

Congratulations

TO THE



WINNERS
AND
FIRST RUNNERS-UP



Congratulations

TO THE
2026 WINNERS
AND FIRST RUNNERS-UP

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Best Asian Food

Winner: Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse

First Runner-Up: China Express

Best Baked Goods & Pies

Winner: Niemerg's Steakhouse

First Runner-Up: Joe Sippers Cafe

Best Bakery

Winner: Kirby Foods

First Runner-Up: Goldie's Baking Company

Best Barbecue

Winner: Lickin' My Chicken & Pullin' My Pork BBQ

First Runner-Up: The Saucy Dudes

Best Bartender

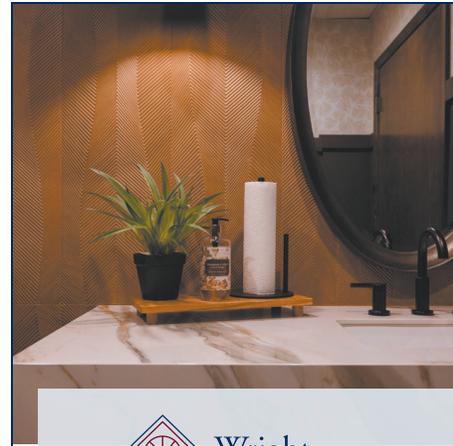
Winner: Jacob Mathias at The Wheat Penny

First Runner-Up: Steve Fritcher at Tuscan Hills Winery

Best Beer Establishment

Winner: Gabby Goat

First Runner-Up: Orchard Inn



Best Commercial Design
Best Interior Decorators
(First Runner Up)
Best Interior Design
(First Runner Up)

WrightAtHome.com • Effingham



Best Carpet Dealer
Best Flooring Store
Best Furniture Store

WrightsFurniture.com
Dieterich • Robinson • Taylorville

Thank You

Thanks for voting Wright at Home and Wright's Furniture & Flooring as People's Choice among Effingham Daily News readers.



Dr. Chad Ely
Dr. Dale Spindler
Dr. James Gratz
Dr. Jessica Schultz
Dr. Mara Fehrenbacher
Dr. Lindsey Goeckner
Dr. Tanner Kirby
Dr. Katie Shreve
Dr. Candace Walk
Dr. Brianne Urfer
Dr. Luke Daniels
Dr. Rochelle Oseland
Dr. Amy Flynn



Thanks For Your Vote of Confidence!

Best Veterinarian - Dr Chad Ely - Winner • Dr Jessica Schultz - First Runner up
Best Veterinary Clinic - Effingham Veterinary Clinic
Best Pet Grooming/Services - Hannah's Pet Grooming



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SAT. 7:30-NOON;
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Best Breakfast Place
Winner: Kountry Kitchen
First Runner-Up: Niemerg's
Steakhouse

Best Buffet
Winner: Pizza Man
First Runner-Up: Niemerg's
Steakhouse

Best Business Lunch Place
Winner: Gabby Goat
First Runner-Up: Pizza Man

Best Catering
Winner: Deb's Catering
First Runner-Up: Lickin' My Chicken
& Pullin' My Pork BBQ

Best Chicken
Winner: Niemerg's Steakhouse
First Runner-Up: Lickin' My Chicken
& Pullin' My Pork BBQ

Best Chinese Food
Winner: China Express
First Runner-Up: China Buffet

Best Coffee Shop
Winner: Fox Holler Coffee
First Runner-Up: Joe Sippers Café

**Best Customer Service Grocery
Store**
Winner: Kirby Foods
First Runner-Up: Nuxoll Food
Center

Best Deli
Winner: Kirby Foods
First Runner-Up: Nuxoll Food
Center

Best Donuts
Winner: Kirby Foods
First Runner-Up: Daylight Donuts

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2026 Effingham Daily News People's Choice Awards

Best Banking Institution—First Runner-Up
Best Mortgage Company—First Runner-Up

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We are so incredibly grateful and give all the glory to God for being nominated and named First Runner-Up for Best Mobile / Modular Home Dealer, along with receiving the People's Choice Award.

Since Toters began in 2019 and Faithfully Home opened this past year, it's been such an amazing journey watching God move every step of the way. Our heart is to serve others, help families step into their dream homes, and be part of the solution for affordable housing. Stop by, say hi, and check out our two display homes.



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Best Fast Food

Winner: Cruiser's Drive Thru
First Runner-Up: Andrew's Eats

Best Fine Dining

Winner: Firefly Grill

First Runner-Up: Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse

Best Food Truck

Winner: Lickin' My Chicken & Pullin' My Pork BBQ

First Runner-Up: La Terraza Express Taqueria

Best Hamburgers

Winner: Andrew's Eats

First Runner-Up: Cruiser's Drive Thru

Best Home Cooking

Winner: Kountry Kitchen

First Runner-Up: Niemerg's Steakhouse

Best Hot Dog

Winner: Gabby Goat

First Runner-Up: Andrew's Eats

Best Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

Winner: Homewood Grill

First Runner-Up: Teutopolis Treats

Best Iced Tea

Winner: Rosie Jean's Sweet Tea & Jesus

First Runner-Up: Ginger Ale's

Best Italian Food

Winner: Joe's Pizza & Pasta Effingham

First Runner-Up: Joe's Italian Foods and Pizza Newton

Best Japanese Food

Winner: Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse

First Runner-Up: Baan Thai 2



Thanks for Voting Us #1 Best Tea Shop!



