

S E N I O R S

P.G. writer takes a close look at aerospace legend

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE SUBJECT of a new biography, aerospace engineer Burt Rutan is considered a visionary whose many innovations have advanced man's exploration of the sky.

Monterey writer Dan Linehan will sign copies of his book, "Burt Rutan's Race to Space," Sunday, Aug. 7, at the Works bookstore and coffeehouse in Pacific Grove.

Rutan is best known for designing the Voyager, which in 1986 became the first craft to fly around the world without stopping or refueling. And the engineer achieved fame — and a \$10 million prize — for designing SpaceShipOne, which in 2004 became the first privately funded vehicle to reach an altitude of 100 kilometers twice within a two-week period. Rutan is also an outspoken advocate of commercial space travel and an opponent of prevailing climate-change theories.

"He's going to go down as one of history's all-time aero-

space engineers," said Linehan, who is also the author of "SpaceShipOne: An Illustrated History." "His planes hold world records for speed and distance. He was so far out ahead of the competition."

Two of Rutan's designs are on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. — just a few steps away from Charles Lindbergh's famous "Spirit of St. Louis" and capsules from the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs.

"His aircraft are royalty," Linehan observed. Remarkably, his groundbreaking creations were often constructed on relatively modest budgets. "He's the master of the 'keep it simple, stupid,' principle," explained Linehan, who interviewed Rutan for the book.

Before he retired last year at the age of 68, Rutan unveiled one last design — a flying hybrid car.

For Linehan, Rutan was the perfect subject for a book. The writer has a lifelong fascination with airplanes.



Designed by Burt Rutan, the SpaceShipOne in 2004 became the first privately-funded craft to reach an altitude of 100 kilometers twice within a two-week period.

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TAINTED

From page 7A

became sick or died from eating tainted food.

"We spent double that [\$4,000] trying to save Little Girl and Sammy; however, we are happy with getting any kind of compensation," Judy Quintana said.

The settlement, she said, also holds pet-food companies accountable.

"It doesn't bring Little Girl back, but at least they had to pay for their greed," she said, alleging that the companies cut corners by using inferior ingredients while pretending the food was healthy.

The Quintanas' other cat, Sammy, now 16, is on a special food diet because of his medical problems related to the tainted food.

Lengthy lawsuit

The San Francisco law firm that represented her, Audet & Partners, said it was the lengthiest class-action suit they'd ever had, Quintana said.

"And the fight was tough," she explained, "because the pet-food companies were ordered by a judge to pay, and still they wouldn't pay. But now they have."

About 60 million cans of pet food sold under nearly 200 brands and manufactured by 12 companies were recalled, including food distributed by other makers Eukanuba, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Iams.

It's estimated that between 30,000 and

50,000 pets suffered health effects and that 4,000 animals died.

Binzhou Futian Biological Technology, Co. Ltd., the Chinese company that used the toxic gravy thickener, was shut down in 2007 by the Chinese government.

LEGEND

From page 15A

"I grew up in aviation. I flew my first plane at 16."

Like Rutan, Linehan said he believes that commercial space travel is an inevitable reality. "It absolutely is coming," he said.

Not only is Linehan confident that commercial space travel is feasible, but he offered specifics — including a ticket price of about \$200,000.

"It's one or two years away from going public," he suggested.

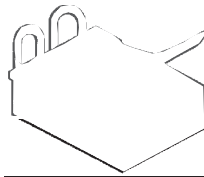
While the ticket price for a commercial trip into space will be steep, Linehan predicted it will one day be affordable.

"Look at any new technology," he noted. "Look at bicycles, color televisions and even cell phones. When they first came out, they were out of the affordability range of everybody except the wealthy."

The event starts at 3 p.m. and is free. The Works is located at 667 Lighthouse Ave. For more information, call (831) 372-2242 or visit www.theworkspg.com.

After discovering its Venison and Green Peas cat food and Venison and Brown Rice food for dogs had been tainted, Natural Balance recalled the food and discontinued

the line. In response, Natural Balance's president told The Pine Cone in 2008 that it had established a half-million-dollar lab to conduct exhaustive tests on its food.



Calendar

To advertise, call (831) 624-0162 or email vanessa@carmelpinecone.com

Aug. 5-7 - Where to get the BEST Margarita? In Our **Sunny Courtyard in the Village** along with the music of **Dino Vera** from 5-7 p.m. Mon-Thurs. (\$2 beers) at Plaza Linda, 9 Del Fino Place in CV. Friday, 8/5, **Amanda West** at 7 p.m. \$10; Sat., 8/6, **John "Broadway" Tucker & Chicago Fire** from 7-9 p.m. \$10; Sunday, 8/7, **Cuba Libre** from 2-4 p.m. and **Tamas Marius** from 5-8 p.m. Summer concert lineup: www.plazalinda.com.

