



Here it is: The Best of East Valley awards issue celebrating what is best about living, working and playing on our side of the Valley. Winners are revealed in categories ranging from Best Coffeehouse to Best Public Pool, Best Museum to Best High School Teacher. And the best part? With the exception of a few "Staff Pick" recipients, the winners come directly from you — the people who call the East Valley home. See if your favorites made the list or find a new place in our community to try. Either way, enjoy discovering the Best of East Valley 2012. And congratulations to all of the winners and runners-up of this year's contest.

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Food & Drink
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Breakfast Restaurant

T.C. Eggington's

The egg may be the thing — of course — with no fewer than 21 egg-centric specialties on this Mesa staple's vast breakfast menu. But it's the unique way the Coker family, founders and owners since 1985, approach the rest of its menu — such as warm, fresh English-style "streetcake" muffins and French-inspired "English" toast, made with custard-dipped cinnamon bread — that makes this egg tough to beat.

Location: 1660 S. Alma School Road, Mesa
Information: (480) 345-9288 or www.tcegg.com

Voters' comments:

"Portions are generous, food is fresh and phenomenal!"

"Unique breakfast choices, great ambiance."

Runners-up: The Farmhouse, Gilbert; Crackers and Co. (multiple locations), IHOP (multiple locations)

Best Lunch for under \$7

Super Farm Super Truck

Nutella-drizzled deep-fried bacon. Sold. But seriously, as if the Bacon Fritters — Super Farm Super Truck's side-dish-o'-the-century — weren't enough, the only thing better than a fresh, hot, custom lunch for under \$7, is when it rolls right to you. Food trucks have become all the rage of late, and this Superstition Farm must-eat-on-wheels is a winner too, with sandwiches, salads, custom burgers and veggie options.

Location: all over (it's a truck, people!) (homebase: Superstition Farm, 3440 S. Hawes Road, Mesa)

Information: https://www.facebook.com/SuperFarmSuperTruck or (602) 432-6865

Voters' comments:

"The entire family eats for under \$25."

"Local farm fresh ingredients."

Runners-up: Barro's Pizza, Costco, and Pete's Fish and Chips — (all multiple locations)

Best Restaurant for a Special Occasion
House of Tricks

An ambiance like few others could be the lone reason to celebrate at this area staple. But it's not. The contemporary American menu stays fresh with the seasons, and twice it's been honored with Wine Spectator's "Award of Excellence." But, then again, there's something adept about taking a pair of connected downtown Tempe bungalows and livening them up with fountains and ponds, foliage and candlelight that translates into the ultimate outdoor dining set.

Location: 114 E. 7th St., Tempe

Information: www.houseoftricks.com or (480) 968-1114

Voters' comments:

"Unique experience with daily menu (changes), and ask for a wine pairing."

"Wonderful food and their outdoor dining can't be beat."

Runners-up: Cork, Chandler; D'Vine Bistro, Mesa

Best Seafood Restaurant

The Seafood Market

A favorite of locals and Valley visitors alike, this one takes its name to heart. Officially called "The Seafood Market and Restaurant," it's treated the East Valley since 1989 to more than 10 varieties of market-fresh fish to take home, along with an extensive menu of seafood staples to dine on in-house. The fish is never frozen and the chowder continues to impress.

Location: 3406 E. Baseline Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 633-1580 or www.seafoodmarketrestaurant.com

Voters' comments:

"The best New England clam chowder and cold, crisp green garden salad."

Runners-up: Bogey's Steak and Seafood at Las Sendas Golf Club, Mesa; Pete's Fish and Chips (multiple locations), Red Lobster (multiple locations)



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Food & Drink

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Buffet Golden Corral

Self-proclaimed as America's No. 1 buffet and grill, East Valley voters agreed for the second year in a row. A good fit for families or groups with varying flavor palates, choose from no fewer than 85 everyday items — including soups, salads, seafood, grilled entrees and more — in addition to plenty of everyday specialty items and tons of desserts. Take it from us: You won't go home hungry.

Location: 1318 N. Cooper Road, Gilbert; 1868 N. Power Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 507-3331 (Gilbert); (480) 985-6793 (Mesa) or www.goldencorral.com

Voters' comments:

"All you can eat steak or seafood."

"Huge selection!"

"Selection, price, and great breakfast."

Runners-up: Sweet Tomatoes (multiple locations), The Landmark (Mesa)

Best Asian Restaurant The Dhaba

First conceptualized as a part of a business school project, loyal followers of this haunt's tradition-rich Indian cuisine named it the best for the second year in a row. A quaint setting with an extensive menu including Dhaba Chicken Curry, Lamb Boti Kabob, Sikandri Jhinga Saag (fresh spinach cooked with shrimp). A "The Dhaba" book of recipes is also in the works to enjoy your Punjab favorites at home.

Location: 1872 E. Apache Blvd., Tempe

Information: (480) 557-8800 or www.the-dhaba.com

Voters' comments:

"..legitimate Indian food. Coming from New York City, this was an absolute gem to find!"

"Best Indian food anywhere in the Valley!"

Runners-up: Pei Wei Asian Diner (multiple locations), PF Chang's China Bistro (multiple locations), Tott's Asian Diner (Chandler)

Best Barbecue Restaurant Joe's Real BBQ

"You just have to try it to understand." That's how one voter explained Joe's Real BBQ last year, when the downtown Gilbert staple took the top prize in this same category. That voter isn't alone. Pecan-wood smoked meats, homestyle side dishes, house-made root beer and killer catering options make this older sibling to the acclaimed Joe's Farm Grill a favorite yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Location: 301 N. Gilbert Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 503-3805 or www.joesrealbbq.com

Voters' comments:

"Pecan smoked meats ... need I say more?"

"Great food, and the pickup window is on the outside."

Runners-up: Famous Dave's (multiple locations), Waldo's BBQ (Mesa)

Best Sports Bar Blue 32 Sports Grill

We double-dog dare you: Just try to find a seat at Blue 32 Sports Grill that doesn't have a clear view of, like, a dozen HD sets showcasing every sporting event known to man. And with Tempe-based Four Peaks brews on tap, come on down for the sports programming, but stay for the menu. Specialties include Black and Blue 32 Burger; Philly Cheesesteak, deep-fried Monte Cristo (wowza), or a house cut Angus Ribeye.

Location: 1524 E. Williams Field Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 963-0032 or www.blue32sportsgrill.com

Voters' comments:

"Tons of TVs and good food."

"Excellent food, price and service."

Runners-up: Majerle's Sports Grill, Chandler; Uncle Bears Grill & Bar (multiple locations); Zipps Sports Grill, Chandler

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Food & Drink
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Best Frozen Dessert Shop
Udder Delights

Dubbed the official “tastery” of Mesa dairy Superstition Farm, this shop serves ice cream made in small batches with few ingredients and a wide variety of flavors, from plain ol’ vanilla and chocolate to birthday cake, sweet potato, blue berry MOOfin and avocado. Using dairy products from the Mesa herd, they also do ice cream cakes, cupcakes, brownies and savory handmade cheeses and butters.

Location: 1385 E. Warner Road, Suite 103, Gilbert

Information: (480) 507-3859 or www.udderdelightsaz.com

Voters' comments:

“Fresh and local. Handchurned and unique flavors.”

“It’s the real deal!”

Runners-up: Gelato Dolce Vita (multiple locations); Tasti D-Lite, Chandler; Frost – A Gelato Shoppe, Gilbert

Best Pizzeria
Urban Legends Pizza Works

Pizza is still king, but today’s great pizzerias are much more than just a good round disc. Diners consistently rave about the massive wings and carnival-esque fried desserts (Twinkies, Oreos and more) at this still new Gilbert spot, in addition to creative pies like the Ma’Halo — with barbecued pork, pineapple, cilantro. But it’s the atmosphere that may top the list here. Area teens are welcome to perform their own music (Thursday is open mic night), catch the game, or just hang out in this safe, family-friendly spot operated by an area non-profit devoted to at-risk teens.

Location: 894 E. Warner Road, Suite B-101, Gilbert

Information: (480) 525-7044 or <https://www.facebook.com/urbanlegendspizzaworks>

Voters' comments:

“Best pizza and wings! Great prices and they have fried TWINKIES!”

“Pizza with a purpose.”

“You get the most bang for your buck.”

Runners-up: Barro’s Pizza (multiple locations), Nicantoni’s, Gilbert

Best New Restaurant
Urban Legends Pizza Works

A double-winner just six months into operation, this joint — created as a place for families and teens to enjoy good food and music in a wholesome environment — has drawn repeat customers hand over fist. Owners hope ULPW becomes the “Al’s

Diner” (from Happy Days) of Gilbert, paying respects to Gilbert High School “legends” along the way. And at the heart: ULPW is operated as part of a local non-profit — Paradigm Ministries — with proceeds serving at-risk teenagers, local food banks and shelters.

Location: 894 E. Warner Road, Suite B-101, Gilbert

Information: (480) 525-7044 or <https://www.facebook.com/urbanlegendspizzaworks>

Voters' comments:

“Amazing attitude and food... the size of the wings are insane!”

“A great concept as a non-profit.”

“Different flavors that you don’t typically find at a pizza place.”

Runners-up: BoomBozz Famous Pizza, Gilbert; NCounter, Tempe; Super Farm Super Truck, Mesa

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Food & Drink

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Mexican Restaurant

Rancho de Tia Rosa

There's something about a Mexican restaurant taking chances beyond the typical rice and beans offering that's exciting. Steeped in the colonial Mexico tradition of owner/chef Dennis Serrine's grandmother — Serrine picked up Rosa's recipes during family visits and trips down the Baja coast — this two-location favorite ventures from eat-all-day street fare to 30-plus ingredient chicken mole. A take-out taqueria is on-site at the Mesa location as well.

Location: 3129 E. McKellips Road, Mesa; 891 N. Higley Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 659-8787 (Mesa); (480) 659-8790 (Mesa Taqueria); (480) 396-8787 (Gilbert) or www.ranchodetiarosa.com

Voters' comments:

"Food is always great, good variety; separate site for quick/carry-outs."

