

NCF contest winner - again!



Record-Eagle file photo/John L. Russell

NCF Commemorative Print winner Jackie Valerio.

BY FORREST KARBOWSKI
Record-Eagle Staff Writer

TRAVERSE CITY- Jackie Valerio is no stranger to the Commemorative Print contest.

Her oil print submission this year is her fourth print for the Cherry Festival. She has been painting since the 1980s, and has received three grand prize titles from the National Cherry Festival and one first prize. "I ask everyone for ideas," Valerio said. "A good friend of mine suggested to do something simple."

Valerio's print, which depicts a basket full of cherries, caught the eye of the judges.

"It gives the impression of that cherry farm quality,"

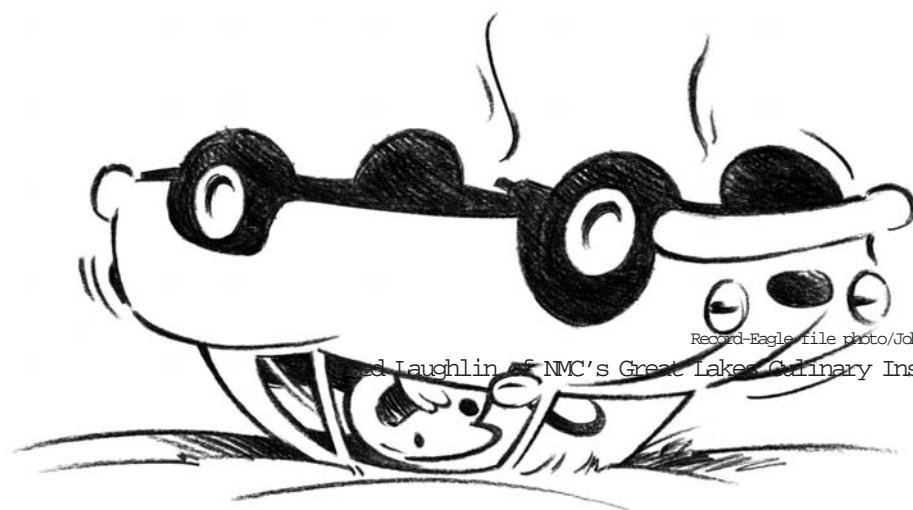
Patti Schaap said. Schaap is the director of the print contest. "The cherries are very realistic, it looks like you could reach into the basket and eat them."

Valerio also illustrates children's books, and is currently involved in a children's book series with 120 books promoting self-image, tolerance, acceptance and love of people.

Valerio said she thinks it is important for more people to enter the print contest, especially young people.

The first place student winner for the contest was Dwy Drobena, a TBA student from Traverse City. The first place young people winner was Hayley Thornton of Traverse City.

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and Laughlin of NMC's Great Lakes Culinary Institute.

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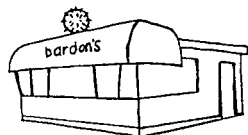
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We Salute You

Pete and Sharyn Bentley and the entire team at Bardon's Wonder Freeze welcome Lt. Craig Olson USN, his fellow Blue Angels and their support team to the National Cherry Festival. Thank you for helping us celebrate our festival and our Nation's Birthday.



God's Speed To You All