

Special Kids' Day Wednesday, July 10

By SARAH CHUBY
Record-Eagle staff writer

The Cherry Festival provides a good time for all — and Special Kids' Day proves it. Special Kids Day takes place from 9 a.m. until noon Wednesday, July 10, at the Festival Open Space.

"It's the probably the most exciting event and some say it rivals the US Navy Blue Angels," said Cindy Hitesman, Special Kids Day and Accessibility director. "Kids from all over Michigan take part. We've even had kids from as far away as Florida and Texas."

The Cherry Festival is the only festival that caters to special needs children.

"We offer obstacle courses, a wheel chair swing, bubble blowing, a cherry pie making contest, a frog pond, Oreo cookie stacking contest, t-ball, and basketball," she said. "There are lots of different events for them to be involved in."

The children and event volunteers will head over to the Midway around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. During this time all of Arnold's Midway employees volunteers their time.

The Midway is closed to the public from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

"This allows the kids to ride the amusements and play. It is very hard for these special kids to participate in a regular festival day, because they need more time. It is wonderful for them."

Hitesman said the children always enjoy having a special visitor.

"The kids love the elephant named Laura and her birthday is during The Cherry Festival this year, so the kids are making Laura cards."

Special Kids Day is sponsored by Oleson's Food Stores, Tom's Food Market and Prevo's Family Market.

After 20 years, WKLT still rocks, often at the National Cherry Festival

By KIMBERLY WARREN
Record-Eagle staff writer

Twenty years ago, Double Rock was born. WKLT will be breaking out the party hats and balloons on Saturday, July 13 at the Festival Open Space to celebrate their 20th birthday.

"The station's been rock for 20 years this year," said Terri Ray, WKLT program director. "We're going to have a huge birthday party at the Open Space and give out cake. It's going to be a huge celebration of the National Cherry Festival and our 20th birthday."

Ray said they invite anyone to come partake of the birthday cake.

"We're very excited about this, and we hope tons of people come out and enjoy the celebration," she said. "We're going to need tons of cake."

Edgar Winter, presented by

Labatt and Double Rock KLT, will lend music to the celebration—complete with a "rockin' version of 'Happy Birthday,'" Ray said.

The celebration has been going on all year—and will continue to go on.

"We take cake and balloons with us everywhere we go," Ray said. "And we thought it would be great if we supplied cake for Cherry Festival."

Like a real birthday party, watch out for prizes and presents. Ray said there will



WKLT's Terri Ray and friends, enjoying a NCF the milk carton regatta.

even be some surprises—but don't count on anyone to tell you what they are, no one's talking.

Check out the party for yourself. Winter takes the stage at 9 p.m., and admission is yours with a 76th Commemorative Festival Pin.

Interactive Festival Services

Charter Communications is providing interpreters with the concerts this year. There will be interpreters at the concerts, the fashion show, opening ceremonies and the queen's coronation.

Any event can have an interpreter if the Cherry Festival office is contacted in advance. Special parking and seating can also be arranged for individuals with handicaps.

Many of the interpreters who volunteer work in the Traverse City school system with the hearing impaired program.



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