"Great atmosphere. Large portions and the best carne asada in Arizona."

Runners-up: Nando's (multiple locations); Rosa's Mexican Grill, Mesa; Serrano's (multiple locations)

Best Italian Restaurant

Oregano's Pizza Bistro

A repeat winner, the Arizona-based family of restaurants had spots in Mesa and downtown Tempe when it won last year. But with two new EV stores opened in 2011, south Chandler and south Tempe residents are also enjoying such favorites as the all-you-can-scarf Bollo Pasta ("Bowl 'O Pasta"), square-cut thin pizza, or the Original Pizza Cookie (a hot, pizza-pan baked cookie with vanilla bean ice cream on top).

Location: 5 East Valley locations (Gilbert, Mesa, Chandler, two in Tempe)

Information: (480) 962-0036 (Mesa location) or www.oreganos.com

Voters' comments:

"Consistently great, time after time — and the wait staff is the best anywhere!"

"Excellent pasta dishes and sauces priced right..."

Runners-up: Barro's Pizza (multiple locations); Carrabba's Italian Grill (multiple locations); RigaTony's, Tempe



[Tribune file]

Best East Valley Dining Deal

Mining Camp Restaurant and Trading Post



Similar to the mystery of the Lost Dutchman legend itself, a well-kept secret nestled at the foot of the Superstition Mountains has received the nod for the best dining deal in the East Valley.

And it's worth its weight in the gold believed to be hidden in those hills.

The Mining Camp Restaurant and Trading Post provides regular diners and even those just passing through a smokin' deal: All-you-can-eat baked chicken, barbecued ribs, honey-baked ham, cole slaw, baked beans and stuffing with homemade bread accompanied by pitchers of lemonade, tea and coffee to wash it all down with as well as a live cowboy band you can tap your foot to.

The cost? \$16 — and it's delicious.

But the meal is not complete until you get the famous Mining Camp cookies for desert.

If you're wondering if this is a new place, it's not. This rustic dining getaway has been there for 51 years. The Mining Camp's owner, Vinton Fugate, has been there for 50 of them.

The restaurant, which provides other meals, is open Nov. 1 through June 30 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

So, Best of East Valley says head on over there, loosen up your belt and try it out. Reservations are required for the all-you-can-eat meal.

Location: 6100 E. Mining Camp St. (off Route 88), Apache Junction

Information: (480) 982-3181 or www.miningcamprestaurant.com

Runners-up: Adrian's No. 2 Mexican Restaurant, Mesa; Pizza Mart, Mesa; Mesa Schools Administration Center Cafeteria.

Best Sushi Restaurant

Ra Sushi Bar Restaurant

This sushi, sake, and happy hour favorite might have greater than 25 locations (in nine states and three time zones), but the origins of this second-time "best sushi" winner date back 15 years to nearby Scottsdale. Sushi "must haves" include the Viva Las Vegas Roll or "Ra"llipop, but the happy hour and reverse happy hour specialties (more than 15 sushi items between \$3 and \$7) are a can't-lose.

Location: 1652 S. Val Vista Drive, Mesa; 411 S. Mill Ave., Tempe; 4921 E. Ray Road, Ahwatukee Foothills

Information: (480) 632-9500 (Mesa); (480) 303-9800 (Tempe); (480) 940-1111 (Ahwatukee) or www.rasushi.com

Voters' comments:

"Bargain sushi and alcohol during happy hour! Must try the Vegas Roll!"

"Fresh sushi, creative flavors."

Runners-up: Blue Wasabi, Gilbert; Kona Grill (multiple locations)

Best Coffeehouse

SoZo Coffeehouse

Those in charge at this unique Chandler gathering spot have proven good at least two things: making great coffee and loose leaf tea, and coming up with clever — but impactful — marketing angles. "Coffee with a cause" and "Drinking coffee never felt so good" are just two of the catchphrases that fittingly describe this new spot. In addition to hosting community meetings, open mic nights, and live music weekends, money from every purchase is set aside and donated to a local or international cause or organization. "Beyond fair trade." Yep, they said that too.

Location: 1982 N. Alma School Road, Chandler

Information: (480) 726-5020 or www.sozocoffee.org

Voters' comments:

"Awesome coffee, live music, and they give back to the community."

"Kids room for parents, amazing drinks."

"Iced toddy, Turkish coffee and fresh pour over ... 'nuf said!"

Runners-up: Bergie's Coffee Roast House, Gilbert; Dutch Bros. (multiple locations); Starbucks (multiple locations)

Paws Down... the Best of East Valley!

Mesa, Queen Creek, Chandler and "Coming Soon" Surprise on the West side



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Food & Drink
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**Best Restaurant With an Arizona Vibe
and Best Family-Friendly Restaurant**
Barro's Pizza

An unconventional choice, but you voters may be on to something. Many of the “local” restaurants in this dine-in or delivery family of restaurants — chartered by Chandler’s own Barro family — often take on the “vibe” of their own community, and thus the state. Case in point: All of Arizona cheered as Chandler National Little League reached the Little League World Series twice in recent years. Barro’s south Chandler location, as one example, has served as the de facto museum, housing trophies, photos, jerseys and more in honor of those local youths. And with pizza, televisions and arcade games, it’s a no-brainer for families.

Location: 12 East Valley Locations (two in Chandler, two in Gilbert, five in Mesa, one in Queen Creek, two in

Tempe – plus another nearby in Ahwatukee Foothills)

Information: www.barropizza.com

Voters’ comments:

“... Been here as long as I remember ... gives back to the community!”

“Casual atmosphere; kids love the pizza and games.”

“Big tables offer lots of room for the whole family.”

Arizona Vibe Runners-up: Mining Camp Restaurant, Apache Junction; San Tan Flat Grill and Saloon, Queen Creek

Family-friendly Runners-up: Flancer’s (multiple locations); Joe’s Farm Grill, Gilbert; Oregano’s Pizza Bistro (multiple locations); Peter Piper Pizza (multiple locations)

Best Steakhouse
The Keg

The top-end steakhouse has taken off in recent years across the Valley, but many are primed to feature high-priced a la carte cuts with a stuffy atmosphere. Not so at The Keg. While priced for a special night out, this Canadian import’s flavorful “classic dinner” choices include salads and vegetables alongside aged, well-marbled cuts of beef in a comfortable but lively setting. Plenty of seafood, chicken, and upscale sandwich options also line this back-to-back winner’s balanced menu.

Location: 3065 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler; 2240 East Williams Field Road, Gilbert; 23 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe

Information: (480) 899-7500 (Chandler); (480) 821-1500 (Gilbert); (480) 557-5552 (Tempe) or www.kegsteakhouse.com

Voters’ comments:

“Love the atmosphere.”

“Great happy hour, good food ... reasonable prices.”

Runners-up: Texas Roadhouse (multiple locations), Outback Steakhouse (multiple locations)

Best Happy Hour
Applebee’s

With 11 East Valley locations, chances are there is an Applebee’s in your neighborhood. And with an ever-evolving menu and happy hour specials, the chain is sure to keep people coming back.

Location: Multiple locations

Information: www.applebees.com

Voters’ comments:

“Awesome prices & service”

“Half price appetizers”

Runners-up: Kona Grill, Ra Sushi Bar Restaurant, and Uncle Bear’s Grill and Bar – all multiple locations

Best Bar Food
**Four Peaks
Brewing
Company**

Best bar food? Calling this ASU Tempe campus-area hotspot a “bar” in the first place is an understatement, and calling the food “bar food” is blasphemy. Perfectly complementing Peaks’ eight everyday brews and host of seasonal beers, a jam-packed four-page menu — including favorites like the grilled chicken beer bread, pizza with dough made with house ale, perfectly soft fresh-baked Bavarian pretzels and more — will satisfy even the most discerning tastes.

Location: 1340 E. Eighth St., No.104, Tempe

Information: (480) 303-9967 or www.fourpeaks.com

Voters’ comments:

“Food beyond typical bar fare.

Chicken enchiladas are to die for.”

“Their beer is amazing but the food could stand on its own.”

Runners-up: Blue 32 Sports Grill, Gilbert; Uncle Bears Grill & Bar (multiple locations)

Best Deli
Jason’s Deli

Some advice: If planning a first trek at lunchtime, head online and take a gander at the menu first. The sandwiches, salads and other items at this repeat “Best Of” winner are so expansive — and chances are you’re hardly the only one who knew Jason’s would be a good choice — it’s best to have some idea of what to order. Don’t worry: The line moves fast, and dessert is covered, too (free soft serve)!

Location: 3491 Frye Road, Chandler; 7230 W. Ray Road, Chandler; 1065 E. Baseline Road, Suite 101, Gilbert

Information: (480) 812-2892 (Frye Road), (480) 705-9266 (Ray Road), (480) 813-1358 (Gilbert) or www.jasonsdeli.com

Voters’ Comments:

“Great prices, big selection, large portions, and catering.”

“Large variety, free ice cream, excellent pastrami.”

Runners-up: Chompie’s (multiple locations); Dilly’s Deli (multiple locations); The Deli, Queen Creek

The Historic
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Presents:
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Food & Drink

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Brew Pub

SanTan Brewing Company

Celebrating its fifth year and located in a lively, still up-and-coming setting in historic downtown Chandler, locals and non-locals alike come for the craft brew — seven everyday varieties like the ever-popular Devil's Ale and SunSpot Gold, to plenty of seasonal varieties — but stay for the top-notch menu. And when they do leave, growlers to go and canned craft brews (available at local grocers, too) remind them that another fun night is just around the corner.

Location: 8 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler
Information: (480) 917-8700 www.santanbrewing.com

Voters' comments:

"Beer is great, there's always room to sit, the service is friendly, and they have weekly movie night for customers."

"Great beer... and the north side opens up to give you the al fresco feeling."

