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2nd place

3rd place

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1ST PLACE

2nd place

3rd place

EDUCATION

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College
College Professor
Elementary School
Elementary Teacher
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H.S. Marching Band
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3rd place

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1ST PLACE

2nd place

3rd place

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Chiropractor **Chriopractic Practice Dental Office Dentist** Luxe Lift Aesthetics & Womens Wellness Christie Clinic Dept. of Dermatology High Expectations **Dermatology Practice** Dr. Thomas J. Halloran, MD - Carle Health Dr. Dina Swanson, Swanson Family Practice Karen Broaders - Carle Health Doctor **Exercise Facility** Health Clinic Just Breathe Alternative Medical Solutions.. Luxe Lift Aesthetics & Womens Wellness........... Two Roads Wellness Clinic Audibel Hearing Aid Centers Beltone Hearing Aid Service VA Illiana Healthcare System Audiology Clinic **Hearing Center** Hospital Medspa Hope Wakeland Felicity Shore Nurse Bobbi Fischer, NP...... Sasha Powell, FNP...... Hannah High NP Nurse Practioner **Optometrist** Pediatrician Senior Housing Facility Vision Center Yoga on the Go by Merrit Two Roads Wellness Clinic Empower Yoga Studio Yoga Studio

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Creative mother-daughter follow recipe for success by Carol Roehm newsroom@dancomnews.com

A local mother and daughter have tapped into their creativity to establish two womanowned businesses while also making sure to give back to the communities that have helped them succeed.

Four years ago, Nichole Lesko started her catering business, MiMi's Kitchen & Catering, inside the Danville Masonic Center at 109 W. North St.

Two years later, her daughter Kylie Lesko opened her tattoo shop, Dreamer's Ink, 218 N. State St., Westville.

Both women and their businesses have been recognized as 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Award winners.

MiMi's Kitchen & Catering was honored for being the best caterer and the best woman-owned business as well as having the best chicken.

Dreamer's Ink earned first place for best tattoo artist and third place for best tattoo shop.

Nichole's love of cooking began as a youngster surrounded by a family of cooks and bakers.

"Food has been a part of my family's history," she said. "I cooked with my mom and baked with my grandma.

"I spent time in the kitchen with my grandpa. He was definitely the cook," she said, recalling one of his specialties was kielbasa and sauerkraut cooked with bacon grease.

"My great-grandpa owned Povilaitis Bakery in Westville," she added.

With culinary creativity in her DNA, Nichole launched her catering business in December 2021 after a friend contacted her to see if she was interested in renting the kitchen at the Danville Masonic Center. The business' moniker, MiMi, is what her grandchildren call her.

"My specialty is being creative with food," she said. "I love flavor profiles and plating creativity."

As she was creating her catering business' website, Nichole offered healthy meals individually or as a weekly meal

Her business now focuses on catering events and celebrations, boxed lunches, corporate lunches, and community events including at the Fischer Theatre and at the Danville Dans stadium, Downtown Danville's First Fridays including the Folklore Progressive Dinner in October, the United Way Cookoff, and a Yellowstone-themed event.

This spring, Nichole started Pop-Up for a Cause events to raise funds for various nonprofit organizations in the community.

"The pop-ups help the community one meal at a time," she said. "I give 25 percent of the proceeds to a nonprofit every week during the summer and monthly during the winter."

Some of the organizations that have benefited from Nichole's generosity include the Humane Society of Danville, Peer Court, and the Children's Advocacy Center. Nichole also catered a breast cancer awareness pop-up event in which 25 percent of the proceeds were donated to OSF's All in the Jeans Day fundraiser.

"I've had a lot of community involvement," she said, adding that one event stands out from the others.

Nichole catered the Feast of St. Joseph, which she described as a large Italian meal.

Guests who attended the Italian feast the first night of the twoday event purchased tickets that allowed people from the men's and women's shelters in Danville to enjoy the same meal for free the following night.

Nichole said it warmed her heart to cook the hearty meal a second night for the appreciative crowd.

It should come as no surprise that Nichole's daughter, Kylie Lesko, shares her mother's creativity and desire to help the community.

In January 2024, Kylie opened Dreamer's Ink with fellow tattoo artist Shelby See in the former McMillan Appliance building in Westville.

