com](http://prestopasta.com)

Every Presto Pasta location offers a family-friendly experience based the idea that one doesn't have to sacrifice the mainstays of Italian dining in exchange for accessibility, speed of service, and modern convenience. In contrast with the loss-in-quality that often comes with the “fast-casual” concept, authentic recipes prepared daily with locally sourced fresh ingredients come alive in Presto Pasta's kitchen. Presto Pasta's vast selection of pasta and flavorful Italian dishes will satisfy even the pickiest of eaters, and there's even a “build your own pasta” menu.

#### East County Favorites

- » Café Firenze
- » Rustico Ristorante Italiano
- » Tuscany il Ristorante

#### West County Favorites

- » Café Fiore
- » Ferraro's Italian Restaurant
- » Ottavio's Italian Restaurant

### Meal on a Budget

East County Winner

#### IN-N-OUT BURGER

Locations throughout Ventura County  
 800-786-1000  
[www.in-n-out.com](http://www.in-n-out.com)

In-N-Out Burger, created by husband and wife Harry and Esther Snyder, first opened in Baldwin Park with the very first drive through in Southern California. The couple's

focus was to provide quality food at an extremely affordable price, which continues to this day.

A double-double burger costs \$3.45, a cheeseburger \$2.40, hamburger \$2.10, and french fries for \$1.60. Combos, which include french fries and a medium drink, cost \$6.70 for a double-double burger, \$5.65 for a cheeseburger, and \$5.35 for a hamburger. Soft drinks range from \$1.50 for a small to \$2.05 for an extra large; shakes cost \$2.15, milk is 99 cents and coffee costs \$1.35.

#### Favorites

- » Chick-Fil-A
- » Costco
- » Presto Pasta

West County Winner

#### PRESTO PASTA

5722 Telephone Road, Ventura  
 805-658-2898  
 1701 Daily Drive, Camarillo  
 805-445-7737  
[prestopasta.com](http://prestopasta.com)

With an Italian meal paired with wine, you'll often pay a price to match. That's not the case at Presto Pasta, which offers seven locations to choose from with reasonable menu prices. Families can splurge on a night out for dinner without “breaking the bank.”

Presto Pasta's \$6.99 or less lunch menu includes items such as pizza, pasta, and subs; while the dinner menu offers Italian classics like chicken marsala and eggplant parmigiana. Adults can choose a paired selection of wine and beer with their food, while the kids make selections from a “freestyle” soda machine.

#### Favorites

- » Corrales Mexican Food
- » Costco
- » In-N-Out Burger

### Mexican Food

East County Winner

#### EL SANCHO LOCO TAQUERIA

2271 Michael Drive, Newbury Park



For best meal on a budget in west county, Presto Pasta was the top pick.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/GARY MOSS

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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

805-376-8226

www.elsancholocotaqueria.com

Joe Escobar, owner of El Sancho Loco Taqueria, will be in business for eight years on July 1. "I used to have a place in Venice Beach on the boardwalk called Muscle Beach Café. I did a little bit of everything out there, from pizza to tacos," Escobar said. "I got burnt out of the drive to Venice, so I looked for a location closer to home being born and raised in the 805, Camarillo to be exact."

He came across a vacant Taco Bell building, "and here we are."

Everything is made in-house, including salsas, chili rellenos, chorizo and corn tortillas.

"We're also known for our carnitas and al pastor. As for our beverages our micheladas will definitely will hit the spot."

**Favorites**

- » Los Agaves Mexican Grill
- » Snapper Jack's Taco Shack
- » Yolanda's Mexican Café

West County Winner

**YOLANDA'S MEXICAN CAFÉ (CAMARILLO)**

86 Daily Drive, Camarillo

805-389-9922

www.yolandasmexicancafe.com

Yolanda's Mexican Cafe originally opened in 1982, and soon expanded to Ventura, then Camarillo and Simi Valley.

"Yolanda's of Camarillo offers a family environment," said Enrique Cobian, general manager of the Camarillo location. "Our staff goes above and beyond. We love our customers."

There are many popular items to choose from, he said, including Yolanda's Cadillac margaritas, which "are the best around," and the spicy bean dip, which "is to die for."

"You will not find fajitas better than ours," Cobian said. "It is a secret family recipe that has kept our guests coming back over the years. I can't tell you how many times I have



**The Stonehaus in Westlake Village wins for outdoor dining in east county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/GARY MOSS

heard someone say they tried fajitas elsewhere and nothing compares."

**Favorites**

- » Casa De Soria
- » Corrales Mexican Food
- » La Cabana Restaurant
- » Yolanda's Mexican Café (Ventura)

**New Restaurant**

East County Winner

**BAD ASS STREET TACOS**

2951 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

805-370-8226

Opened in 2017, Bad Ass Tacos is unique for its special meats that come all the way from south Mexico, said Luis Soriano, manager.

"We are known for our tacos and we have 11 different meat choices. The chicken and steak are very popular," Soriano said. "We cook everything fresh, and most of the items are oven-roasted, so it takes a long time to cook very slowly. Our short-rib oven-roasted shredded beef takes six hours to cook. It melts in your mouth."

In addition to the authentic-style tacos, other menu items include quesadillas, burritos, tortas and salads.

**Favorites**

- » Jersey Mike's Subs
- » Poke Land
- » Urban Plates

West County Winner

**LIMON Y SAL**

598 E. Main St., Ventura

805-628-3868

limonysalventura.com

Recently celebrating its one-year anniversary, Limon Y Sal offers high quality, fine Mexican food in a family-oriented environment where the owners treat their business just like they treat their family, said Breanna Cardenas, one of the managers. "That's the warmth that everybody feels with our whole team," Cardenas said.

Guests can make selections from a full bar, as well as a range of Mexican food including tostadas, enchiladas, tacos and fajitas.

Limon Y Sal recently a revised a new

menu for the bar with specialty tacos; and just added a brand new vegan menu that includes tacos, enchiladas and salads.

"We do take our health seriously so we're especially excited about our new vegan menu," Cardenas said.

**Favorites**

- » Copper Blues Rock Pub & Kitchen
- » Cork
- » Rumfish y Vino

**Outdoor Dining**

East County Winner

**THE STONEHAUS**

32039 Agoura Road, Westlake Village

818-483-1152

the-stonehaus.com

The Stonehaus is part of the Westlake Village Inn, "and that is, by itself, a beautiful, beautiful property," said Grayson Brugh, manager.

Most of the seating is outdoors, where there's a water fountain on the corner within eyeshot. "It's very rustic, and what I hear from a lot of people is they think they're somewhere in Italy. It's got that kind of feel; that kind of vibe," Brugh said. The atmosphere is also very laid back.

"People can come with their kids. We serve all ages," Brugh said. "Everybody can find something they enjoy at The Stonehaus."

**Favorites**

- » Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar
- » Neptune's Net
- » Mediterraneo

West County Winner

**CAFE NOUVEAU**

1497 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

805-648-1422

www.cafenouveau.net

Charming is the one word that can perfectly describe the outdoor dining at Café Nouveau. The Ventura restaurant was converted from a 1920s Spanish bungalow, giving it the feel of a family home. The home



was renovated to offer seating in various rooms, as well as seating outside. On the patio, guests can feel the breeze from the nearby ocean while enjoying food from a vast menu with breakfast, lunch and dinner items.

The patio — which is dog friendly — is also surrounded by Mediterranean gardens, making the overall atmosphere a bit private from the busy street, creating an overall welcoming, quaint environment.

#### Favorites

- » Andria's Seafood Restaurant & Market
- » Boccali's Pizza & Pasta
- » Neptune's Net

### Pizza

Full County Winner

#### TOPPERS PIZZA PLACE

Locations through Ventura County  
[topperspizzaplace.com](http://topperspizzaplace.com)

As a company, Toppers Pizza Place strives to provide the absolute best quality and consistency with every product, "so every time you come in, it's the same thing, it's the best it can be," said Beth Jonker, who founded Toppers with her husband, Vim.

"We buy the best meats, produce and cheese to build the best restaurants," she said. "Our goal is to build the nicest environments you can find. And we have a fantastic group of very loyal employees and our management team has been with us forever. So over the years, we've been able to reach our goals of quality and consistency."

The top menu items at Toppers Pizza Place include the Hawaiian Heat made with creamy garlic sauce, Canadian style bacon, chicken in barbecue sauce, bacon pieces, red onions, pineapples and jalapenos. Customers also love the Hot Honey pizza, made with creamy garlic sauce, salami, red onion, fresh jalapenos, bacon and a honey drizzle. Other items on the menu include



**Lure Fish House was voted best romantic place to dine in west county. Pictured here is the lobster ravioli.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Meatinator made with Canadian-style bacon, salami, pepperoni, hot sliced sausage, bacon pieces and Italian sausage.

"Our specialty pizzas are really popular, and you can also customize your pizza however you want it," Beth Jonker said. "People also love spicy garlic Italian specialty with roasted garlic cloves."

#### East County Favorites

- » D'Amore's Pizza
- » PizzaMan Dan's
- » The East Coast Pizza Company

#### West County Favorites

- » Ojai Pizza
- » PizzaMan Dan's
- » Tony's Pizzeria

### Romantic Dining

East County Winner

#### MASTRO'S STEAKHOUSE

2087 East Thousand Oaks Blvd.,  
 Thousand Oaks  
 805-418-1811  
[mastrosrestaurants.com](http://mastrosrestaurants.com)

Mastro's Steakhouse showcases live music every night, "and I think the general ambiance makes it romantic," said Brad Wood, general manager. "The lights are low; we have custom lighting and chandeliers and a high level of service that flows into a really great night."

Live music usually features a duo with a pianist and a vocalist and sometimes a guitarist.

"They perform everything from old '40s swing to pop. They have a wide repertoire," Wood said. "We like to say: Lights down, music up."

#### Favorites

- » Aroha New Zealand Cuisine & Bar
- » Café Firenze
- » Mediterraneo

West County Winner

#### LURE FISH HOUSE

259 W. Ventura Blvd., Camarillo  
 805-388-5556  
 60 S. California St, Ventura  
 805-567-4400  
[www.lurefishhouse.com](http://www.lurefishhouse.com)

"We often run waits on busy nights. But with the downtown Ventura scene, guests can window shop and whatnot as we keep them alert to the wait time on their phone through our smartphone guest seating app," said Micah Thomas, vice president of operations. Ventura's front patio has charming downtown views and smaller tables to get smaller parties of two seated very quickly, Thomas said. "All of desserts are made in house and make the perfect end to a special night," Thomas said, "and if someone is celebrating a birthday or special anniversary, we will provide a complimentary hot fudge sundae,





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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

made with McConnell's vanilla bean ice cream, complete with house-made whipped cream and chocolate butter starfish cookie."

**Favorites**

- » Aloha Steakhouse
- » Café Fiore
- » Café Zack
- » Ranch House

**Salad**

Full County Winner

**TOPPERS PIZZA PLACE**

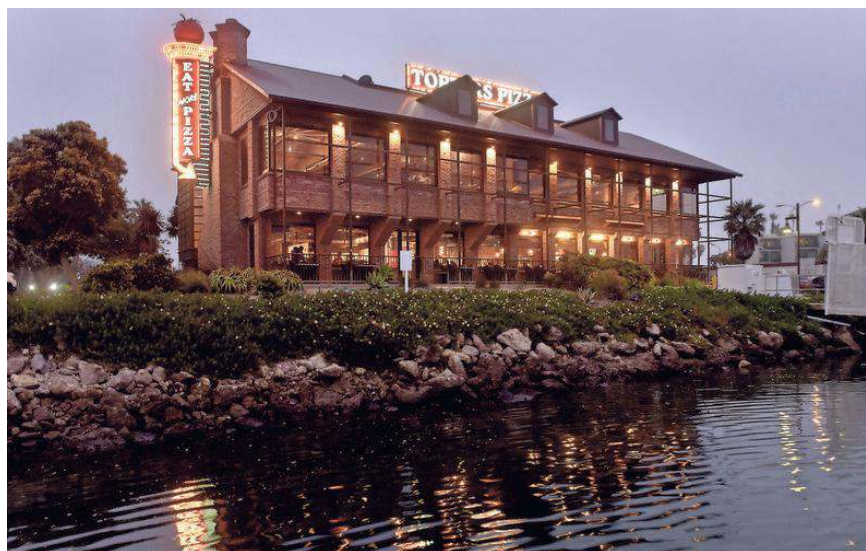
topperspizzaplace.com

At Toppers Pizza Place, "we buy the best produce we can possibly find and our providers know that if they send anything that's not the best, we will refuse it," said Beth Jonker, founder of Toppers along with her husband, Vim.

"We just believe there isn't a substitute for hard work," she said. "You have to hand-shop those vegetables and they have to be fresh. You can't compromise. So we do that hard work that it takes to make a fresh salad bar. We don't open a lot of cans and we don't prep for the week. We make it fresh every single day, and it's a dedicated group of people that do this because it's an important job."

**East County Favorites**

- » Natural Café
- » Stonefire Grill
- » Urbane Cafe



**Topper's Pizza Place was voted the Ventura County winner for best salad.**

ANTHONY PLASCENCIA/THE STAR

**West County Favorites**

- » Nature's Grill
- » Souplantation
- » Urbane Cafe

**Salsa**

Full County Winner

**YOLANDA'S MEXICAN CAFÉ**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.yolandasmexicancafe.com

Yolanda's Mexican Café, with multiple locations in Ventura County, offers a fresh salsa bar with heat factors starting at mild, all the way to the hottest for those with more daring taste buds. Guests also re-

ceive a bowl of salsa and chips upon their arrival.

The salsas are made fresh daily with the finest ingredients, and are based on family recipes that have remained the same for almost four decades.

"We have mild to spicy salsas," Manager Mary Donlon said. "Our salsas are made fresh daily. The family recipes have stayed the same for 36 years now. The fresh ingredients for our salsas keep our customers coming back. Some would say it's addicting."

Founded in 1982 in Oxnard, Yolanda's Mexican Cafe has branched out to Ventura, Camarillo and Simi Valley, where customers enjoy nachos and zesty bean dip, as well as entrees ranging from sizzling fajitas to carnitas vera cruz. Guests also enjoy making choices from a wide selection of Yolanda's award-winning margaritas.

**East County Favorites**

- » Lalo's Mexican Food
- » Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill
- » Snapper Jack's Taco Shack

**West County Favorites**

- » Corrales Mexican Food
- » Evita's Mexican Café
- » Snapper Jack's Taco Shack

**Sandwich**

East County Winner

**JERSEY MIKE'S**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.jerseymikes.com

The most popular sandwich at Jersey Mike's is the No. 13 Original Italian, made with provolone, ham, prosciuttini, cappaculo, salami and pepperoni. Those who order it "Mike's Way" will also get sliced onions, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, oregano, spice and "The Juice," which is a mixture of red wine vinegar and olive oil, with a signature cherry pepper relish.

"The juice has been around for 60 years and it's how we recommend our cold subs," said Rich Vitolo, owner of the Simi Valley location at East Los Angeles Street. "It's hard to explain, but once somebody takes a bite out of our sandwich, it all comes together."

The menu also includes signature wraps and hot subs, and chocolate chip brownies for dessert.

**Favorites**

- » Brent's Delicatessen & Restaurant
- » Mendocino Farms
- » Urbane Cafe

West County Winner

**URBANE CAFE**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
urbanecafe.com

The most popular sandwiches at Urbane Cafe include the Chicken So-Cal made with roasted chicken, avocado, tomatillo salsa, pepper jack cheese, green leaf lettuce and chipotle aioli; and the vegetarian Californian, made with artichoke hearts, avocado, sundried tomatoes, mushrooms, jack cheese, green leaf lettuce and herb aioli.

Everything is organic, including all the produce, "and our meats are as organic as you can go," said Celeste Duran, shift leader at the Ventura

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location.

Like all menu items, “everything we put in our sandwiches is absolutely fresh and the bread makes it,” Duran said. “It’s homemade focaccia bread and we put a little bit of garlic oil on there and salt it up. It’s delicious.”

#### Favorites

- » Jersey Mike’s
- » Sandwich Factory
- » Ventura Sandwich Company

### Seafood

Full County Winner

#### LURE FISH HOUSE

Locations through Ventura County  
[www.lurefishhouse.com](http://www.lurefishhouse.com)

Lure Fish House specializes in fresh fish grilled to order on searing hot plancha grills and lightly seasoned to enhance the natural flavors of the individual fishes, said Micah Thomas, vice president of operations.

One of the top favorite dishes is Sally’s San Dabs, which are lightly crusted and delicately pan fried with a mouth-watering lemon caper sauce. One of the most popular appetizers is the ahi ceviche, which is diced and coated in a lime citrus marinade, mixed with chopped vegetables, and served with fresh hot corn tortilla chips.

“We typically have eight to 10 different fish species available on our ‘from the grill’ section on our menu, as these will change during the year depending upon what is in season,” Thomas said. “This special section on our menu boasts fresh, never frozen, fish all year long.”

“Perhaps what makes us most famous is our oyster bar,” said Micah Thomas, vice president of operations. “We have specially trained ladies and gents who shuck your oysters to order when you sit at their counter, where you can enjoy full service,” Thomas said. “Their personalities embody the heart of the restaurant, while they also shuck oysters for the entire dining room, as well as shuck the oysters that we



Readers chose Lure Fish House as winner for best seafood in Ventura County. Pictured here is the lobster roll.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

use for our charbroiled oysters, a cooked version with made-in-house parmesan, butter, garlic sauce, hailing from New Orleans.”

#### East County Favorites

- » Aroha New Zealand Cuisine & Bar
- » Market Broiler
- » Thousand Oaks Fish & Chips

#### West County Favorites

- » Andria’s Seafood Restaurant & Market
- » Brophy Brothers Restaurant
- » Spencer Makenzie’s Fish Co.