Runners-up: Four Peaks Brewing Company, Tempe; BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse (multiple locations)

Best Place to Sip Wine

D'Vine Bistro & Wine Bar

For the second year in a row, D'Vine can add "Best Place to Sip Wine" to its impressive list of awards, which also includes Wine Spectator's "Award of Excellence" in 2008, 2009 and 2010. But with the motto of "Make wine approachable," D'Vine's knowledgeable staff makes every patron comfortable. Both East Valley locations feature wine tastings, live music, happy hour and a menu that doesn't disappoint.

Locations: 3990 S. Alma School Road, Chandler; 2837-101 N. Power Road, Mesa
Information: (480) 782-5550 (Chandler); (480) 654-4171 (Mesa) or www.dvinewine101.com

Voters' comments:

"A very sophisticated restaurant. Large wine selection. Comfy couches."

"Awesome atmosphere with live music!"

Runners-up: Down Under Wines & Bistro, Gilbert; The Living Room Wine Cafe & Lounge, Chandler; Kokopelli Winery & Bistro, Chandler; Vintage 95, Chandler

Best Bakery

Baked by Sandie

Baking is something that Sandra Achor loves to do and those that try her delightful products love that she does it. You can find her products at Queen Creek Olive Mill and Superstition Ranch Markets, but don't expect her to remain your little secret for long.

Location: 4815 East Main Street No. 10, Mesa
Information: (480) 299-1283 or www.evtnow.com/bakedbysandie

Voters' comments:

"Baked goods are made from nothing but natural ingredients. No additives."

"The bread and the cinnamon rolls are the best; they melt in your mouth."

Runners-up: Lisa's Rum Cake, Gilbert; Udder Delights, Gilbert

Best Burger Joint

Five Guys Burgers and Fries

Soon after the first Five Guys opened in 1986 as a carry-out burger joint in the D.C. area, it developed a cult-like local following for being the place to get a fresh, juicy burger with all the toppings you could stuff in a bun. That die-hard fan base expanded in 2003 when the business, named for the five brothers in the owning Murrell family, began offering franchises. Now with 900 locations nationwide, Five Guys uses only fresh ground beef (the restaurants don't even have freezers), and you can choose as many of 15 free toppings as you'd like, from grilled onions to A1 Steak Sauce. Fries are cooked in peanut oil.

Location: Multiple locations
Information: (866) 345-4897 or www.fiveguys.com

Voters' comments:

"BEST burgers EVER!!!!"

"Delicious burgers!"

"Great bunch of people working there, crafting your burger to perfection."

"The meat tastes like hamburger."

Runners-up: In-and-Out Burger (multiple locations); The Chuckbox, Tempe; Flancer's, (multiple locations); The Habit Burger Grill (multiple locations)

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Over the years, Todd, Kathryn and their team have continually strived to build lasting client relationships, which is why they only offer the safest, most tax friendly investment vehicles available. Their "client first" approach has allowed them to gain mutual trust and respect with their clients, and ultimately attributes to the success of their company.

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Arts & Entertainment

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Museum/ Art Gallery Arizona Museum for Youth

Not only is this a fine art museum for children, but the Arizona Museum for Youth in downtown Mesa is filled with interactive stations, rotating exhibitions and workshops designed to cultivate a love of art and art-making for everyone. Kids up to age 4 can explore ArtVille, the colorful, cushiony-surfaced village. For those 5 and older, ArtZone Gallery is a hands-on activity space designed for visitors to explore the fundamentals of art.

Location: 35 N. Robson, Mesa

Information: (480) 644-2467 or arizonamuseumforyouth.com



[Tribune file]

Voters' comments:

"Great for kids and adults alike."

"Great variety of exhibits, clean place."

Runners-up: Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa; SunDust Gallery, Mesa

Best Local Performing Arts Troupe Ballet Etudes

With 25 years in dance education, Ballet Etudes prides itself in duplicating the experiences of a professional ballet company. Students at the Gilbert school perform throughout the Valley, including in the studio's annual production of "The Nutcracker."

Location: 2401 E. Baseline Road, Suite 111, Gilbert

Information: (480) 558-2080 or www.balleteudes.net

Voters' comments:

"Excellent technical training and performing opportunities for young professionals."

"Professional shows from non professional dancers! This shows the quality of training and dedication to the arts!"

"The spirit of dance and love permeates through from their executive director, Sharon Meko, down to the smallest of dancers."

"Performances are top notch!! Pure class!"

"Best classical entertainment value in the Valley!"

Runners-up: National Comedy Theatre, Mesa; Copperstar Repertory Company, Gilbert; WeBe Glee, Gilbert; San Tan Community Performing Arts (East Valley-based)

Best Place For Karaoke Saketini

Who wouldn't like to mix their sushi with singing? This Japanese sushi bar and lounge near Mesa Community College features drink and sushi specials to go along with daily karaoke.

Location: 1120 S. Dobson Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 615-6000

Voters' comments:

"It's great for sushi and singing!"

"Asian karaoke!"

Runners-up: Native New Yorker (multiple locations); Stadium Club, Chandler



[Mesa Arts Center]

Best Performing Arts/ Live Music Venue Mesa Arts Center

Downtown Mesa's arts campus hosts concerts, plays, touring productions, festivals, artists' studios, educational programs and even last February's Republican presidential primary debate. The center includes four theaters, the largest of which is the 1,600-seat Tom and Janet Ikeda Theater.

Location: 1 E. Main St., Mesa

Information: (480) 644-6500 or mesaartscenter.com

Voters' comments:

"Amazing facility, outstanding variety of acts and shows."

"Incredible acoustics; great seats; small enough to be intimate."

"It's a beautiful facility. The staff is friendly. Many different theaters to accommodate different size venues. And, the quality of performers they offer is a gift to our community!"

"Not as big as Gammage and the sound is better. More quaint and the architecture is great to look at."

"There is nothing nicer in Arizona."

"Simply the best in the West!"

Runners-up: Higley Center for the Performing Arts, Gilbert; Chandler Center for the Arts; National Comedy Theatre, Mesa

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Arts & Entertainment

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Guys Night Out Downtown Chandler



In just about every group of friends there is the contrarian. You tell your friends, "Hey, let's meet up for a steak," and there's always one that will chime in, "I'm on a diet and cutting down on red meat." Or, you propose Mexican, he wants less spicy food.

For that friend, just say, "meet me in downtown Chandler."

In the span of a quarter mile (yes, we measured), there are enough bar and restaurant options to satisfy even your most annoying friend (unless that friend likes disco dancing. There are no disco joints and you should rethink your choice in friends). You can meet up for a nice meal, grab some drinks, watch the game or lis-

ten to live music. The options are all within a few steps.

On the north end is Sushi Eye in Motion, 58 W. Buffalo St., #110, and Italian at La Stalla Cucina Rustica, 68 W. Buffalo St. To the south, is Latitude Eight Thai Grill, 11 W. Boston St., #5, and a Valley mainstay, Serrano's Mexican Cantina, 141 S. Arizona Ave. In between, there is one of the Valley's best brewpubs in SanTan Brewing Co., 8 S. San Marcos Place; an Irish pub in Irish Republic Public House, 58 S. San Marcos Place; Piza Pizza, 48 S. San Marcos Place; El Zocalo Mexican Grill, 28 S. San Marcos Place; DC Steak House, 98 S. San Marcos Place; and a sports bar in Coach and Willie's, 1. E. Boston St.

Even the wine snob in your group can



Coach and Willie's is only one of the many places the guys will enjoy in downtown Chandler. [Tribune file]

be satisfied at Vintage 95 Wine Lounge, 95 W. Boston St., or the local Kokopelli Winery, 35 W. Boston St.

And, for good measure, if you or any

of your friends are in no shape to drive home, the Hotel San Marcos is right there in the heart of downtown.

Information: <http://downtownchandler.org/>

Best Girls Night Out Bottles n' Paint, SunDust Gallery



Grab your friends for a Bottles n' Paint class at SunDust Gallery in Mesa. [Submitted]



Sure, you could gather the gals and head to the nail salon. Or maybe to the movies to see the latest chick flick. But why not get a little more creative. OK, a lot more creative.

Grab your friends — and a bottle of wine — and head over to SunDust Gallery for Bottles n' Paint, a BYOB painting class in downtown Mesa where you are encouraged to uncork your bottles and unleash your creativity. No art experience required.

SunDust provides everything you need: brushes, paint, a 16-by-20 canvas, loose instruction from one of the artists and a

gallery full of inspiration. You provide the drinks (wine, beer or anything non-alcoholic), the friends and the adventurous spirit. And at the end of the two-hour session, you'll have a handmade masterpiece to take home and enjoy.

Sipping wine, visiting with friends and creating art: We could get used to that.

SunDust offers Bottles n' Paint classes on most Friday and Saturday evenings. Pre-registration is required. Check the gallery's website for upcoming classes. The fee is \$50 per person, but group discounts are available.

Location: SunDust Gallery, 48 W. Main Street, Suite 100, Mesa
Information: (480) 464-6077 or sundustgallery.com



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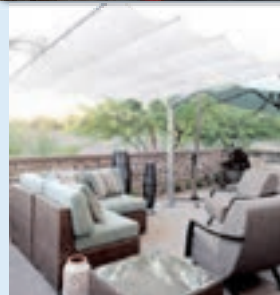
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Arts & Entertainment

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Mural The Floor at Xico Galeria



[Tribune file]



Sometimes you find art in surprising places — like on the floor.

Xico's patchwork "rug" features more than 20 3-foot-by-3-foot painted slabs, each a small masterpiece by an Arizona painter, printmaker, sculptor or other artist.

The floor became an unexpected showcase for homegrown artwork little more than three years ago, when Xico — a multidisciplinary arts nonprofit created in 1975 to promote indigenous culture through community arts programs — moved into its 100-year-old building in downtown Chandler.

The orange shag carpeting was

ripped up, and Xico leaders saw an opportunity in the neatly divided concrete floor they found underneath. Artists, such as Mesa's Carmen Guerrero, began painting the squares.

Now their paintings, showing everything from Mexican dolls and buckets of beer to flowers and dancing skeletons, serve as little "windows" into the local arts community and, at times, common memories, experiences or issues we can all recognize.