"I've just been growing, and we have six artists now," she said.

A bad tattoo in her teens convinced Kylie to pursue becoming a tattoo artist.

"I decided I wanted to do this when I was 16," she said, adding, "I got my first tattoo at 16 and it was really bad.

"My mom introduced me to a tattoo artist she knew when I was 18, and he told me to go to college and learn graphic design," she recalled. "I had taken graphic design (at Danville Area Community College) my junior and senior years at Westville High School through College Express.'

Kylie launched her tattoo career in 2016 at No Regrets, where she stayed for six years. Then for two years, she traveled to Nashville and tattooed at a shop for one week each month.

Her experiences spurred her to consider opening her own tattoo shop in her hometown.

"I grew up in Westville," she said. "It's easy to be in a town where I'm welcomed."

All six tattoo artists at her shop are women.

Nichole Lesko, left, and Kylie Lesko are mother and daughter

and the two women are being recognized in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards. Nichole Lesko, owner of MiMi's Kitchen & Catering, was honored as best caterer, best woman-owned business and best chicken. Nichole Lesko, owner of Dreamers Ink, earned first place for best tattoo artist along with third place for best tattoo shop.

"I try to keep it welcoming for everyone," she said.

Inside Dreamer's Ink, one of Kylie's friends, Patricia Wilson, has opened a boutique called All Around Designs, which offers custom-designed clothing and home décor.

Like her mother, Kylie also is committed to giving back to the community and has organized fundraisers at her tattoo shop for the University of Illinois Veterinary Clinic and the Vermilion County Animal Shelter.

A Food for Tattoos fundraiser in November collected food and \$1,800 in cash donations that were divided among four

organizations: Hoopeston Multi Agency, Georgetown Food Pantry, Westville Backpack Program, and the women's shelter in Danville.

"This has always been my career and my passion," Kylie said of tattooing. "I'm very thankful for where I am at now."

In addition to offering catering for special events and celebrations, XXX.

Lesko believes in giving back to the community, with MiMi's Kitchen & Catering participating in Downtown Danville's First Fridays and pop-up events for a cause, such as breast cancer awareness in October.





Tanning Salon

The Winners are...

1ST PLACE

2ND PLACE

Sunburst Tans Sienna Tan & Spa

3rd PLACE

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1ST PLACE

2ND PLACE

3rd place

Tattoo Artist
Vet Tech
Veterinarian
Veterinary Clinic & Hospital
Women-owned Business

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Bicycle Shop
Book Store
Bridal Shop
CBD Dispensary
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1ST PLACE

2ND PLACE

3RD PLACE

Liquor Store
Local Customer Service
Mattress Store
Metaphysical Gift Shop
Music Store
Pawn Shop
Pet Store
Pet Supplies
Pharmacy

Resale Shop

Shoe Store Sporting Goods Tattoo Shop Thrift Shop Vape Shop Womens Clothing

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Support these Local Businesses

Simple beginnings to award-winning BBQ

CHAD DARE chad.dare@dancomnews.com

WESTVILLE — Creating something that people enjoy is the driving force for Dave Johnson of Dave's Double Barrel BBQ in Westville.

Johnson started doing barbeque as more or less a hobby.

"I was a butcher here in Danville for about 10 years and I learned how to trim the meat and cook the meat," he said. "I was grilling back then, but in 2007, I started smoking meat. I bought an off-set smoker and then we built a double barrel smoker out of a double barrel heater kit in 2012."

At first, Johnson was smoking meat for just family and friends.

"People kept telling me that I ought to sell this," he said.

Then a trip to the Balloons over Vermilion event convinced him to start his business.

"I got some rib tips that

you couldn't even chew," he said. "We built a food truck and the big black smoker that we use today. I also had a 28-foot long trailer that was a mobile kitchen that could pass any health department inspection."

Eventually, his food truck turned into a full brick-and-mortar business, located at 1520 N. State St. in Westville and Dave's Double Barrel BBQ is the winner of the best BBQ in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards.

"We won for the best BBQ, but honestly, the only person that really counts is the customer," Johnson said. "Come down and try my BBQ. If you like it, come back. If you don't like, don't come back. But, more times than not, I will see you come back."

The Commercial-News award is the second that Johnson has received this year and he admits there is some satisfaction in these honors.

