

Festival of Races: Get a leg up on last day of NCF

TRAVERSE CITY—Athletes of all abilities will take to the streets of Traverse City in three regionally acclaimed races on Saturday, July 10, 2004.

The Festival of Races sponsored by TRAVERSE, Northern Michigan's Magazine and Traverse City Light and Power, will challenge 2,000 runners along the shores of Grand Traverse Bay, over cherry orchard-lined hilltops, and through spectator-filled Downtown Traverse City.

The event features a 15K foot race and a 5K run or walk. Race packet pick-up and late registration is Friday, July 9, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, July 10, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., at Northwestern Michigan College.

Also Friday evening, runners and their families have an opportunity to enjoy a Festival Pasta Dinner beginning at 6 p.m. in Traverse City Central High School's cafeteria.

Meijer Golden Mile competitors have hopes of



Record-Eagle file photo/John L. Russell

The Festival of Races, sponsored by Traverse Northern Michigan's Magazine and T.C. Light and Power, is three races on Saturday morning of July 10, the last day of the National Cherry Festival.

breaking the World's fastest mile record. Some of the world's swiftest men and women milers are invited to run in one of the Midwest's most competitive mile races on Saturday morning, July

10 at 9:30 a.m.

Regional high school athletes will also be competing in this mile event. Cash awards are presented to the fastest athletes who are no longer eligible for NCAA

competition. Racers run in front of nearly 70,000 curbside spectators anticipating the start of the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade.

A contest of strength and endurance is in store for the

Members Credit Union Wheelchair Mile, Saturday, July 10 at 8:30 a.m. Top wheelers from across North America will compete in one of the World's fastest wheelchair events. In addition to the open division, an intermediate division for both men and women wheelchair racers will be held.

Families looking for a bit less competitive run can enjoy the Great Wolf Run presented by Great Wolf Lodge on Friday, July 9. No pre-registration is necessary. The start is at Traverse City Central High School. Raffle prizes and a party atmosphere is sure to make the Wolf Run and Walk a family hit for years to come.

A grand prize drawing will include an overnight stay at the Great Wolf Lodge and Indoor Waterpark. The event begins at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

For more race information and applications visit the National Cherry Festival web site at www.cherryfestival.org or call 231-947-4230.

Catch a rainbow at Children's Fishing Pond

BY GINA GOODMAN
Record-Eagle staff writer

One of the best memories many children will have at the National Cherry Festival has nothing to do with cherries.

It does, however, have everything to do with fish.

The Children's Fishing Pond, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and MC Sports, gives kids a chance to try their luck at catching one of the 3,000 to 4,000 rainbow trout that are imported for the event.

Roger Borgeson has been in charge of the fishing pond since it began six

years ago.

"I was in the sporting goods business, and at sports shows they always had ponds there," he said. "It was a big attraction for the kids."

Two large ponds as well as fishing rods are provided, and kids up to age 14 are welcome to give their best shot at catching a fish.

Children who get a catch are encouraged to donate it to the Clinch Park Zoo, as food for the animals. Borgeson doesn't recommend taking the fish home, unless it can be put in an ice pack.

"They don't smell too good after a while!" he said.

The fishing pond requires a small fee, with no charge on Wednesday for Special Kids Day. All of the proceeds will go back to fund the Cherry Festival.

"I really enjoy watching the children," Borgeson said. "It's like Christmas to them."

The event will run every day from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Open Space near Grandview Parkway and Union.

Arts and Crafts Fair on July 4

TRAVERSE CITY—The Eleventh Annual Festival Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by Downtown Traverse City Association and Bay Shore Framing, will be held on Sunday, July 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Union Street between Grandview Parkway and State Street in Downtown Traverse City.

Nearly 150 artists and craftsman from throughout the Midwest will participate in the event, with over three-quarters of the registrants having participated in the event in years past.

A juried arts and crafts fair that draws over 300 applications each year, every possible medium of work will be represented, including painting, pottery, photography, sculpture, metal work, jewelry, furniture, porcelain and ceramics, soft sculpture, weaving, wearable art, basketry, and much more.

"Each year, we see new artisans along with regional favorites," said DDA Marketing Director Mary Gillett.

Artist applications are available by calling the DDA at (231) 922-2050.