The blocks are triple coated in clear polyurethane sealer and get an additional varnish every six months or so.

Xico Galeria is open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is free.

Location: 44 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler

Information: (480) 833-5875 or www.xicoinc.org

Runners-up: Murals inside Mesa Historical Museum



Recreation
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Place To Hang Out With Your Dog Friends for Life Animal Rescue's BARKtoberfest



[Tribune file]



October's BARKtoberfest is one big party for people and their pooches.

The annual fall festival is a fundraiser for Friends for Life Animal Rescue, a no-kill, volunteer-run shelter in Gilbert where many an EV pet owner has found a furry member of the family.

Pups can create a work of art for their owners at a DOGvinci "paw painting" station, and people can return the favor by lavishing their pooches in suds and attention at a dog wash.

Contests are held throughout the day, from bobbing for bones and performing tricks to howling, wearing the best costume and looking most like their owners. Most activities ask for

just a small donation.

A vendor area features about 40 pet-related merchant and arts and crafts booths. There's also a police K-9 unit demonstration, a lure course, an area where kids can play and dogs available for adoption.

A "shelter alumni" parade features former Friends for Life dogs that have gone on to new homes. Each dog is announced, and details are shared about its adoption story.

BARKtoberfest draws about 2,500 people and 500 or so dogs. Leashed, neutered and vaccinated pups are welcome.

Location: Gilbert Town Center, 50 E. Civic Center Drive

Information: (480) 497-8296 or www.azfriends.org

Runner-up: Woofstock: The Great Chandler Dog Walk

Best Place to Tire Out Your Kids Superstition Farm

For the second year in a row, this working dairy farm in Mesa is voted the best place to take the kids. Take a tour, hand feed the animals and even hold a chicken.

Location: 3440 S. Hawes Road, Mesa.

Information: (602) 432-6865 or www.superstitionfarm.com

Voters' comments:

"They love kids and make you feel like family."

"Unique place."

Runners-up: Tempe Town Lake; Jumpstreet, Chandler; City parks

Best Golf Course Ocotillo Golf Resort

Managed by Troon Golf, Ocotillo Golf Resort opened in 1986 and has been named a Top 50 Resort by Golf World Magazine and a Most Underrated Golf Resort by Travel & Leisure Magazine. The resort's three nine-hole courses offer lush fairways, waterfalls and landscape that bring a contrast to the surrounding desert.

Location: 3751 S. Clubhouse Drive, Chandler

Information: (480) 917-6660 or www.ocotilogolf.com

Voters' comments:

"Beautiful."

Runners-up: Dobson Ranch Golf Course, Mesa; Las Sendas Golf Club, Mesa; Mesa Country Club; Western Skies Golf Club, Gilbert



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Recreation
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Annual EV Event Ostrich Festival

Chandler

Where else can you see ostrich races, where the birds compete carrying jockeys or pulling chariots? And that's not all you'll find during Chandler's annual Ostrich Festival. There are also monkey, reptile and dog shows, a petting zoo, magic and thrill shows, and live ostrich displays. And if you get bored looking at the giant birds, you can try one, literally; ostrich burgers are available on Ostrich Alley, where you'll also find hand-painted eggs, emu oil and other avian trinkets. The multi-day festival also includes multiple stages of live entertainment, celebrity meet-and-greets, a parade and fun run.

Location: Tumbleweed Park, 2250 S. McQueen Road, Chandler

Information: www.ostrichfestival.com



Voters' comments:

"Food, fun, and family place to go. Live entertainment simply the best annually."

"Nobody else has it!"

"Fun, affordable, and family friendly."

Runners-up: Arizona Renaissance Festival, Apache Junction; Gilbert Days; Arizona Celebration of Freedom, Mesa; Great American BBQ and Beer Festival, Chandler

Best Hike Superstition Mountains

Take your pick: Siphon Draw, Treasure Loop, Ridgeline Trail, Peralta Trail (a vote-getter in this category all on its own). Hiking the Superstitions is a must in the East Valley. Filled with scenic trails, the Superstitions rise 3,000 feet above the Valley to magnificent cliffs east of Apache Junction. The wilderness area is known for its legend of the Lost Dutchman Mine. Who knows: You may be the one to discover the gold.

Location: The Superstition Mountains are bounded roughly by U.S. 60 on the south, State Route 88 on the northwest, and State Route 188 on the northeast.

Information: www.evtnow.com/superstitionwilderness or www.evtnow.com/lostdutchman

Voters' comments:

"It is beautiful. Almost like you are on another planet."

"Beautiful sights. Trail difficulty from beginners to accomplished hikers."

"Great hikes, well marked trails."

Runners-up: Usery Mountain Regional Park, east Mesa

Best Place to Ride a Bike Tempe Town Lake

It's no wonder bike riders are attracted to the scenic and lively setting of Tempe Town Lake. The 12-foot concrete paths on either side of the 2.5-mile lake offer enough room for everyone. Make a complete loop by crossing the Mill Avenue and Rural Road bridges, which connect the north and south shores of the lake. The paths are open 5 a.m. to midnight every day, and attract walkers, joggers and skaters as well.

Location: 80 W. Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe

Information: (480) 350-5200 or tempe.gov/lake

Voters' comments:

"Scenic and away from auto traffic! Easy ride to cruise."

Runners-up: Usery Mountain Regional Park, east Mesa; Bush Highway along the Salt River

Best Recreation Program Elevate Martial Arts

Gilbert

This martial arts school in Gilbert offers traditional Okinawan curriculum, Combat Hapkido and self defense. But the core of the school's mission is to build character. Fitness Programs are also available.

Location: 4844 S. Val Vista Drive, No. 103, Gilbert

Information: (480) 458-5527 or www.facebook.com/ElevateMartialArts

Voters' comments:

"It's family. It's fun. It's AMAZING!"

"Elevate has a positive atmosphere for kids of all ages. As well as teaching your children respect."

"Nice people, friendly and safe environment, the best workout place for age 1-100 and learn how to self defense!"

Runners-up: YMCA (multiple locations); Gilbert Parks and Recreation; Mesa Parks and Recreation

Best Public Pool Skyline Aquatics Center

Mesa

The Skyline Aquatics Center, which opened last year, can host swim meets, events and recreational swimming with its 28 racing lanes, six warm-up lanes and one-meter and three-meter diving boards. The \$8.4 million facility also has a water slide, zero-depth entry, turf area and stadium shade seating for 1,200 spectators.

Location: 845 S. Crismon Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 644-6040 or http://mesaaz.gov/parksrec/aquatics/pools/Skyline.aspx

Voters' comments:

"New, great lanes."

Runners-up: Mesquite Groves Aquatic Center, Chandler; Kino Aquatic Center, Mesa

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People & Places

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Coffeehouse Barista

Sam Clark

Lo-Fi Coffee, Mesa

Owner Sam Clark wanted to be part of the downtown Mesa community when he opened Lo-Fi Coffee last year on Main Street. The coffeehouse, which specializes in vegan baked goods, hosts literary events, poetry open mic nights and live music. But, the star of the show at Lo-Fi is the coffee, and according to voters, Sam serves a great cup roasted by Xanadu Coffee Co. in downtown Phoenix.

Location: 105 W. Main St., Mesa

Information: www.loficoffee.com

Voters' comments:

"Knows his coffee, is passionate about his craft, and always has something fresh-baked from the oven!"

Plus he's super nice too!"

"He's the bees knees!"

"He's a really cool guy, takes his work very seriously, is an artist with coffee!"

"Sam is the hardest working Barista there is!"

Runner-up: Brian Bergeson from Bergies Coffee Roast House (Gilbert)

Best EV blog

i heart mesa

Started in 2008 as "a guide to loving & living in Mesa, Arizona," iheartmesa really is all about community pride. The two women behind the blog are friends from Mesa with families in Mesa and even sell Mesa-made T-shirts to help spread the Mesa love. The blog's posts and guides offer things to do, family tips and business happenings — all in Mesa.

Information: <http://iheartmesa.blogspot.com>

Voters' comments:

"Being a Mesa native, I like their blog."

"Best free or fun things to do in Mesa."

"They promote community."

Runner-up: Lightning Octopus, lightningoctopus.com



[Submitted]

Best Person to Trade Places with for a Day

Ed Hochuli

Attorney, NFL referee



Truth be told, we don't want to trade places with long-time East Valley resident Ed Hochuli for a day. Give us two.

"I am certainly flattered," he said. "Trust me, though, there are times out there ... I'm thinking those 'wanna get away' commercials."

Wanna get away? Not us. It's Hochuli's seat among the most well-respected in both chosen professions (that's plural) that makes us want to try on this Wisconsin-born-turned-Tempe-area lifer's shoes for a day (or two).

On Sundays, Hochuli, 61, dons the striped getup for his gig as one of the National Football League's most well-known — and well-respected — referees. The next morning: back to the "day job," holding court as a corporate litigator for Jones, Skelton and Hochuli, P.L.C., the Valley-based law-firm he helped start nearly 30 years ago.

"The two careers complement each other so much. I am a much better lawyer, and a much better referee, because of the other," he explains.



"When I'm in the courtroom, the whole concept of being nervous is so foreign ... I'm used to being on a football field with 70,000 people and so many more on TV."

Even amidst Super Bowls and other well-known moments, Hochuli finds it "bizarre" that his football celebrity has soared in recent years. He's known for giving sermon-like rules interpretations — "If you give a lawyer an open microphone and a captive audience, you get what you deserve," he quips — and his likeness has been used by the EA Sports Madden NFL video game series, the best-selling sports video game franchise of all time.

"I'm very humbled by it," he said. "The players are the ones with the talent, the ability. They're the show. All I am is the administrator of the show."

