

Astronaut Jerry Linenger and family parade marshals

Jerry Linenger, former United States astronaut and his family will head the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade at this year's National Cherry Festival.

After all those hours in space gazing down at the Great Lakes, it's no wonder Linenger was drawn to northern Michigan.

"Looking from space there's several spots that are special," recalls Linenger, who set an American space endurance record with his 18,000 mile-an-hour trip.

"Over the Caribbean, you look through the water and see all the coral," he said. "The Himalayas, you almost feel as if the space station is going to hit them. Japan at night is spectacular, the

islands outlined in lights. "Then there's northwestern Michigan- the deep inland lakes and the Grand Traverse Bay. With the woods, the color of the land and the aqua-looking water, it's a very special spot on Earth."

Floating behind the Mir Space Station window, Linenger had a thought: "I said to myself, I'd like to live there some day."

The former astronaut, who grew up in suburban Detroit, moved his family to the Leelanau Peninsula five months after he returned to earth on the space shuttle.

The pace of Suttons Bay is quite a contrast from the demanding career path taken by the son of a Michigan Bell repairman from East Detroit.

At age 14, he decided he wanted to be an astronaut after watching Neal Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin plant an American flag on the moon during the first lunar landing in 1969.

After attending the Naval Academy and medical school at Wayne State University, Linenger did a two-month rotation at the Munson Medical Center in the late 1970s. On the fast track of becoming a flight surgeon, he was struck by the lifestyle of the physician he worked with in a local family practice.

"At the end of the day, usually around 3 o'clock, he's day that's enough patients," Linenger said. "And we'd go bird hunting and tromping through the woods, or run

down to the beach. I knew at that point this was a pretty special spot."

Flight medicine, research, work with the Navy Seals and marriage followed. In 1991 he married his wife Kathy in Chicago. Within a year he was accepted into the NASA flight program.

These days, Linenger can be seen peddling or kayaking to work or hiking with his wife and four children.

"My life has been goal, goal, goal," he said. "Now I find

myself going the other way and becoming more reflective. I think time in space you have the time to reflect. And up here in this area, you have one time to reflect and look at things in more depth and explore things you don't value as much when you're scrambling to get a job or promotion."

Don't miss seeing Jerry Linenger and his family at the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, July 12.

Children's Museum offers cherry crafts

BY SARAH HENRY
Record-Eagle staff writer

Each year the Great Lakes Children's Museum gets into the full swing of the National Cherry Festival spirit and offers artistic opportunities for children.

At F&M park from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, three hands-on activities will be available.

One activity will be rock painting with gel marker pens.

"They paint anything from rainbows to fish to scenes with little characters on them," said Laurie Hansen, director of visitor services. "They're just gorgeous when they're finished."

Children can also make their own sunglasses out of construction paper, pipecleaners and red cellophane for the lenses.

"The theme is looking at the world through rose colored glasses," Hansen said.

Back again, the last activity is sand art jars. Children can purchase a glass jar for \$2 and layer different colored sand to make unusual designs, Hansen said.

There will also be a free art project in the activity room of the museum all week. Children can make tiles using white foam board and painting and adhering items to the "tiles."

"The designs will be cherries," Hansen said.

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