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ON THE COVER & pgs. 6, 8, & 11:
Aurora Borealis Photos by Annita Kasparian

PUBLISHER Scott Conley

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & PRODUCTION Stephanie Azevedo

DESIGN LEAD
Jacob LaFleur

SPECIAL SECTIONS MANAGER Bridget Grant

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

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Welcome to the Best of Nevada County

Bridget GrantSpecial Sections Manager

There is no better view, than the view of the Aurora Borealis seen over Bridgeport, to make time stand still between the intersection of human creation and natural beauty. In 2024 we saw some incredible efforts, big changes, and works of art in nature. Congratulations to all the people and businesses who were nominated, you truly represent the Best of Nevada County! To the Winners and Runners Up, a mark of excellence has been awarded to you by your fellow locals and friends.

The Union's Best of Nevada County has been a reputable directory of the best Nevada County has to offer for 26 years and 2024 was a year of amazing achievements. Now the website acts as a locals' service directory for ALL the best businesses in Nevada County on https://www.theunion.com/bestof2024/ The Union's website for the Best of Nevada County contest.

Out of everyone who was nominated we wish they could all be winners, especially, the Citizens of the Year, the everyday people who were nominated for their incredible efforts last year, notably, **Bob**Martin for his continued commitment to cleaning up highways in his

community as a founder of Citizens Who Care and the CWC recycling project in Lake Wildwood, Tom Durkin of Nevada City for his efforts housing low-income residents of Nevada County, Dr. Scott Neeley the president and CEO of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, who recently instituted a community wide wellness program to encourage heathy living with the goal of keeping people out of the hospital. implemented a program to retain doctors, as well as top notch mangement, Shannon Buehler for being in service of the community that she loves, as a dedicated volunteer, the Branch Manager and Mortgage Advisor at Stanford Mortgage, co-owner of beautiful downtown Grass Valley boutique, Gypsy Rose Trading Post, Terry Brown the acclaimed soloist who carries a tune with a song in his heart and inspires others to contribute to local nonprofit classical music organization, Music in the Mountains (MIM), and Chris Maher, BriarPatch Food Co-op General Manager, for his commitment in his career to helping educate people about the transformative co-op model for the food industry toward better transparency, equity and sustainability.

Thanks, to all the people who make Nevada County the Best!

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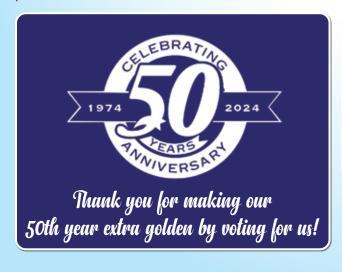


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Citizen of the Year Winner

Tom Durkin

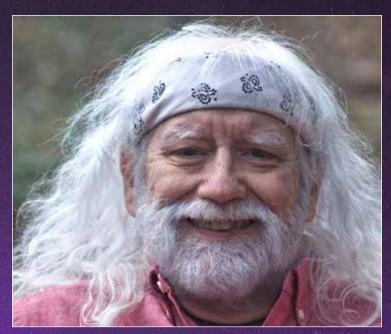
ut of all the deserving nominees, the Citizen of the Year in 2024, goes out to Tom Durkin of Nevada City for his incredible work to house low-income residents in Nevada County, especially in 2024!

Donn Harris; Nevada County resident, former Chair of the California Arts Council, and an engaged member of the local Arts Council, the non-profit Color Me Human and the Equity and Inclusion Leadership Alliance nominated Durkin, and says:

"For more than a decade, Tom writes a freelance column every other week for *The Union*, and has done so without pay—tackling interesting and sometimes challenging topics that invite debate and spark civic engagement. His voice is respected by community members, elected officials, and local government employees, and is always a voice of reason when he attends public meetings, a much—needed example in divided times.