Runner-up: Michael Pollack, real estate magnate and owner of Pollack Tempe Cinemas

Best EV Politician

Mesa Mayor Scott Smith

Smith burst onto the political scene when he won his initial race for mayor in 2008 and has worked his way into becoming a national figure. A big part of that rise in prominence has been his work for the city and the region. In Smith's tenure, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport continues to expand. He also worked to lure a college to open a campus in the city in Benedictine University (to open in 2013). He's also been part of the planning for the Chicago Cubs new spring training complex, as well as the First Solar complex at the old General Motors Proving Grounds.



Scott Smith

Smith's profile was also helped by the good-natured way he handled the infamous "Tussle on the Tarmac" between Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer and President Barack Obama in February. Smith was in earshot of the well-publicized conversation and finger wagging, but handled the ensuing questions with honesty, refusing to take sides. He was also able to add some humor when he said, "As a matter of fact, what really happened is that the governor said if the Giants win (the Super Bowl), you have to have a breakfast of scorpions. That's how it all played out, none of that other political stuff."

Information: (480) 644-2388 or www.mesaaz.gov/mayor

Voters' comments:

"Makes things happen, states vision, gets it done. Cheerleader for entire East Valley."

"He's navigating Mesa through some tough times, and making it more viable."

"Rejuvenated Mesa and changed perception of the city."

"He is the absolute best mayor Mesa has ever had. Probably the best in the Valley."

Runners-up: Congressman Jeff Flake; former state Senate Russell Pearce; state Sen. David Schapira

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People & Places
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Bartender

Casey Hamilton

Hollywood Alley, Mesa

You can't top beer and rock 'n' roll, and Casey Hamilton can get you both at Hollywood Alley, the family-owned and operated live music venue that has been hosting live bands for more than 20 years in Mesa. Throw in a little problem solving, and Casey has you covered.

Location: 2610 W. Baseline Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 820-7117 or www.thehollywoodalley.com

Voters' comments:

"Serving beer and solving your problems! Plus if a crazy trucker tries to kill you he'll stop them cuz he's a giant!"

Runners-up: Amber Fessette of Cadillac Ranch, Tempe; Jacki Willis of Hollywood Alley, Mesa; Tina Pizzuti of Applebee's, Mesa

Best Local Band

36 Cents and a Dream

Friends following a dream — that's what they are about. From Tempe, the blues rockers 36 Cents and a Dream have been able to appeal to a wide audience playing the local bar circuit. And if you want to listen to them at home, you can pick up their debut album "Long Ride Home" on their website.

Information: www.36centsandadream.com

Voters' comments:

"They have an awesome live show!"

"Heli has a great voice, so unique and soulful!"

"They let me play the maracas!"

"Soulful, bluesy, and fun!"

Runner-up: Burn Down the Charade

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People & Places
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Kiana Banks, right, stands with her friend Amber Fernandez. [Submitted]

Best Hero
Kiana Banks



Heroes come in many forms. Sometimes it's the bystander who runs into the burning building to pull out someone trapped inside. Sometimes it's the player who scores the winning basket or touchdown. Sometimes it's a caped cartoon figure in tights battling the evils of this world.

And sometimes, it's not the bravest or the biggest, but the person who shows the most heart.

That's the case with this year's Best Hero of the East Valley: 7-year-old Kiana Banks of Chandler.

This Hull Elementary School second-grader rallied the community around classmate Amber Fernandez, who is battling acute myeloid leukemia, by setting out to raise \$100,000 to help her friend. She's raised \$6,000 so far.

Through fund-raising events and a class quilt project, Kiana has shown Amber a community that cares — and the East Valley a young hero whose compassion for another leads the way. Congratulations, Kiana!

Best School Mascot
Gators

Higley's Gateway Pointe Elementary School, Gilbert

Gators are known to defend their territory and instill fear with their sharp teeth and powerful bite — perfect for a little school pride, right? The students and staff of Gateway Pointe, a K-8 school in the Higley Unified School District, sure have pride in their swamp.

Location: 2069 S. De La Torre Drive, Gilbert

Information: (480) 279-7700 or www.husd.org

Voters' comments:

"Inspires fear in rival schools"

"We're cool!"

Runners-up: Knights of Higley High School, Gilbert; Toros of Mountain View High School, Mesa

Best Elementary School Teacher

Robert Wyatt
Higley's San Tan Elementary School, Gilbert

Teachers are supposed to care about the students and be good role models. It takes a little extra to make science fun for sixth-graders. And that's just what Robert Wyatt does. A native Arizonan, Wyatt teaches at San Tan Elementary in the Higley Unified School District. Voters recognized him for not only being a good teacher, but going beyond expectations.

Voters' comments:

"Mr. Wyatt makes learning fun. He takes different teaching approaches and makes sure he finds the teaching strategy that works for each individual student he teaches."

"Great role model for the kids ... does more than expected of him."

"My child gets it. He makes science so much fun!"

Runners-up: Cadi Hunsaker of American Leadership Academy, Gilbert; Jannifer Ziegler of Higley Elementary School, Gilbert

Best Middle School Teacher

Tera Geyer
Higley's Gateway Pointe Elementary School

Anyone can be good at math. That's how Tera Geyer approaches teaching the subject to eighth-graders at Gateway Pointe. She takes the fear out of math and helps students find success. And according to voters, she makes connections that go beyond her math class.

Voters' comments:

"Because she cares in so many ways and is always there to help you."

"She has the best teaching strategies and they are easy to understand!"

"She cares a lot about us and always makes us laugh"

Runners-up: Anne Marshall of Grand Canyon Preparatory Academy, Tempe; Sarah Giddings of Taylor Junior High School, Mesa

Best High School Teacher
Stephen Heiser

Tempe's Mountain Pointe High School, Ahwatukee Foothills

A 13-year teaching veteran and mathematics department chair, Heiser has made quite an impression on students, parents and colleagues alike. Heiser teaches AP Calculus and AP Statistics, as well as first- and second-year geometry, so he works with a wide range of students and is able to bring out the best in them. "What sets Mr. Heiser apart from others is his innovative approach to teaching," said principal Bruce Kipper. "He has embraced technology and makes learning fun and relevant."

Voters' comments:

"Innovative, caring, funny, and passionate."

"Out of the box thinker, hard worker, caring."

Runners-up: Anne Marshall of Grand Canyon Preparatory Academy, Tempe; Jim Beall of Higley High School, Gilbert; Tamara Scott of Mountain View High School, Mesa



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People & Places

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Private School Seton Catholic Preparatory Chandler

One of the older private schools in the state (opening in 1954), Seton Catholic Prep is in the middle of a renovation project that has been years in the making. The new campus features a new academic and fine arts building, a new chapel and a new football stadium. Seton, with 550 students, made the National Catholic High School Honor Roll as one of the 50 best Catholic secondary schools in the United States. Seton has a strong academic reputation, as well as a solid history in athletics, making it a desirable educational destination.

Location: 1150 N. Dobson Road, Chandler
Information: (480) 963-1900 or www.setoncatholic.org

Voters' comments:

"They do the best job of preparing students for college and more importantly, life in general."

"Seton is consistently student centered and all... strategies, whether improved facilities or academic program review are geared to providing the best."

Runner-up: Christ the King Catholic School, Mesa

Best Public School Gateway Pointe Elementary

Still a young school at just 7-years-old, Gateway Pointe seems to be maturing with age. One of eight elementary schools in the Higley Unified School District, Gateway Pointe serves kindergarten through eighth grade and does so with a staff that is described by voters as "professional, caring and dedicated to helping students." The school offers clubs, fine arts and athletics, with 13 different sports options for middle school students, as well as spirit line, drum line and marching band.

Location: 2069 S. De La Torre Drive, Gilbert
Information: (480) 279-7700 or www.husd.org/Domain/1214

Voters' comments:

"The staff is fantastic at what they do and they care about all students."

"Rigorous academics and community atmosphere."

"They work hard to help every child do well."

"Because the students are the best!"

Runners-up: Coronado Elementary, Higley Elementary & Middle School, and San Tan Elementary – all in the Higley Unified School District, Gilbert

Best Charter School American Leadership Academy Queen Creek

With K-8 campuses in Gilbert and San Tan Valley and a high school in a strip mall in Queen Creek, American Leadership Academy is the only "The Leader In Me" Lighthouse School in Arizona. The school uses the "Leader in Me" program and Stephen R. Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" to teach students leadership skills. Students must demonstrate these skills by giving service hours, leading classroom discussions, participating in ceremonies and accepting leadership responsibilities — and parents are encouraged to attend seminars to extend the principles at home. Daily homework, 20 minutes of nightly reading and a 95 percent attendance record are required. There's also a dress code. Like all charter schools, American Leadership Academy is a tuition-free

public school that is privately operated.
Location: K-8 campus, 17019 S. Greenfield Road, Gilbert; K-8 campus, 34696 N. Village Lane, San Tan Valley; high school, 22721 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite 103, Queen Creek.
Information: (480) 988-3204 (Gilbert), (480) 420-2100 (San Tan Valley), (480) 987-4500 (Queen Creek) or www.alaschools.org

Voters' comments:

"I love that ALA teaches my kids to be leaders first and to make great choices. They are the leaders of themselves."

"Since we have switched our children from public to this charter school, our children have thrived and succeeded."

Runners-up: Grand Canyon Preparatory School, Tempe; Academy with Community Partners, Mesa



People & Places
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best College
Arizona State University

The stats make it easy to see why ASU gets high marks in Arizona higher education: The school ranks among the top in the nation in student entrepreneurs, is one of the top 10 producers of Fulbright Scholars in the U.S., and is home to 612 National Merit Scholars and 324 National Hispanic Scholars.

Faculty members include three Nobel laureates, 12 National Academy of Sciences members, 11 American Academy of Arts and Sciences members, 114 Fulbright American Scholars, 25 Guggenheim Fellows and three members of the Royal Society. Its business, education, public affairs, design and arts programs have been rated in the top 25 percent in the nation.

For voters, those things mattered — but so did far less weighty factors, including “bright and beautiful” campuses, Sun Dev-

il sports, “cool” school colors and the lynchpin for one voter: “It’s not the UofA.”

Location: Tempe and Mesa

Information: (480) 965-2100 or www.asu.edu

Voters’ comments:

“Great educators and wonderful programs.”

