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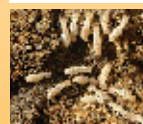
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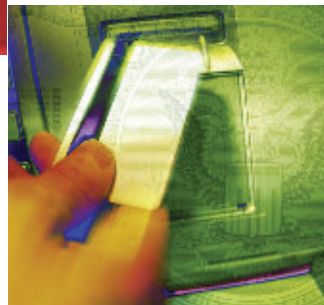
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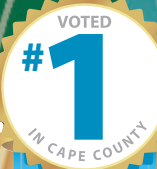
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CONVENIENCE STORE

Numerous locations and high quality customer service provided to Southeast Missouri have garnered recognition for a local convenience store chain, Rhodes 101 Stop.

Keith Boeller, a spokesman for Rhodes, said his company understands the business that they are in.

"We touch many lives every day as people are back and forth, and on the road, just going about their daily business," said Boeller.

He attributes the chain's success to the number of locations in the area.

"We are highly visible to customers, which is why we do well," Boeller said.

One system that keeps the company connected is a customer rewards points program. Customers use the points they earn for purchases to earn coupons they can use at the stores.

Many locations offer hot, freshly prepared breakfast items, pizza, and deli sandwiches, as well as baked items like doughnuts and cookies, and are open 24 hours.

RHODES 101 STOP

Runners up 2. Kidds 3. Winks



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2. Jayson Jewelers
3. Zickfields Jewelry & Gifts



CLOTHING STORE (MEN) **GARBER'S**

Runners up: 2. J.C. Penney 3. Kohls

Forty-eight years after its opening, Garber's Menswear in Cape Girardeau has outlasted the competition and become a mainstay on the local men's clothing market.

Rodney Bridges, who owns the store with his wife, Dimple, said the reason his business does well is the attention to incredible customer service he and his employees provide that cannot be found anywhere else around.

"We get to know the customers on a personal basis, when they come in we know what they like. We listen to why they are here and what they need," said Bridges.

Something else that sets the store apart is the unique specialty items that Bridges makes sure are available in his store.

"We appreciate people shopping locally, which is why we try to do our absolute best for them," Bridges said.

"Our Cape Girardeau customers don't have to drive to St. Louis to find fashion," said Bridges, "because we hand pick everything in the store with them in mind."

Bridges and his wife travel to Las Vegas annually and two times each year to Chicago and Milwaukee to attend the world's largest men's apparel markets and personally select items to be sold in Garber's.

He said his main customers are hard-working guys who appreciate fashion, and he wants to be able to provide a local option for them when they want to shop.

Garber's has undergone recent remodeling and offers free alterations, gift wrapping and shipping.

CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN)

1. Kohls
2. Macys
3. JC Penney

UNIFORM & SCRUBS STORE

1. Professional Uniforms
2. Guys Big & Tall
3. Carolyn's





LIQUOR STORE **Schnucks**

Runners-up: 2. Rhodes 101 Stop 3. Kidd's

From behind the liquor counter in Schnucks, Jon Hinton said he and his co-workers are always there to help.

Schnucks' liquor department does special orders for customers looking for a particular wine or spirit.

"If we don't have it, we will be more than happy to order it for them," said Hinton.

He said a great selection, opportunities for special buys and low advertised prices are what keep customers coming back time and time again.

Wine is a popular choice.

Hinton said regional wine sells well, although he has seen an increase in all kinds of wine sales in recent years.

California wines seem to be our strongest sellers, and it is probably because a lot of people are drinking more red wines than they used to because they are more health conscious," said Hinton.

Doug Heilman, manager of the liquor department, is a certified wine specialist, and can answer many wine-related questions for customers as well as help them make a special selection.



BOOK STORE

1. Barnes & Noble
2. Book Rack
3. Hastings



GIFT SHOP

1. Saint Francis Hospital Gift Shop
2. Southeast Hospital Gift Shop
3. Renaissance



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3. Happy Trails

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QUILT SHOP

The Golden Needle Inc and Sewing Basket was the people's choice for the No. 1 quilt shop in the area. "The store has the best selection of all the sewers needs," says owner Sheryl Winschel. Quilting machines and notions are included in its stock. Winschel says, "Our customer service is the No. 1 reason we were chosen because we have a knowledgeable, experienced and friendly staff to help customers."

Golden Needle is different from other quilt shops because it has such a wide selection of machines and fabrics. A special perk is that the store will special order an item if it helps the customer.

The Cape Girardeau Golden Needle location was started in June 1991, and in February 2006 Winschel purchased the Sewing Basket Quilt Shop to add into the 330 S. Kingshighway business. Since that purchase, 2,000 bolts of cottons, flannels and specialty quilt fabrics have been added to its inventory.

Regular customer Diane Dodd says, "I love it because it has such a wide selection of fabric and they even know customers by name. If they don't have what you want they'll order it."



SHOE STORE

1. Marcy's Planet Shoes
2. Brown's Shoe Fit Company
3. Payless Shoes

THE GOLDEN NEEDLE



Runners-up: 2. Hancock Fabrics 3. Cottage Quilt Shop

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