"It makes me feel good that I can make something that people like," Johnson said. "Making people happy, makes me feel good about myself.

"It's almost like, this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

When asked about his style of barbeque, Johnson said it's a style unique to him.

"I try to do my brisket like Texas, but I do all my own rubs," he said, noting that a lot of recipe has come from trial-and-error. "I could try to describe it all day long, but you really have to taste it and judge it for yourself."

Dave's Double Barrel BBQ feature three styles of sauces for its meat — mild, hot and a sweet-and-sassy that is a half-and-half mix of the mild and hot.

According to Johnson, the keys to good smoked

Dave Johnson of Dave's Double Barrel BBQ in Westville stands next to his smoker as it warms up for a day of cooking brisket, pulled pork, chicken and ribs. Dave's Double Barrel BBQ was voted the best BBQ in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards.



Dave's Double Barrel BBQ in Westville, winners of the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards for best BBQ, has plenty of seating to accommodate large groups for lunch or dinner.

meat is getting the air flowing correctly in the smoker, the right amount of heat and the right amount of time.

"It takes a lot of time, but it just all comes together," he added.



Dave Johnson of Dave's Double Barrel BBQ, shown here in front of his open kitchen at his Westville location, was voted the best BBQ in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards.

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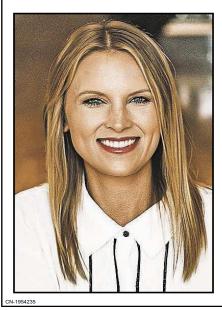
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Ross Webb State Farm has small-town pride

CHAD DARE chad.dare@dancomnews.com

DANVILLE — You might be able to take the kid out of the small town, but you will never take the small town out of the kid.

That's very evident with Ross Webb of State Farm Insurance here in Danville.

Webb grew up in Antwerp, Ohio, a community of less than 2,000 residents and with a degree from The Ohio State University and being part of an ownership group of Subways in Vermilion and McLean Counties, he never lost his small-town ways.

That has served him well in the past year.

Taking over for Toni Stone, Webb was voted as the No. 1 Insurance Agency and the No. 3 Insurance Agent in the

2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards.

"You are only as good as your weakest link and I have no weak links here in this State Farm office," Webb said. "I have the best crew that you could ask for. I would say that my success is the success of the whole group."

Ross Webb State Farm, located at 711 Oak Street in Danville, has 10 total employees.

"As your local State Farm Insurance Agent in Vermilion County, I am proud to lead a dedicated team that is committed to providing exceptional service and support to our customers," Webb said. "Amanda Cord, Shannon Miller, Andy Van Hyfte, Cassidy Jo Kerst, Shelia Hicks-Webb and Dawn Eakle

make up the Ross Webb Insurance and Financial Services Group and I couldn't be luckier to have them."

But admittedly, Webb's dedication to his business comes from growing up in Antwerp, Ohio.

"I'm a small-town guy from small-town America," he said. "Where we believe that customer is always right and you become an advocate for the people that provide you with a career."

That attitude helped him when he took over for Stone.

"I knew the legacy of Toni Stone," he said. "Toni had been a big part of this community ... I knew how hard it was going to be to take over.



Members of Ross Webb State Farm Insurance of Danville pose for a photo in their office after they were chosen as the No. 1 Insurance Agency in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards. Team members are, front row, left to right: Cassidy Kerst, Amanda Cord, Mary Miller. Back row, left to right: Shannon Miller, Ross Webb, Laura Cerezo and Andy Van Hyfte.

Toni, continue to grow the business and continue to be a representative for the hometown team — State Farm — in this area."

While a number of people get their insurance from an online service, Webb notes that still 70 percent of the insurance is written through an agency.

"I wanted to take care of "Whether you have an independent agent or a captive agent like I am with State Farm, most people see and recognize the value in an agent," he said. "The great thing about State Farm is that you get the best of both worlds. You get competitive rates, you get the app and you get the 24/7 website. But at the end of the day, if you need

help with something, you can still dial (217) 443-1500 and someone from my office will be there to answer your questions.

