

Children's events for kids of all ages

BY GINA GOODMAN
Record-Eagle staff writer

Anyone who enjoyed the National Cherry Festival as a child has memories that will last a lifetime. From the pie eating contests to the turtle races, it has been tradition for children of all ages to participate in the many events the festival offers, and this year is no exception.

A variety of child-oriented activities, sponsored by Big

Boy Restaurants, will keep kids busy from dawn to dusk.

Lani Bathje, director of children's events highlighted some of the most popular events this year.

"The pet show is always a favorite," Bathje said.

"There are people who come not even to participate, but just to see the animals. It's not a regular pet show!"

Catagories for the show

are best dressed pet, pet and owner look-alike, ugliest mutt, fatest cat, best dressed ensemble, and most unusual.

"One year we had a snake that was the whole length of the stage!" Bathje said.

The pet show is Tuesday at 10 a.m to 12 p.m. at F&M Park. Registration starts at 9:15 a.m..

Wednesday night from 4-8 p.m. at F&M Park is Cherry Town Fun Night. The

Record-Eagle file photo/Jim Bovin

Kid's Day takes place Thursday, July 8, all day long.

evening includes a variety of entertainment with magicians, jugglers, a puppet show, clowns and Moomer's build-your-own sundaes. Kids are invited to bring their whole families.

"It's a night that the families appreciate the most," Bathje said. "It's something the parents and kids can



both enjoy."

New this year to the children's events are the Diaper Derby and Toddler Trot at F&M Park. Friday at 10 a.m., babes and tots will compete to see who can crawl or walk the fastest.

"It will be kind of fun because it will be something new," Bathje said. "We've never had events for the smaller children."

Other events for kids throughout the week include the Big Wheel Race, the Bubble Gum Blow, the Bicycle Rodeo, the Youth Chalk Art Contest and the Children's Fishing Pond, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and MC Sports. For times and locations see the official Cherry Festival Schedule.

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Family care amenities include sectioned-off areas for parents to change, feed and rest with their infants and young children. Extra diaper supplies and wipes will be available, as well as rocking chairs, changing stations and a private breast feeding area.

The area is near the First Aid Tent and is open from 10 a.m.-11 p.m.