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NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

BY MELANIE TACOMA

Fireworks take new aim



Record-Eagle staff writer The ALLTEL Festival Fireworks presented by Traverse Bay Entertainment will mark the

by Traverse Bay Entertainment will mark the conclusion of the National Cherry Festival. The fireworks will be fired from a barge in Grand Traverse Bay.

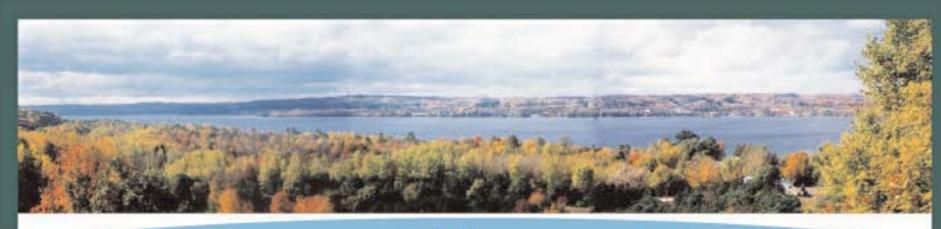
"Shooting fireworks from a barge gives us the opportuntity to centrally locate the Fireworks show," said Festival director Tom Kern. "It's right in the center of the bay, and we can do new and different things with the fireworks."

The barge will be located 1000 feet northwest of the Festival Open Space Park. Boats will not be allowed into the 1000-ft saftey zone around the barge.

Kern said that festival organizers made the move to the barge after losing their traditional launching place at the Maritime Academy in 2000. Last year the fireworks were fired from the coal docks, which Kern explained was a location that led to some inconvience for visitors.

"Shooting fireworks from the coal docks required a lot of coordination between agencies and required M-22 to be closed for two hours with a six mile long detour," Kern said. "And the fireworks were a long way away from the crowd."





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