“The offer amazing degrees in EVERYthing!”

“The hands-on learning is the best.”

“Excellent school for Applied Computer Science.”

“Lots to offer everyone.”

Runners-up: Mesa Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College

Best East Valley Landmark
Mormon Temple, Mesa



For the non-LDS member, what makes the Mormon Temple unique and inspiring is the transformation it makes as the year goes by. In the early part of the year, it transforms into a giant theater as it puts up the massive stage for the annual Easter Pageant, which draws people from all over the world. Then in the summer, it transforms into a park, with green grass, plenty of shade, and plenty of places to walk and contemplate. Late in the year, it becomes a giant Christmas display. All of that happens on the outside of the Temple itself, which is an impressive structure, and serves as a special, holy place for those who enter it.

Location: 101 S. LeSueur, Mesa

Information: (480) 833-1211 or www.ldschurchtemples.com/mesa (unofficial site)

Voters’ comments:

“Beautiful building in downtown Mesa.”

“It’s a beautiful structure.”

Runners-up: Gilbert Water Tower; Superstition Mountains



[Tribune]

Best View of the East Valley
ASU Sun Devil Stadium (Section 232, Row 38)



A number of obvious places exist to get great views of the East Valley — that is if you have the cash, or the connections.

Be it the control tower at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (no dice, unless you happen to, you know, actually be an air traffic controller) or a penthouse apartment in Tempe’s

trendy, semi-exclusive West 6th high-rises (around \$3,000 a month for a two-to-three-bedroom unit), the good things, sadly, are often about access.

But on a half-dozen or so Saturdays each year, a 10-spot and your gold and maroon foam finger provide that access to this year’s pick for “Best View of the East Valley.” That would be the top row (of the upper deck) in the northeast corner of Arizona State Uni-

versity’s Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe.

Sure, there are other nearby spots (top of Tempe Butte/A Mountain, for one) that offer similar vistas, but few do it in a 360-degree ambiance that happens to include 70,000-plus of your closest friends or a prime view of a late summer/early fall Sonoran sunset shining down on Tempe Town Lake. Even fewer do it for the \$10 to \$20 an upper-level ticket to an ASU football game will run you.

Affordable as it may be, alas, even this accessible view of the East Valley and vicinity — including looks at Four Peaks, Red Mountain, and the Superstitions off in the distance — is limited access. You can only see it if you buy a ticket to a game; the facility is closed to the public on all non-game days.

Location: Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe (Section 232, Row 38, to be exact)

Information: (480) 727-0000 or www.thesundevils.com

Runners-up: Rustler’s Rooste Restaurant, Ahwatukee Foothills; hot-air balloon rides departing from Chandler or Gilbert

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People & Places

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Best Real Estate Agent
Kenny Klaus

Leader of a stable of local real estate professionals, Klaus has been a licensed Arizona realtor since 1999. Together, his Kenny Klaus Team has more than 100 years of experience and ranks in Keller Williams North America's Top 20. He keeps in touch with clients via a website, Facebook page, Twitter handle and blog, where team members give perspective on local market activity. Klaus hosts a free monthly workshop with a real estate attorney and CPA on short sales and foreclosures.

Location: Keller Williams Realty, 2919 S. Ellsworth Road, Suite 133, Mesa

Information: (480) 354-7344 or www.thekennyklaussteam.com

Voters' comments:

*"Negotiation skills and experience."
"Very passionate, hard worker,
positive attitude, loves to help people."*

Runners-up: Jennie Hallock, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Mesa; Rob Feidler/Agent 4 Autism, Giambi & Murdoch Real Estate, LLC, Chandler; Steve Wasson/The Real Estate Chef, United Brokers Group, Chandler

Best Place to Work
Keller Williams
Integrity First
Realty

With the volatile nature of the housing market in the East Valley, one might think that working for a large realty company would be stressful. But judging from the comments about Integrity First, that is not the case. The voters were generous in their praise of a workplace that was described as "fun, successful people helping each other," and "one big family."

Location: 2500 S. Power Road, Suite 121 Mesa

Information: (480) 854-2400 or www.integrityfirstrealty.com

Voters' comments:

"Work environment, people and culture support your success."

Runners-up: Higley Unified School District, Gilbert; Ironwood Cancer & Research Centers (multiple locations); Verve Wellness Center, Mesa



[Tribune]

Best community garden

MCC
Community
Garden



When you're craving the most flavorful tomatoes to top off that salad, odds are you won't find them in the produce aisle at the megamart. That's why we appreciate the community garden at Mesa Community College.

It's a great place to get a plot of your own and put your green thumb to use. And it's the kind of spot where you can get inspired by seeing what else is sprouting from the earth. There's usually a friendly face around to chat up and get other ideas for the next season. Community gardens are regaining their long-lost popularity with the recession. But the experience of places like MCC's garden goes a long way toward reminding us why it's so fun, and tasty, to get our hands dirty once in a while.

Location: 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa

Information: www.mesacc.edu/community/garden/geninfo.html

Runner-up: Gasca Gardens (Tempe)



Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Jeweler Dickson's Jewelers

Mesa

This downtown Mesa business is enjoying its 63rd year of providing its customers with all of the service one would expect from a local jewelry store. The family-owned Dickson's does jewelry repair, as well as selling a wide-variety of products. In this day and age of corporate, chain jewelry stores, it's a pleasant experience to walk into a place and speak to someone that owns the business.

Location: 54 W. Main St., Mesa
Information: (480) 964-5822 or www.evtnow.com/dicksonsjewelers

Voters' comments:

"Repaired my jewelry while I waited and great job!"

"Great sales, battery changed while I waited."

Runners-up: Walt's Jewelry, Gilbert; Muralt's Jewelry, Mesa

Best Mall/Shopping Center SanTan Village

Gilbert

Major retailers Best Buy, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dillard's and Macy's anchor this outdoor mall, and specialty stores like Apple, Charming Charlie, Coach, Forever 21, Lucy, Sephora and White House Black Market line walkable and well-manicured mini-streets. Restaurants — like Blue Wasabi Sushi & Martini Bar, Kona Grill and The Keg Steakhouse — a Harkins movie theater, play areas for children, and lots of spaces to sit outside and people-watch ensure there's plenty to do besides shop.

Location: 2743 S. Market St., Gilbert
Information: (480) 899-1878 or www.shopsantanvillage.com

Voters' comments:

"Love the outdoor setting. Very beautifully done and feels upscale."

"Great stores, never feels crowded since it is outside, and best restaurants around."

"It has everything from great stores to restaurants to kids' play areas."

"(It's) like an old-time downtown, with open spaces and streetscape."

"It's nice to walk from store to store in the outside air, especially in the spring or fall when the weather is perfect!"

"Location, convenience, layout and retailers are unmatched."

"Best quality/quantity of stores."

Runners-up: Chandler Fashion Center; Tempe Marketplace; Superstition Springs Center, Mesa

Best Kids' Dance Studio Ballet Etudes

Gilbert

With 25 years in dance education, Ballet Etudes prides itself in duplicating the experiences of a professional ballet company. Students at the Gilbert school perform throughout the Valley, including in an annual production of "The Nutcracker."

Location: 2401 E. Baseline Road, Suite 111, Gilbert
Information: (480) 558-2080 or www.balletetudes.net

Voters' comments:

"They teach their dancers well and believe in the dancer's potential."

"They make ballet so fun while really teaching the technical stuff."

"Everyone is a friend there — parents, instructors, volunteers."

Everyone works so hard together to make it special for the kids."

Runner-up: Jeanne's School of Dance (multiple locations)



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*Some restrictions apply. Ask for details.



Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Salon/Day Spa and Best New Business Savante Salon Gilbert

Open just a year, this Gilbert salon motivated voters with its customer service and staff. The salon does hair, nails, facials and waxing. Brands carried include Prive and Alphaparf for hair; Gelish, Shellac and OPI for nails; and Dermalogica products for skin care. Spa pedicures are a special treat; they include an extra-long therapeutic massage, hot towel treatment, full pedicure and back massage.

Location: 235 E. Warner Road, Suite B106, Gilbert

Information: (480) 503-4247 or www.evtnow.com/savantesalon

Voters' comments:

"Awesome customer service and the best hair stylists."

"Great location and very professional."

"Amazing service!"

"Great owner and amazing stylists."

"Great customer service!"

Salon/Day Spa runners-up: Flirt Salon, Tempe; Massage Envy (multiple locations); Luxe Salon & Spa, Chandler; Simply Ravishing - The Salon, Gilbert; Dolce Salon & Spa, Chandler

New Business runners-up: Verve Eye Care at Verve Wellness Center, Mesa; Super Farm Super Truck, Mesa; Fancy Furr 'N Purr Full Service Grooming Salon, Chandler; Faith Works Automotive, Mesa

Best Place to Find Antiques Merchant Square Antique Marketplace Chandler

Open on Arizona Avenue since 2002, Merchant Square Antique Marketplace in Chandler has been called a lot of things: antique mall, indoor flea market, swap meet. Voters call it the best place to find antiques because of its selection of vintage furniture, accessories and home decor items offered in 130 vendor spaces. You'll also find popular hot dog joint Pittsburgh Willy's inside.

Location: 1509 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler

Best Place to Work Out Body Envy Fitness Chandler

Instead of logging mindless miles on cardio machines, exercisers at Body Envy are challenged to four-week fitness boot camps. Trainers and coaches guide participants — women only — through simple but effective exercises to tighten, tone and firm. Although we wouldn't say the intense, ever-changing routines are easy, Body Envy at least makes it easy to attend a workout: They offer 51 boot camp sessions per week, including Sundays. And workouts are held indoors, so you can never use the weather as an excuse to skip a session.

Location: 2450 E. Germann Road, No. 11, Chandler

Information: (480) 686-3689 or www.bodyenvybootcamp.com

Voters' comments:

"Best group of women and the toughest workout!"

"The most intense workout I have ever had, plus the most fun; every day it is something new."

"They push me to work out in a way that I didn't realize I was capable of."