Fountain Drinks*
Coke • Pepsi • Mountain Dew • Dr. Pepper • Sprite
Root Beer • Cherry Coke • Ginger Ale • Code Red
Diet Coke • Diet Pepsi • Diet Dr. Pepper • Diet Mountain Dew
Coke Zero • Sprite Zero • Orange • Fruit Punch

Homemade Drinks*
Sweet Tea • Unsweet Tea,
Lemonade • Diet Lemonade • Arnold Palmer • Sparkling Water

Additional Drinks

Bubble Milk Tea*	4.50	Red Bull/Monster	4.50
Cherry or Strawberry	4.50	Hot Cocoa*	1.95/2.25
Limedeal*	4.00	Bottled Gatorade	2.25
Ginger Freeze	3.25	Juice Box	1.10
Ginger Juice or Ginger Snap	3.25	Chocolate Milk	2.00
Butter Beer Cream	5.20		
Frosted Lemonade	3.50		
Frosted Blue Dew	4.50		

Drink Additions

Boba	1.35	Sour Punch Straws	.75
Strawberry, Cherry, Peach, Kiwi, Mango,		Pop Rocks	.85
Blueberry, Rainbow, Honey, Yogurt, Caramel		Energy Boost/Immunity Boost	1.25
Sweet Cold Foam	1.50		
Shimmer	1.50		



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Flavor Shots
\$.60 per flavor

Apple	Fuzzy Navel	Pineapple
Banana	Grape	Pomegranate
Blackberry	Grenadine	Pumpkin Spice
Blue Raspberry	Hazelnut	Rainbow
Browned Butter	Ice Cream	Red Raspberry
Butterscotch	Kiwi	Red Velvet
Butter Pecan	Lemon	Strawberry
Caramel	Lime	Sour Apple
Cheesecake	Mango	Strawberry
Cherry	Marshmallow	Strawberry Daiquiri
Chocolate	Orange	Tiger's Blood
Cinnamon	Orchid Vanilla	Vanilla
Coconut	Peppermint	Watermelon
Cotton Candy	Peach	White Chocolate
Creamside	Pina Colada	White Squirrel
Cup Cake		

Coffees*

Coffee*	1.65/2.00
Iced Coffee*	2.75/4.50
Cappuccino Hot or Iced	3.75/5.05
Espresso Single	2.25/2.95
Latte Hot or Iced	3.75/5.05
Mocha Hot or Iced	3.75/5.05
Cafe Au Lait	3.00/3.35

Frappes/Shakes* 4.95
Belgian Chocolate • Cake Batter • Caramel • Cookies 'n Cream
Cotton Candy • Java Chip • Mint Chip • Mocha
Peanut Butter • Strawberry • Strawberry Cheesecake • Vanilla Bean

Smoothies* 4.95
Strawberry • Peach • Pina Colada

Protein Shakes* 4.95
Arbonne Shake 5.25
Both available in Chocolate or Vanilla.
*Add Ins: Banana, Flax Seed, Greens, Fiber
Peanut Butter, Flour Shot, Bobo, etc!

Lunch & Dinner Cuisine

Pulled Pork Nachos	5.90
Pulled Pork Sandwich	5.95
Pulled Pork Hotdog	5.95
Soup of the Day	4.50/5.95
Loaded Nachos	5.90
Nachos w/cheese	3.50
Hot Dog	3.50
Chili Cheese Dog	5.10

Giant Soft Pretzels

Cheesecake Stuffed	5.80
Everything Bagel	4.80
Ranch	4.80
Garlic & Herb	4.80
Hot Dog	4.80

Sweet & Savory Treats

Gourmet Cookies	2.85
Dipped Donuts	3.80
Choc. Cakes	2.85

Note: Prices Subject to Change

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Thank you for naming Dr. Ted Koester
As Your 2026 #1 People's Choice For
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and #1 People's Choice for
FAVORITE DENTAL OFFICE

“The staff and I are very honored once again to be your
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PEOPLE'S CHOICE DENTAL OFFICE WINNER!**
I appreciate the support from the many patients I have treated and pledge to continue
to provide the highest quality dental care that you have come to expect and deserve.”

Ted B. Koester, D.M.D., P.C.

Best Mexican Food
Winner: Puerto Vallarta
First Runner-Up: El Rancherito

Best Milkshake
Winner: Homewood Grill
First Runner-Up: Cruiser's Drive Thru

Best Outdoor Dining
Winner: Pinky's
First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

Best Pizza Carry Out Only
Winner: Pizza Man
First Runner-Up: Fatso's Famous Pizza

Best Pizza Dine In
Winner: Pizza Man
First Runner-Up: Joe's Pizza & Pasta Effingham

Best Salads / Salad Bar
Winner: Pizza Man
First Runner-Up: Niemerg's Steakhouse

Best Sandwiches
Winner: Jersey Mike's
First Runner-Up: Gabby Goat

Best Seafood
Winner: Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse
First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

Best Sports Bar
Winner: Gabby Goat
First Runner-Up: Gopher's Grill

Best Steaks
Winner: TGI Fridays
First Runner-Up: Nehemiah's Steakhouse

Thank You



for Voting Us #1 Best Assisted Living Community!