### Steak House

East County Winner

#### MASTRO’S STEAKHOUSE

2087 East Thousand Oaks Blvd.,  
 Thousand Oaks  
 805-418-1811  
[mastrorestaurants.com](http://mastrorestaurants.com)

Mastro’s Steakhouse serves USDA top-level steaks cooked in a customized 1,500-degree broiler, “cooking

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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

VENTURA COUNTY  
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everything to perfection," General Manager Brad Wood said. Hand-cut prime steaks and chops on the menu include New York strip and pepper steak, double cut porterhouse, bone in Kansas City strip, ribeye chop "chef's cut," veal porterhouse, veal chop, rack of lamb and steakhouse chicken. On the seafood menu, top items include vanilla battered lobster tails, big eye tuna, farm-raised salmon and Chilean sea bass.

"We have classically-trained executive chefs on the line," Wood said. "I know we're a steakhouse, but our selection of seafood is also amazing and top-notch with great people preparing it."

**Favorites**

- » Holdren's Steaks & Seafood
- » Larsen's Steakhouse
- » The Grill on the Alley
- » Wood Ranch

West County

**ALOHA STEAKHOUSE**

364 S. California St., Ventura  
805-652-1799  
www.alohasteakhouse.com

All the steaks served at Aloha Steakhouse are cut in the back with nothing prepackaged or frozen, "and our atmosphere doesn't hurt with us being on the water within eyeshot of the Ventura Pier," said manager Jon Lane.

The most popular steaks on the menu include the 24-ounce Cowboy with the bone in so it's more juicy and tender. Another top-selling steak is the Kenny's Table Side Filet Mignon, which is served up table side with Grand Marnier flambé, peppercorn rub and peppercorn sauce.

"We cook it up medium-rare and end up flaring it at the table with Grand Marnier flambé, peppercorn and onions, so you get a two-minute show from your seat," Lane said.

**Favorites**

- » Black Angus Steakhouse
- » Larsen's Grill



**Bad Ass Street Tacos in Thousand Oaks is the winner for best taco in east county.** ANTHONY PLASCENCIA/STAR STAFF

- » Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
- » Wood Ranch

**Sushi**

Full County Winner

**SUMO JAPANESE RESTAURANT**

1714 Newbury Road, Suite C,  
Newbury Park  
805-499-9977  
1730 S Victoria Ave., Ventura  
805-650-1122  
octopusrestaurant.com

At Sumo Japanese Restaurant, "we don't do any advertising, it's all word of mouth," said Jeannie Hugh, general manager at the Newbury Park restaurant, which is among about 30 others owned by the Octopus Restaurant Group.

Prices and selections offered may vary by location. Menu items include yellowtail with diced chilies, spicy albacore sashimi with crispy onions, smoked salmon carpaccio served with capers and dried basil in balsamic sauce, sliced octopus with thinly sliced marinated cucumbers, and lightly fried calamari served with sweet mustard and house spicy aioli sauce.

Sumo Japanese Restaurant selects the freshest fish for a vast menu that includes oyster shooters and

broiled mussels on a half shell.

"We get our fish every morning, so freshness is guaranteed," Hugh said. Guests can also make salad selections, including the seared albacore, octopus, spicy tuna, assorted sashimi and seared tuna.

"And we have happy hour two times," Hugh said. Happy hour is from 3-6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and the "reverse happy hour" is from 9 p.m. to closing daily. "It's always crowded here," Hugh said. "As soon as lunch is over, happy hour starts at 3, and when dinner's over, we have reverse happy hour. And we're open until 10 at night, so if you want sushi late, this is the place."

**East County Favorites**

- » Cho Cho San Japanese Restaurant
- » Sushi Planet
- » Tomodachi Restaurant

**West County Favorites**

- » Anaba
- » I Love Sushi
- » Masa-Sushi

**Taco**

East County Winner

**BAD ASS STREET TACOS**

2951 Thousand Oaks Blvd.,

Thousand Oaks  
805-370-8226

The carne asada, poc chuc, lechon and cochinita tacos are among 11 varieties served at Bad Ass Street Tacos, owned by Julissa Lopez and managed by Luis Soriano.

The short rib taco made with shredded beef takes six hours to cook, and almost everything is slowly oven-roasted to create mouth-watering meats.

"We use only the best produce and the best cheeses and everything is always very fresh," Soriano said.

"We also have five different salsas and we make it fresh daily, which is why it tastes so good."

The tacos are served on corn tortillas, while the burritos, tortas and quesadillas are made with flour tortillas.

"We use meats you can't find around here, which also makes us unique," Soriano said.

**Favorites**

- » Snapper Jack's Taco Shack
- » Taqueria El Tapatio
- » Yolanda's Mexican Café

West County Winner

**SPENCER MAKENZIE'S FISH CO.**

806 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura  
805-643-8226  
311 Carmen Drive, Camarillo  
www.spencermakenzies.com

Spencer Makenzie's top selling items include the "world famous fish taco," which is grilled or tempura fish topped with chopped cabbage, cilantro with bell peppers, and Spencer Sauce spread across a flour tortilla. The ahi taco, another favorite, is made with sushi-grade fish.

"We use wild caught paddock for the grilled fish and cod for the tempura," said owner John Karayan. "It's very high quality."

The family business started with a passion, said Karayan, who recently opened a second location in Camarillo.

"I'm not in this to make money, so



I'm putting a lot of heart and soul into the whole business and the food," he said. "We've never lost our focus of always trying to keep the quality the same."

#### Favorites

- » Beach House Tacos
- » Snapper Jack's Taco Shack (Ventura)
- » Yolanda's Mexican Café (Oxnard)

## Thai Food

East County Winner

#### EXOTIC THAI CAFE

1145 Lindero Canyon Road, Suite D11, Westlake Village  
818-575-3248  
www.exoticthainorthranch.com  
29045 Agoura Road, Suite B, Agoura Hills  
818-991-8147  
www.exoticthaiagoura.com  
2705 East Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-373-9231  
www.exoticthaitoaks.com

Thailand is "the land of coconut milk," which is one of the key ingredients that make the dishes at Exotic Thai Cafe so delicious, said Pat Kanjanapisan, owner of the Westlake Village location.

Menu items include the chopped pineapple with red curry in coconut milk; the red curry with green beans, squash and bamboo shoots in coconut milk; the kiew wan green curry with green beans, squash and bamboo shoots in coconut milk; and the duck curry with red curry, pineapple, bell peppers, tomato, lychee and coconut milk.

"The coconut milk is perfect for the curry," Kanjanapisan said, "and our pad Thai noodles are the all-time best."

#### Favorites

- » Bangkok Avenue
- » Pookie's Thai Westlake
- » Thai Kitchen

West County Winner

#### RICE BY MAMA

419 E. Main St., Suite A, Ventura



**Readers chose Rice By Mama as the winner in the Thai food category in west county.** STAR FILE PHOTO

805-641-0238  
www.ricebymama.com

A family-owned restaurant, Rice by Mama serves authentic Thai food that's motivated by dishes that the staff itself craves. The eatery is known for using zero MSG, and offers gluten-free and vegan items. Specials include the Crying Tiger, which is grilled marinated beef steak; and the pumpkin curry made with coconut red curry and herbs simmered in pumpkin, carrot, bell pepper, fresh basil and green beans. Curry selections include the green, red, yellow, Mussamun and Panang. Guests can also customize their wok choices with tofu or vegetable, chicken or pork, beef, shrimp, or mixed seafood with shrimp, squid, mussels, scallops and white fish. Noodle dishes can also be customized.

#### Favorites

- » Blue Elephant Thai Cuisine
- » Jasmine Thai Restaurant
- » Sawasdee Thai Cuisine

## Wine Bar/Winery

East County Winner

#### THE STONEHAUS

32039 Agoura Road, Westlake Village  
818-483-1152  
the-stonehaus.com

At any given time, The Stonehaus offers about 40 white and 40 red

varieties of fine wine, said Grayson Brugh, manager.

Varieties include pinot noir, Italian reds, Spanish reds, eclectic whites and zinfandel.

"You can do it by the glass and try varieties from all over the world, or you can buy our wine that we make on the property," Brugh said. "People love to stop by for lunch and get a quick glass of wine, especially during the week."

The wine stewards on site are also passionate about their jobs. "They like to talk about wine," Brugh said. "You can sit at the bar and if you want to try something new, we'll give you a couple of sips."

#### Favorites

- » Café Firenze
- » McGregor's Craft Beer & Wine
- » Wades Wine

West County Winner

#### THE CAVE RESTAURANT & VENTURA WINE COMPANY

4435 McGrath St., Suite 301, Ventura

805-642-9449

www.thecaveventura.com

The Cave offers a rotating selection of 40 wines — available to taste in one-, three- or five-ounce pours — from self-serve Enomatic dispensing machines.

"The selection of wines varies from slightly sweet to dry and serious, offering something for everyone," said Nicole Valdivia, owner and general manager. "We change the selection of wines with our new menu monthly, giving you reason to come back time and time again."

In other offerings, "we have a selection of about 1,500 wines available in our retail store, also creating a wine list unlike any other restaurant in Ventura County," Valdivia said. "Our staff is professionally educated, and brings 20 years of wine knowledge to the table."

#### Favorites

- » Cork
- » Grapes & Hops
- » Paradise Pantry



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# SERVICES





## Acupuncturist

East County Winner

### Acupuncture & Herb Clinic

1687 Erringer Road, Simi Valley  
805-577-9938

As the owner of the Acupuncture & Herb Clinic, which has been in business for 18 years, Bing Ling uses acupuncture and other natural treatments to help people of all ages with a variety of issues, including headaches, neck pain, insomnia and depression — and even something simple like a cough.

“People have stress so we treat them for that, too,” said Lin, adding that the herbs he uses come all the way from China. “Everything we offer is all natural — acupuncture, herbs and simple formulas. People come here for healing.”

### Favorites

- » 911 BioCare
- » Chang S. Park
- » Newbury Park Acupuncture

West County Winner

### DANNY LAI, DC, LAC.

237 W Seventh St., Oxnard  
805-240-2640, ext. 0  
www.DrDannyLai.com

With a practice located at historic Heritage Square in Oxnard since 2000, Danny Lai is the only dual license chiropractor and acupuncturist in Ventura County.

A first-generation immigrant from Vietnam, Lai came to Oxnard in 1979. He is trained in hypnotherapy, natural allergy treatment and mental emotional release.

Known by patients as the “magic hand man,” he has addressed conditions, including ADHD, allergies, back pain, carpal tunnel, fibromyalgia, PMS, scoliosis, shoulder pain, stress, tennis elbow and whiplash. In addition to acupuncture, he also offers Chinese herbal medicine, fire cupping and hypnosis. There is also a licensed esthetician on staff.

### Favorites

- » Coastal Acupuncture Wellness Center
- » Geoffrey Helms
- » Holistic Healing Center
- » Kalani Total Health Center

## Auto Repair Shop

East County Winner

### JBS AUTO SERVICES

880 Chambers Lane, Simi Valley  
805-522-3923  
jbsautoservice.com

As the CEO of JBS Auto Services, Jerry Shaffner has been in business since 1983.

“So we know lots of people here in Simi, and most have been customers for a long time,” Shaffner said. The shop has two, full-time diesel techs, “which something that is really important,” he said.

“We service most all kinds of vehicles,” Shaffner said. “Most of my customers turn into friends; we do lots of things outside of work.”

JBS Auto Services also gives back to the community.

“We sponsor a kids’ shopping spree in December in which we find needy families and let the kids shop,” said Shaffner. “I was (named) one of the top 10 people in Simi Valley who make a difference here.”

### Favorites

- » A & D Automotive
- » America’s Tire
- » Rick’s Japanese Care Center
- » Auto Repair Shop

West County Winner

### WILLIAMS AUTOMOTIVE

6027 Ventura Blvd., Ventura  
805-656-1026  
www.sewilliamsautomotive.com/index.html

As the owner of Williams Automotive, Scott Williams has earned a reputation over the past two decades for “just being fair and upfront about what somebody needs, and



Readers voted Danny Lai Acupuncture as the winner for west county acupuncturist. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## SERVICES



Readers voted Ventura County Credit Union as best bank/credit union in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

doing it for a fair price," he said. "That's our main thing — not doing unnecessary repairs, and being reasonable about what needs to be repaired. That's really the bottom line," Williams said. "We've been here for 20 years and I live here. I see my customers almost everywhere I go and I don't feel like have to hide from them because we are just straight-up and honest. We're just doing what we're supposed to do."

#### Favorites

- » Big Brand Tire
- » Bill Clark Automotive
- » Frank's Auto Works
- » My Garage
- » Neighborhood Car Care

### Bank/Credit Union

East County Winner

#### LOGIX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Locations throughout Ventura County  
800-328-5328  
[www.lfcu.com](http://www.lfcu.com)

Logix Federal Credit Union has been serving members in the Conejo Valley for more than 25 years, and Simi Valley for 12 years. The not-for-profit organization is known for its dedication to superior member value and service. Checking and savings accounts, auto and mortgage loans, and credit cards are among many of the services available. More than 25,000 members are residents of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park and Westlake Village, with five branches in the immediate area. Chartered in 1937, the credit union is rated "superior" for financial strength, currently has more than \$5 billion in assets, and offers preferred rates on savings/loan accounts, mobile and online banking, surcharge-free access to 30,000 ATMs, and a nationwide network of branches.

#### Favorites

- » Premier America Credit Union

- » Ventura County Credit Union
- » Wescom Credit Union

West County Winner

#### VENTURA COUNTY CREDIT UNION

Locations throughout Ventura County  
[www.vccuonline.net](http://www.vccuonline.net)

The employees make Ventura County Credit Union a success, said Joe Schroeder, CEO and president. "When we interview new employees, we want a commitment out of them; if they're just looking for a job, we pass," Schroeder said. "From a service standpoint, it's about what do members really need? Can we save them money?" "Our people share the vision of taking care of people and their financial lives, and it really does work," he said.

Staff members are also allowed to volunteer 40 hours for local nonprofits, "and we pay them for it. We're a community-based business, so it's important we're giving back to the community," Schroeder said. "What happens is they come back a better person, a better teammate."

#### Favorites

- » Chase
- » Premier America Credit Union
- » Wescom Credit Union

### Barber Shop

East County Winner

#### THE HANDLEBAR BARBERSHOP & APOTHECARY

2219 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., #201 and #106, Thousand Oaks  
805-317-4283  
[www.TheHandleBarBarbershop.com](http://www.TheHandleBarBarbershop.com)

Gareth Stutley and his mother, Daryl, started The Handlebar Barbershop together.

"We are truly a family-run business. My wife, Regan, also works with us managing the shop," Stutley said. "We have our own line of beard products that we make ourselves by hand."

# THANK YOU





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**Diane Dowd**

**805.340.7826**



**The Gaston Group**

**805.232.3150**



**Armando Gomez**

**805.754.1979**



**Rocky Robin Hober**

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**805.415.2255**



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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
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The shop offers a comfy — and slightly upscale — barbershop experience with both classic and modern men's products, including pomades, shaving soaps, creams, shaving brushes, safety razors and straight razors.

"We have vintage barber chairs, which add a unique touch to the shop," Stutley said. "We offer straight razor shaves, which is not something typical barbershops tend to offer these days. Shampoos and straight razor cleanups on the back of the neck are included with each service."

**Favorites**

- » Best Little Hair House
- » Mens Parlour
- » Supercuts

West County Winner

**VENTURA BARBER CO.**

2040 E. Main St., Unit C, Ventura  
805-628-3624  
[www.instagram.com/venturabarber-co](http://www.instagram.com/venturabarber-co)

Ventura Barber Co. is a very diverse barbershop, said owner Joey Delgadillo.

"We offer old-school razor shaves that are not a common thing in barbershops these days," he said. He also offers threading of eyebrows, waxing and five-step facials to rejuvenate men's skin.

"We also have 10 chairs, so our wait time is never too long," Delgadillo said. "There's always a very talented barber available."

Ventura Barber Co. also supports its community. During the Thomas Fire, "we went down to the evacuation center at the fairgrounds and gave everybody we could a haircut," said Delgadillo, adding that free haircuts were also given to the firefighters. "We tried to do what we could to help anyone we could in anyway."

**Favorites**

- » 1927 Barbershop & Shave Parlor
- » A Gentlemen's Cut
- » Hank's Barber Shop
- » Legends Barbershop

**Car Wash**

East County Winner

**JANSS MALL TOUCHLESS CAR WASH**

467 N. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-379-4900  
[www.cleancarfeeling.com/california.html](http://www.cleancarfeeling.com/california.html)

At Janss Mall Touchless Car Wash, "we're all about cleaning your car fast. You're not going to spend 45 minutes at this car wash," Manager Bill Mealer said. "We respect your time and we'll efficiently clean your car in the shortest amount of time." A touchless car wash means just that. "We're the only touchless car wash in this region, meaning there's no equipment that ever touches your car," Mealer said. "The benefits are that we eliminate any possible damage to your vehicle. Other car washes have currents that touch your car. With our car wash, you're



Ventura Barber Company was named best barber shop in west county. Owner Joey Delgadillo describes it as a very diverse barbershop. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# VetSurg

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**DJ's Catering was voted best catering company in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

not going to lose any antennas or windshield wipers, and we eliminate any possible scratches or damage to your vehicle."

#### **Favorites**

- » California Speedwash
- » Red Carpet Car Wash
- » Simi Auto Spa & Speed Wash

West County Winner

#### **FIVE POINTS CAR WASH**

2912 Telegraph Road, Ventura  
805-643-7715

A family-owned business that's open seven days a week, Five Points Car Wash offers a range of services from the top to the bottom of your automobile, including wheel and tire cleaning, interior detailing, vacuuming, upholstery cleaning and polishing.