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Shown is the staff of Luxe Lift in Danville. Front row, from left to right: Medical Aesthetician Trinity Upton and clinic coordinator Audriana Cardoza. Back row. left to right: Nurse Kati Davis, nurse Isabelle Snapp, owner and nurse practitioner Bobbi Fischer and clinic coordinator Cyndi Cline.

DANVILLE — In four years, Luxe Lift has made many moves, but one thing that hasn't changed is the customer service.

"We have an amazing client base," owner and nurse practitioner Bobbi Fischer said. "We have a robust membership program and specific

Service leads to awards for Luxe Lift

by MARVIN HOLMAN marvin.holman@dancomnews.com

programs for people who come back for facials, injectables, lasers and retail. Our membership program has helped with loyalty and connection with our patients. We connect with our patients and give them the best service and that's what keeps them coming back."

And that service is a major reason that the aesthetics and wellness clinic won four Commercial-News Readers Choice Awards for Best Nurse Practitioner, Best Aesthetician, Best Medspa and Best Cosmetics.

The clinic offers aesthetic medicine, regenerative medicine. medical-grade skincare, medically supervised weight management, and hormone optimization. The seven-member team is led by Fischer,

who is a board-certified Nurse Practitioner with advanced training in functional medicine. male and female hormone optimization, obesity management, and advanced injectable and laser procedures. Kathryn Davis and Isabelle Snapp are registered nurses that bring strong acute care backgrounds and are extensively trained in medical aesthetics, injectables, and laser safety.

The Medical Aesthetician, Trinity Upton, is a Hydrafacial expert and Face Reality Acne certified, specializing in corrective skincare, acne management, and laser support and clinic coordinators Audriana Cardoza and Cynthia Cline, ensure an excellent patient experience through seamless communication, scheduling support, and attentive

front-desk care.

Fischer started the clinic in 2021 and in four years. has moved twice before landing at its current address at 1101 E. Winter Ave.

"I started in 2021 running a single room and did that for a year, expanded that to a three-treatment room building and did that for three years and now we have this building," Fischer said. "So we went from a 900 square foot, three-room building to a 3,300 square foot, multipleroom building. We have two nurses and about to hire another aesthetician and two front desk coordinators, so we have checked out the milestones as far as growth is concerned."

Along with adding new staff, Fischer said that in 2026, the Luxe Lift

team will be adding more things to help clients in their wellness journey.

"We plan to broaden our integrative and functional wellness services, enhance our acne and skincare programs, and continue investing in advanced technology, education, and patientcentered care," Fischer said. "Our long-term goal is to offer more holistic, whole-person alternatives that merge aesthetics and modern integrative medicine.

"We are deeply grateful for the support of Danville and the surrounding communities. Being nominated for the Reader's Choice Awards is an honor, and we remain committed to providing safe, compassionate, high-quality care that empowers our patients inside and out."

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Best Nurse Practitioner - Bobbi Fischer Best Aesthetician Best Medspa **Best Cosmetics**



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Wilson's rolls into Westville with second repair shop

By Carol Roehm newsroom@dancomnews.com

Area residents have trusted Wilson's Complete Auto Service, 210 South St., to keep their vehicles on the road and running smoothly for seven decades.

The family-oriented, full-service auto repair shop, which has served Danville and the surrounding area since 1955, has been recognized as a 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Award winner for being the best auto mechanic and also earned second place as best auto service and repair.

In January 2022, Tommy and Dani Howard became the owners of Wilson's, which employs five -- four of which are technicians that are ASE certified, including Master Ford and Toyota specialists.

The shop's technicians have years of experience providing full-service diagnostics and repairs ranging from brakes, oil changes, and shock absorbers to complete transmission and engine replacements.

In addition, Wilson's, which is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, sells and installs tires, batteries, and wiper blades.

With 36 years of auto repair experience, Tommy knows his way around a vehicle. In fact, he was a technician at Wilson's when the opportunity came up four years ago to take over the business from the Wilson family because the son of the shop's founder wanted to retire.

"He has worked on cars since he was 16, and his dad worked on cars, too," Dani said of her husband.

The shop also is known for its friendliness, with customers being welcomed with a free hug or a conversation with Tommy.

"I like treating everyone like family, and I treat everyone's car as if it was my mom's," he said.

To mark its 70th year of business, the Howards plan to expand their business and open a second location in Westville called Hometown Garage.