"Transformation, baby!"

"Plain and simple: RESULTS!"

Runners-up: Express MIE Fitness & Beauty, Tempe; Lifetime Fitness (multiple locations); Mountainside Fitness (multiple locations)



[Tim Hacker/Tribune]

Best Kids Birthday Party Bounce U



Happy birthday! If the idea of entertaining 10 kids at your house, feeding them and doing the clean-up is a bit

much, check out the indoor facility at Gilbert's Bounce U.

Perfect because it's good in all weather, the birthday party packages here include a party host, drinks for the guests and 45 minutes in the party room. Families can bring in their own cakes. Pizza, sandwiches and more can be purchased for additional cost.

Even a "cosmic" bounce can be added, with the kids jumping in neon lights.

Partygoers will stay busy, too, with two rooms filled with inflatable bounce houses and games where they'll play for an hour.

Think about it: They'll leave the party tired!



ty tired!

Costs vary, with the basic package running \$139 to \$189 (depending on the day of the week) for up to 10 kids and the "spectacular" package for up to 25 kids running \$369 to \$399 (includes food, cake and drinks, and more).

Location: 1166 S. Gilbert Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 632-9663 or www.bounceu.com

Runners-up: Makutu's Island (Chandler), Freestone Recreation Center (Gilbert)



Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Auto Dealership

Earnhardt Auto Centers

Buy a car off a dealer lot around these parts, and chances are good it came from Earnhardt's. In business since 1951, the Earnhardt family helms one of the Southwest's largest automotive empires, with 16 stores in the Phoenix area selling Buicks, Chryslers, Dodges, Fords, GMC's, Hondas, Hyundais, Jeeps, Kias, Nissans, Ram trucks, Scions and Toyotas. Patriarch Tex, along with sons Hal and Jim Babe, and grandsons Dodge, Derby and Bull, personally oversee operations, making sure each shop lives up to Tex's now-famous slogan, delivered from atop a saddled steer in TV commercials: "Earnhardt: a name you can trust, and that ain't no bull."

Location: multiple East Valley locations

Information: (888) 820-3377 or www.earnhardt.com

Voters' comments:

"Fast, dependable, focused on customer service, sparkling clean."

"Look at the decor compared to other dealerships. Earnhardt does not waste money on fancy offices, which maybe is why they were able to make the deal others were not."

"Great customer service."

"They wash your car every time you take it in for service."

Runners-up: Berge Auto Group (multiple locations); Henry Brown Auto Group, Gilbert; SanTan Ford, Gilbert

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Relieving pain... Restoring Lives



Desert Pain Institute has been serving patients since 2002. In nine years, our health care providers have worked on over 200,000 patient cases. You can be confident DPI is the most comprehensive pain institute in the East Valley, with the most experience.

Health and wellness were the inspiration behind the design of the DPI facility. Our environmentally friendly building includes a 7,000 square foot outpatient ambulatory surgery center, 3,500 square foot medical clinic, 6,000 square foot aquatic therapy center and a 5,000 square foot physical therapy center. DPI received an Award of Merit from the Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Program.

Our multi-specialty team at Desert Pain Institute offers each patient a comprehensive treatment plan utilizing both traditional and alternative approaches to pain management. Our cutting edge technology is used in interventional procedures, physical therapy, occupational therapy and medical pain management.

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- Back Pain
- Cancer pain
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- Diabetic Neuropathy
- Electromyography (EMG)
- Fibromyalgia
- Herniated Disc
- Hip/Shoulder/Knee Pain
- Joint Pain
- Leg Pain
- Low Back Pain
- Lymphedema
- Neck Pain
- Nerve Pain
- Neuropathy
- Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Osteoporosis
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Pelvic Pain
- Sciatica
- Shingles/Post-Herpetic Neuralgia
- Spinal Stenosis
- Sports Injuries
- Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Vertebral Compression Fracture
- Vertebroplasty
- Whiplash
- Work Injuries



Left to right: Hannah Cho, MD, Eric Boyd, MD, Richard Ruskin, MD and Spencer Heaton, MD.

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- Indoor Spa
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- Kyphoplasty Medication
- Managemet Nerve Blocks
- Occupational Therapy
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- Personal Training
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Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Hospital/Medical Center Arizona Ob-Gyn Affiliates

The personal touch is what makes the offices in the Arizona Ob-Gyn Affiliates network special to all of the patients that they care for. While a trip to the Ob-Gyn can be an uncomfortable experience for many women, the staff at Arizona Ob-Gyn Affiliates go out of their way to make each visit a pleasant one. "They truly care about their patients and make them feel as comfortable as possible," one voter said. "The staff is really friendly and helpful."

Locations: New Horizons Women's Care – 1950 W. Frye Road, Chandler, (480) 895-9555; 2163 E. Baseline Road, Suite 101, Tempe, (480) 820-9000; 4545 E. Chandler Blvd., Suite 208; Ahwatukee Foothills, (480) 961-2330. Maricopa OB-Gyn Ahwatukee – 4530 E. Ray Road, Suite 125, Ahwatukee Foothills, (480) 759-9191.

Information: www.aofamily.com/home/

Voters' comments:

"I have been going to New Horizon's Women's care for nearly 10 years. They have always treated me with respect and have always taken extra special care of me throughout the years."

"Being a group, at least one of the doctors is almost always available for your help."

"Can count on them to get you an appointment to see someone ASAP even if not with your own doctor."

Runners-up: Gilbert Hospital; Mercy Gilbert Medical Center; Verve Wellness Center, Mesa



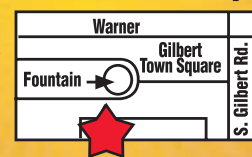
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Best Doctor

Dr. David Warkentin

Verve Wellness Center

As a chiropractor and CEO and founder of Verve Medical Group, Dr. David Warkentin's business has been built on satisfied patients. Warkentin opened the Verve Medical Center in 2005. Verve offers a wide range of services, including family medicine, internal medicine, pain management, chiropractic, dental, oral surgery, orthodontics, optical, optometry, massage therapy, mental health, naturopathic medicine, diagnostic blood labs, radiology and neuro diagnostic testing. While the business side of Verve has thrived, Warkentin has maintained his strong reputation as a chiropractor and his high standard of patient care.

Location: 4824 E. Baseline Road, Suite 110 and Suite 140, Mesa

Information: (480) 969-4040, (480) 830-1040 or www.vervewellnesscenter.com

Voters' comments:

"He actually takes the time to explain your results with you and encourages their spouses to come and ask any questions. I thought these doctors were only around in the 1950's. He is a breath of fresh air."

"He is the one that found a cancer lesion in my lung and because of the early detection I am free of cancer today."

"My boyfriend and I were in an accident and he truly saved our lives. Thanks Doc!"

Runners-up: Denise Belisle, Valley Women for Women (multiple locations); Craig Scharf, LifeQuest Chiropractic and Massage, Chandler; Greg Vogel, Backfit Chiropractic, Gilbert



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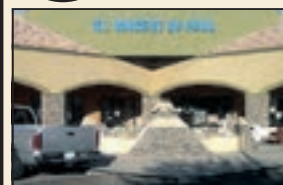
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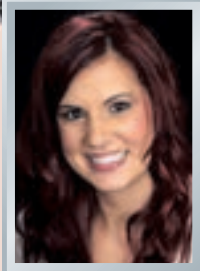
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Shopping & Services

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Best Auto Repair Shop

Faith Works Automotive

Mesa

Paul Henley and his team have made quite a name for themselves by doing outstanding auto repair work. They have also worked hard to develop a reputation of being honest, caring, and true to the name of his shop. While there are many horror stories of dishonest repair shops that overcharge or make unneeded repairs, Henley stays true to his Christian faith in his business, providing good service, all while treating his customers well. One voter summed up Faith Works simply: "They are good at what they do and they are honest."

Location: 340 N. Dobson Road, Mesa

Information: (480) 833-3521 or www.faithworksauto.com

Voters' comments:

"Has always given great service and always states what has to be done and what can be done later."

"Quality service and a willingness to work with the customers' budget."

"I am so glad Paul has his own shop now ... I have followed him for years!"

Runners-up: Lee's Auto Repair, Mesa; Sun Devil Auto (multiple locations)

Best Bookstore

Changing Hands

Tempe

The independent bookstore is a dying breed, but Changing Hands has defied that trend by providing a place where customers can go and always be surprised to find something they didn't know they were looking for. It's the place to go to meet and actually interact with authors, as well as other people who share your interests. Customers are treated as individuals, and if Changing Hands doesn't have what you are looking for, they have something you might like and they'll work to get you what you need.

Location: 6428 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe

Information: (480) 730-0205 or www.changinghands.com

Voters' comments:

"I have never in 15 years been there when they haven't had something I wanted or when they weren't able to recommend something I didn't know I wanted!"

"Because they are always bringing in the best authors, and they really care about their customers and their interests."

"A local, independent, community book store with great selection, great service, and great people."

Runners-up: Barnes & Noble (multiple locations); Bookman's, Mesa



The staff at Verve Wellness Center would like to extend a big Thank You for all of the votes and confidence bestowed upon us by our patients and colleagues.

Dr. David A. Warkentin, CEO and Staff



Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Place to Feel Like a Kid Again Jump Street



[Tim Hacker/Tribune]



The trampoline craze that took off three decades ago, then crashed because of safety and injury issues, is coming back.

A rash of recent injuries — including a death in Phoenix recently when a man suffered a broken neck — are obvious causes for concern and precaution. But freak accidents happen everywhere, and, with some foresight, this is a stress-busting, turn-back-the-clock hour of adolescent aerial acrobatics.

Still, it's worth watching for a few minutes before diving in, and though injuries are a real possibility, did we care about that in our younger days? Of course not.

Prices are more reasonable during the weekdays, and the music gets

loud on weekend nights, but reprieves are available with an arcade, obstacle course and batting cages. They also run various pricing specials on Monday-Thursday nights.