On busy days, customers can wait inside an indoor area with couches, a big screen television and WiFi, or lounge on a bench outside.

This car wash, which received 4.2 out of 5 stars on Google reviews, is praised for its friendly staff and

excellent customer service. Five Points also offers a Five Stars Rewards program, as well as \$3 discount coupons, which can be found on receipts from Vons grocery store.

#### **Favorites**

- » Costco
- » Johnson Drive Hand Wash
- » Las Posas Car Wash & Lube Center

#### **Catering Company**

East County Winner

#### **COMMAND PERFORMANCE CATERING**

5273 N. Commerce Ave., Unit 6,  
Moorpark  
805-523-3232  
www.cpcatering.com

For more than three decades, Command Performance Catering has had the privilege of providing memorable culinary experiences to parties, weddings and milestone occasions, President Danny Margolis said.

"We're helping you create once-in-a-lifetime memories, which is why we are so passionate about your event,"

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## SERVICES



Margolis said. "We're perfectionists, and aim to surpass your expectations down to the very last detail." A team of dedicated professionals consistently delivers the perfect combination of great food, stunning design and exceptional customer service, he said, "which means we not only offer guidance, we also listen."

"Also, come have lunch with us at the Reagan Country Café and Ronald Reagan Pub located at the Reagan Library," Margolis said.

**Favorites**

- » Green Acres Farm Market and Catering
- » Stonefire Grill
- » Wood Ranch

West County Winner

**DJ'S CALIFORNIA CATERING**

2784 Johnson Drive, Ventura  
805-850-0194  
www.djscatering.com

Doug Biggs, president and "Chief Everything Officer" at DJ's California Catering, started in the food service industry at a small gourmet meat market while in high school, where he learned to never compromise quality or service for any reason, especially for quick financial gain. Doug and his wife, Jennifer, have since built DJ's California Catering into one of Ventura County's most successful catering companies.

"We offer a one-stop shop for catering, bar services, and event rentals and coordination, making the event planning process simple and worry-free for our clients," Biggs said.

"From the top down, the team at DJ's California Catering focuses on service and quality. We consider our clients as part of our extended family and treat every event as such."

**Favorites**

- » Plated Events
- » Presto Pasta
- » Wood Ranch

**Chiropractor**

East County Winner

**ADVANCED CHIROPRACTIC REHABILITATION**

1625 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite E,  
Thousand Oaks  
855-420-1264  
nickbrockdc.com

At Advanced Chiropractic Rehabilitation, "our approach is looking at each patient as an individual person, and not just a spine," said Dr. Nick Brock, owner.

"We take a whole health approach," he said.

This approach is a combination of detecting underlying interferences, which may inhibit the body's natural ability to heal itself, along with the inspiration, knowledge and support for patients to achieve better health through better living.

"Our primary focus is on posture," Brock said. "A lot of our patients come to us with scoliosis or from whiplash traumas, and we can change the curvature in their spine, rather than just adjusting them only and sending them on their way."

**Favorites**

- » All Family Chiropractic Center
- » Brandt Paul
- » Goodman Family Chiropractors

West County Winner

**KALANI TOTAL HEALTH CENTER**

2901 N. Ventura Road, Suite 220,  
Oxnard  
805-604-0881  
www.totalhealthcenter.us

Known as a "One Stop Holistic Health Shop," Kalani Total Health Center offers multiple holistic healthcare practitioners under one roof.

"Our chiropractors combined have over 50 years of practice," said Savita Kanji, CFO. "Our acupuncturist and nutritional expert have been in practice for over 25 years, and our physician's assistant has been in

practice for over 35 years."

Services include chiropractic adjusting techniques, massage therapy, acupuncture, cupping, nutritional guidance, and a medical weight loss program.

The center also has three core values. The first is to give aloha (love), the second is to hire only the best professionals and the third is timely service.

"At Kalani Total Health Center, we celebrate optimal health with aloha in every family," Kanji said.

**Favorites**

- » Anacapa Chiropractic
- » Bates Family Chiropractic
- » French Chiropractic Sports & Wellness

**Day Care**

East County Winner

**MERRITT FAMILY CHILDCARE**

805-432-2843  
www.facebook.com/merrittfamilychildcare

Merritt Family Childcare in Simi Valley is owned by Christine Tikotin, who has 20 years of experience as a childcare provider.

"I treat every child as if they're an extension of my own family," she said. "It's a hard decision to leave your child, so I give the parents updates through the day. I'll send them pictures and keep them involved during the day."

She does this with Brightwheel's mobile app, which helps pre-K care providers manage their business while sending parents updates about their kids.

"I love watching the kids learn," Tikotin added. "It's a passion of mine and it comes through."

**Favorites**

- » Christian Church of Thousand Oaks Preschool
- » Kids 'N Things
- » Kindercare

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## SERVICES

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**Dr. Cristen D. Whitmer is the winner for best dentist in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## West County Winner

### PACIFIC CAMP FAMILY RESOURCE

Locations throughout Ventura County

[www.pacificcamps.com](http://www.pacificcamps.com)

Pacific Camp Family Resource is unique in its mission to nurture growth and help campers thrive mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually, said Glenda Patterson, program director at the Ventura Pacific Camps.

"We do so by engaging kids in great activities like sports, field trips, arts and crafts, and Bible study," Patterson said.

"Each one of our kids is important to us and we seek to develop strong relationships with them and their families in order to minister directly to them and introduce them to Jesus Christ," Patterson said. "Pacific Camps is more than a daycare, we are a relational ministry with a mission to serve our community and love our neighbors as God has loved us."

### Favorites

- » Children's World Nursery School
- » Las Posas Children's Center
- » TLC Preschool

## Dentist

East County Winner

### JUSTIN SYCAMORE

777 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.,  
Thousand Oaks  
805-777-0050  
[sycamore.dental](http://sycamore.dental)

Dr. Justin Sycamore's philosophy is simple: "I treat every patient as I would treat my mother."

At his practice, Sycamore sees only one patient at a time.

"I schedule enough time to finish one procedure before the next patient arrives so that I don't keep people waiting," he said.

While Sycamore is known primarily as a cosmetic dentist, he also offers dental procedures including root

canals, porcelain veneers, implants and emergency services.

### Favorites

- » Curtis Couch
- » Ean Kleiger
- » Oak Park Dentistry for Children
- » Yael Bar-Zion Children's Dental Office

West County Winner

### CRISTEN D. WHITMER

4000 Calle Tecate, Suite 206,  
Camarillo  
805-379-1989  
[www.whitmerdentistry.com](http://www.whitmerdentistry.com)

Whitmer Dentistry provides all dental services, including placing and restoring dental implants, cosmetic dentistry, children's dentistry, and sedation for patients with anxiety. This takes place in a comfortable and relaxing environment where treatment rooms are themed after a Hawaiian island, and Hawaiian music plays throughout the office. There are also televisions in each room with blankets and refreshments. "We aspire to keep our patients informed so that they trust, understand and are confident in the care they receive in our family practice," said dentist Dr. Cristen D. Whitmer. "We maintain the highest of practice standards by keeping current with the latest in dental technology and by providing excellent customer service. We love what we do and it shows in our care."

### Favorites

- » Alexander Namikas
- » Premier Orthodontics
- » Ventura Center for Dental Health

## Dry Cleaner

East County Winner

### A&T CLEANERS

2466 Stearns St., Simi Valley  
805-577-5920  
[www.a-tcleaners.com](http://www.a-tcleaners.com)

A family-owned business, A&T Cleaners utilizes environmentally-





**A & T Dry Cleaners in Simi Valley is the winner for best dry cleaner in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

friendly dry cleaning and selects professional seamstresses for hemming and alterations. The business honors city, state, and local government servicemen and -women by providing special rates for service uniforms. A&T Cleaners also offers discounted rates for first-time customers, special group rates for businesses, and free pickup and delivery. The overall intention is to provide a hassle-free, cost savings alternative for current and future customers. "We really pay attention to detail of every item," owner Leah Smith said. "We inspect everything and really take our time to take care of everybody. That's our main thing, making people happy."

#### **Favorites**

» Alex the Tailor & Dry Cleaners

» Creekside Cleaners  
 » North Ranch Cleaners

West County Winner

#### **PERSNICKITY CLEANERS**

1171 S Victoria Ave., Ventura  
 805-644-1171

Persnickity Cleaners has earned a reputation for top-notch dry cleaning services, as well as alterations and a cobbler who can fix shoes on site.

"Our customer service is certainly a high point for us," said Veronica Salas, who has worked at Persnickity for six years. "We're familiar with our customers. A lot of them are on a first-name basis. When they come in, I already know how they want their clothes and how they like their clothes. When I see them pulling up,

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 Thousand Oaks — 140 W. Hillcrest Drive, Suite 115  
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## SERVICES

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I already have their clothes ready when they come in.”  
Persnickity is also known for its competitive prices.

“If customers want their clothes the same day or the next day, we don’t charge extra,” Salas said.

**Favorites**

- » 5th Avenue Dry Cleaners
- » Four Seasons Cleaners
- » Snow Cleaners

**Family Doctor/Surgeon**

East County Winner

**DR. ABDOL MEMAR-ZIA**

1687 Erringer Road, Suite 205, Simi Valley  
805-527-6666

“I have found that it always takes two to tango. But in my practice, it sometimes takes three or four,” Dr. Abdol Memar-Zia said. “The single most important factor for my prac-

tice’s success is that I spend time with my patients and provide them with that extra bit of special attention.”

His philosophy is to treat each patient the same way he would want to be treated.

“Here at my practice, we know that providing quality care would not be possible without the support of the patients who have been coming to my practice for many years,” he said.

**Favorites**

- » Kaiser Permanente
- » UCLA Health, Thousand Oaks
- » Ventura Orthopedics

West County Winner

**PRIMARY MEDICAL GROUP**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
[www.primarymedical.net](http://www.primarymedical.net)

Primary Medical is the largest independent primary-care practice in

Ventura County, focusing on providing the highest-quality care in a nurturing and supportive medical setting.

The practice is overseen by Dr. Edward Banman, family physician and president; and Maria Banman Barrell, a board certified family physician and COO.

“Our providers work in small teams throughout six offices in Ventura County and now also offer after-hours and weekend care at our associated urgent care, Urgent Care on Main in Ventura,” Maria Banman Barrell said. “As a local family-owned and operated business, we have been serving the area for almost 25 years and strive to treat patients with the same loving care we would extend to our own families.”

**Favorites**

- » Alfrouz Gerayli
- » Channel Islands Medical Group
- » James Hornstein
- » Kaiser Permanente

**Financial Planning**

East County Winner

**ADAM AND REMMENG INVESTMENT GROUP OF WELLS FARGO ADVISORS**

2829 Townsgate Road, Suite 200, Westlake Village  
805-370-0832  
[home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/adam-remmenga](http://home.wellsfargoadvisors.com/adam-remmenga)

Investment advice is really important these days, considering the fact that so many are reaching retirement age, said Al Adam, a financial adviser with Adam and Remmenga Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

“With the baby-boom generation, 10,000 people a day are turning 65 and they need to have good, solid retirement advice, and we offer that because we have decades of experience,” Adam said. “We’re here to make sure your principle is protect-



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[www.TheLyndGroup.com](http://www.TheLyndGroup.com)

VC-1977450





**Michael Mansfield and Debra Mansfield started The Lynd Group together. The company is this year's winner for best financial planning in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ed to limit your risk and maximize your return. That works really well to create a lifetime income for people to make sure the money is there when they need it and make sure it lasts a lifetime."

#### Favorites

- » Logix Credit Union
- » Premier America Credit Union
- » Ventura County Credit Union

West County Winner

#### THE LYND GROUP

801 South Victoria Ave., Suite 105,  
Ventura  
805-500-7035  
thelyndgroup.com

Michael Mansfield started The Lynd Group with his mother, Debra Mansfield. Their goal is to make sure people have the tools, resources and ability to comfortably retire — with income.

"I break it down into something that's very visual and understandable," Michael Mansfield said. "We create an income plan where I show exactly when you should take money out of different accounts, what taxes look like ... in a user-friendly format."

#### Favorites

- » Acosta Wealth Management
- » Carey & Hanna | Tax & Wealth Planners
- » Ventura County Credit Union

#### Fitness Center/Services

East County Winner

#### THOUSAND OAKS FIT BODY BOOT CAMP

3255 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Unit C,  
Thousand Oaks  
805-230-0155  
www.parisfitbody.com

Thousand Oaks Fit Body Boot Camp specializes in 30-minute, high-intensity interval training boot camps for people of all ages and fitness levels.

The facility is home of the "Afterburn workouts," which are designed to burn maximum fat and tone the entire body in 30 minutes. These specialized workouts use a combination of High Intensity Interval Training and Active Rest Training to get the body to burn more fat and calories than traditional workouts that are twice as long.

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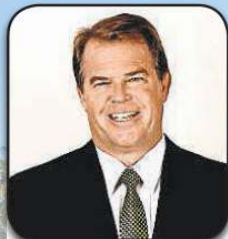
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Ventura  
805-212-3223



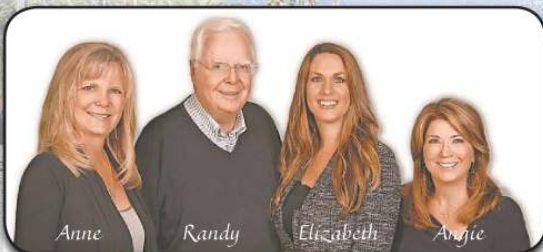
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805-218-1686



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**Ana Smith**  
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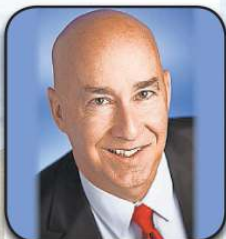
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805-377-8661



**Cynthia Keller**  
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805-827-0978



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<b>Camarillo</b>	<b>484-1600</b>	<b>Fillmore</b>	<b>524-2624</b>	<b>Santa Paula</b>	<b>933-6602</b>	<b>Riverpark</b>	<b>513-1050</b>



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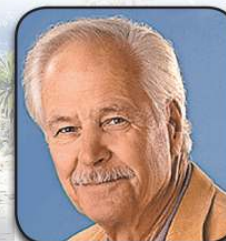
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**Yheaulon Thayer**  
Seabridge  
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<b>Camarillo</b>	<b>484-1600</b>	<b>Fillmore</b>	<b>524-2624</b>	<b>Santa Paula</b>	<b>933-6602</b>	<b>Riverpark</b>	<b>513-1050</b>



## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

ness family," said Anthony Parisi, owner and head coach. "Every time you come in, you're greeted by name, given a full body workout from one of our top trainers and leave sweaty and feeling accomplished."

**Favorites**

- » 24 Hour Fitness
- » Hard Charger Training Center
- » Jacob Flame's Tang Soo Do University

West County Winner

**24 HOUR FITNESS**

Locations through Ventura County  
[www.24hourfitness.com](http://www.24hourfitness.com)

One of the main draws at 24 Hour Fitness is the fact that it's open 24-7.

"Because a lot of people have busy lives and we have everything a gym could offer," said Victoria Bist, a sales advisor at the Camarillo location. "We have a basketball court, pool, sauna, steam room and hot tub, and we have group classes for all fitness levels."

A welcoming staff helps those who are going to the gym for the first time, or haven't been to the gym for awhile.

"Some people might not be comfortable so it helps to have a friendly face," Bist said. "And we have a three-day free pass if you want to give 24 Hour Fitness a try."

**Favorites**

- » Fit N' Fine Fitness
- » Grassroots Yoga
- » L.A. Fitness

**Hair Salon**

East County Winners

**BELLISSIMO SALON & DAY SPA**

489 E. High St., Moorpark  
805-529-5877

Located on the corner of Spring and High streets in Moorpark, Bellissimo Salon & Day Spa features a dozen well-trained hair stylists who genu-



**Fit Body Boot Camp in Thousand Oaks was named the best fitness center in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

inely care about their clients, said owner Susan Krowpman. "I have very experienced, qualified professional hairstylists who care about their clients," Krowpman said. "They're an extension of me and what I believe in."

In addition to the hair salon, "we have a day spa, a full professional barbershop in the back and a clothing boutique in the front," she said. "In the boutique, all the items are made by local moms. We're all about community over competition. I don't compete with anybody. I just want

to take care of the community and give back."

**LIGHTHOUSE SALON SUITES**

30750 Russell Ranch Road, Suite B,  
Westlake Village  
805-557-8135  
[www.lighthousesalonsuites.com](http://www.lighthousesalonsuites.com)

Lighthouse is the first hybrid salon of its kind, said Krystal Reno Selleck, owner and stylist at Lighthouse Salon Suites and The Cove At Lighthouse.

"What separates us from others is

we are constantly evolving and growing as a hair team," Selleck said. "We have monthly education to keep all of us cutting edge, and the work walking out the door is proof of that."

Additionally, "we have been training such amazing stylists in-house that we have expanded next door to The Cove and adding even more talent," Selleck said. "From the second you are greeted by our amazing team to the end of your hair experience, you definitely know you are with the best."





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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR**Favorites**

- » 16 Ten Salon
- » Cleo Hair Salon
- » Jamie's Hair Design & Day Spa

West County Winner

**SJ STUDIO SALON + SPA**2200 Outlet Center Drive, Suite 460,  
Oxnard

805-485-7800

www.sjstudiosalon.com

SJ Studio is a team of award-winning stylists and estheticians who strive to stay on top of the newest trends, said Sonia Lozano-Garcia, skincare specialist and co-owner along with Jeannette Lozano-Rivera, hair stylist.