Tom's main focus in 2024 was to work within the system to get the County to pass an "All Homes on Wheels" ordinance to allow RVs, trailers and certain other enclosures on wheels to be temporarily permitted living spaces if they meet certain minimum requirements. His on-the-ground knowledge of the homeless and their plight gives his advocacy special authenticity. He was instrumental in the recent Board of Supervisors vote that passed the "Tiny Homes on Wheels" ordinance, which Tom sees as the beginning of a comprehensive policy that covers ALL of our unhoused neighbors. He is one of the reasons this issue is now on the front burner for the Supervisors. Given the importance of this issue, locally and statewide, even nationally, Tom's progress in this area is worthy of high-level recognition.

Taking this further, Tom wrote a grant under the California Arts Council's Creative Corps program, Governor Newsom's ambitious reimagining of FDR's Public Works programs of the 1930s-1940s era, meant to get artists employed in the service of the state's priorities. As the Creative Director of the



Tom Durkin

"No Place To Go Project," Tom employed actors, film-makers, and the homeless to create a comprehensive view of homelessness and its victims. They produced a half-dozen original songs and a series of short videos giving a face to the issue rarely glimpsed. Tom fulfilled an important aspect of this project by involving the non-profit Sierra Roots. A film from this experience is still in the editing room.

Tom often brings a group of speakers with him to Supervisors' meetings, who are respectful, on-point, and exercising the best of democratic tradition. He is setting an example for effective democracy in action, and in this vein, the work he did with former Supervisor Ed Scofield deserves mentioning. From opposite ends of the political spectrum, they nevertheless worked together to tackle the tough issue of homelessness and the results will be seen soon in new legislation. The rarity of bipartisan collaboration is in itself a cause for optimism.

Tom has had a huge impact, been selfless and unpaid through most of the time on this project, and has been in Nevada County for almost three decades. He is a worthy candidate for this annual award."

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SECOND PLACE

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Volz Automotive

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SECOND PLACE

Auto Repair

Douglas Automotive Place douglasautomotive.pro

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pioneermotors.com 530-477-1000 1611 E Main St, Grass Valley

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Broad Street Inn

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SECOND PLACE Gold Vibe Kombucharv

goldvibe.com

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

Ryan Cirino

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACECommunal Cafe

communalcafenc.com

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SECOND PLACE

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spd.iga.com

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SECOND PLACE

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allororistorantegrassvalley.com

LUNCH WINNER

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213 W Main St, Grass Valley

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northridgenevadacity.com

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SECOND PLACECirino's at Main Street

cirinosatmainstreet.com

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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theonyxtheatre.com

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SECOND PLACE

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SECOND PLACE

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Tripp's Auto Body - Three Generations of Quality Work and Customer Service! A family business, Tripp's has been offering full and complete collision repair for over 70 years. Originally, at their Stewart Street location in Downtown Grass Valley and now at their new larger location for the past 8 years at 600 Freeman Lane. The move has allowed them to expand and better serve their customers!

Tripp's specializes in collision repair, paint match and finish. Three generations of the Tripp family have had a hand in running the business.

Arlie Tripp opened the auto body shop on Stewart Street in 1954. Sons David and Darrol eventually joined him; David's son Todd followed in 1988. After Darrol's passing last year, Todd has taken over and is still actively running the family business.

David Tripp retired over 11 years ago, after nearly five decades at the business, leaving Darrol and Todd Tripp as the co-owners of the shop. Today, Tripp's Auto Body has about 27 employees and is officially recognized by Assured Performance, FCA, GM, Hyundai, Nissan, Ford Infinity and Subaru.

Tripp's is also recognized as a Gold Class shop, an elite designation that only 10 percent of collision repair shops have been awarded by I-Car, a nonprofit training organization founded by the collision repair industry.

To become certified and officially recognized by the various automakers, Tripp's Auto Body



Shop passed a rigorous certification process essential to help ensure a proper and safe repair of the new generation of advanced vehicles.

Less than 5 percent of body shops across the nation are able to meet the stringent requirements to become officially certified and recognized.

The Tripp family is also dedicated to their community, often donating time and sponsoring many local groups including Little League, Nevada Union High School, and Bear River High School.

They make it their mission to treat people the way everyone wants to be treated, pleasantly

and honestly, and their main goal is to provide unbeatable customer service and repairs.

