

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

# Festivals: Northern Lower Michigan's calling card

BY NANCY SUNDBROM  
Special to the Record-Eagle

What kind of food or pastime intrigues you? Name it, and chances are there's a festival in northern Lower Michigan to celebrate it. From food and wine to a wide range of agricultural products and civic celebra-

tions, weekends in the months of May to September are dominated by festivals. Large and small, one-day to week-long, decades-old or brand new, the festival game in this region is popular — and played by just about everybody.

Adam Bartelmay, a news

anchor for WPBN-WTOM TV 7 & 4 in Traverse City, cited his favorite three festivals: the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, the Alpenfest in Gaylord and the Polka Fest in

Cedar. "We have a lot of great festivals here each year, and if there's one thing I've learned since coming here, it's that you can count on at least one a weekend," said

Bartelmay, who frequently covers or promotes festivals for his station. "Festivals are almost the calling card of northern Michigan. They're

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Pianist Ahmad Jamal headlines the 2003 Suttons Bay Jazz Festival.



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