"Our salon's incredible hair stylists have made a name for themselves in our Ventura County area for their unique balayage and hair painting artistry," Lozano-Garcia said. The spa's peaceful atmosphere is where clients come to relax and

unwind from the day's stresses.

"Our 24K Gold facial is a favorite with our clients, leaving their skin with that sought-after healthy glow," Lozano-Garcia said. "And now we are so excited to announce our award-winning signature brows are going permanent."

**Favorites**

- » Crush Salon & Dry Bar
- » Matiz Salon & Retail Center
- » Silver Strand Salon

**Hospital**

East County Winner

**LOS ROBLES HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER**215 W. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks  
805-497-2727

losrobleshospital.com

As part of its overall mission, Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center brings top-quality and cost-effective healthcare to the communities it serves, and is committed to being the most trusted resource for health.

This hospital and medical center has received numerous awards and distinctions, including being rated among the top 5 percent of hospitals throughout the nation for clinical excellence. It's also among 127 hospitals in the United States to earn Beacon Award status for critical care excellence.

In other highlights, it has the only emergency room in east Ventura County that's been designated as a Level II Trauma Center, and is the first hospital in Ventura County to be a Nationally Accredited Chest Pain Center.

**Favorites**

- » Kaiser Permanente
- » Los Robles Surgical Center
- » Adventist Health Simi Valley

West County Winner

**COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

147 N. Brent St., Ventura



Readers chose Ray Gonzales of State Farm Insurance as the winner for insurance in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

805-652-5011

www.cmhshealth.org/cmh

Providing a wide range of medical services and programs, Community Memorial Hospital is located inside an eight-story, state-of-the-art facility with 242 beds.

Considered a healthcare leader in Ventura County for more than a century, this hospital offers the best in medical care by a team of family practice physicians and internists. The hospital is part of the Community Memorial Health System, which is a community-owned, not-for-profit organization. Because of this, the organization isn't backed by any government or corporate entity, and doesn't answer to shareholders. Instead, organization members depend on, and answer to, the communities they serve.

**Favorites**

- » St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital
- » St. John's Regional Medical Center
- » Ojai Valley Community Hospital
- » Ventura County Medical Center

**Insurance**

East County Winner

**STATE FARM INSURANCE**

Locations throughout Ventura County

www.statefarm.com

800-782-8332

State Farm Insurance offers a wide range of services, including home, auto and life insurance, home loans and credit-builder rewards credit cards.

State Farm agents also help clients with retirement and IRAs, estate planning, annuities, mutual funds and small business finances. State Farm also offers a variety of banking services, including CDs, vehicle loans and home mortgage loans. State Farm puts convenience at customers' fingertips with smart phone apps, including the State Farm Mobile App and Drive Safe and Save app, as well as a Steer Clear Mobile app for those ages 25 and younger that helps promote safe driving.

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818.266.4455



**Deborah Fagan**  
Westlake Village  
818.424.5990



**Mary Fealkoff**  
Westlake Village  
805.630.3323



**Kathy Fontana &  
Marlene Arimura-Mortimer**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.479.0343



**Keli Griffin**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.794.1512



**Barry Howard**  
Westlake Village  
805.479.7555



**Diane Marihew**  
Camarillo  
805.504.6734



**Pam McWaid**  
Camarillo  
805.377.7221



**Sheryl Meyer**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.338.7336



**Robert Olavarrieta**  
Camarillo  
805.816.9640



**Craig Peterson**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.358.5012



**Connie Poe**  
Thousand Oaks  
818.458.4700



**Maria Rios**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.832.0007



**Renee Rosen**  
Thousand Oaks  
818.917.1891



**Diane Rucker**  
Oxnard  
805.469.5121



**Linda Stanton**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.368.6574



**Sherri Sweeney**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.402.6135



**Jennifer Anderson**  
Thousand Oaks  
805.807.4577

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2860 Thousand Oaks Blvd.  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

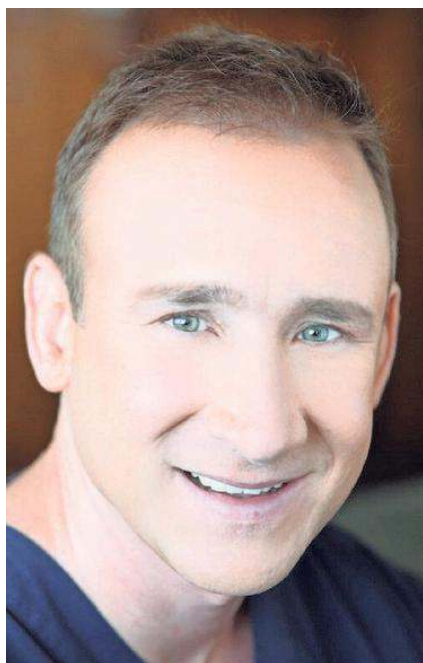
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818.879.2900  
1155 Lindero Canyon Rd.  
Westlake Village, CA 91362

**Camarillo Office**  
805.987.3734  
350 N. Lantana, G-1  
Camarillo, CA 93010

**Oxnard Office**  
805.984.8660  
1601 S. Victoria Ave., Suite 250  
Oxnard, CA 93035



## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

**Dr. Paul J. Dougherty and Dougherty Laser Vision were voted best LASIK surgeon in Ventura County.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Favorites**

- » AAA Insurance
- » Allstate Insurance Co.
- » Farmers Insurance

West County Winner

**RAY A. GONZALES**

2711 S. Rose Ave., Suite D101, Oxnard  
805-240-3100  
www.SFteam1.com

State Farm insures more cars and homes than any other insurer in the United States, in addition to providing property and life insurance along with many banking products, said Ray A. Gonzales, a State Farm agent in Oxnard.

"Motivated by helping others to succeed, I am a State Farm agent who leads with positivity, and believes in consistently providing excellent customer service," Gonzales said. "All our team members speak English and Spanish, and we all take the time to educate our clients

about their insurance options. We make their needs our number one priority and we are accessible even after hours or the weekends."

**Favorites**

- » AAA Insurance
- » Farmers Insurance Group
- » GEICO

**LASIK Surgeon**

Full County Winner

**DOUGHERTY LASER VISION**

4353 Park Terrace Drive, #150,  
Westlake Village  
805-987-5300  
www.doughertylaservision.com/  
location/westlake-village  
1821 E. Daily Drive, Camarillo  
805-987-5300  
www.doughertylaservision.com/  
location/camarillo/

Dougherty Laser Vision was founded by Paul J. Dougherty, who is among the nation's most experienced laser

and lens-based vision correction surgeons.

Dougherty owns and utilizes the three most commonly used lasers: Alcon Allegretto, Nidek CATz and Visx Wavefront-Guided, so he can customize the technology to each client's unique visual condition. While Dougherty Laser Vision provides the most advanced, up-to-date laser vision correction surgeries available, "we are not just a lasik center," CEO Renata Stone said. "Because of our broad range of technology and experience, we can customize the treatment to the patient rather than shoe-horning every patient into a single technology." "We also have the widest range of technology in the area, including three types of excimer lasers for lasik, lens-based surgery for presbyopic and cataract patients, implantable lenses for myopia, surgery for keratoconus and much more," Stone said. Dougherty is known as the "doctor's



*Thank You* To our amazing clients for choosing  
The Law Office of Christina Shaffer!

Christina Shaffer has been practicing Family Law since 2004. In addition to being a recipient of the Cornejo Valley Chamber's of Commerce 40 Under 40 Award, Ms. Shaffer has received numerous awards for her services as a Family Law Attorney and advocate for victims of Domestic Violence.

Ms. Shaffer's office provides services ranging from low cost document preparation to high conflict, skilled litigation services. Ms. Shaffer's office also provides Mediation services and Collaborate Family Law services.

When she is not at the office, Ms. Shaffer enjoys spending time with her husband and three children.



Law Offices of  
Christina Shaffer  
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www.cshafferlaw.com

**805.777.1112**



doctor" who has performed more than 40,000 vision correction surgeries — more than anyone in Ventura County, Stone said.

"Lastly, we are one of the few practices in the U.S. that will travel internationally with their patients to perform surgery that is better suited to the patient, but not available in the U.S.," Stone said.

#### East County Favorites

- » Beverly Hills Physicians
- » Franz Michel
- » John Davidson

#### West County Favorites

- » John Davidson
- » Shapiro Laser Eye Center
- » Ventura Eye Institute

## Law Office

East County Winner

#### LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTINA SHAFFER

100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 132, Thousand Oaks  
805-777-1112  
www.cshafferlaw.com

The Law Offices of Christina Shaffer specialize in providing compassionate and caring services during its client's difficult legal proceedings. "Our office provides individualized attention, with a focus on client satisfaction," said Christina Shaffer, owner and senior attorney. "We work together as a team and make sure that our clients' best interests are served."

Practice areas include divorce and legal separation, child custody, property division, child support, spousal support and domestic partnership. Former clients say the Law Offices of Christina Shaffer are approachable, responsive, efficient and effective in providing quality legal representation and accurate guidance.

Additionally, "we provide a free consultation for services ranging from low cost document services to high conflict litigation services," Shaffer said.

#### Favorites

- » Howard Blau Law
- » Richard Ross Associates
- » Terri Hilliard, PC

West County Winner

#### GRENNIER LAW, PC

5700 Ralston St., Suite 202, Ventura  
805-643-3900  
336 S. A St., Suite G, Oxnard  
805-483-4027  
www.grennierlaw.com

"What sets us apart from our competitors is our open door policy," said Christine Grennier, operations manager at Grennier Law PC. "Clients can come in whenever they want and we'll bend over backward for them. We take care of our clients; our staff here really cares."

Bankruptcy attorney Todd Mannis agreed that Grennier Law PC is "a very personal-attention-oriented law firm."

The firm's offerings include services for bankruptcy, personal injury and IRS tax debt.

Additionally, "Waldo Ybarra is the one who manages our Oxnard office and he's bilingual, so he's able to take care of our Hispanic market," Grennier said.

#### Favorites

- » Andrew Mansfield
- » Ferguson Case Orr Paterson
- » Howard Blau Law

## Massage

East County Winner

#### THE SPA AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL WESTLAKE VILLAGE

Two Dole Drive, Westlake Village  
818-575-3000  
www.fourseasons.com/westlakevillage

The Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village and onsite wellness facility, California Health & Longevity Institute, provide guests with a comprehensive approach to wellbeing. Offerings include a tranquility massage, which uses light to moderate

# THE GALLERY

## RIVER RIDGE

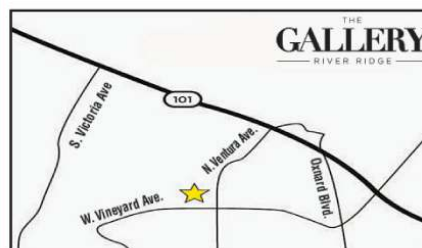
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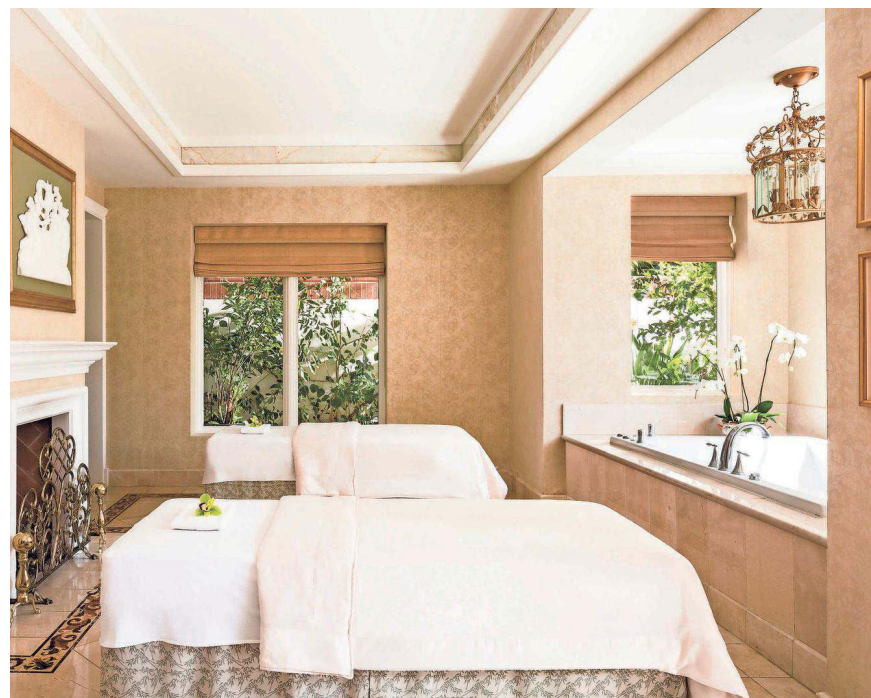
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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

**Beauty Lounge and Med Spa + Wellness won for best massage in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**The Spa at Four Seasons hotel in Westlake Village was the winner in the massage category in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/DON RIDDLE

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pressure to reduce stress, improve circulation and stimulate the nervous system. The advanced therapeutic massage is a deep-tissue treatment that works to break down the body's adhesions and nodules. "This integrated approach to wellness is designed to fulfill guests' personal needs and provide long-lasting health and happiness," said Robert Cima, regional vice president and general manager at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village. "In offering 12 different types of massages, there's really something amazing here for everyone."

**Favorites**

- » Body by Design Wellness and Massage Clinic
- » Halo Salt Spa
- » Massage Envoy

West County Winner

**BEAUTY LOUNGE MED SPA + WELLNESS**

2475 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo  
805-991-0202

beautyloungemedspa.com

"At Beauty Lounge Medspa, we believe that a good massage starts before you even set foot through the door," said Medical Director Dr. Kurt Tamaru.

Combinations of aromatherapy, long, fluid strokes and deep tissue massage can help untangle muscle knots, reduce fluid build-up and loosen points of tightness and tension.

"A sensitive therapist is able to perceive how their touch is being received from by the client," Tamaru said. "Clients agree our massage therapists know to apply the perfect amount of pressure exactly where your body needs it most. We communicate throughout the massage to make sure our clients get what they need, and adjust our techniques to suit the client's needs."

**Favorites**

- » Kalani Total Health Center
- » Ojai Valley Inn & Spa
- » Shannon Sosebee



## Medical Spa

East County Winner

### ALAMO HILLS MEDICAL GROUP

2876 Sycamore Drive, Suite 101, Simi Valley  
805-527-6424  
www.alamohillsmedicalgroup.com

At Alamo Hills Medical Group, the staff and physicians work hand-in-hand to take care of patients, said Carla Lopez, practice manager. The practice strives to be a "one-stop-shop" where patients can get their blood work done, have their bone density and cholesterol checked, have X-rays done, and more.

"All our testing is done in-house. We offer a lot of services here in the office," Lopez said.

"We focus on the patient from the moment they walk in, to the moment they walk out our door," Lopez said.

"We have an amazing staff that's devoted to making sure that pa-

tients are taken care of and that they have everything they need."

#### Favorites

- » Halo Salt Spa
- » Vitality Institute of Agoura
- » Westlake Healing Arts

West County Winner

### CELEBRATING WOMEN CENTER FOR HEALTH, BEAUTY AND WELLNESS

1801 Solar Drive, Suite 155, Oxnard  
805-988-7577  
celebratingwomenscenter.com

At Celebrating Women Center, "we enter a collaborative partnership with every client we see. We communicate with them to meet their needs," said Dr. Adrienne Lara, owner. "Our philosophy is that we educate and empower, so as we do your treatment, we teach you about the product, we explain why we're doing certain things, so not only are you educated, you're empowered."

Lara is "a local Mexican girl from Oxnard" who spent 14 years at Har-

vard, where she trained to be a surgeon.

"I've come back to take care of my people in my community," she said. "My motto is 'I went to med school for you. I come to work happy every day.'"

#### Favorites

- » Beauty Lounge Med Spa + Wellness
- » Beyond Aesthetics
- » Plush Med-Spa

## Mortgage Company

East County Winner

### CSMC MORTGAGE

4353 Park Terrace Drive, #100, Westlake Village  
805-212-7710  
3200 E. Los Angeles Ave., #23, Simi Valley  
805-212-7910  
www.CSMCMortgage.com

CSMC Mortgage, also known as the Customer Service Mortgage Corpo-

ration, has a team of professionals that are dedicated to providing the very best customer service experience for clients, said Jeff Baum, president and broker of record. "We pride ourselves here at CSMC on exceeding expectations, and we are at your service every step of the way," he said.

"We are a Ventura County-based company that truly cares about the community and is involved in many projects to help the less fortunate, and gives back in many ways to support various non-profits throughout the area," Baum said. "Throughout our entire organization we have created a positive work environment with a family feel that keeps our team focused on helping our clients."

#### Favorites

- » Logix Federal Credit Union
- » Summit Funding
- » Ventura County Credit Union

***Aviara Real Estate would like to thank our supporters and clients. We are thrilled to be selected as the Ventura County Star's Readers' Choice for Real Estate Company and Title & Escrow in East County.***



***We look forward to serving your Real Estate and Escrow needs for many years to come.***





## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

**Landmark Financial was the winner for mortgage company in west county. Pictured are Dan O'Brien, president and broker, and Pat Borton, co-owner and broker.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

West County Winner

### LANDMARK FINANCIAL

1280 S. Victoria Ave., No. 180,  
Ventura  
805-650-4999  
www.landmarklender.com

"Our goal has always been to pro-

vide services with a focus on honesty and integrity," said Dan O'Brien, broker and president, who works alongside Pat Borton, a co-owner and broker at Landmark Financial. Mortgage loan programs include fixed rate mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages, VA loans, jumbo



**Readers voted Meathead Movers as the top moving company in Ventura County.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

mortgages and zero closing cost loans.