"We are your neighbors and friends, so it is important to provide our customers with the peace of mind that their vehicles are being repaired correctly by highly trained professionals that care about them," said Darrol Tripp.





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MARIA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

As we celebrate 33 wonderful years of Maria's Mexican Restaurant, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you in our community. Without your support, love, and loyalty, we would not be the success we are today.

When I opened the doors of Maria's in 1992, my dream was to create a place where families and friends could come together over delicious, homemade Mexican food. Every dish we serve is crafted from scratch, made with love and care, because I believe that good food should nourish both the body and the soul. It has always been my ultimate desire to provide not just great meals, but also a warm and welcoming atmosphere where memories are made, stories are shared, and laughter fills the air.

Through the challenges of the past few years, I've been especially grateful for our dedicated staff.



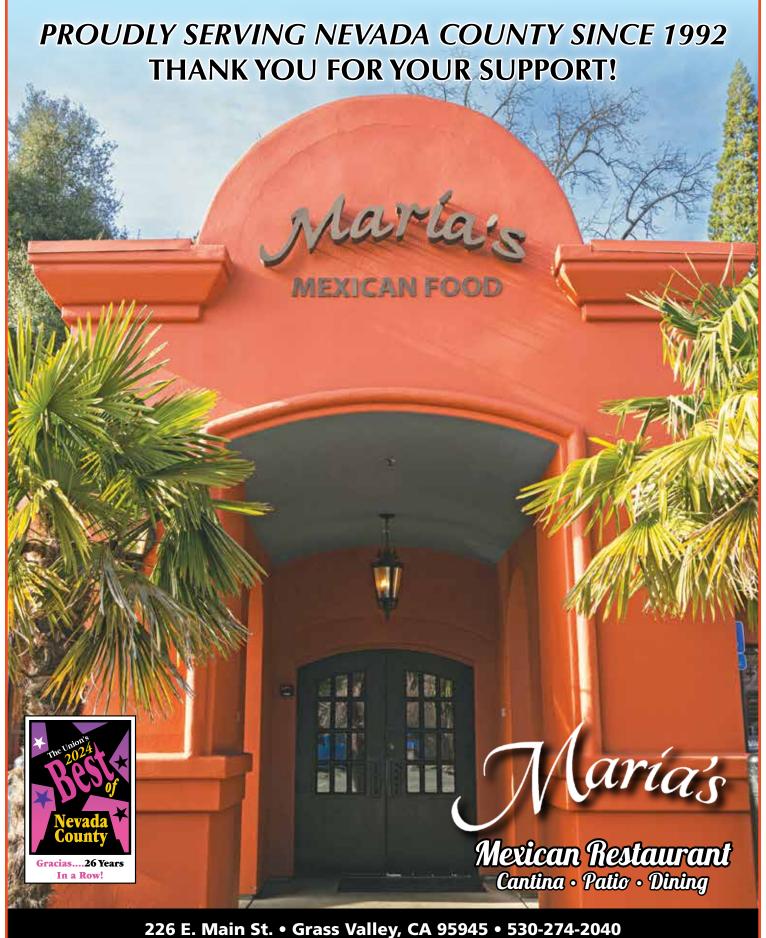
I truly appreciate our team who has stood by us during those tough times, their resilience and commitment have kept us going. I'm equally thankful for the new staff members who have joined our family, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm into the restaurant. Together, they have created an

environment that reflects the heart and soul of our vision.

As I reflect on the past 33 years, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who has walked through our doors. Your support has meant the world to me and my family, and it inspires us to keep going, to keep serving, and to keep creating delicious memories together. Thank you for being a part of our journey. Here's to many more years, we couldn't have done it without you!