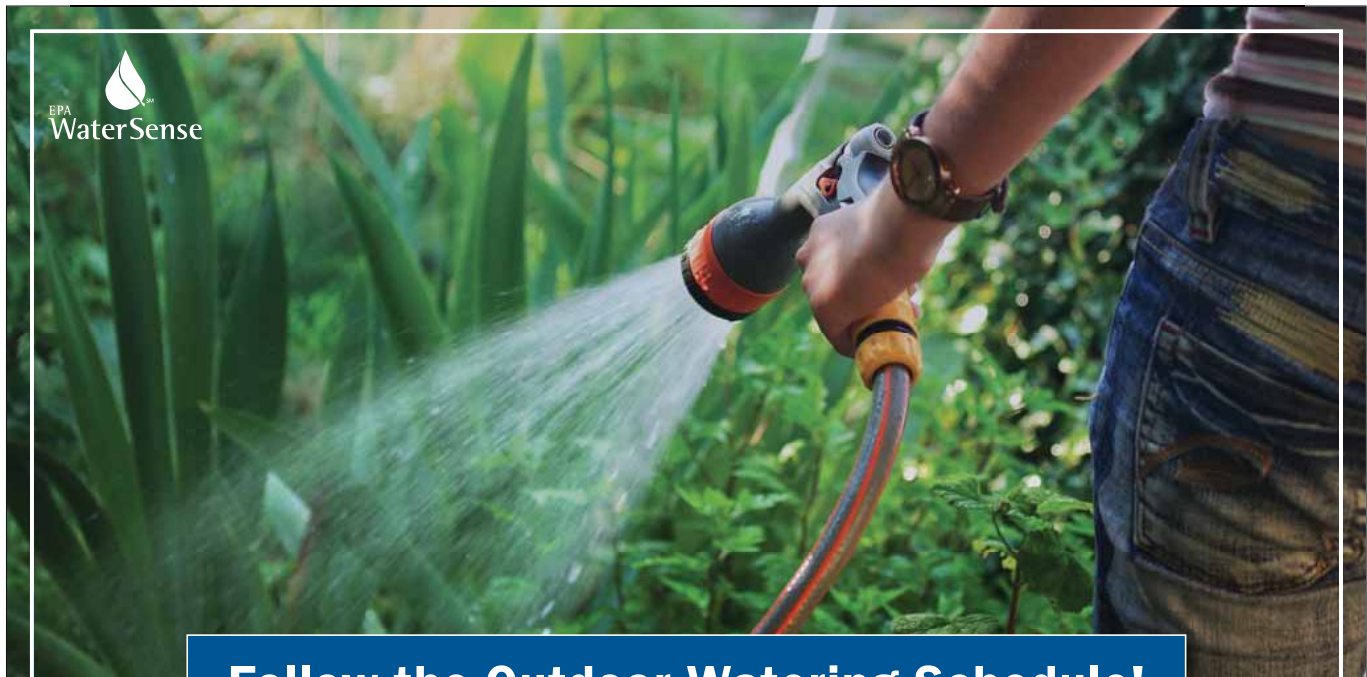
Aug. 6-7 - Catholic Daughters, Court St. Angela in Pacific Grove, invites you to a mid summer **Bazaar, Treasure Sale and BINGO**, Aug. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall, Lighthouse Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Bazaar tables include Treasure and Jewelry, Plants and Garden, Baked Goodies, 50/50 raffle, BINGO with all cash prizes, and a delicious lunch on Saturday in "Angie's Bistro." Bingo times are Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions, call the parish office at (831) 655-4160.

Aug. 5 - Carmel Plaza's premier eight-week, summer concert series will feature the music of

Dennis Murphy, tastings from Scheid Vineyards & Peter B's Brewpub, as well as indulgent delicacies from Bistro Beaujolais. Featured local Non-profit: **Monterey Peninsula Foundation.** Concerts free, food & beverage tasting package: \$15 www.carmel-plaza.com/concertsincarmel (831) 624-1385.

Aug. 11-13 Friends of Harrison Memorial Library 39th Annual Book Sale, Thursday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members Preview (Join at the door \$10), Friday and Saturday, Aug. 12 and 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Carmel Mission's Junipero Serra School Gym located on Rio Road (just East of the Mission). (831) 625-3418

Aug. 13 - Walk with Wolves! Saturday, Aug. 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 mile walk with Wolf Hybrids organized by WHAR-Wolf Rescue, Inc., a nonprofit organization. Learn about the majestic captive born hybrid wolf and the WHAR mission of advocacy. Carmel at the Mission Trail. Meet at the trail head across from the Carmel Mission on Rio Road. Walk is free, although a \$5 per person donation is encouraged. Lunch to follow; bring your sack lunch.



Follow the Outdoor Watering Schedule!

As Summer kicks into high gear, it's important to be mindful of our water use. Saving water is easy if you follow the Outdoor Watering Schedule.

Please follow the OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE

Odd-numbered and unnumbered houses on the south or west side of the street water Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Even-numbered and unnumbered houses on the north or east side of the street water Sundays and Thursdays.

Timing is Everything.

In order to get more out of each drop of water you put into your yard, make sure to water early in the morning or late at night. As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation by watering during the middle of the day. Visit www.montereywaterinfo.org for more information.

Una excelente forma de ahorrar agua es regar únicamente temprano por la mañana y tarde por la noche, dos veces por semana.

Conserving water is a shared responsibility for our company and our customers – a goal we can achieve together. We're here to help.




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