"Westville is our hometown, so that's how the business got named," Dani said.



Tommy Howard, left, and Dani Howard and a husband-wife team leading Wilson's Complete Auto & Transmission in Danville. Wilson's was voted the best Auto Mechanic in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards go along with a second place in Auto Service & Repair.

Hometown Garage will be open for business at the beginning of January at 102 E. Main St., which previously was the location of a car dealership at Westville's square.

The new shop will employ three, two of which will be technicians, and will offer basic services including oil changes, tires, brakes, exhaust, alternators, and starters.



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Thank You!

The Commercial-News would like to thank all of the individuals and businesses who made this program possible; whose dedication to the community and devotion to service are what make this area strong and great in every way.

Shocking honor for R.C. Electric

CHAD DARE chad.dare@dancomnews.com

WESTVILLE — Typically, electricians try to avoid being shocked.

But Robert Cope of R.C. Electric and Communications Inc., admitted he was pretty shocked when he learned that his business was the winner for Best Electrician in the 2025 Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards.

"This is only our second year to even be considered for the award. so to win it, was pretty shocking," Cope said. "It makes me very happy. I'm very proud of my crew. We try to stand out and customer satisfaction is a big part of our business.

"I think this honor says that."

R.C. Electric, located at 1414 S. State St. in Westville, has been

serving Vermilion County their electrical and low since 2006.

"We try to make sure that we cover every point R.C. Electric also handles when we are talking and dealing with our customers," Cope said. "We strive to provide the best electric service to new and returning customers from service calls.

"We find the problem, explain what the issue is, why it happened and prevent it from happening again."

In addition to helping customers with electric repairs, R.C. Electric also works with contractors on brand-new builds.

"Before the work starts, we setup appointments to walk through with the clients and make sure that we have everything covered that they are expecting in

voltage-system," Cope added.

remodels and rewiring situations, as well as underground electrical services, aerial services, stand-by generators — both residential and commercial — smart home technology, data systems and emergency services.

According to Cope, the big, new trend is the smart home technology.

"Residential and commercial clients are requesting more small installations of digital technologies, smart switches, video doorbells, camera systems, voiceactivated home controls. smart outlets and smart panels," he said. "Even the generators are now smart capable.



Members of R.C. Electric and Communications Inc. in Westville, pose for a photo after the company was chosen as the Best Electrician in the Commercial-News Readers' Choice Awards. Pictured are front row, left to right, Jamie Cope and Lori Arnold. Back row, left to right: Robert Cope, Hunter Sandlin, Chance Quick, Mike Kirkheart, Doug White and Dillon Hord.

"Of course, there is LED lights and LED lighting controls to maximize efficiency."

This past year, R.C. Electric partnered with local utility companies to upgrade business lighting systems to LED.

"Being able to lead a team of electricians and ensure these projects were completed on time and within budget was

quite an honor," said Cope, who admitted it's difficult and takes a lot of patience.

For more information on R.C. Electric and Communications Inc., you can either call them at (217) 267-7227, email them at rcelectricinc@gmail.com or visit their website at RcElectricAndCommunications.com

Thank you for Voting Us Readers' Choice Best Electrician!

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- 3:30-5:15pm After School Classes (M/W for Basic & BBC Students, Tues/Th for Tigers & MasterClub members)
- **5:30pm-6:00pm** Tigers (ages 6 & Under)
- **6:00pm-6:45pm** Basic Core Class (white yellow belt ranks, all ages 7-99; form, drills, and self-defense)
- **6:45pm-7:30pm** BlackBelt Club Core Class (camo thru recommended blackbelt ranks, all ages 7-99; form, drills, weapons and self-defense)
- **6:45pm-7:30pm** Master Club (Black belts, all ages)

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Monday through Friday:

1pm-6pm: After School Program (when school is in regular session) 10:45am-6pm: After School Program when schools dismiss half-day or early for institutes and trainings

6:45am-6pm: Summer Camp/Day Camp/School Holidays

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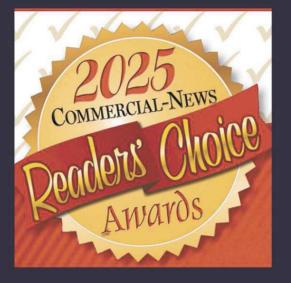




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