The staff is knowledgeable, passionate and efficient, and advises and guides clients in the most effective way possible.

"We do our best to educate and communicate as we go through the loan process, so it is less stressful," O'Brien said. "Landmark's philosophy is to provide the best service and products for our clients."

### Favorites

- » CSMC Mortgage
- » On Q Financial
- » Ventura County Credit Union

### Moving Company

Full County Winner

### MEATHEAD MOVERS

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.meatheadmovers.com/mov-

ers/ventura-county.aspx

Since 1997, Meathead Movers has taken the simple philosophy of superior customer service and parlayed it into a thriving and growing company that has changed the way people perceive the household moving and storage industry. Founders and brothers, Aaron and Evan Steed manage a team of energetic athletes who deliver a unique customer service experience with a relentless drive to make great things happen.

"Meathead Movers currently handles more than 13,000 local moves per year with more than 350 employees, making it the largest independent moving company in the state," said Aaron Steed, CEO and president. "Meathead Movers continues to revolutionize the moving industry with its focus on clients, employees and athletes."





**East County Favorites**

- » Attention 2 Detail Moving Company
- » PODS
- » Skinny Wimp Moving Co.

**West County Favorites**

- » Hilford Moving & Storage
- » PODS
- » Skinny Wimp Moving Co.

**Nail Salon**

East County Winner

**TOP NAILS**

2338 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-778-1962  
www.topnailsandspa.info

"I love for people to leave happy," said Top Nails owner Steve Nguyen. "We make customers feel important because they are," Nguyen said. "We want you to be happy with your nails. If something bothers you, let me know, and I'll take care of you right away without asking ques-

tions."

Top Nails is open seven days a week. "We have long hours to make it convenient for everyone," Nguyen said. "We try to be valuable to everyone and that's why we have so many loyal customers. There are so many choices out there and they choose to come here, so it's our priority to make them happy so they go nowhere else."

**Favorites**

- » Luxe Nails
- » Nails by Rose
- » VIP Nails and Beauty

West County Winner

**DANI'S MANIS**

265 S. Laurel St., Ventura  
805-620-7257

"We all have a passion for nails," said Danielle Vega, owner of Dan's Manis. "What we all focus and strive to accomplish is a quality service," Vega said. "From high-end quality brands to the quality of time that

you spend in the chair, and properly cleaned implements, it all results to a long-lasting quality nail service that won't leave you disappointed." Many clients ask for glitter, chrome, hand-painted nail art or Swarovski stones.

"Aside from a quality nail service, we specialize in all things nail art," Vega said. "Our waterless pedicures that include hot towel wraps are also loved by our clients, and we offer after hours space rental for small group gatherings."

**Favorites**

- » SJ Studio Salon and Spa
- » Top Nails
- » Y2 Nail Bar & Beauty Lounge

**Optometrist**

East County Winner

**FAMILY OPTOMETRY CENTER OF SIMI VALLEY**

1407 E. Los Angeles Ave., Suite 1-S,  
Simi Valley  
805-520-0900

www.familyoptometrysimi.com

The Family Optometry Center has been practicing in Simi Valley for 28 years, and its success lies in the way the staff treats its customers. "The key is to treat patients like family and with respect," Dr. Michael Freeland said. "Our staff remembers your name and we have a more personalized feeling, unlike the chain stores."

Family Optometry is a network doctor in most all vision plans, including EyeMed. The office is also a Premier Doctor for VSP. The center carries a wide selection of designer to budget frames, and most contact lenses are in stock.

Over the years, the business has seen its patients grow up, and now is seeing patients' kids and their families, Freeland said.

**Favorites**

- » Costco
- » Lynn Eye Medical Group Inc.
- » Nelson Murata Optometric

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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

West County Winner

**TWO TREES OPTOMETRY**

801 S. Victoria Ave., Suite 206, Ventura

805-650-2020

www.TwoTreesOptometry.com

Two Trees Optometry, owned by Dr. Kristopher Skromme, has been providing top-notch vision care and eyewear to Ventura County patients for decades.

The award-winning doctors and longtime staff members provide each patient with quality vision solutions and exceptional customer service. The office has a contact lens department, ophthalmic lab, and an eyewear dispensary that carries a wide selection from all the major designers.

"We are dedicated to providing the highest level of optometric services" said Dr. Kristopher Skromme, who has been with the practice for more than seven years and took over in 2015. "We treat all of our patients like family members and focus on patient eye health with advanced retinal equipment and iPhone imaging."

**Favorites**

- » Donald Steensma
- » Ventura Optometric Vision Care
- » William J. Shaffer

**Pediatrician**

East County Winners

**CONEJO CHILDREN'S MEDICAL**

**Rolling Oaks Pediatrics and its friendly staff was chosen as one of two winners for pediatrician in east county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**GROUP**

558 N. Ventu Park Road, Suite D, Thousand Oaks

805-499-5525

www.conejochildrens.com

Children come first at Conejo Children's Medical Group.

"Our staff is dedicated to providing care with the old-fashioned medical

ethic: putting the needs of the patient first," said Conejo Children's Medical Group founder, Dr. Donna Pachorek. She is joined by Dr. Nathalie Rubin, Dr. Elizabeth Vallance and Dr. Michael Melman. "We value every child as if they were our own. We know that every child is part of a family, and we try to involve the family in everything we do. Our pa-

tients are not just names and numbers in a chart, but children we have the privilege to care for and watch grow up."

**ROLLING OAKS PEDIATRICS**

425 Haaland Drive, Suite 104, Thousand Oaks  
805-494-1948

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VC-1992840



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RollingOaksPediatrics.com

Serving the greater the Conejo Valley and surrounding communities since 1982, Dr. Kenneth L. Saul and the Rolling Oaks Pediatric team have been providing top medical care for infants, children, and adolescents. Saul, along with associate Dr. Mizin Kawasaki, offers a boutique-style practice and a continuity in care that is rare in today's medical environment.

Above all, Rolling Oaks Pediatrics prides itself on providing highly individualized health care with "unparalleled thoughtful communication."

"Our doctors are like a quarterback on our patient's medical team, ensuring the best possible medical care with incredible follow-through," said Julie Saul, Rolling Oaks public relations director. "Patients, who call in and need to be seen, get an appointment the same day. We are very proud of that."

#### Favorites

- » Community Pediatrics
- » Los Robles Pediatric Medical Group
- » Oak Tree Pediatrics and More

West County Winner

#### COASTAL PEDIATRIC MEDICAL GROUP

451 West Gonzales Road, Suite 340, Oxnard

805-983-3900

100 North Brent St., Suite 102, Ventura

805-643-9271

www.coastalpediatrics.com

Coastal Pediatrics has provided exceptional pediatric medical care from birth through adolescence since 1978.

"Our vision at Coastal Pediatrics is to provide quality compassionate care in a playful, energetic environment," said Dr. Ben Pecht, one of the pediatricians with Coastal Pediatrics.

"Our goal is to offer families a more small-town pediatric experience, which is quickly disappearing na-



**Eric the Bug Guy, also known as Eric Horne, was voted the top pest control company in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/TOKI LEE

tionwide," Pecht said. "This includes knowing our families, offering same-day appointments, and communicating well with families."

"Parents have the ability to call for advice and actually talk with pediatricians and staff who know them," Pecht said. "We recognize the enormous trust parents give us, and Coastal Pediatrics takes pride in caring for the children of Ventura County."

#### Favorites

- » Dr. Alison Shuman
- » Carey Chronis
- » Surfside Pediatrics

#### Pest Control

East County Winners

#### CLARK PEST CONTROL

855 Lawrence Drive, Newbury Park

805-214-1417

www.clarkpest.com

Charlie Clark started Clark Pest Control in 1950 with one idea: "Keep the focus on providing exceptional customer service and stay on top of the latest advances in pest manage-

ment."

Services offered through the Newbury Park location, which serves cities throughout Ventura County, include bed-bug heat treatments, termite inspections and control, structural fumigation, weed control and termite damage repair.

"Our company was built on always striving to exceed our customers' expectations, and everyone who comes to work for us quickly learns that those high standards that Mr. Clark set are what make us successful at what we do," said Ken Molter, branch manager.

#### GRAYSON TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

P.O. Box 932, Newbury Park

805-716-3011

graysontermite.com

Started in 2010, Grayson Termite & Pest Control is a small, family-owned and -operated company based out of Thousand Oaks.

"We are privileged to provide pest

control services to Ventura County," said Nicholas Grayson, owner.

Pest control services include escrow inspections, rodent control and insect extermination to eradicate termites, rats, ants and other insects.

The ultimate goal is to serve clients and make sure their experience is pleasant.

"It's very important to us to maintain trust and good standing in our community. We take pride in our work," Grayson said. "Each job can be a unique challenge that we enjoy troubleshooting for the customer."

#### Favorites

- » Cragoe Pest Services, Inc.
- » Gold Coast Pest Control
- » AAction Pest Control

West County Winner

#### ERIC THE BUG GUY

805-419-0274

ericthebugguy.com

Eric Horne, also known as "Eric the



## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

bug guy," has been in the pest control business since 1992. "So, I've seen everything and I have vast knowledge of what to do," he said. Residential and commercial pest control services address all kinds of critters, including ants, spiders and rodents, and their eradication is effective yet safe. "I know what customers do and don't want," Horne said. "I don't have long-term contracts that pull you in for years. I always make sure I treat the house like it's my own, and I always keep my prices reasonable. It's pretty much the same fair pricing for everybody."

**Favorites**

- » Cal Termite & Pest Control
- » Ojai Termite & Pest Control
- » Umbrella Pest Control

**Photographer**

East County Winner

**CORNERSTONE PHOTOGRAPHY**

5351 Bonsai St., Moorpark



Melgar Photo Studio in Santa Paula was voted best photographer in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

805-529-3187

www.imagesbycornerstone.com

Cornerstone Photography provides "uniquely agile" photography services, "delivering high-quality, affordable volume portraits for local schools, as well as creating a boutique studio experience at our brick-and-mortar location in Moorpark," said Peter Lars, owner. Cornerstone Photography is considered the official senior portrait photographer for Buena High, La Reina High, Oaks Christian School, Thousand Oaks High and Westlake High. In new offerings, Cornerstone Photography has introduced online booking for its standard and unplugged senior portrait sessions. "We serve business communities, real estate needs, and provide cutting edge technology with our exclusive augmented reality app," Lars said. "Our multi-talented crew photographs everything from weddings to Little League, and is dedicated to providing the best customer service experience possible."

**Favorites**

- » Denise Butler Photography
- » Cindy Graham Photography
- » Alex Neumann Photography

West County Winner

**MELGAR PHOTO STUDIO**951 E. Main St., Santa Paula  
805-727-0449

As the owner of Melgar Photo Studio, Jose Luis Melgar views his job more like a vocation. "I love photograph. It's not a business; it's a profession that I really enjoy, and that translates into beautiful photos for the clients," Melgar said. Melgar specializes in capturing a wide range of special occasions, including anniversaries, weddings, baptisms and quinceañeras. For Melgar, his profession is not about making money. "It's more about making people happy," Melgar said. "I love bringing happiness to families, to couples getting married, to parents having children. For me, the ultimate reward is not the money. It's about knowing

people are happy with their photos."

**Favorites**

- » Broc Ellinger Photography
- » Monarch Photography
- » Shannon Prince Photography

**Place to Board Your Pet**

East County Winner

**CONEJO VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL**3580 Willow Lane, Thousand Oaks  
805-495-4671  
conejovet.com

Conejo Valley Veterinary Hospital is a 24-hour hospital, "so there's a veterinarian on the premises 24 hours a day, even during the night," said Dr. Todd Hughes, owner of the practice.

The pet resort on site includes a doggie day camp, and the practice has live streaming webcams available. The practice also serves birds, reptiles and rodents.

"I think a lot of boarding facilities don't have a veterinarian in the same building, but we have up to 10 dur-

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**Conejo Valley Veterinary Hospital is the winner for best place to board your pet in east county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ing the day and have veterinarians also during the night. So, if there's any kind of emergency, we're right in the same building," Hughes said. "That's a huge advantage as far as giving the owners peace of mind."

#### Favorites

- » Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa
- » Camp Bow Wow
- » Send Rover On Over

West County Winner

#### SEND ROVER ON OVER

1255 Callens Road, Suite E, Ventura  
805-650-3294

[www.sendroveronover.com](http://www.sendroveronover.com)

Founded by mother and daughter Valeri Elliot and Shelbi Wreesman, Send Rover On Over began more than a decade ago.

"Our goal was to provide our community with help and exceptional care for our deserving furry friends," Wreesman said. "We wanted everyone to have a place to turn to when they needed assistance, a place to go for guidance."

Send Rover On Over is not a kennel or boarding facility, she emphasized. "We focus on fun, playful daycare days that result into relaxing slumber nights," Wreesman said. "We strive to provide a homey atmosphere with the maximum level of comfort, care, safety and individual attention; with nights supervised by our sleepover attendees who know and adore your dog's temperament."

#### Favorites

- » Balcom Canyon Pet Lodge
- » Inglis Pet Hotel
- » Kittyland Resort & Spa
- » Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs

#### Place to Get Waxed

East County Winner

#### NAULIN AESTHETICS

463 Pennsfield Place, Suite 200,  
Thousand Oaks  
805-479-5504

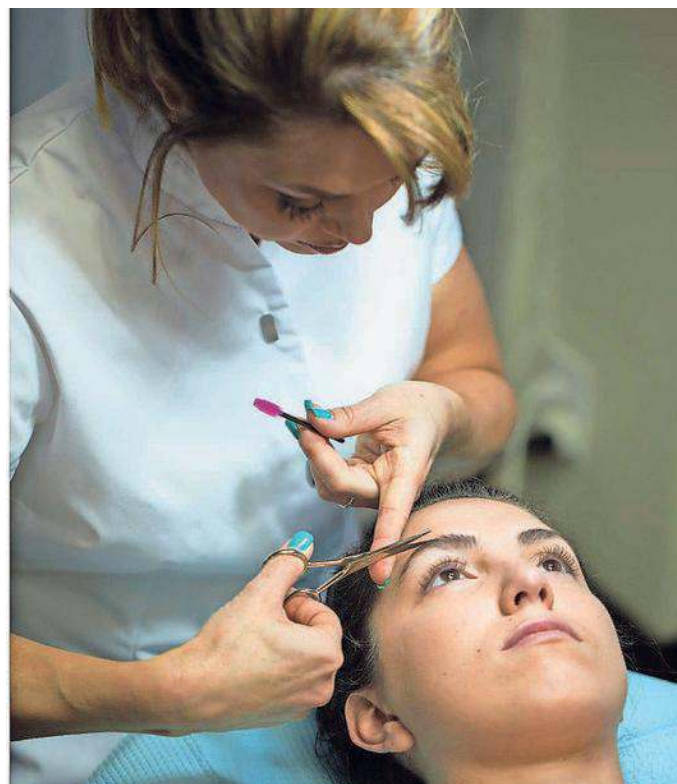
[www.NaulinAesthetics.com](http://www.NaulinAesthetics.com)

As an esthetician and owner of Naulin Aesthetics, Melissa Naulin believes what sets her business apart is her intense passion for this industry.

"I truly love my job and I look forward to every day that I have the opportunity to spend with my clients," Naulin said. "Each person is special to me and I take the time and care to put 100 percent into each service."

She offers premium waxing services, from eyebrow shaping to Brazilian bikinis, as well as medical grade peels, custom facials, dermaplaning, microdermabrasion and CO2 therapy.

"Naulin Aesthetics is now offering plasma fibroblast," Naulin said. "This non-surgical procedure permanently lifts and tightens sagging skin. Results are comparable to surgery with



**Naulin Aesthetics was named the best place to get waxed in east county.**  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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VC-1976480



## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

far less downtime and little risk.”

#### Favorites

- » European Wax Center
- » The Sweetest Skin Co.
- » The Waxing Goddess

West County Winner

#### CIBARA SALON

418 E. Main St., Ventura  
805-643-2171  
cibarasalonspaboutique.com

Aesthetician Kenna Hummer is what makes Cibara Salon's waxing services so unique, said Vanessa Moon, owner.

Hummer's bedside manner puts all clients' minds at ease as they undergo a range of waxing services, including facial waxing, eyebrow waxing and more.

“You can't help but feel comfortable around Kenna,” Moon said. “She's very approachable, she's sweet, she's wise beyond her years and she knows the business extremely well.” Hummer also uses waxes for all skin

types, including those with sensitive skin.

“Human-wise, she is one of the best people I've ever met,” Moon said. “Waxing-wise, she knows her craft.”

#### Favorites

- » Bunny Boutique and Wax Bar
- » European Wax Center
- » Wax Me!

### Place to Pamper Your Pet

East County Winner

#### CONEJO VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

3580 Willow Lane, Thousand Oaks  
805-495-4671  
conejovet.com

Pet grooming services at Conejo Valley Veterinary Hospital include haircuts and “pampered pet baths” that include shampoo, conditioner, drying, brushing, a nail trim, and even a blueberry facial.

The “zoom groom” for an additional fee is the same service as a bath, only your pet is groomed while you wait or leave for a short amount of time. The grooming department is fully staffed, and takes appointments seven days a week.

“As far as pampering goes, we have a full-service grooming facility so we can make any dog's coat shine and make them look very beautiful,” said Dr. Todd Hughes, owner.

#### Favorites

- » Barkley Pet Hotel & Day Spa
- » Debbie's Pet Grooming
- » Indiana Bones & The Temple of Groom

West County Winner

#### ALOHA DOG GROOMING

1998 E. Main St., Ventura  
805-643-4852

As the owner of Aloha Dog Grooming, Tina Baselice likes to be referral-based, and as such, her clientele is drawn primarily through word of mouth.