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You*

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Best Taco Place

Winner: Puerto Vallarta

First Runner-Up: La Terraza Express
Taqueria

Best Truck Stop Restaurant

Winner: IHOP

First Runner-Up: Chaser's Grill &
Bar

Best Wine List

Winner: Tuscan Hills Winery

First Runner-Up: Village Wine &
Spirits

Best Winery

Winner: Tuscan Hills Winery

First Runner-Up: Irene's Vineyard

HEALTHCARE

Best Alzheimer Community

**Winner: Willowbrook Memory
Support Residences**

First Runner-Up tie: StoneBridge

Memory Care and
The Glenwood - Effingham

Best Assisted Living Community

Winner: Brookstone Estates

First Runner-Up: The Glenwood
Effingham

Best Chiropractor

**Winner: Dr. Justin Pals at New
Health Chiropractic**

First Runner-Up: Dr. Jason Frichtl at
Frichtl Clinic

Best Dental Office

**Winner: Dr. Ted Koester Family
Dentistry**

First Runner-Up: Effingham
Dental Group

Thank You



for Voting Us



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with



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Best Dentist

Winner: Dr. Ted Koester at Dr. Ted Koester Family Dentistry
First Runner-Up: Dr. Scott Moore at Effingham Dental Group

Best Doctor

Winner: Dr. Ruben Boyajian – HSHS Medical Group
First Runner-Up: Dr. Robert Frost – HSHS Med Group Altamont

Best Esthetician

Winner: Kennedy Sowell – The Sapphire Luxury Spa
First Runner-Up: Anna Hecht – Behold Aesthetics and Wellness Center

Best Eye Clinic

Winner: Weber Optiks
First Runner-Up: Drs. Sehy & Jones Community Eye Care

Best Hearing Aid Clinic

Winner: Sarah Bush Lincoln ENT Effingham Clinic
First Runner-Up: Schackmann Hearing

Best Hearing Aid Specialist

Winner: Dr. Jaclyn Jansen – Sarah Bush Lincoln Audiology
First Runner-Up: Kerri Schackmann – Schackmann Hearing

Best Home Health Care Services

Winner: HSHS Illinois Home Care
First Runner-Up: Sarah Bush Lincoln Home Care

Best Hospital

Winner: Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center
First Runner-Up: HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

Thank You for voting us Best Butcher Shop and Best Meat Dept., 1st Runner-Up Best Customer Service Grocery Store and Best Deli

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Visit Us On

Best Lactation Consultant
Winner: Jacque Ordner – Milk Guide Lactation
 First Runner-Up: Julie Brasel – Effingham OBGYN

Best Medical Clinic
Winner: Family Care Associates
 First Runner-Up: SBL Bonutti Clinic

Best Medical Spa
Winner: Behold Aesthetics and Wellness Center
 First Runner-Up: The Skin Refinery

Best Medical Assistant
Winner: Kearstin Scoles – HSHS Med Group Altamont
 First Runner-Up: Summer Nohren – Family Care Associates

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THANK YOU

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THANK YOU

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Fujiyama

Japanese Steakhouse



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Japanese, and
Best Seafood
for 2026

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Sunday 12 noon-9 p.m.

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ANDES +++ PHARMACY



Thank You For Voting!

- BEST PHARMACY - Andes Pharmacy
- BEST PHARMACIST - Chip Andes
- BEST PHARMACY TECH - Ashley Cravens

805 West Fayette - Effingham

Best Nurse

Winner: Jackie Bohnhoff – HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital
First Runner-Up: Shelby Overbeck – HSHS Medical Group

Best Nurse Practitioner

Winner: Sheri Barnett – Prairie Cardiovascular
First Runner-Up: Kimberley Burgess – SBL Altamont Medical Center

Best Nursing Home

Winner: Lutheran Care Center
First Runner-Up: Heartland Senior Living, LLC Neoga

Best Ophthalmologist

Winner: Dr. Joseph Spraul – Effingham Ophthalmology Associates
First Runner-Up: Dr. John Kay – Effingham Ophthalmology Associates

Thank You!
For Voting

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Best Optometrist

Winner: Dr. Chris Weber – Weber Optiks

First Runner-Up: Christy Hohenbary – Effingham Ophthalmology Associates

Best Orthodontist

Winner: Dr. Chuck Schumacher
First Runner-Up: Dr. Michael Hage

Best Pharmacist

Winner: Chip Andes – Andes Health Mart Pharmacy
First Runner-Up: Duane Kremer – Kremer Pharmacy

Best Pharmacy

Winner: Andes Health Mart Pharmacy
First Runner-Up: Kremer Pharmacy

Best Pharmacy Technician

Winner: Ashley Cravens – Andes Health Mart Pharmacy

First Runner-Up: Amanda Fisher – Walmart Pharmacy Effingham

Best Physical Therapist

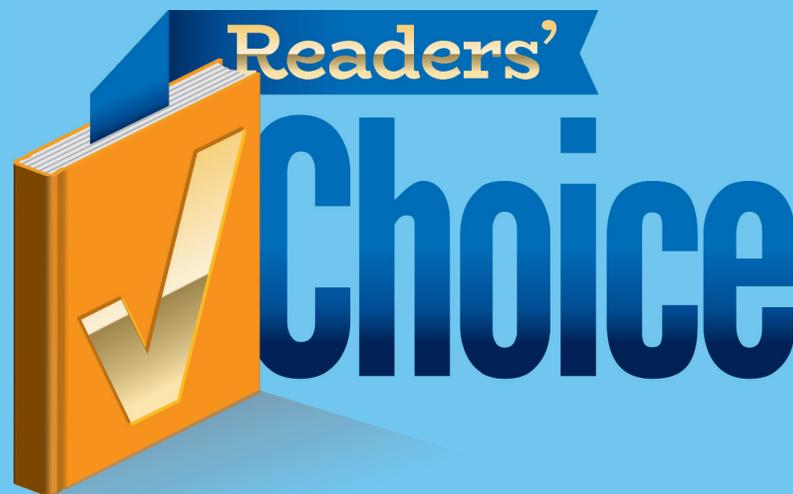
Winner: Kendall Giles – SBL Bonutti Clinic

First Runner-Up: Jessica Mottashed – HSHS St. Anthony's

Best Podiatrist

Winner: Dr. John Killough – Regional Foot Center
First Runner-Up: Dr. Zane Qureshi – HSHS Medical Group Foot & Ankle Center

DR. RUBEN BOYAJIAN



★ Best Doctor ★ Best Surgeon

Thank you to the people of our Effingham Community and beyond for your vote.