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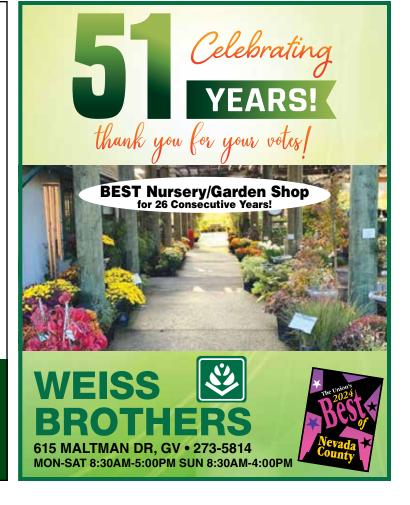


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Simply Country Feed & Supply

simplycountry.net 530-432-2835 & 530-273-3886 10110 Harvest Ln. Penn Valley & 314 Railroad Ave. Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Tractor Supply Co. tractorsupply.com

THRIFT STORE WINNER

Foothills Gift & Thrift/ Hospice Gift & Thrift

foothills-cares.org/thriftstores/ 530-265-6500 840 E Main St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Sammie's Nifty Thrift Shop

sammiesfriends.org/thrift

TOY STORE WINNER

Foothill Mercantile

foothillmercantile.com 530-273-8304 121 Mill St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Mountain Pastimes

mountainpastimes.com

WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE WINNER

Yuba Blue

yubablueonline.com 530-273-9620 116 Mill St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

La Te Da

SENIOR/ ASSISTED LIVING CARE

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY/COMMUNITY WINNER

Eskaton Village

eskaton.org 530-273-1778 625 Eskaton Cir, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Sierra View Senior Living sierraviewseniorliving.com

IN-HOME CARE WINNER

Rondha's After Care

rondhasaftercare.com 530-615-1353 113 Presley Way #11, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Pawnie's Home Care

pawnies.com

MEMORY CARE FACILITY/ COMMUNITY WINNER

Eskaton Village

eskaton.org 530-273-1778 625 Eskaton Cir, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Atria

atriaseniorliving.com

SERVICES

COMPUTER SALES/ SERVICE WINNER

Quietech Associates Inc.

quietechassociates.com 530-272-6680 541 Sutton Way, Grass Valley



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Thank You, Nevada County!

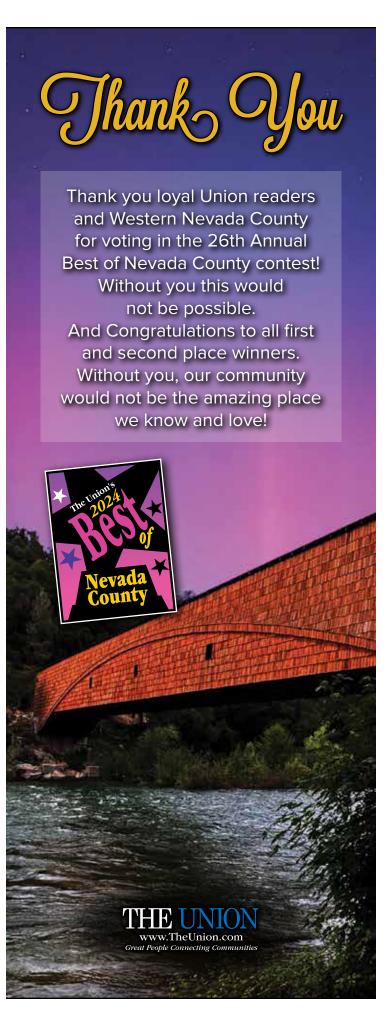
We're honored to be named Best Nonprofit of 2024! We deeply appreciate your support of IFM and our mission to help those in need.

But we still need YOU! Volunteer, donate, or spread the word – together, we can make a real difference by providing wholesome, supplemental groceries for our neighbors facing food insecurity!

