

# First time dinner dance at NCF Queen ball

BY SARAH HENRY  
Record-Eagle staff writer

In years past, the new National Cherry Queen was always announced at the coronation ball, with hundreds present to share in her victory. That hasn't changed, but this year, she'll be able to greet the crowd on a full stomach.

For the first ever dinner and dance coronation ball, up to 600 guests can watch as memories are made.

The ball takes place this year in the governor's ballroom at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, chosen for its spacious surroundings at 6 p.m. Friday, July 11.

"We have not ever before had a sit down dinner," said Sara McGuire, chairperson for the

coronation ball and former National Cherry Queen. "We thought it would be a nice touch. A lot of people tended to go out to dinner anyway, and this just kind of completes the evening."

The evening starts off with the sit down dinner: a romaine lettuce and dried cherry salad, followed by grilled chicken with wild mushroom sauce, steamed asparagus, herb-roasted red potatoes and a grand finale dessert of Flambéed Cherries Jubilee. The cherries will be flambéed in the dining room with brandy and cherry liqueur and served over vanilla ice cream.

After dinner, the National Cherry Festival President will say a few words and lead a farewell presentation for the

current queen.

The current queen, Ashley Prusick of Traverse City will also say a few words, and then the five candidates for the 2003-2004 National Cherry Queen will introduce themselves.

McGuire said the candidates will be judged secretly all week long at the Festival while they attend various events.

"The judges will be looking at how well they'll be able to represent the Festival and the area," McGuire said. "They'll look at who is comfortable with people, and who is really articulate and energetic about the position."

After the new queen is crowned, guests can dance the night away to a tropical par-

adise theme.

"The queen without a doubt when she's crowned is beyond words," McGuire said.

McGuire speaks from experience.

"When I was crowned I cried," she said. "I was overtaken immediately by my family and friends. I was so speechless."

Besides the new location and dinner, guests can also participate in a silent auction on photographs throughout the evening.

The photos will highlight Festival events, cherries and more. McGuire said they will represent both the cherry industry, as well as the Festival aspect.

Tickets for the coronation ball can be purchased in advance at the National Cherry Festival office for \$30 each.

"We really want to get the word out that this is open to everyone," McGuire said.

## Parade chair policy for safety

BY MELANIE TACOMA  
Record-Eagle staff writer

It was the combination of a broken leg, scratched cars, and chairs flying through the air that led the National Cherry Festival, in cooperation with the Downtown Traverse City Association, to design their parade chair policy.

"The policy exists for reasons primarily related to safety," Festival Director Tom Kern said.

He explained that in the past, people would set chairs out on parade routes as early as the night before a parade, sometimes roping chairs together or chaining them to parking meters and signs. The chairs prevented store patrons from parking or getting out of cars along curbs, and were hazardous for pedestrians trying to walk into and out of downtown shops. Furthermore, in a windstorm several years ago, chairs set out for one Cherry Festival parade were blown all over downtown, narrowly missing hitting visitors.

"Given these problems, we ask people to voluntarily comply with this policy," Kern said.

The parade chair policy states:

■ Chairs may be placed along the parade route no earlier

than two hours before a parade.

■ Chairs must be removed from the parade route no later than two hours after a parade.

■ Chairs placed along the parade route that do not conform to these hours may be picked up and placed out of the street right of way.

This policy will be enforced during all three National Cherry Festival Parades on Tuesday, July 8; Thursday, July 10; and Saturday, July 12.



## Physicians for Habitat build for family

Physicians for Habitat, a group of Doctors from the Traverse City area, are planning a Habitat for Humanity "blitz build" during the two weeks surrounding The National Cherry Festival. The build will begin at 7:30 am Monday, July 7 with a Ground Breaking Ceremony. Construction of the walls and roof will start immediately after the ceremony.

Volunteers will build, paint, and finish the entire home during the two-week period. A Dedication Ceremony is planned for Saturday, July 19.

The home will be built for the Al and Christy Buchanan Family. They and their three children have already begun to complete their required "sweat equity" hours. They will work along side the doctors and volunteers to build the home.

Volunteers are still needed for the project and can sign up to work at the Habitat for Humanity Grand Traverse Region office on Hastings Street, or call 231-941-4663.

The build will take place on Ewing Street in Grawn. Ewing Street is located approximately one mile off US 31, up County Road 633.

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