I feel very humbled to be selected as there are so many talented and unique fellow Physicians with whom I have the pleasure to work with.

I also want to offer a special thank you to our St. Anthony Hospital colleagues as well as the HSHS Medical group who deeply care for our patients. I am extremely grateful for the history of support from the many patients and their families over the years.

I pray that God will continue to bless each and every person in our community.

Dr. Ruben Boyajian

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2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025
People's Choice #1 -2026

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AROUND THE HOME

Best Building Contractor / Remodeler

Winner: DM Design Construction
First Runner-Up: Bloemer Construction

Best Cabinet Shop

Winner: Mette's Cabinet Corner
First Runner-Up: Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry

Best Handyman Services

Winner: Beards & Blades Carpentry & Handyman Service
First Runner-Up: The Handyman Can

Best Home Builder

Winner: Bloemer Construction
First Runner-Up: Waldhoff Construction

Best Rehabilitation Services
Winner: HSHS St. Anthony's Physical Rehabilitation and Wellness Center

First Runner-Up: Sarah Bush Lincoln PT

Best Supportive Living Community

Winner: Brookstone Estates Supportive Living

Best Surgeon

Winner: Dr. Ruben Boyajian – HSHS Medical Group

First Runner-Up: Dr. Peter Bonutti – SBL Bonutti Clinic

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Effingham



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Best Home Improvement Store
Winner: Effingham Builders Supply
 First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Interior Decorators
Winner: Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry
 First Runner-Up: Wright at Home

Best Interior Design
Winner: Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry
 First Runner-Up: Wrights' Furniture / Wright at Home

Best Lighting Store
Winner: Mette's Distinctive Lighting
 First Runner-Up: Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry

Best Mobile / Modular Home Dealer
Winner: Effingham Homes
 First Runner-Up: Faithfully Home & Toters Inc

Best Pool & Spa Store
Winner: W.E.T. Pools & Spas Inc.
 First Runner-Up: Leisure Times

Best Power Washing Company
Winner: Koester's Pro Wash
 First Runner-Up: MR Power Washer – Matt Ruholl

Best Real Estate Agency
Winner: Re/Max Key Advantage
 First Runner-Up: Full Circle Realty

Best Real Estate Agent
Winner: Alex Steppe – Re/Max Key Advantage
 First Runner-Up: Mandy Barnes Vergara – Whitten Real Estate Agency

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WINNER
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- 1ST RUNNER UP**
- **BEST NEW CAR DEALER**
 - **BEST AUTO DEALER SERVICE DEPT.**
 - **BEST OIL CHANGE**



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Best Roofing Service

Winner: Whitney Roofing Inc
First Runner-Up: B-n-P Roofing
(Bierman and Pals)

Best Beauty Salon

Winner: The Emerald Room
First Runner-Up: Mainly You
Salon & Spa

PERSONAL SERVICES

Best Bridal Services

Winner: The Emerald Room
First Runner-Up: Vayda Jane Bridal

Best Cleaning Service

Winner: A Notch Above
First Runner-Up: Madison Holste –
Peachy Clean

Best Day Care

**Winner: Montessori Kids Universe
Effingham**
First Runner-Up: Little Hearts

Best Day Spa

**Winner: The Sapphire Luxury Spa
& Academy**
First Runner-Up: Premier Lash Spa
& Academy

Best Apparel Decoration

**Winner: Sport Designs and
Graphics**

First Runner-Up: Designs Unlimited

Best Barber

**Winner: Kandice Houser -
Renegade Barber & Co**

First Runner-Up: Noah Mulheron –
Renegade Barber & Co

Best Barber Shop

Winner: Renegade Barber & Co
First Runner-Up: Tolliver & Co.
Barbers



Johnson Funeral Home
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Congratulations to Jaden Brown,
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Best Dry Cleaning
Winner: Wiedman Cleaners
First Runner-Up: Weber's Clothing

Best Fitness Center
Winner: Richard E. Workman
Sports and Wellness Complex
First Runner-Up: The Zone 24-Hour
Fitness Center

Best Front Desk Receptionist
Winner: Kenny Flier – Holiday Inn
First Runner-Up: Lisa Bushue –
Schumacher Orthodontics

Best Funeral Home
Winner: Johnson Funeral Home
First Runner-Up: Bauer Funeral
Home

Best Hair Stylist
Winner: Lauren McGregor – Hair
by Lauren
First Runner-Up: Erin Miltenberger
– The Emerald Room

Best Massage Therapist
Winner: Kathy Andrews – The
Sapphire Luxury Spa
First Runner-Up: Madison
Niebrugge – The Skin Refinery

Best Nail Salon
Winner: T - A Nails & Spa
First Runner-Up: OK Nails

Best Nail Technician
Winner: Jason Luong – T - A Nails
& Spa
First Runner-Up: LEE – OK Nails

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Best Permanent Makeup Artist
Winner: Megan Bierman – The Skin Refinery
 First Runner-Up: Andrea Newberry
 – Premier Lash Spa & Academy

Best Personal Trainer
Jeremy Zumbahlen – Evolve Fitness & Climbing
 First Runner-Up: Hillary Meyers –
 The Zone 24-Hour Fitness Center

Best Pet Grooming / Services
Winner: Hannah's Pet Grooming at Effingham Veterinary Clinic
 First Runner-Up: Pawsley's Dog Grooming

Best Photo Studio / Photographer
Winner: Amy Eubanks Boudoir Photography
 First Runner-Up: Waffordhouse Studios – Katelann Wafford

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We have the best customers! We appreciate each and every one of you!