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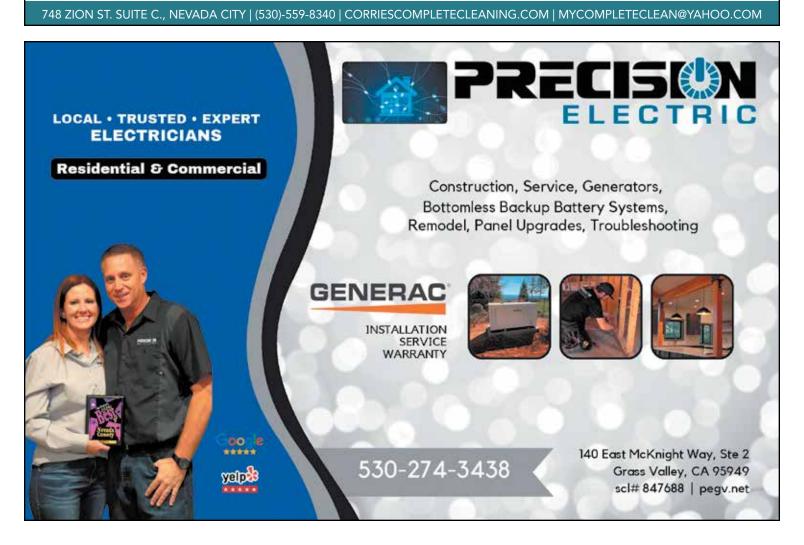
ANACS

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-4

203 W. Main St., Grass Valley sierragoldandcoins.com







SECOND PLACEJDog Enterprises

idog.net

DRY CLEANER WINNER

Mercury Cleaners

mercurycleaners.com 530-274-1845 & 530-477-1845 986 Plaza Dr, Grass Valley & 147 S Auburn St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Valet Cleaners

INTERNET PROVIDER WINNER

SmarterBroadband

smarterbroadband.com 530-272-4000 15533 Johson PI, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Nevada County Fiber

nevcofiber.com

LAUNDROMAT WINNER

Pine Creek Laundromat

pinecreeklaundromat.com 530-477-9274 664 Freeman Ln. Grass Vallev

SECOND PLACE

Gold Run Laundromat

LOCKSMITH WINNER

Reed's Locksmithing Inc. reedslocks.com 530-273-7624 744 Maltman Dr, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Yuba Safe & Lock

yubalockandsafe.com

MAILING AND SHIPPING WINNER

The UPS Store

theupsstore.com 530-272-6000 111 Bank St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACESPD Market

spd.iga.com

NONPROFIT— ANIMAL RESCUE WINNER

Sammie's Friends

sammiesfriends.org 530-471-5041 14647 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

AnimalSave

animalsave.org

NONPROFIT— GENERAL WINNER

InterFaith Food Ministry

interfaithfoodministry.org 530-273-8132 440 Henderson St, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Foothills Compassionate Care/Hospice of the Foothills

foothills-cares.org

PARTY SUPPLY WINNER

SRC Party Center

scrparty.com 530-272-2266 691 Maltman Dr, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

Ben Franklin

Crafts & Frames

benfranklin-crafts.com

PRINT SHOP WINNER

FRDM Print Co.

frdmprints.com 530-446-2948 13465 Colfax Hwy, Grass Valley

SECOND PLACE

House of Print & Copy hopc.biz

Best of Nevada County WINNER PROFILE

SmarterBROADBAND

A heartfelt congratulations to SmarterBroadband's Staff for achieving the well-deserved title of "Best of the Best" once again this year! Since its establishment in 2005, SmarterBroadband has been a pillar of reliability and innovation, bringing high-speed internet services to the rural and hard-to-reach areas of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties.

What sets SmarterBroadband apart is not just its cutting-edge fiber-fed line of site technology but also the unwavering



dedication of its local staff. In the face of challenging circumstances, such as catastrophic storms or power outages, SmarterBroadband stands strong, ensuring uninterrupted service for its valued customers.

The commitment to customers' satisfaction is truly commendable. SmarterBroadband not only maintains service during adverse conditions but goes above and beyond by prioritizing customer needs. The decision to increase bandwidth without raising monthly fees is a testament



www.SmarterBroadband.com

15533 Johnson Place Grass Valley CA 95949 Sales@sbb.net Tel: 530-272-4000





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Best of Nevada County for 2024

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Mike Bratton, Agent Lic. #0674070

(530) 273-0521 768 Taylorville Road, Ste A Grass Valley, CA 95945



Heather Customer Service Representative



Insurance Specialist



Jennifer Licensed Agent



Lee Ann Licensed Agent Insurance Specialist



Kathie Licensed Agent Insurance Specialist



Ken Goforth Financial Services Representative



Jim Licensed Agent Field Underwriter



Sarah Licensed Agent Insurance Specialist

StateFarm™ Thank you, Nevada County!