A groomer herself for 15 years, “it's a



**Readers chose Dr. Leilie Javan as the winner for plastic surgery in east county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The most popular procedures that Dr. Leilie Javan offers include fillers, Botox and breast augmentation, as well as Smart Lipo and Laser Lipo. “We do a lot of Laser Lipo and Smart Lipo, which allow for a very easy recovery with pretty fantastic results,” Javan said. “With the laser, a lot of patients like it because they don't have to go to sleep for it most of the time.”

“I take what I do very seriously,” said Javan, who has tried many of the therapies she offers on herself. “I'm constantly trying to learn to do new things and look for new therapies and treatments so I can continue bringing them to my patients.”

#### Favorites

- » Michael R. Schwartz Inc.
- » Rubinstein Hand Surgery and Plastic Surgery
- » Tansavatdi Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery by Kristina Tansavatdi

West County Winner

#### DR. SAMUEL BERN

1280 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura  
805-642-1699  
www.venturaplasticsurgery.com

As a board-certified plastic surgeon, Dr. Samuel Bern has performed more than 10,000 surgeries in the cosmetic and reconstructive categories. Believing that safety is of paramount importance in cosmetic surgery, he only utilizes fully staffed and accredited surgery centers.

What he enjoys most about his profession is that there are no “cookie-cutter” or mechanical procedures, and the fact that each individual surgery “has unique artistic elements.”

Above all, he believes in a personalized approach to plastic surgery, and treats every patient as an individual.

#### Favorites

- » Yuly Gorodisky, DO, FACOS
- » Pacifica Institute of Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery
- » Pickart Plastic Surgery Inc.

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2018 FAVORITE STAR

VC-1973282



## Property Management

East County Winner

### CENTURY 21 TROOP REAL ESTATE

Locations throughout Ventura County

[www.c21troop.com](http://www.c21troop.com)

Agents at Century 21 Troop Real Estate are coached and trained on a regular basis not only on new laws and regulations, but on sales skills, technology and the art of listening, said Charlene Siemon, general manager of the corporate office in Simi Valley.

"We are proud to be part of the Century 21 brand, which is a world-wide leader in the real estate industry," Siemon said. "Being a part of the Century 21 brand gives us the opportunity to expand our reach to our partners across the globe and gives our sellers the chance to have their properties exposed in 78 counties."

### Favorites

- » Aviara Real Estate
- » Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices – Kathy Fontana & Marlene Mortimer
- » Keller Williams Realty

West County Winner

### RE/MAX GOLD COAST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Locations throughout Ventura County

[www.californiarealty.com](http://www.californiarealty.com)

Attention to detail and top-notch customer services make RE/MAX Gold Coast Property Management stand apart, said Judith Thielemann, an associate at the Camarillo location.

"All of our offices will do more than just list and sign a contract. Our value goes way beyond the contract," Thielemann said.

RE/MAX, which first opened for business in 1990, offers more than 230 agents at branch offices throughout Ventura County.

Services include residential purchases and sales, commercial real estate, relocation, land purchases and sales, mortgage, title assistance and leasing.

"Our market share is strong because we get the job done," Thielemann said. "We do what's best for the client, not what's best for ourselves."

### Favorites

- » California Oaks Property Management
- » Troop Premier
- » Joe Kapp Real Estate

## Real Estate Company

East County Winner

### BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES CALIFORNIA REALTY

Locations throughout Ventura County

805-496-0555

[www.bhhscahomes.com](http://www.bhhscahomes.com)

Offering more than 200 agents throughout Ventura County, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices is a real estate brokerage franchisee network with a vision to be the top recognized homeowner services brand worldwide. The company mission is to provide services and support that significantly increase the growth and profitability of the network's affiliates and agents. With nearly 40 years of history in Ventura County, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices has won several awards, including "Real Estate Agency Brand of the Year" in the 26th annual HarrisPoll Equitrend study in 2014; and the company recognized with a Gold Stevie Award in the Start-up of the Year category of the 12th annual American Business Awards in 2014.

### Favorites

- » Aviara Real Estate
- » Century 21 Troop Real Estate
- » SG Associates

*thank you*

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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

West County Winner

**CENTURY 21 TROOP REAL ESTATE**

Locations throughout Ventura County

www.c21troop.com

"What sets us apart is our customer service to our clients," said Charlene Siemon, general manager of the Century 21 Troop Real Estate office in Simi Valley.

"Much of our business comes as referrals from past clients and leaders within our communities who have worked with our agents, either in a transaction or through the charitable work that we do as a company and on an individual agent basis," Siemon said. "We love where we live and giving back to our community is as essential as the job that we do in selling the benefits of living in Ventura County."

**Favorites**

- » Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices California Properties
- » Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices



**Century 21 Troop Real Estate was named the winner for real estate company in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

California Realty  
» RE/MAX Gold Coast Realtors

**Senior Living Facilities**

East County Winner

**SUNRISE OF WESTLAKE VILLAGE**

3101 Townsgate Road, Westlake Village  
805-557-1100; 805-319-4446  
www.sunriseseniorliving.com

Sunrise of Westlake Village is a senior assisted living community where residents are treated like family. "Our location is beautiful and our facilities are gorgeous," said Tara Gavigan, concierge. "It's also our team members here; we're all very dedicated and happy to be here." The site offers 24-hour care, three meals a day, and a care manager is always on site. They also have visiting hours 24 hours a day, "and we don't limit your visitation, so you can come anytime you want," Gavigan said.

Sunrise also has an open door policy for residents and team members. "If you have an issue you can bring it to the boss," she said. "We don't keep anything behind closed doors."

**Favorites**

- » Sunrise at Wood Ranch
- » University Village Thousand Oaks
- » Visiting Angels Living Assistance

West County Winner

**VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE**

4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura  
805-232-3676  
www.venturatownehouse.com



**Andy and Ellen Smith are the co-owners of Comfort Keepers Home Care, this year's winner for senior assistance in east county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Located on 12 landscaped acres, the Ventura Townehouse offers tower suites and garden villas; as well as cottage apartments coupled with a memory care program for residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of memory loss.

Active older adults in independent living receive chef-prepared gourmet meals, weekly housekeeping and daily transportation; while residents in assisted living receive help with everything from managing their medication to washing their laundry. Numerous amenities on site include a library, chapel, billiard's room, full-service beauty salon, wellness center, sewing room, card room, exercise trail, putting green and shuffleboard, and resident laundry rooms.

Ventura Townehouse also offers a twice-monthly happy hour with appetizers and live entertainment.

**Favorites**

- » Atria Las Posas
- » Cypress Place Senior Living
- » The Gables

**Senior Resources**

Full County Winner

**COMFORT KEEPERS HOME CARE**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.ComfortKeepers.com/Office-426

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(805) 648-9900

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VC-1984261



Andy Smith and his wife, Ellen Smith, are the co-owners of Comfort Keepers Home Care. He manages the business side, and his wife manages the client care department. Inspired by their own elderly parents, the couple founded the Comfort Keepers Home Care office in 2002.

"Comfort Keepers' mission is to provide the highest quality in-home nonmedical care to seniors, people recovering from hospital stays and people with chronic illness," Andy Smith said. "We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of our elderly clients, and helping them remain as independent as possible for as long as possible, living in the comfort of their own homes."

#### East County Favorites

- » Goebel Adult Community Center
- » Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association
- » Senior Concerns

#### West County Favorites

- » 24HR Homecare
- » Assisted Home Care & Hospice
- » Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association

### Tattoo Parlor

East County Winner

#### PALACE ART TATTOO

772 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-418-7642  
www.palaceart.tattoo

Starting in August of 2011, Palace Art was the first tattoo shop ever in Thousand Oaks.

Owner and artist Glenn West has been practicing the fine art of tattooing and piercing since 1988 and has worked at numerous shops. He specializes in color bomb, Asian-inspired, black-and-gray, and symmetry tattoos.

Other artists include Devon Francis, who specializes in black-and-gray realism; Bruno Corso, who loves to do all styles; and Willy Bonadio, who does fine line, dot work, black-and-gray and color work.



**Jim Fiore Angelo is the owner of Jimi's Tattoo & Body Piercing, this year's winner for best tattoo parlor in west county.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Look at our work," West said. "The tattoos coming out of our shop are clean, neat and original. We take pride in being the best."

#### Favorites

- » Clear Vision Tattoo
- » Dire Wolf Tattoos and Fine Art
- » The Tattoo Room

West County Winner

#### JIMI'S TATTOO & BODY PIERCING

407 E. Port Hueneme Road, Port Hueneme  
805-488-9190  
www.jimistattoo.com

Jimi's Tattoo & Body Piercing has been in business since 1974, including a decade in Louisiana and 35 years in Port Hueneme.

Using state-of-the-art equipment, he specializes in all styles of tattoos, including full color, tribal art, custom tattoos, Celtic designs, traditional tattoos, wild designs, touch-ups, cover-ups and black and gray. And

he'll pierce any part of your body. "I'm the only one who does the work. I've done every tattoo and piercing that's come out of here," said Jim Fiore Angelo, owner, who estimates he's done "thousands and thousands" of tattoos and piercings over the years. "I treat customers the way I like to be treated. And I do pretty consistent work."

#### Favorites

- » Bone Deep Tattoo
- » Ink House Tattoos & More
- » White Lotus Body Arts Studio

### Title and Escrow

East County Winner

#### AFFIRMATIVE ESCROW

2860 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 200, Thousand Oaks  
805-496-7254  
www.affirmativeescrow.com

Providing escrow services to Ventura County for more than 16 years,

Affirmative Escrow specializes in residential, commercial and 1031 exchange transactions, as well as standard, cash, short sale, tract, probate, foreclosure, Real Estate Owned, reverse mortgage and refinancing escrows. Staff members, who are known for providing individualized customer care, attend education courses to stay up-to-date with the latest escrow trends to assist with questions and advice before entering an escrow. In other company highlights, a live person answers the phone during regular business hours, and clients can sign documents on Saturdays or during the evenings. Additionally, staff members are always available to answer questions.

#### Favorites

- » All Valley Escrow
- » Aviara Escrow
- » Chicago Title
- » Orange Coast Title

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## SERVICES

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

West County Winner

**ALL VALLEY ESCROW**

2301 E. Daily Drive, Suite 301, Camarillo  
805-388-1901  
allvalleyescrow.com

"We strive to ensure that all of your escrow needs are met with superior and personalized service," said Kim Keith, general manager at All Valley Escrow. "We go above and beyond other escrow companies to help close your transaction."

All Valley Escrow Inc. is a full-service, independent escrow company that was formed in 1999 from a company that had been in the escrow business since 1990, but regulated by the Department of Real Estate. The decision was made in 1998 to incorporate as an independent escrow and be the best escrow company in the county.

"Our highly qualified team of escrow officers and staff are dedicated to providing the highest level of ser-

vice, security and professionalism," Keith said.

**Favorites**

- » Fidelity National Title
- » First American Title Insurance Co.
- » Lawyers Title

**Trade School**

East County Winner

**MOORPARK COLLEGE**

7075 Campus Road, Moorpark  
805-378-1400  
www.moorparkcollege.edu

In 2015, Moorpark College was ranked by the Huffington Post as the fourth-best community college in the nation. "And in 2017, we were ranked by BestColleges.com as the best community college in California," said Luis P. Sanchez, president of Moorpark College. A key factor in these rankings is the success of students as they transfer to top universities.

"Last year, 85 percent of our honors



**Moorpark College was voted top trade school in Ventura County.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

students who applied to UCLA were accepted there," Sanchez said. In other highlights, "our forensics team, our robotics team and our journalism students have consistently excelled in national competition; our student athletes are recognized for their academic achievement, and our training zoo is nationally renowned – to name just a few of our outstanding programs," he said.

**Favorites**

- » Conejo Valley Adult School
- » Professional Medical Careers Institute School of Nursing
- » Simi Valley Adult School

West County Winner

**VENTURA ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

5200 Valentine Road, Ventura  
805-289-1744  
www.AdultEdVentura.edu

Ventura Adult and Continuing Education is an accredited public school in the Ventura Unified School District that's open to students 18 years old or older who possess a high school diploma, GED or equivalent. VACE offers classes in Career Technical Education, high school diploma and equivalency, citizenship prep-

aration, Spanish language academics, English as a second language, parenting, family, consumer education and community enrichment, as well as classes for adults with disabilities and "Lifelong Learning for Savvy Seniors."

"Career Technical Education classes are open enrollment, meaning students can start any Monday, instead of having to wait for the next semester to begin," said Scott Collins, who teaches computer-aided design programs, and serves as the social media/online content manager for VACE.

**Favorites**

- » Charter College
- » Lu Ross Academy
- » SBB College Ventura

**Veterinarian**

East County Winner

**CONEJO VALLEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

3580 Willow Lane, Thousand Oaks  
805-495-4671  
conejovet.com

The staff at Conejo Valley Veterinary Hospital is always available, "so we have regular hours on the weekends, and we have overnight care for

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emergencies, which gives people peace of mind. If there's an emergency after hours, they come in here and all their records are here."

The veterinary hospital is the newest in Ventura County with the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

"If you walked through our hospital, you would think you were at a human hospital," Hughes said. "We're going on our fourth year in our new facility, so it's very modern. We have advanced diagnostics, and often times we can do a lot of advanced surgeries and internal medicine without having to refer our clients to a specialist."

#### Favorites

- » Newbury Park Veterinary Clinic
- » Park Animal Hospital
- » Valley Veterinary Clinic

West County Winner

#### OHANA PET HOSPITAL

4547 Telephone Road, Suite A,  
Ventura

805-658-7387

[www.ohanapethospital.com](http://www.ohanapethospital.com)

Ohana Pet Hospital was built upon the values of compassion, community and connection, said Dr. Janis Shinkawa, medical director.

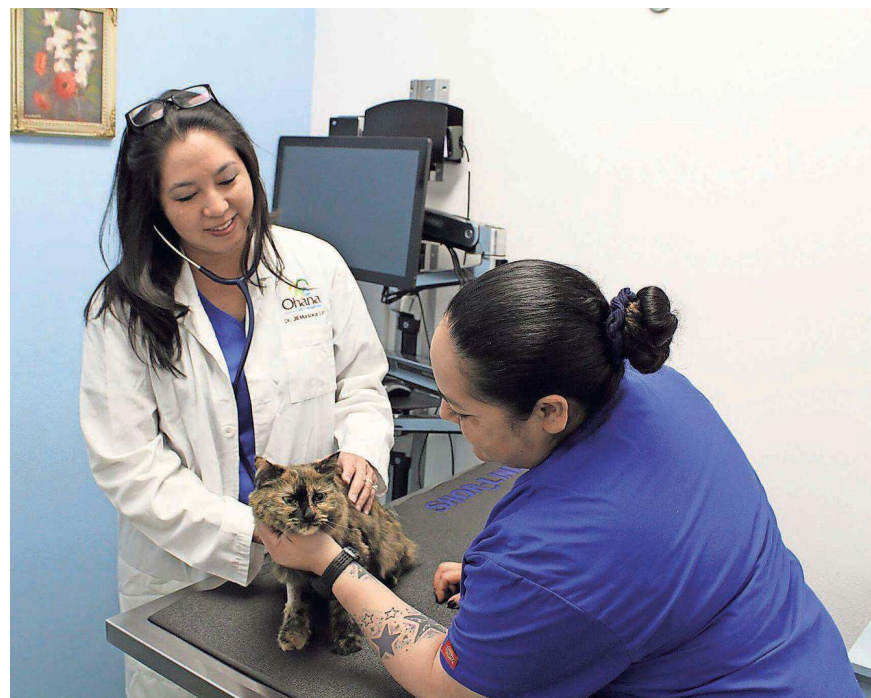
"Our team of pet healthcare providers is dedicated to continued learning and development of themselves to be able to offer quality medicine, surgery and urgent care," Shinkawa said.

Private ownership allows Ohana Pet Hospital to be creative in how they do business to meet the needs of the community.

"We offer a multitude of employee benefits, which include health and wellness opportunities to take care of our entire team and attract excellent people," Shinkawa added.

#### Favorites

- » Channel Islands Veterinary Hospital
- » The Cat Doctor
- » Ventura Veterinary Hospital



Dr. Jill Muraoka Lim, co-owner and veterinarian at Ohana Pet Hospital, and veterinary assistant Sylvia Campos examine a cat. The Ventura hospital was voted best veterinarian in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# SHOPPING





## Bicycle Shop

East County Winner

### NEWBURY PARK BICYCLE SHOP

1602 Newbury Road, Newbury Park  
805-498-7714  
www.npbikeshop.com

A family-operated business for more than five decades, Newbury Park Bicycle Shop offers a large staff to help cyclists with all their repairs and buying needs, and has about 500 bikes in the store at any time.

"We have a new store in Camarillo that's doing really well," said Mike Cicchi, owner. "We do all our business for both stores here, and we have an off-site warehouse with about 1,000 bikes."

Cicchi's brother retired a few years ago, "and I took on a new partner, Ben Cox," Cicchi said. "We live in the community, I grew up here and so did Ben. By being involved, we know what to put in the store and what to buy, and the market changes constantly."

#### Favorites

- » 805 Bicycles
- » Michael's Bicycles
- » Rick's Bicycle Shop

West County Winner

### OPEN AIR BICYCLES

2386 E. Main St., Ventura  
805-653-1100

Open Air Bicycles, a family-owned business for more than three decades, operates largely by word of mouth, said John Avery, owner. "Our customer service is what makes us stand out," Avery said. "We take the time to figure out what people want and what they need, and try to figure out the product or the bike service that makes things work for them."

The shop has "pretty much everything," including kids' bikes, race bikes, beach cruisers and comfort bikes. "Another big part of what we do is our service department. We do the quickest turn around that we

can," Avery said. "The service is about 80 percent of our reputation."