Best Tanning Salon
Winner: Tan Express Effingham
First Runner-Up: EJ Esthetics – Graci Ogle

Best Travel Agency
Winner: Jackie Tucker – Direct Travel Central Illinois
First Runner-Up: Effingham Travel Agency

Best Taxidermist
Winner: Brad Hoene
First Runner-Up: Tony's Taxidermy

Best Veterinarian
Winner: Dr. Chad Ely – Effingham Veterinary Clinic
First Runner-Up: Dr. Jessica Schultz – Effingham Veterinary Clinic



Thanks for naming us Best Pool & Spa Store!



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Best Alzheimer's Community

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Best Veterinary Clinic

Winner: Effingham Veterinary Clinic

First Runner-Up: St. Elmo Pet Clinic

Best Weight Loss Center

Winner: Amanda Settle – Nutrition Wise

First Runner-Up: Jeremy & Andrea Zumbahlen

FINANCIAL / LEGAL / INSURANCE

Best Accounting Firm

Winner: Tucker Accounting
First Runner-Up: H & R Block

THANK YOU for Voting
JACKIE TUCKER - DIRECT TRAVEL
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EFFINGHAM DAILY NEWS
People's Choice
2026

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COMMERCIAL LINES



PERSONAL LINES

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Best Attorney

Winner: Tracy A. Willenborg - Taylor Law Office
First Runner-Up: Andrew T. Koester - Taylor Law Office

Best Bank Teller

Winner: Jack Kinkade – Dieterich Bank
First Runner-Up: Jaden Brown – Dieterich Bank

Best Banking Institution

Winner: Dieterich Bank
First Runner-Up: Washington Savings Bank

Best Credit Union

Winner: Land of Lincoln Credit Union
First Runner-Up: Effingham Highway Credit Union

Best Financial Advisor

Winner: Alec Ring – Ring Financial
First Runner-Up: Luke Doedtman-Brucke Financial

Best Insurance Agent

Winner: Laura Goeckner – Weis Insurance
First Runner-Up: Brad Meinhart – Country Financial Donsbach Meinhart Agency

Best Insurance Provider

Winner: Weis Insurance
First Runner-Up: Country Financial Donsbach Meinhart Agency

Best Investment Representative

Winner: Alec Ring – Ring Financial
First Runner-Up: Lynn Deters – Edward Jones

Best Mortgage Co.

Winner: Dieterich Bank
First Runner-Up: Washington Savings Bank

Best Title Co.

Winner: Allied Capital Title
First Runner-Up: Law Group LTD

AUTOMOTIVE

Best ATV Dealer

Winner: CW Motorsports
First Runner-Up: Owen Motor Sports

Best Auto Body Shop

Winner: J & R Collision Centers
First Runner-Up: Ruholl Auto Body

Best Auto Dealer Service Dept.

Winner: Roy Schmidt Honda
First Runner-Up: Goeckner Bros

Best Auto Glass Repair

Winner: Schmidty's Auto Glass
First Runner-Up: Quality Glass

Best Auto Parts Dealer

Winner: Dust & Son Auto Supplies
First Runner-Up: O'Reilly Auto Parts

Best Auto Repair Place

Winner: Rock's Advanced Auto Care
First Runner-Up: Konrad Automotive Repair

Best Boat Dealer

Winner: Lake Sara Marina
First Runner-Up: Tommy Miller Marine

Best Car Rental

Winner: Goeckner Bros
First Runner-Up: Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota

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Best Car Wash

**Winner: Southtown
Car Wash**

First Runner-Up:
Willenborg's Reconditioning

Best Mechanic

**Winner: Rock Hartke - Rock's
Advanced Auto Care**

First Runner-Up: Kevin Lohman –
Konrad Automotive

Best Mobile Auto Detailing

**Winner: Willenborg's
Reconditioning**

First Runner-Up: Jansen's Auto Sales
Midwest Toppers & Accessories

Best Motorcycle / ATV Repair

Winner: CW Motorsports

First Runner-Up: Owen Motor
Sports

Best Motorcycle Dealer

Winner: Legacy Harley-Davidson
First Runner-Up: CW Motorsports

Best New Car Dealer

Winner: Roy Schmidt Honda
First Runner-Up: Goeckner Bros

Best New Car Salesperson

**Winner: Doug Mette – Roy
Schmidt Honda**
First Runner-Up: Mark Schmidt –
Roy Schmidt Honda

Best Oil Change Place

**Winner: Rock's Advanced
Auto Care**
First Runner-Up: Goeckner Bros

Best Radiator Repair

**Winner: Rock's Advanced
Auto Care**
First Runner-Up: TRS Radiator & Air
Conditioning



Holiday Inn



GRILLE

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✓ **Best Front Desk
Receptionist:
Kenny Flier**



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- Water features
- Irrigation system installation

