

Time for Goleta's Finest Awards

By **THOMAS SCHULTZ**

NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A slate of Goleta's movers and shakers will be recognized for significant contributions to the community this Saturday.

"This is the Academy Awards of Goleta," said Kristen Amyx, president of the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the annual Goleta's Finest Awards, a tradition that goes back 56 years. "This is the one night of the year that we really look to our own community and recognize the excellent citizens that we have living and working here."

Residents chose nominees, and a chamber committee confirmed the final winners.

Tom Parker is Goleta Man of the Year. Mr. Parker is president of the Hutton Foundation, which has channeled substantial support toward Goleta's nonprofit organizations.

Julie McGovern is Woman of the Year. She is coordinator of the Goleta Housing Leadership Council. Ms.

McGovern has contributed significantly to Goleta through Girl Scouts of America, the Santa Barbara Rotary Club, the Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and the UCSB Economic Forecast.

D.J. Perry is elementary schools Educator of the Year. During 21 years of teaching, Mr. Perry has focused on technology and social studies, providing many Goleta children with a brighter future.

Jerry Belch is middle and high school Educator of the Year. The Dos Pueblos High School instructor has taught vocational and business classes for more than 30 years.

Dee Duncan is Human Services Professional of the Year. Ms. Duncan founded New Directions Travel in 1985. The nonprofit organization enables developmentally disabled people to travel.

City Councilwoman Jean Blois is Public Servant of the Year. A longtime Goleta Valley resident, she is often a business ally.

Amadeo Ramos is Student of the

Year. He entered La Patera School as a second-grader in September, speaking no English. Eight months later he has made great strides, according to the chamber.

Susan Engles is Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Engles is in her third year as chairwoman of the Goleta Lemon Festival. She is also president-elect of the Assistance League of Santa Barbara.

Glen Annie Golf Club is Small Business of the Year. The company has assisted several nonprofit groups with tournament fund-raisers.

Global Brand Marketing Inc. is Large Business of the Year. The company recently relocated to Goleta, a move the chamber wishes to highlight as efforts to attract more businesses to Goleta continue.

Tickets to the 6 p.m. black-tie-optional event at Bacara Resort & Spa are \$75 each, or \$600 per table, and must be purchased in advance. For more information, call 967-4618.

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