Dodgeball court rentals get pricey, but it's solid with enough people to offset costs, and every Wednesday night is a round-robin dodgeball tournament for \$8 per person. Just beware of the injury risk associated (depending on who's playing).

We love a good water park or mini-golf place as much as anyone, but who wouldn't like to combine exercise with bouncing around floors and walls with reckless abandon? Or at least watch your kids/teenagers flail away instead?

Location: 455 E. Warner Road, Chandler

Information: (480) 270-8008 or <http://gotjump.com/chandler-az/>

Runners-up: Airworx, Chandler; LaserQuest, Mesa

Best Pet Services Sandi's Tailwaggers Chandler

The billions of dollars that people spend on their pets is proof positive that we humans love our little furry friends. More proof is that Sandi's Tailwaggers has been in the pet sitting business for 10 years and is still going strong. Sandi's is not a pet boarding service; it's more like having a friend come over and check on your pets. But this friend also takes the dog for a walk, cleans the cat box, takes in the mail and stays a while to play with the pets. Sandi's unique and reliable services have earned them the love of pet owners all over the East Valley. "They provide absolute watchfulness and care," one voter commented. "They will take your pet to the vet if necessary, will give medications, prepare special diets. They are fabulous people!"

Location: 553 W. Carob Drive, Chandler

Information: (480) 699-3290 or www.sandistailwaggers.com

Voters' comments:

"I love going on vacation and knowing that our black lab won't be locked up in a crate for a week."

"Never have to worry how my dog is being taken care of. She is treated just like a family member at home and when Sandi and her family take care of her."

"Always pleasant, available last minute when I need them, fair prices and my animals love them!"

Runners-up: Cactus Canine Pet Photography, Queen Creek; Fancy Fur 'N Purr, Chandler; Fetch Pet Care, Gilbert; Fur Babies Delectable Delights (multiple locations)



Dr. Paul Sandstrom, Dentist Dr. David Edwards, Dentist

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Shopping & Services
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Grocery Store
Fry's

Perhaps Fry's is popular because they have more stores in the East Valley than anyone else, but sheer numbers don't always add up to satisfied customers. No, Fry's is popular because it has just about everything a family needs when it goes grocery shopping, all at a fair price. And in the Fry's Marketplace stores, shoppers can find household items ranging from TV's and stereos to towels and ironing boards, as well as groceries. Voters liked Fry's because the offerings and prices are consistent from store to store, and one voter said, "It's a one-stop shopping experience with great pricing overall."

Location: Multiple locations
Information: www.frysfood.com
Voters' comments:

"If they don't have it, manager can order it for you. Staff is very friendly and helpful. Prices are great."

"I have been going to the same Fry's grocery store for over three years now and the people are friendly, helpful and great you like they really care about you. I have always had great service with Fry's on East Main Street in Mesa. I love these people."

"Great prices, always good sales, and you get fuel points."

Runners-up: Basha's, Sprouts, and Trader Joe's - all multiple locations

Best Farmers Market
Super Farm Market
Mesa

Head out to Superstition Farms on Thursday evenings and you can take care of a lot of your shopping, all the while getting locally grown products, as well as some not-so-local specialty items like Alaskan seafood. Grass-fed beef, chicken and fresh-baked breads also are for sale, not to mention the dairy products that come fresh from the Superstition Farms cows. While the produce, meats and dairy products are good draws for the adults, the kids will like the fact that there is a petting zoo, as well as cheap hayrides and opportunities to bottle-feed baby calves. Super Farm Market will let you feel like you're back on the farm, at least for a couple hours.

Location: 3440 S. Hawes Road, Mesa
Information: (602) 432-6865 or www.superstitionfarm.com

Voters' comments:

"On a farm! Great vendors, nice family, always friendly service, pets welcome, hay rides and petting zoo, in the evening, family friendly."

"What's better than a farmer's market at a real farm?"

"Incredibly friendly. Great products, fun atmosphere. Excellent evening out."

Runners-up: Gilbert Farmers Market; Bountiful Baskets Co-Op (multiple locations)

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Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Wedding Venue Stonebridge Manor



Stonebridge Manor is picturesque both day and night. [Submitted]



Built in the 1980s and featuring beautiful, lush grounds that surround the brick three-story mansion in Mesa, the Stonebridge Mansion is a great place to host a wedding in the East Valley. It offers a bride and groom glamour, ease and individualization for their wedding.

The venue offers two settings for weddings, either the Manor Courtyard, with both indoor and outdoor options, or the Garden Pavilion, which is perfect for larger gatherings of more than 150 guests underneath a tented pavilion.

With the wedding packages, a full

staff — including set-up, tear-down and a wedding coordinator — means that family and the wedding party can be stress-free on the big day. Appetizers are even circulated during the reception by servers.

More affordable options are available or the venue can host the intricate wedding of your dreams. The amenities such as the caterer and florist are chosen for you, which means less stress over which one to choose, but additional alterations and customizations from the initial offerings that will make your wedding different from all the others.

Location: 4000 E. Palm St., Mesa

Information: (480) 641-3131 or <http://www.stonebridgemanor.com/>



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Shopping & Services
EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Dentist

Dr. Keith Kennedy
Power Ranch Dental

While no one would say going to the dentist is their favorite activity, Kennedy works to make sure each visit is as pleasant as possible. Several voters commented that Kennedy was “gentle,” a very good trait for someone who wields sharp objects in the mouths of his patients. One voter gave Kennedy his endorsement, saying, “He’s very knowledgeable, shows concern and interest in his patients and is kind, helpful, always does a stand-up job.”

Location: 7400 E. Germann Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 988-2282 or www.powerranchdental.com

Voters’ comments:

“Great service, always fits me and my family for special needs.”

“Dr. Kennedy will talk to you in a manner that makes you feel comfortable. He is a down-to-earth guy and does great work!”

“Wonderful dentist, very nice office and staff, gives back to the community.”

Runners-up: Tyrel Beavers, Verve Dental Group, Mesa; Brent and Doug Pospisil, Pospisil Dentistry, Gilbert

Best Veterinarian

Dr. Karin Burns
Priority Pet Hospital

Burns and her partner, husband and fellow vet Dr. William Griswold have been working under the motto of “Putting Pets First,” since 2007 when they opened Priority Pet Hospital. Since then, Dr. Burns has grown a practice that works hard to make each pet (and person) feel like they are part of the family. “Dr. Burns takes time to develop trust with your pet,” one voter said. “She is very knowledgeable, friendly and outstanding with follow-up. We couldn’t ask for a better Vet.”

Location: 4902 S. Val Vista Drive, Suite 108, Gilbert

Information: (480) 857-7234 or www.prioritypethospital.com

Voters’ comments:

“No veterinarian cares more about pets than these great people. They treat you and your pet like family.”

“She is great with both us and our dog who is very skittish (an abused rescue dog). She is never rushed and shows how much she really loves pets and her job.”

Runners-up: Connie Anderson, Animal House Veterinary Clinic, Queen Creek; Pamela Ford, AZ Animal Wellness Center, Gilbert

Best Place to Buy Spirits
Total Wine & More

For someone that appreciates a nice adult beverage from time to time, walking into a Total Wine & More is like a child walking into a toy store. You walk the aisles, seeing brands and flavors that you’ve never seen before and your mind races, wondering how good this wine would be or how well that wine would go with your favorite dish. Yes, there are so many regional or local wines (and other spirits) from around the country that won’t likely make it to the shelves of your local Total Wine & More, but it’s almost a guarantee that there will be something there that will fit your discerning tastes.

Locations: 8544 S. Emerald Drive, Tempe; 2224 E. Williams Field Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 753-4225 (Tempe), (480) 786-0270 (Gilbert), or www.totalwine.com

Voters’ comments:

“Cheap, tons and tons of selection, the workers are so helpful and knowledgeable on products.”

“Huge selection and the only place we can find our favorite beer!”

“Most reasonably priced place around. It’s like a candy store for adults.”

Runners-up: AJ’s Fine Foods (multiple locations); BevMo (multiple locations)



Shopping & Services

EastValleyTribune.com/BestOf

Best Business Open 24 Hours

Gilbert Hospital

Many have experienced the dreaded late-night injury or illness that resulted in a long visit to the emergency room. Gilbert Hospital has changed that experience for those who come in during the wee hours, making sure that each new patient is seen by a doctor within 31 minutes of arrival. Gilbert Hospital opened in 2006 and immediately made a strong reputation for itself with its "Door to doc in 31 minutes" mantra.

Location: 5656 S. Power Road, Gilbert

Information: (480) 984-2000 or www.gilberter.com

Voters' comments:

"Every time that I have an emergency, they are ready for me and my family."

"Nothing better then being able to help people 24/7."

Runners-up: Emergency Animal Clinic, Gilbert; Wal-Mart (multiple locations)

Best Resale Shop Goodwill

Keeping everyone from becoming a hoarder since 1902, Goodwill Industries is the standard-bearer for resale shops. While others have popped up through the years, including many thriving local stores, Goodwill has been taking one person's cast-off clothing and other goods (all as a tax deduction) and selling them at a price affordable for all. Goodwill's services and the good deeds they do are well known and they have helped millions find jobs or job training.

Location: Multiple locations

Information: www.goodwillaz.org

Voters' comments:

"Great finds and everything is half off every other Saturday."

Runners-up: My Sister's Closet, Chandler; Savers (multiple locations)

Full Service Audiology Clinic
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Dr. Cassandra M. Fynes, Au.D. CCC-A

Dr. Fynes is an Arizona native and has been a licensed and practicing audiologist serving Mesa and Phoenix, Arizona for over ten years. Dr. Fynes received her Master's of Audiology from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas in May of 2000. She received her doctoral degree from Pennsylvania College of Optometry, School of Audiology in December of 2003.



Roger Knighton, M.N.S., CCC-A

Mr. Knighton has lived in Arizona for over 30 years and has been a licensed and practicing audiologist for more than 15 years here in the Phoenix area. He attended Northern Arizona University and received his Bachelor's of Natural Science in 1990, then attended Arizona State University and received his Master's of Audiology in 1993.



Clarissa
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