

# Children's events that bring out the kid in everyone

BY SARAH HENRY  
Record-Eagle staff writer

The pitter-patter of little feet and high pitched giggles can be heard all week long during the whirlwind of games and activities geared toward children, because National Cherry Festival fun discriminates against no one, even those who still need nap-time.

The festival offers a variety of children-oriented events, sponsored by Big Boy Restaurants, that will keep kids from every age group busy from morning till night, according to Lani Bathje, director of children's events.

The week kicks off Saturday, July 5 with a Big Wheel race for children ages 3-6 at the Horizon Outlet Center. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and equipment will be available for out-of-towners and those who don't own Big Wheels, Bathje said.

On Sunday, July 6 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at F&M Park, children can choose from eight different activities at the Junior Arts and Crafts program.

"They can do one (project) or all eight of them, and there will be face painting too," Bathje said.

Just some of the projects include crayon melts, construction paper flowers and creating "spoon people" out of plastic spoons.

Also on Sunday, July 6, from 3:30-5 p.m. children can attend

the very first Cherry Teddy Bear Tea at F&M Park. Bathje said children need to bring their own bears and blanket to sit on.

Activities include decorating cookies and bear-shaped picture frames, with a snapshot of the child with his or her bear inserted in the frame, as well as a storyteller, Bathje said.

On Monday, July 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. children ages 5-14 can participate in miniature golf at the Putt n' Pizza event at Pebblebrook Fun Park.



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**The Pet Show is Tuesday, July 9.**

Golfing is first come, first serve, and up to 80 children can participate in each of the four sessions. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Prizes will be awarded through random

drawings.

Next comes the Bubble Gum Blow at 10 a.m. for ages 4-12. Sign-up starts at 9:30 a.m. Each child receives one piece of gum and two tries to blow a bubble.

The bubble width is measured using a unit called a caliper.

"We do have peanut butter in case they get it caught in their hair," Bathje said.

A festival favorite, the Sara Lee Bakery Cherry Pie Eating Contest also takes place

where a turtle is placed inside a circle. The first to cross the line is the winner.

Turtle paraphernalia prizes are awarded to the winner of each heat, and the overall winner gets a blue ribbon according to Bathje.

On Tuesday, July 9 from 10 a.m. until noon a very unusual pet show will take place at F&M Park.

From llamas to iguanas, all pets are welcome, Bathje said, as long as they're alive.

"One year someone brought

their pet rock," she said.

Categories include most unusual pet, fattest cat (the record feline weighing in at 38 pounds), ugliest mutt and famous pairs- pets dressed up as some kind of couple.

"We've even had a hot-dog and a bun," Bathje said about the famous pairs.

Following the Pet Show at noon, grandparents and their grandchildren can attend a Cherry Beary Picnic at the

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**The Big Wheel race is Saturday, July 5.**

Monday, July 7 at 10 a.m., as well as Wednesday, July 9 at 1 p.m. and Friday, July 11 from 1-3 p.m. at F&M Park.

Nancy Grin, director of the pie eating contest shared some anecdotes.

"One little boy told me, 'You know Cherry Pie Lady, I know the secret to this cherry pie eating. The more you wear the less you have to eat,'" she said. "And he meant it, too!"

"I try to tell the kids not to try this at home, but one little girl sat down to dinner and dove into her pie with her face and got into trouble with her dad," Grin said.

The fourth and last event scheduled for Monday, July 7 is the Turtle Race. Sign-up begins at 12:30 p.m., and the event starts at 1 p.m. at F&M Park.

Children without a pet turtle will be provided one, compliments of Clinch Park Zoo. The event consists of 10 heats,