#### Favorites

- » Bill's Bike Shop
- » REI
- » Trek Bikes of Ventura

## Book Store

Full County Winner

### BARNES & NOBLE

Locations throughout Ventura County  
stores.barnesandnoble.com

Book lovers can grab a cup of Starbucks coffee at Barnes and Noble in Thousand Oaks as they browse through endless titles in numerous categories, including new releases and New York Times best sellers. The subjects are endless, from science fiction to westerns, engineering to true crime.

"We have a new offering we're doing which is a book club," said Matt Milgrom, who works at the Thousand Oaks location. The first meeting, which took place on May 2, featured the book, "The Female Persuasion," by Meg Wolitzer.

"We're trying to do this once a month so that was the big start off meeting," Milgrom said. "Doing an event like this keeps people coming into our book store and having fun."

#### East County Favorites

- » \$5 Or Less Bookstore
- » The Open Book
- » Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library

#### West County Favorites

- » Bank of Books
- » The Calico Cat Bookshop
- » Mrs. Figs' Bookworm

## Car Dealer — New

East County Winner

### LEXUS OF THOUSAND OAKS

3755 Auto Mall Drive, Thousand Oaks  
888-227-0751  
www.lexusofthousandoaks.com



In east county, Newbury Park Bicycle Shop was voted best bicycle shop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

Readers chose Vista Ford in Oxnard as the top new car dealer in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/JAMES R. STANLEY JR.

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VC-1971140

At Lexus of Thousand Oaks, "the environment we've created with our personnel and our facility makes customers very comfortable the minute they walk through the door," said Jane Brandt, sales manager.

New cars, which range from \$37,000 to \$105,000, feature numerous Lexus models, including the 2018 Lexus ES 300h, the 2018 Lexus RX 350L, and the 2018 Lexus GX 460. Numerous cars in the Lexus hybrid line are also available, including a luxury sedan with the feel of a 10-speed automatic transmission.

"We have a new state-of-the-art facility that's very open and inviting," Brandt said. "Our Lexus culture is to treat everybody as a guest in our own home."

#### Favorites

- » Bob Smith BMW
- » DCH Toyota of Simi Valley
- » Honda of Thousand Oaks
- » Thousand Oaks Toyota

West County Winner

#### VISTA FORD LINCOLN

1501 Auto Center Drive, Oxnard  
844-327-7790  
www.vistaoxnard.com

Vista Ford Lincoln of Oxnard is the number one Ford dealer in the Tri-County area based on 2017 new vehicle sales totals from Ford Motor Company, said Tony Fiori, vice president.

"The Vista Ford family of dealerships have been family owned and operated since 1974," Fiori said.

Vista Ford Lincoln of Oxnard features an 8½-acre, two-story facility with rooftop inventory, including a large commercial truck inventory and a commercial fleet sales department. Vista Ford Racing is the high performance division of Vista Ford Lincoln of Oxnard and the department used for its motorsport and racing activity.

"Customers become our friends, and

our friends become our family," Fiori said.

#### Favorites

- » DCH Toyota of Oxnard
- » Kirby Subaru of Ventura
- » Ventura Toyota

#### Car Dealer — Used

East County Winner

#### THOUSAND OAKS TOYOTA

2401 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-856-1272  
www.totoyota.com

Thousand Oaks Toyota sells around 100 cars a month in the used car department, and about 20 percent of those who buy cars on a monthly basis are returning customers, or friends and relatives of those customers, said Bob Cook, manager of pre-owned automobiles.

"All of our vehicles go through an inspection with certified mechanics," Cook said. "We do our very best to take any of the elements out of potential issues for the customer before they get them."

Thousand Oaks Toyota also stands apart because it's family-owned and operated.

"Which means we're flexible, we don't push and shove," Cook said. "We don't have quotas or deadlines, so it's a relaxed atmosphere, and the customer feels that when they walk in."

#### Favorites

- » Allen Motors
- » DCH Toyota of Simi Valley
- » First Honda Simi Valley

West County Winner

#### CARMAX

2001 Lockwood St., Oxnard  
805-288-8041  
www.carmax.com

Nearly 25 years ago, CarMax revolutionized the auto industry by delivering the honest, transparent and high-integrity car buying experience customers want and deserve; mak-



ing car buying more ethical, fair and stress-free by offering a no-haggle, no-hassle experience and an incredible selection of vehicles.

"CarMax maximizes customer choice by offering a large selection and making our nationwide inventory of nearly 50,000 vehicles available for viewing online," said Dietta Slayton, public relations coordinator. "Upon request by a customer, CarMax will also transfer most used cars among the company's 185 stores, giving customers greater access to a much larger selection of inventory." CarMax makes selling your car easy too, by offering no-obligation appraisals good for seven days.

#### Favorites

- » DCH Toyota of Oxnard
- » Enterprise Car Sales
- » Steve Thomas BMW

### Farmers Market

East County Winner

#### THOUSAND OAKS CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET

350 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks  
805-529-6266  
www.vccfarmersmarkets.com

Open on Thursdays from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at The Oaks Shopping Center, the Thousand Oaks Certified Farmers Market offers a range of items, including fresh meat products, herbs, honey, eggs, whole and shelled nuts, olive oil, fruit juices, jams, jellies, cut flowers and potted plants. Numerous food vendors are also on site, selling artisan baked goods, salads, kettle corn and more. "The market is a not-for-profit farmers' cooperative that started in the City of Thousand Oaks in May 1991," said Karen Wetzel Schott, operations manager. "The emphasis is on local, small farmers, an expanding organic section, great customer service, and many of our farmers have been in the market since it opened. Now, we're open during the holidays, too."



**Flooring 101 was named best flooring store in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

#### Favorites

- » Green Acres Farm Market and Catering
- » Simi Valley Farmers Market
- » Underwood Family Farms
- » Westlake Village Farmers Market

West County Winner

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS HARBOR FARMERS MARKET

3350 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard  
818-591-8161  
www.rawinspiration.org

Open every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Channel Islands Harbor Farmers Market is considered a rare gem, said Melissa Farwell, director of market coordination and development for Raw Inspiration. Customers can pick out organic and fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, or a bouquet of fresh-cut flowers straight from the farm. "It's a community gathering place where neighbors can meet up for a quick bite while vendors prepare fresh breakfast or lunch," Farwell said. "Feel the fresh ocean breeze as you pick up a cute beach-themed home décor item or gift. With so many unique and amazing artisanal foods to sample and take home, the Channel Islands Farmers Market is a special farmers market for the whole family."

#### Favorites

- » Camarillo Hospice Certified Farmers Market
- » Ojai Certified Farmers Market
- » VC Certified Farmers Markets Ventura Midtown & Downtown

### Flooring Store

East County Winner

#### HAWSE ABBEY CARPET OF SIMI VALLEY

4166 E Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley  
805-527-3716  
www.SimiValley.AbbeyCarpet.com

"We know that selecting the right flooring for your home can be overwhelming," said Jennifer Charles, store manager at Hawse Abbey Carpet in Simi Valley. "We make choosing the right items for your home simple."

The staff helps customers choose the perfect floor for their lifestyle and budget – along with a complimentary measure – and will help them with every step, from selection to installation.

Numerous hardwood selections are available in a variety of "species," including oak, hickory, maple, walnut, birch, cherry, bamboo and pecan.

"When choosing comfort, fashion and style for your home, please visit

our showroom," Charles said. "Our promise to you is to provide the best selection in a friendly, comfortable and helpful atmosphere."

#### Favorites

- » Conejo Hardwoods
- » Flooring 101
- » Home Depot

West County Winner

#### FLOORING 101

2871 E. Main St., Ventura  
805-586-2535  
1720 Jones Way, Oxnard  
805-946-1292  
flooring101.com

Flooring 101 has an edge because it's a local, family-owned business, said Josh Guzman, a sales associate at the Ventura store, which carries carpet, hardwood, laminate, stone, luxury vinyl, ceramic, area rugs, and more.

Top flooring brands carried by the store include Stainmaster, Armstrong, Karastan, Shaw Floors and



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## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

Mohawk. Flooring 101 also offers free, in-home measurements and estimates. "The fact that we're family-owned earns a little more trust," he said. "We are also very competitive with prices and what we carry, and what we can order as well. We have a competitive edge that big box stores don't have and a knowledgeable staff."

**Favorites**

- » Isensee Floor Covering
- » Lowe's
- » Lumber Liquidators
- » Tile City & Stone

**Florist**

East County Winner

**THE DE LUXE BALLOON COMPANY**

805-990-8970

thedeluxeballooncompany.com

As the only balloon bouquet delivery company in the county, The De Luxe Balloon Company offers balloon

arrangements in twisted shapes and custom designs that can include confetti, glitter, feathers and flowers.

"Your custom created balloons can arrive at your door on the day of your event. Also, we offer same-day service when available," said Kota Paige, owner and designer. "We are completely modern in that you can custom order via text or through our website 24 hours a day."

"We pride ourselves on taking the stress out of ordering and transporting balloons," Paige said. "We make it easy with delivery and a text or call, and your balloons arrive ready to make the party sparkle."

**Favorites**

- » Angela's Florists & Gifts
- » Michael's Flowers
- » Trader Joe's

West County Winner

**SWEET PEAS FLOWERS & GIFTS**

2855 Johnson Drive, Suite Q, Ventura

805-644-9992

www.sweetpeasflowersandgifts.net

Kasey Krufft started working at Sweet Peas Flowers & Gifts when she was 15 years old in 1990, and she has owned the shop now for 15 years. "Ventura has always been my home and I love this community," Krufft said. "I am honored to be there for the happy times in life and also for the sad."

Krufft makes floral arrangements for all occasions, including anniversaries, birthdays and new babies. She also makes arrangements for categories including "love and romance," "just because" and "make someone smile." "Each piece is special and we believe each arrangement is our business card going out the door," Krufft said. "We are blessed to do what we do and it shows in our work."

**Favorites**

- » Camarillo Flower Shop
- » Passion Flowers & Gifts
- » Shell's Petals Florist



The De Luxe Balloon Company in Moorpark was voted the top florist in east county. The company also delivers flowers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**Furniture Store**

East County Winners

**ETHAN ALLEN**

28509 Canwood St., Agoura Hills

818-889-6531

www.ethanallen.com

Aside from having great quality furniture, Ethan Allen also offers an experienced design team that helps customers with their selection needs, said Dana Brennan, store manager.

"We're really sincere and genuine

about assisting customers, and facilitating their designs," Brennan said. "All my designers have such a great passion for design that's evident when customers talk to them. We help set the proper expectations and make sure the client is really being listened to, and follow up with them."

Ethan Allen offers furniture for every space, including living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms and offices.

"We're currently getting ready for a new collection called Uptown, so it's very exciting," Brennan said.



## THE SLEEP SHOPPE

Locations throughout Ventura County  
shopthesleepshoppe.com

As a local family-owned mattress store, The Sleep Shoppe has obviously earned a reputation for its mattresses, but the store also carries several bedroom furniture manufacturers, specializing in higher end wood, such as cherry, maple and oak, as well as iron bedroom furniture.

"We carry all solid wood, so it's not inexpensive," said Fred Kunke, owner. In addition to the wood, "we do a lot of iron, as well."

Another aspect that sets The Sleep Shoppe apart is its longtime employees, who all have extensive training to assist customers with all their bedroom furniture buying needs.

"We've been here over 30 years," Kunke said. "You can't be in business for 30 years without having the best customer service."

## URBAN HOME

1555 Simi Town Center Way, Simi Valley  
805-604-0908  
111 S. Westlake Blvd., Suite 101, Westlake Village  
805-496-9986  
www.urbanhome.com

Customers who arrive at Urban Home are greeted immediately the moment they walk through the door to shop for all their furniture needs. "Our customers are No. 1," said Tatiana Magdaleno, manager of the Westlake Village store. "When they tell us about their home, we tell them what works and our staff is really friendly to help them with all their needs."

Urban Home features furniture for living rooms, bedrooms, offices, dining rooms and more. Numerous accessories include pillows, art, mirrors, table linens, lighting and silk florals.

"We offer everything, including so-

fas, beds, accessories and candles," Magdaleno said. "We're like a one-stop shop because you can get everything here for your home."

## Favorites

- » Granada Oak Furniture
- » PTS Furniture
- » Reed's Furniture

West County Winner

## ETHAN ALLEN

4830 Telephone Road, Ventura  
805-650-9193  
www.ethanallen.com

As a lead interior designer at Ethan Allen in Ventura, Jill Tannehill-Shaw has seen the company grow and redefine itself to fit the current trends and needs of its clientele.

"Our design center truly cares about its clients and our passion is to create beautiful and functional spaces for them," Tannehill-Shaw said. Ethan Allen provides interior design services free of charge to purchasing clients, and follows up with clients to assist with their vision.

"If they are not sure we can come up with the concept for them and we present it in a beautiful presentation of fabrics, finishes, drawings and accent items so they can visualize their new space," Tannehill-Shaw said. "We function as a team to benefit our clients."

## Favorites

- » Ashley Furniture
- » For Your Home Furniture
- » The Sleep Shoppe

## Grocery Store

East County Winner

## TRADER JOE'S

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.traderjoes.com

For the ninth annual Customer Choice Awards at Trader Joe's conducted in January of this year, favorite overall grocery items include the mandarin orange chicken, Almond Kringle, spiced cider, dark chocolate peanut butter cups, Unexpected

Cheddar, cold brew coffee concentrate and organic Ketchup. Runners up include Everything But The Bagel Seasoning, Sliced French Brioche, Brewed Ginger Beer, Scandinavian Swimmers, Double Cream Brie and Organic Fair Trade Sumatra. "Our fresh produce is typically a favorite among customers," said Kenya Friend-Daniel, public relations director at Trader Joe's. "We also have frozen products, vegan and gluten-free products that do very well."

## Favorites

- » Gelson's
- » Ralph's
- » Sprouts Farmers Market

West County Winner

## TRADER JOE'S

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.traderjoes.com

Some of the top selling grocery items at Trader Joe's include Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups,

Sliced Sourdough Bread, Triple Ginger Brew, Dark Chocolate Covered Espresso Beans, Cheddar Cheese With Caramelized Onions, Green Dragon Hot Sauce, Spinach & Artichoke Dip, Chicken Gyoza Potstickers, New York Deli Style Cheesecake and Joe's Diner Mac 'n Cheese.

Additional hot selling items in the beauty category include Tea Tree Tingle Shampoo, Coconut Body Butter, Honey Mango Shave Cream, Organic Argan Oil and Jojoba Oil. During the holiday season, top favorites include Candy Cane Joe-Joe's, Mini Dark Chocolate Mint Stars, Dark Chocolate Covered Peppermint Joe-Joe's, Jingle Jangle and Panettone.

Trader Joe's also offers popular meatless options, including Meatless Meatballs and Soy Chorizo.

## Favorites

- » Ralph's
- » Vons
- » WinCo Foods



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## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR**Health Food Store**

East County Winner

**TRADER JOE'S**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.traderjoes.com

Trader Joe's is all about providing great and unique products, of the highest quality, at great prices, as well as an amazing customer experience, said Kenya Friend-Daniel, public relations director at Trader Joe's. "While we do not consider ourselves to be a health store, Trader Joe's is committed to providing our customers with products they enjoy and in many cases, can't find anywhere else, and that includes healthier options," Friend-Daniel said. "To be recognized by our customers as a favorite, means a lot to us and is never taken for granted. We know we wouldn't be where we are today without them."

**Favorites**

- » Lassens
- » Sprouts Farmers Market
- » Whole Foods Market

West County Winner

**SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET**

4870 Telephone Road, Ventura  
805-941-4013  
www.sprouts.com/store/ca/ventura/ventura  
2400 Las Posas Road, Camarillo  
805-233-3755  
www.sprouts.com/store/ca/camarillo/camarillo

Offering numerous healthy options including organic food and produce, Sprouts Farmers Market offers competitive prices for the new type of shopper, said Dan Andrade, manager of the Ventura location. "A lot of people have already educated themselves on what's being given to them through these grocery stores, and a lot of people know they're not going to spend their entire paycheck here," Andrade said. "We have weeklong sales where we

go 25 percent off everything organic or everything in our vitamin department."

"The main thing is we have all these options here," Andrade said. "We also offer extremely high customer service. We want to make sure people have a great time when they enter, and that they leave extremely satisfied."

**Favorites**

- » Lassen's
- » Trader Joe's
- » Whole Foods Market

**Home Improvement/  
Hardware Store**

East County Winner

**HOME DEPOT**

Locations through Ventura County  
www.homedepot.com

"We strive to be a No. 1 customer retailer in the world," said Jeremy Luongo, operations manager at Home Depot. "We're all about convenience and value for our customers."

The staff at Home Depot can assist customers with a wide range of projects, including how to build a window box planter, how to make a pebble pathway, how to choose fencing and deck materials, and how to choose a fire pit. Customers can also make selections from numerous décor items, including rugs, coat racks, mirrors and wall mounted shelves.

"We just want to be a source of knowledge for our community," Luongo said.

**Favorites**

- » Do It Center
- » Lowe's
- » Orchard Supply Hardware

West County Winner

**LOWE'S**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.lowes.com

At Lowe's Home Improvement, "we focus on customer service. That's what we preach every day," said Mark Taylor, manager of the Oxnard store.

"We have daily huddles and try to get everybody excited, and by the end of the day, everything we do is focused around our customers whether it's just basic customer service or merchandising." With stores throughout the United States, Lowe's serves more than 17 million customers each week, in addition to offering more than 400,000 products online. The shop's 13 product categories include appliances, paint, tools, nursery products and lumber.

"Our goal is to make it easily shoppable for any customer," Taylor said. "We don't do any intimidating displays. Everything we do is customer-focused."