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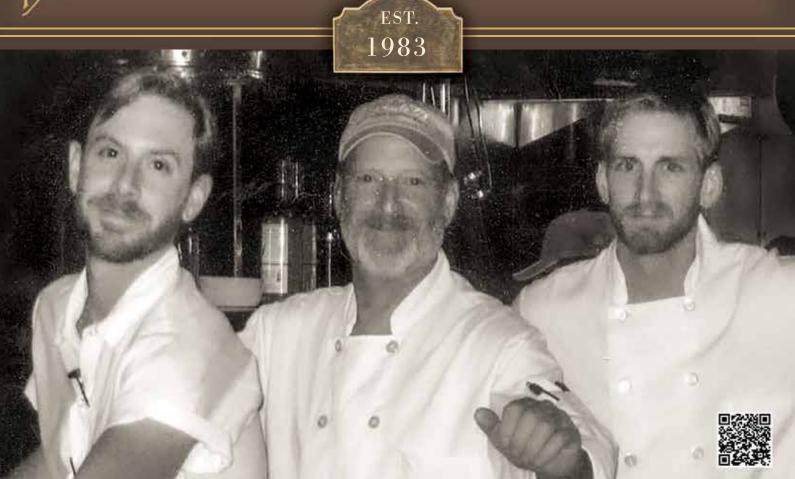
WE THANK YOU FOR VOTING US MORE 'BEST OF' AWARDS
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FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN 11 CATEGORIES IN THE 'BEST OF' VOTING FOR 2024.

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~ JERRY, RYAN AND TUCKER CIRINO



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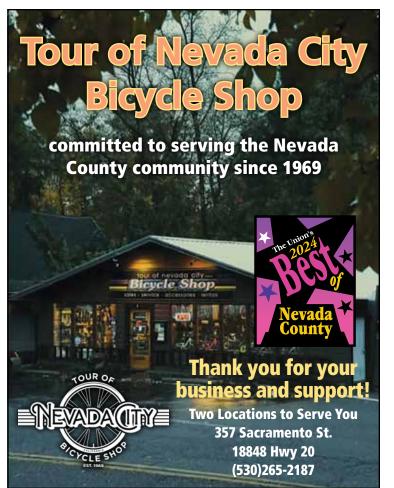


We are grateful to everyone who voted us Best Art Gallery for 10 years in a row!



A Nevada County Artists Co-operative featuring juried works by 30+ local artists.

Open 7 days a week. artworksgalleryco-op.com 113 Mill Street, Grass Valley CA 530 477-1600





Recognized as a Top Rural Hospital.

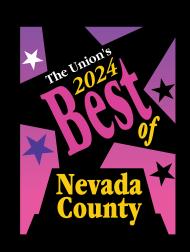
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital has been recognized by The Leapfrog Group as a Top Rural Hospital for a second consecutive year. This distinction by the nation's leading safety reviewer is a reflection of our team's commitment to patient care-built on compassionate listening, a personal connection to provide comfort and hope, and a steadfast belief in the healing power of humankindness. Learn more about us at **DignityHealth.org/Sierra Nevada.**

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Thank You Mevada County

Volz Automotive voted **BEST** Auto Repair & Service *and* **BEST** Oil Change







I am John Volz Jr. owner and president of Volz Automotive, and I would like to thank all of you for selecting us **Best Of** Nevada County. We are proud to be citizens and business owners in the Grass Valley and Nevada City area of California for 43 years. From walkins to multi-generational loyal customers, our mission is the highest quality work

with clear, honest communication for a fair price. We know our vehicles and recognize our customers' needs. We are proud of our affiliations with this focused area of specialty in car repair, and we have highly trained and skilled staff to provide the best service for our clients.



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From all of us at SmarterBroadband WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!