Best RV Sales & Service
Winner: Kuhl's Trailer Sales
 First Runner-Up: Mid-State Camper Sales

Best Tire Dealer
Winner: Al's Tire Mart & Electronics
 First Runner-Up: Tim's Quality Tires

Best Transmission Repair
Winner: Rock's Advanced Auto Care
 First Runner-Up: DHB Transmission

Best Trucking Company
Winner: Heuerman Bros Trucking
 First Runner-Up: 3 Sisters Logistics

Best Used Car Dealer
Winner: Jansen's Auto Sales Midwest Toppers & Accessories
 First Runner-Up: Roy Schmidt Honda

Best Used Car Salesperson
Winner: Kary Jansen – Jansen's Auto Sales Midwest Toppers & Accessories
 First Runner-Up: Colby Antrim – Roy Schmidt Honda

Best Wrecker Service
Winner: Tri Power Towing & Recovery
 First Runner-Up: Heartland Towing & Recovery

RETAIL STORES

Best Antique Dealer
Winner: Country Peddler's Antique & Craft Mall
 First Runner-Up: Angeled Kids Foster Closet and Resale

Best Appliance Dealer
Winner: Roger's Home Appliances
 First Runner-Up: Weber Bros

Thank You for Voting Us First Runner-Up Best Mexican Food!



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Best Archery Shop

Winner: Accuracy Firearms

First Runner-Up: Buckstop Archery

Best Bridal Store

Winner: Vayda Jane Bridal

First Runner-Up: Wild Rose Formals

Best Carpet Dealer

Winner: Wright's Furniture & Flooring

First Runner-Up: Habing Furniture & Flooring

Best CBD Dispensary

Winner: RISE Effingham

First Runner-Up: The Stash Box

Best Athletic Goods Store

Winner: Boots & Soles

First Runner-Up: The Thomas Shop

Best Butcher Shop

Winner: Nuxoll Food Center

First Runner-Up: McMahon Meats

Thank You
For Voting us
Best Medical Spa

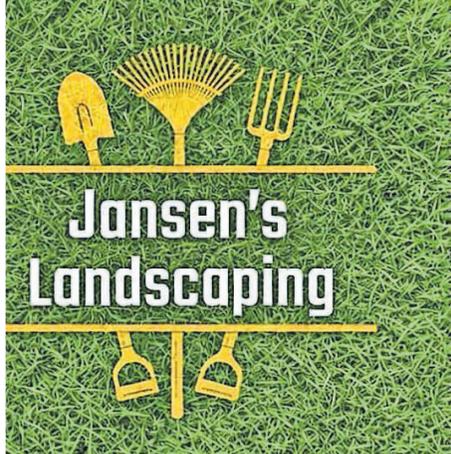


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CN-1966006



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Best Massage Therapist: Kathy Andrews



Best Business Consultant:
Chandra Niemerg



Best Hair Salon & Best Bridal Services
Runner Up, Best Hair Stylist:
Erin Miltenberger

Thank You




Pictured: Chandra Niemerg, Kathy Andrews & Kennedy Sowell

THANK YOU FOR VOTING ROY SCHMIDT HONDA #1!



Doug Mette



- ✓ **Best Auto Dealer Service Dept. - 2 Years In A Row!**
- ✓ **Best New Car Dealer**
- ✓ **Best New Car Sales Person - Doug Mette**



Also, Thank You For Voting Us First Runner-up for:

- ✓ **Best Used Car Dealer**
- ✓ **Best New Car Sales Person - Mark Schmidt**
- ✓ **Best Used Car Sales Person - Colby Antrim**



Mark Schmidt



Colby Antrim



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Best Cellular Phone Dealer
Winner: Al's Tire Mart &
Electronics - Verizon
First Runner-Up: AT&T

Best Christian Book Store
Winner: Lifeline Christian Books
& Gifts
First Runner-Up: Walmart
Effingham

Best Children's Clothing Store
Winner: The Beanstalk Boutique
First Runner-Up: Angeled Kids
Foster Closet and Resale

Best Computer Store
Winner: Effingham Computer Sales
and Service
First Runner-Up: Jansen Computer
Sales & Repair

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Best Appliance Store!
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Best Convenience Store
Winner: Wessel's
First Runner-Up: Old Mac's
Drive Thru

Best Electronics Dealer
Winner: Al's Tire Mart
& Electronics
First Runner-Up: Effingham
Computer Sales and Service

Best Farm Feed Store
Winner: Rural King
First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Farm Supply Store
Winner: Rural King
First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Fishing Supplies Shop
Winner: Wessel's
First Runner-Up: Rural King

Best Flooring Store
Winner: Wright's Furniture
& Flooring
First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Florist
Winner: Burkland's Florist & Gifts
First Runner-Up: Flowers by Kirby
Foods

Best Furniture Store (New)
Winner: Wright's Furniture
& Flooring
First Runner-Up: Niebrugge
Furniture

Best Furniture Store (used)
Winner: It's Almost Home
First Runner-Up: Silk Purse Thrift
Store

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Best Game Place

Winner: Shoebox Gaming Pub

First Runner-Up: The Black Dog Pub & Gaming

Best Garden Center

Winner: Alwerdt's Gardens

First Runner-Up: Potted Charm

Best Gift Shop

Winner: Burkland's Florist & Gifts

First Runner-Up: EZ Laser Designs

Best Greeting Card Store

Winner: Dollar Tree

First Runner-Up: Brown's Drug Store

Best Grocery Store

Winner: Aldi

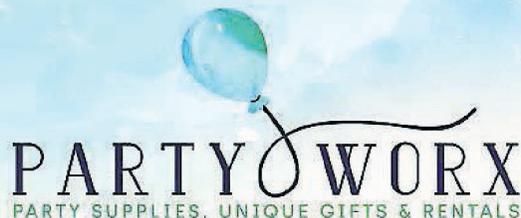
First Runner-Up: Kirby Foods

Best Gun Shop

Winner: Accuracy Firearms

First Runner-Up: Locked and Loaded

**Thank you for voting us
Best Party Supply Store**



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WE THANK YOU!!