**Favorites**

- » Ace Hardware
- » B&B Do It Center
- » Home Depot

**Jewelry Store**

East County Winner

**ANDERSON JEWELERS**

484 E. Los Angeles Avenue, Suite 102, Moorpark  
805-529-5844  
www.anderson.jewelry

Making fine jewelry and friends since 1963, Anderson Jewelers always has been a great place to run into old friends, and even family.

"We are extremely proud of the custom designs and attention to fine detail, with unparalleled craftsmanship that goes into our jewelry," said Dave Pardo, owner.

From engagement and wedding rings, to custom "push" gifts for new mothers, to anniversary and graduation gifts, "we are your complete source," Pardo said. "There is nothing like a family-owned business that has the personal customer service you always expect, but seldom find.

Anderson Jewelers is where Moorpark gets engaged."

**Favorites**

- » Costco
- » Gold N Heart Jewelers
- » McClave Jewelers

West County Winner

**GEORGE THOMPSON DIAMOND CO.**

309 W. Ventura Blvd., Suite D, Camarillo  
805-388-5750  
www.georgethompson.com

In business for four decades, George Thompson Diamond Co. was formerly located in Oxnard, and has been established in Camarillo for the last 18 years.

"We're an independent store," said Terry Salinas-Lopez, who has been working at the company for 23 years. "We do our own manufacturing and that's how we're able to have the great prices that we do, because we don't buy ready-made pieces; we do everything ourselves. So, we're able to cut costs and pass the savings onto our customers."

Top sellers include engagement rings, as well as gifts for Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, anniversaries and birthdays.

"Our business revolves around people who are happy and in love and in a good mood celebrating a special occasion."

**Favorites**

- » Fox Fine Jewelry
- » Jewelry Couture by Sehati
- » Nerces Fine Jewelry

**Lingerie Store**

Full County Winner

**VICTORIA'S SECRET**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.victoriassecret.com

Victoria's Secret sells a wide range of bras, panties and lingerie, as well as beauty products such as the Velvet Matte Sheer line of lip glosses, and body scents and sprays, in-



cluding the limited edition Bomb-shell Summer line. The stores also sell Victoria Sport, a line of sports bras for every workout with three levels of support, ranging in sizes from extra small to DDD. New arrivals in this line include the Angel Max Sport Bra, the Player Mesh Racerback, the front-close sport bra, and the keyhole sport bra. Trending items include the French Terry Bomber Jacket, the high-rise boot-cut yoga pant, cropped pull-overs and pullover sweatshirts.

#### East County Favorites

- » A Private Affair
- » Kate & Lace
- » Macy's

#### West County Favorites

- » Aphrodite's Lingerie & Gift Gallery
- » Althea's Corset Shop
- » Soma Intimates
- » Trystology

### Locally Grown Produce

Full County Winner

#### UNDERWOOD FAMILY FARMS STRAWBERRIES

3370 Sunset Valley Road, Moorpark  
805-529-3690  
5696 East Los Angeles Ave., Somis  
805-386-4660  
underwoodfamilyfarms.com

Underwood Family Farms has two farm markets in Somis and Moorpark, as well as booths at 16 farmers markets throughout Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

"We offer a bounty of fruits and vegetables, as well as eggs, flowers, unique jarred products, gift baskets, and much more," said Suzannah Underwood.

Guests can pick their own blueberries at the Somis farm from Memorial Day through July, as well as strawberries, specifically Monterey and Albion varieties known for being super-sweet and hearty. Raspberries and blackberries can be picked at both locations when in season.

"Moorpark also offers a wide variety of vegetables for picking, including



Readers chose the strawberries grown by Underwood Family Farms as the top locally grown produce in east county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Ventura County

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## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

**Lorisa Robles, owner of Yes She Cans Apple Butter, shows the product that is this year's winner for best locally made product in Ventura County. The product is sold at Spice-Topia in Ventura.**

salad greens and root varieties, as well as boysenberries and olallieberries for a short period in the summertime," Underwood said.

#### Favorites

- » McGrath Family Farms Strawberries
- » Ojai Pixie Tangerines
- » Terry Farms Strawberries

### Locally Made Product

Full County Winner

#### YES SHE CANS APPLE BUTTER

Sold at Spice Topia, 576 E., Main St., Ventura  
805-320-8794

Made in her own kitchen, Lorisa Robles' apple butter is crafted from

a variety of apples that she slow roasts anywhere from 24 to 48 hours with spices.

Her product, which can be found at Spice Topia in Ventura, is special because it's not sourced out for someone else to make.

"I add a lot of love into my apple butter and make sure each batch is perfect before I sell it," said Robles, who founded her business, Yes She Cans, in 2014, and is licensed through cottage law to make her apple butter at home. "You cannot find this anywhere else."

#### Favorites

- » Bennett's Honey Farm Honey
- » Herzog Wine Cellars
- » Ojai Olive Oil
- » Topa Topa Brewing Company



**The Sleep Shoppe is this year's winner for best mattress store in east county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS**

### Mattress Store

East County Winner

#### THE SLEEP SHOPPE

Locations throughout Ventura County  
shopthesleepshoppe.com

The Sleep Shoppe is the oldest mattress retailer in Ventura County, and has earned a reputation for its vast selection and top-notch customer service.

"We have every major brand that you could possibly search for," said Fred Kunke, owner.

Mattress brands include Aireloom, BeautyRest, Berkeley Ergonomics, Drift, Kingsdown, Sealy, Serta, Stearns & Foster, and Tempur-Pedic. The store also carries hybrid mattresses, cooling mattresses and handmade mattresses, as well as mattresses with cooling gel memory foam.

#### Favorites

- » Costco
- » Sit 'N Sleep
- » Sleep Number

West County Winner

#### CAMARILLO MATTRESS

2177 Pickwick Drive, Camarillo  
805-987-2279  
www.camarillomattress.com

In town for more than two decades, Camarillo Mattress is a family-owned business run by Debbie Wickman; her mom, Barbara Simcik; and her mother-in-law, Suzanne Mulhall. "Most of our customers are repeat or referral and we treat our customers like family because they're our biggest asset," Mulhall said. "We just go out of our way for people."

#### Favorites

- » American Mattress Man
- » Couch Potato
- » The Sleep Shoppe
- » Spencers Ventura Mattress

### Nursery/Garden Shop

East County Winner

#### ARMSTRONG GARDEN CENTER

50 Taylor Court, Thousand Oaks  
805-497-9223



**Simi Valley Harley-Davidson is this year's winner for powersports dealer in east county.**



[www.armstronggarden.com/armstrong-garden-centers-thousand-oaks](http://www.armstronggarden.com/armstrong-garden-centers-thousand-oaks)

"We strive to do the best for our customers to make their gardening experience incredible," said Marshall Dandar, manager at Armstrong Garden Center. "We have a vast selection, including great drought-tolerant plants, and our vegetable selection is huge. And now, being spring, we have lots of color."

Services include home consultations and landscape design services, as well as a "personal shopper" service, which involves an hour-long meeting with an Armstrong expert.

Armstrong also offers free classes in container gardening, organic gardening and beneficial bugs.

"We have garden parties; we barbecue. There's always something going on," Dandar said. "We have ladybug weekend where we give away free ladybugs, and we have a Super Strawberry Saturday, where we give away free strawberries."

#### **Favorites**

- » Elegant Gardens Nursery
- » Home Depot
- » Underwood Family Farms

West County Winner

#### **GREEN THUMB NURSERY**

1899 Victoria Ave., Ventura  
805-642-8517  
[www.greenthumb.com/green](http://www.greenthumb.com/green)

#### **-thumb-nursery-ventura**

In business for more than three decades, Green Thumb Nursery is considered the place to go for all gardening needs, said David Nichols, sales person.

"I'd say our biggest draw is our plant selection. We've got a bigger variety than anyone else," Nichols said. "And if somebody wants something, like a rare tropical plant, if it's available, we can get it in."

The nursery also offers a gift ware department that offers seasonal items, like cut flowers and cards for Mother's Day and Valentine's Day. "During Christmas we have a Christmas shop with all the ornaments and cards," Nichols said. "We're like a one-stop shop because we're an all-encompassing nursery."

#### **Favorites**

- » Baron Brothers Nursery
- » Flora Gardens
- » Home Depot

#### **Powersports Dealer**

East County Winner

#### **SIMI VALLEY HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

6190 Condor Drive, Moorpark  
805-552-9555  
[simiharley.com](http://simiharley.com)

In business for about 15 years, Simi Valley Harley-Davidson always puts the customer first.

"We know our customers by their



**Green Thumb Nursery in Ventura was chosen best nursery/garden shop in west county.**

CONTRIBUTED  
PHOTOS

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## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

first name and we treat them like family," said Max Jacobs, general manager. "We have the largest selection of used motorcycles in all of Southern California. In our state-of-the-art service department, we have certified technicians working on your motorcycle."

The shop, located in Moorpark, is also central to several great riding spots, including Neptune's Net and the rolling hills of Ojai.

"We're centrally-located to a lot of great riding spots," Jacobs said. "All these factors combined put us right at the top."

**Favorites**

- » BMW Motorcycles of Ventura
- » Thousand Oaks Powersports
- » Tri-County Powersports

West County Winner

**MY GARAGE**

11107 Violeta St., Ventura  
805-983-6400  
mygarageventura.com

My Garage has specialized in Harley Davidsons since 1985. "But your metric or other bike is welcome," CEO Jim Tietz said.

My Garage is considered a one-stop source for motorcycle parts, bike sales, customization, audio systems, wheels, custom painting, apparel and assorted accessories, as well as complete service.

"We share your passion for motorcycling and take great pride in keeping you riding all year round," Tietz said. "We know individuality is important, which is why we pay close attention to the interests of each customer." Meeting customers' needs is the top priority.

"We were founded not only on excellent customer service, but also on the principles of hard work and a focused attitude."

**Favorites**

- » American Heritage Motorcycle Service
- » Cal Coast Motorsports
- » Ventura Harley Davidson



Readers voted Ventura Surf Shop the best surf shop in west county. Pictured here are, from left, Al Guajardo, Lily Givner, Robert Hubina, toddler Kayden Givner and the owner Bill "Blinky" Hubina holding the shop's mascot, Shaq the poodle. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Surf Shop**

East County Winner

**VAL SURF**

3055 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-497-1166  
valsurf.com

Val Surf celebrated its 55th anniversary this year as being the oldest surf, skate and snow retailer in the world, said Mark Richards, co-owner

and co-founder whose son, Blake Richards, manages the Thousand Oaks location.

"Val Surf has always prided itself by being one step ahead in our product offering, customer service and, most importantly, being a legitimate shop by having our staff and owners personally involved in our sports," Mark Richards said. "Throughout the years, we have ventured out and become the very first outlet for many of the brands that we and others represent today."

**Favorites**

- » Play It Again Sports
- » Tilly's

West County Winner

**VENTURA SURF SHOP**

88 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura  
805-643-1062  
shopvss.com

With a long history in the surfing community, the Ventura Surf Shop is a true surf shop, selling custom new and used surfboards, accessories and wetsuits.

This "hard core" surf shop offers custom boards by William Dennis, Campbell Brothers, Wayne Rich, Roberts, Dennis Ryder, Klaus Jones and Spencer Kellogg, said Bill "Blinky" Hubina, owner.

All the boards advertised are priced according to the manufacturing costs of that individual board. Custom orders are priced on the specifications by the customer based on size, blank density, stringers, shaping extras, and glassing instructions. "Our inventory usually consists of up to 500 new and used long and short boards," Hubina said.

**Favorites**

- » Anacapa Surf N Sport
- » Five Points Skate and Snowboards
- » Patagonia Ocean Division
- » Revolution Surf Co.

**Thrift Store**

East County Winner

**GOODWILL**

Locations throughout Ventura County  
www.goodwillvsb.org

There are many things that make Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties unique. "We have over 20 retail locations and four workforce services offices," said Alex Renteria, community outreach manager.

"We are here to provide vocational opportunities to eliminate barriers to employment, strengthen commu-



nities, and help people in need reach their full potential through the power of work," Renteria said. "We are able to do this through all our donations and sales from all of our retail locations. All of our proceeds go back into serving our community." By working for Goodwill, all employees have the opportunity to help people. "Same thing for all of our donors and shoppers – you are helping make a difference in our community."

#### Favorites

- » Assistance League of Conejo Valley Thrift Shop
- » Salvation Army
- » Second Story - A Thrifty Boutique

West County Winner

#### ARC FOUNDATION THRIFT STORES

265 E. Main St., Ventura  
 625 N. Oxnard Blvd., Oxnard  
 805-650-8611  
[thearcvc.org/thrift-stores](http://thearcvc.org/thrift-stores)

The Arc Foundation's thrift stores

have a long history in the community, dating back to the mid-1960s. And because the foundation has such a large and loyal donor base, there's a ton of great inventory for the stores.

"Our customers can find amazing clothes, shoes, household items, furniture and electronics, toys and music at prices way below retail, and with new items available every day," said Joe Paul, executive director of The Arc Foundation.

"What makes The Arc Foundation Thrift Stores so special is our cause," Paul added. "One hundred percent of the profits from our two stores go directly to The Arc of Ventura County's programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

#### Favorites

- » Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura Thrift Store
- » Goodwill
- » Sparc Second Chance Store



Arc Foundation Thrift Stores is the winner for best thrift store in west county. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## SHOPPING

VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR**Tire Store**

Full County Winner

**AMERICA'S TIRE**

Locations throughout Ventura County

www.americastire.com

The owner of America's Tire, Bruce Halle, died earlier this year, but the vision he created remains constant since he established the business in the 1960s.

Halle's five simple lessons to life were to be honest, work hard, have fun, be grateful and pay it forward. "His vision of the company is to just do things right with integrity," said Stuart Johnson, co-manager of the Thousand Oaks location along with Sean Bentivegna. "That's been instilled in us from the top down. We're not just here to sell tires. We're here to make sure our customers are safe and happy."

**East County Favorites**

- » Big Brand Tire
- » Costco Tire Center
- » Tire Man

**West County Favorites**

- » Big Brand Tire
- » Costco Tire Center
- » Firestone Complete Auto Care

**Vape Shop**

East County Winner

**V SPOT VAPOR**

2760 Tapo Canyon Road, Suite 9, Simi Valley  
805-573-8273  
1165 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks  
805-870-4394  
www.vspotvapor.com

Couple Pam and Mark Avetissian, the owners of V Spot Vapor, visited numerous vape shops in southern California and felt compelled to bring their own approach to market. With two locations in east county, V Spot Vapor offers the largest and best selection of Eliquid and Ecig hardware in the area. According to



Readers chose The Door Outlet in Ventura as the top place to shop for windows and doors in west county.

CONTRIBUTED  
PHOTO

the company owners' Facebook page, "Vape is our passion and it shows in our service."

**Favorites**

- » Cloud 10 Vape Bar
- » Smoke & Vape
- » Vapor Connection

West County Winner

**BEACH VAPES**

3959 E. Main St., Suite D, Ventura  
805-585-5190  
beachvapes.com

Beach Vapes offers 184 flavors, all of which are made in-house, said owner Derek Zadra.

The top seller is Space Puppy, a combination of strawberry, peach, apricot and cream. Other fruity flavors include apple, black cherry and honeydew. Candy flavors include bubblegum and butterscotch; dessert flavors include cheesecake and churro stick; and drink flavors include almond amaretto, cherry cola and cappuccino. There are also tobacco flavors, including black honey, menthol and clove.

"Our juice is really good," said Zadra in reference to the e-liquid that goes into the vapes. "There's a whole world out there of flavors. Anything you can imagine we can accomplish

in a vape."

**Favorites**

- » Luna Vapes
- » Vapor Connection
- » Wild Side Smoke Shop

**Windows & Doors**

East County Winner

**MILGARD WINDOWS & DOORS (WINDOWS)**

355 E. Easy St., Simi Valley  
805-581-6325  
www.milgard.com

Milgard Windows & Doors is considered one of the largest and most trusted names in home windows and doors, serving the United States and Canada with more than a dozen full-service facilities and customer care centers.

Milgard Windows & Doors offers professionals who help make the process of buying and installing windows and doors more simple. These certified dealers are comprised of local business owners who work with clients one-on-one with selection, and many offer installation services as well.

The goal of Milgard's certified dealers is to help customers save money and time, whether they are replacing

windows and doors, or embarking on a new construction project.

**Favorites**

- » Agoura Sash & Door
- » American Vision Windows Inc.
- » Brian's Window Service

West County Winner

**THE DOOR OUTLET**

4350 Transport St., Suite 104, Ventura  
805-644-8501  
www.dooroutlet.net

The Door Outlet has been Ventura County's leading door and window company since 1981. During that time, the business has built strong relationships with local builders, contractors and homeowners, said Ryan McCleery, general manager. They sell many major brands, including Andersen, Milgard and Fleetwood doors and windows. "We are a family-owned company providing doors and windows to general contractors, homeowners, and the do-it-yourselfer," McCleery said.

**Favorites**

- » Quality Windows & Doors
- » Sears
- » West Coast Sash & Door Inc.





**SUMC**

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in Ventura County

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Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 650-1122

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HAPPY HOUR: Everyday 3PM-6PM  
REVERSE HAPPY HOUR: Everyday 9PM-Close

**NEWBURY PARK**

1714 Newbury Rd. #C  
Newbury Park, CA 91320  
(805) 499-9977

Mon-Thur 11AM-10PM / Fri 11AM-10:30PM  
Sat 11:30AM-10:30PM / Sun 11:30AM-10PM  
HAPPY HOUR: Mon-Fri 3PM-6PM  
REVERSE HAPPY HOUR: Everyday 8:30PM-Close





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