Voted People's Choice Favorite in 4 Categories For:
• Bakery • Deli • Donuts • Customer Service Grocery Store
And Many Thanks For 1st Runner Up in these 3 Categories:
• PRODUCE & PRODUCE DEPT • GROCERY STORE • FLORIST



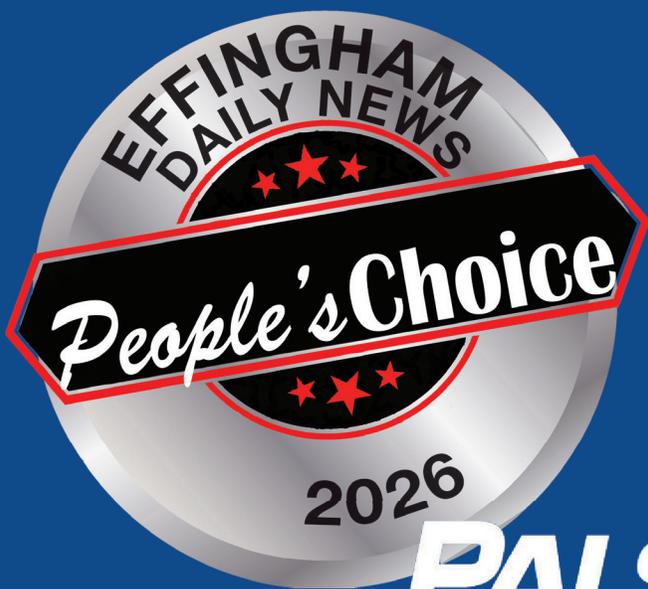
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Pals Electric is incredibly grateful to the Effingham community for their support and recognition. We look forward to continuing to serve the Effingham community and beyond with our expertise and professionalism. Thank you again to everyone who voted for us. Your support means the world to us!

Best Hardware Store

Winner: Menards

First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Hunting Supplies Shop

Winner: Accuracy Firearms

First Runner-Up: Rural King

Best Jewelry Store

Winner: Weber's Jewelry

First Runner-Up: Rauch's Jewelry

Best Lawn / Garden Store

Winner: Menards

First Runner-Up: Heartland

Landscaping

Best Liquor Store

Winner: Top Shelf Beer, Wine & Spirits

First Runner-Up: A1 Liquors

Best Meat Center

Winner: Nuxoll Food Center

First Runner-Up: McMahon Meats

Best Men's Clothing Store

Winner: Weber's Clothing

First Runner-Up: Jasper Clothiers

Best Music Store

Winner: Chesnut Family Music

First Runner-Up: House of Guitars

Best Paint Dealer

Winner: Sherwin Williams

First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Personalized Gift Business

Winner: The Beanstalk Boutique

First Runner-Up: Sport Designs & Graphics

Best Pet Store

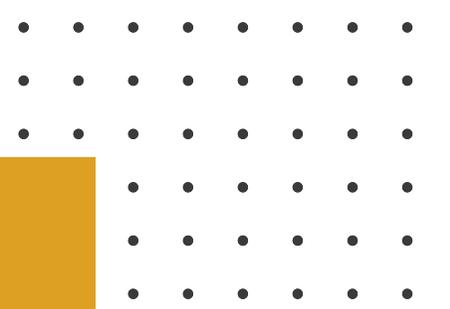
Winner: Noah's Ark Pet Shoppe

First Runner-Up: Dianna's Barkery & More




Thank you for your vote of confidence! We appreciate your support!

2026 Winner
Best Chiropractor
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Best Shoe Store

Winner: Boots & Soles

First Runner-Up: The Thomas Shop

Best Tea Shop

Winner: Ginger Ale's

First Runner-Up: Joe Sippers Café

Best Vape / Tobacco Shop

Winner: The Stash Box

First Runner-Up: Top Shelf Beer,
Wine & Spirits

**Best Women's Boutique /
Specialty Store**

Winner: The Thomas Shop

First Runner-Up: Daisies & Denim
Boutique

Best Women's Clothing Store

Winner: The Thomas Shop

First Runner-Up: Daisies & Denim
Boutique

**Best Promotional / Personalized
Product Sales Person**

**Winner: Sara Ruholl – The
Beanstalk Boutique**

First Runner-Up: Monica Kremer –
Designs Unlimited

Best Resale Shop

Winner: Silk Purse Thrift Store

First Runner-Up: Angeled Kids
Foster Closet and Resale

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**August
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Event in
Effingham
County!**



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2026 People's Choice
Best Attorney & 1st Runner-Up Attorney!





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“Quality Where It Counts”

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I may not install the roofing myself, but I do make sure morale stays high!

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**Thank You for Supporting a LOCAL BUSINESS
- and a hard-working bulldog with a big heart!**

HOME & BUSINESS SERVICES

Best Auctioneer

Winner: Ethan Kremer – Schmid Auction Service

First Runner-Up: Trent Schmid – Schmid Auction Service

Best Business Coaching

Winner: Chandra Niemerg – On Point Consulting

First Runner-Up: Teresa McCloy – The REALIFE Process, LLC

Best Commercial Design

Winner: Wright at Home
First Runner-Up: Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry

Best Concrete Company

Winner: J B Esker & Sons, Inc
First Runner-Up: Esker & Walker Concrete Construction

Best Countertops

Winner: Pyramid Marble & Granite
First Runner-Up: Mette's Cabinets & Countertops

Best Electrician

Winner: Pals Electric
First Runner-Up: Lyle Pruemer - Burford Electric

Best Farm Equipment Dealer

Winner: Bahrns Equipment
First Runner-Up: Sloan Implement

Best Heating / Cooling Sales & Service

Winner: ENTEC Services
First Runner-Up: Jansen's Heating and Air

Best Landscaping Service

Winner: New Leaf Landscaping
First Runner-Up: Wolke Nursery Landscaping

BOOTS & SOLES

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Concrete Construction

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Teutopolis, Illinois 62467

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Best Lawn Care Service
Winner: Couple Guys Lawn Care
 First Runner-Up: Jansen's Landscaping

Best Locksmith
Winner: Barlow Lock and Security

Best Marketing Company
Winner: Black Label Branding LLC
 First Runner-Up: Imagine This! Marketing

Best Pest Control
Winner: ARAB Termite & Pest Control
 First Runner-Up: Arrow Termite & Pest Control

Best Plumbing Service
Winner: Drees Plumbing
 First Runner-Up: Thoele Plumbing Inc



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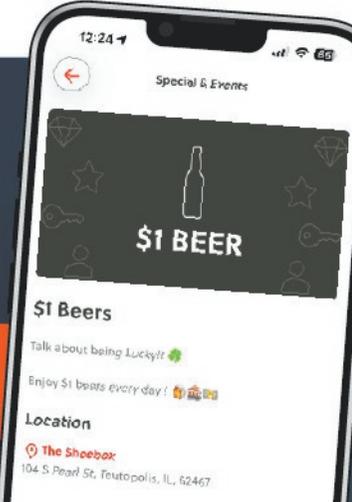
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Best Promotional Products & Advertising
Winner: Designs Unlimited
 First Runner-Up: Sport Designs & Graphics

Best Waste Disposal Service
Winner: Rumpke Waste & Recycling / Rumpke Landfill 33
 First Runner-Up: Sutter Disposal

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Best Art Studio
Winner: Jamie Stang Arts
 First Runner-Up: Meyer Twins Art

Best Dance Instructor
Winner: Jorja Querubin – Ballroom Dance Instructor
 First Runner-Up: Anna Carrell – LARA of Dance

Best Dance Studio
Winner: LARA of Dance
 First Runner-Up: Cayla's Stars

Best Security / Alarm Dealer
Winner: Barlow Lock and Security
 First Runner-Up: VP Fire & Security

Best Staffing Service
Winner: StaffQuick
 First Runner-Up: Innovative Staff Solutions

Best Tree Service
Winner: Eco-Trim 217
 First Runner-Up: Kreke's Tree Service

A NOTCH ABOVE
Thank You

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We are humbled by the support of our community. We couldn't do it without our employees, customers, or partner.



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 FOR
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Best Entertainment Venue
Winner: Effingham Performance Center

First Runner-Up: The Wheat Penny

Best Event in Effingham County
Winner: Effingham County Fair
First Runner-Up: Teutopolis Cruise Night

Best Gymnastics / Tumbling Instructor
Winner: Cayla Myers – Cayla’s Stars
First Runner-Up: Debbie Hardiek – Jansen’s Gym & Dance

Best Hotel / Motel
Winner: Holiday Inn
First Runner-Up: Home2 Suites by Hilton

Best Internet Provider
Winner: Wabash Communications
First Runner-Up: American Fiber Network

Best Martial Arts Studio
Winner: Risen American Jiu-Jitsu
First Runner-Up: Champion’s Martial Arts

Best Party Rental
Winner: The Arena Trampoline Park
First Runner-Up: Party Worx

Best Tumbling Studio/Gym
Winner: Cayla’s Stars
First Runner-Up: Jansen’s Preschool & Power Tumbling

Best Wedding Venue
Winner: Carriage House Event Center
First Runner-Up: West End Reception and Events



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Congratulations People’s Choice Winners & First Runners-Up

All of us here at the Effingham Daily News would like to thank the thousands of readers who took the time to go online and vote for their favorite business or individual. And a big congratulations to the winner and first runner-up in each category. I’m sure that my staff will agree that one of our favorite things to do during the year is deliver the People’s Choice plaques to the winners. The smiles, the hugs, and the thank you’s are so worth it. But even more so is how humbled the winners are when told they won the award. It just makes us so proud to be able to assist them with their ads throughout the year and that they

are genuinely so thankful for what we do for them. We encourage our readers to continue to support their local businesses, no matter if they were voted #1, because they all contribute so much to our economy and our community, providing employment and supporting local schools and non-profit organizations to name a few. This area of central Illinois that we call home boasts one of the strongest economies of anywhere in the state. Every business and the people who support it are the reason for that. And because of that, all the businesses in the area are winners in our eyes. Cheers to all of you and best wishes for a successful rest of 2026!

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- Green Hills Golf Club • Mt. Vernon, IL
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- Oak Terrace Golf Course • Pana, IL
- RBM Golf Course • Okawville, IL
- Red Hawk Golf & Grille • Tamaroa, IL
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