

RECREATION REPORT

TIME RENEW BOATING REGISTRATION

Roughly 75,000 boat registration renewal notices have been mailed by the Oregon State Marine Board to boaters whose boat registration expires on Dec. 31, 2018, according to a press release from OSMB. There are three ways boaters can renew their registration: at www.boatoregon.com/store, where boaters can then print a temporary permit for immediate use; mailing their payment and coupon to the Marine Board; or visiting a local registration agent. The nearest registration agents can be found in La Grande, Baker City and Enterprise. Registration costs \$4.50 per foot, rounded to the highest foot, plus a \$5 aquatic invasive species fee, according to the release.

Oregon's average boat length is 16 feet, meaning registration for a boat that size would be \$77. Visit www.boatoregon.com/store for more information.

WINTER RATE AVAILABLE ON IDAHO POWER GROUNDS

Winter rates are now in effect for Idaho Power campgrounds, which are still open according to release from the company earlier this week. Winter rates are usually about half that of the summer rates in Hells Canyon and C.J. Strike Reservoir campgrounds, according to the release. Water has been shut off at these sites, so campers are advised to bring their own.

Reduced rates are also available for service-disabled veterans and campers older than 60 years old. To reserve a site, visit idahopower.com/recreation or call 844-472-7275.

COUGAR, BEAR OPTIONS IN UNION COUNTY

Look for bears to be active in early mornings and evenings, feeding on berries and fruit. Remember to check in a harvested bear within 10 days of harvest. Focus on game rich areas with long ridgelines or saddles that Cougars typically travel. Setting up downwind of a deer or elk killed by a cougar can be productive. Nonresident hunters can include a cougar tag with others tags for only \$14.50. All cougars taken must be checked in within 10 days of harvest; call for an appointment before check in.



Samuel Pyke photo

For a moment the bucks stopped on top of a butte and looked back. When a deer stepped behind the big one there was no longer a safe shot opportunity.

Deer signals from sage grouse

By Gary Lewis

For WesCom News Service

East of the Cascades, when we want to hunt mule deer, we have to apply for the privilege. Sometimes it takes years to draw a tag. For nine years my 21-year-old daughter Mikayla had delayed mule deer gratification and hoarded preference points. Together we drew mule deer tags for the 2018 season.

Then, while planning the trip with Diamond A Guides, Mikayla informed me she would have only two days to hunt before she had to go back to work. Two days to hunt after nine years of planning? OK then.

Now, on opening morning, here at the bottom of Swamp Creek in the Silvies Unit south of Burns, Mikayla, our guide Justin Aamodt and I would try to find a buck or two.

"We're looking for a specific deer," Aamodt told Mikayla. "He is a big

buck and he is still in velvet. We have been seeing him in the same places every year for at least three years."

With only two days to hunt, we would put Mikayla first, but I learned a long time ago not to chase a specific deer for too long.

There was another deer we were looking for. The second one was an old 4x3, not quite 28 inches wide, an older buck.

For the next day and a half we crept to the tops of hills and peered into canyons. We saw forked horns and big three-points and smaller bucks pushing each other around.

We glassed the 4x3 on the second morning where it had bedded with four other bucks. We saw the buck through binoculars and made a stalk out of the morning sun.

What we didn't know was the five bucks we had spotted had another deer watching the back door. When

we low-crawled over the top, the young buck exited stage right and the other deer were on alert. The older buck gave us the slip.

Four bucks paused, silhouetted on the skyline, and the deer Mikayla would have taken had another buck behind it. Rather than risk shooting two bucks with one shot, Mikayla held off. We watched their dust trails across a hogback. Where the big one went was anyone's guess.

Out of the bitterbrush

In the afternoon we left the truck in a cleft in the ridge and went up on foot. We ghosted from one overlook to the next and then Justin spotted a buck with does and fawns. This was not the buck we had been hunting, but it was the buck the sagebrush was ready to give up. And there were only a few hours left in her hunt.

Huddled on the hilltop, Justin and

I called the shot for Mikayla. The buck was in bitterbrush and other deer moved in front of and behind it. Sometimes it was broadside and other times straight on or straight away.

"Breathe," Justin whispered. "We have all the time in the world."

The bullet went high and a plume of dirt kicked up behind the buck. Deer bounded in every direction, but our buck went about 90 yards and stopped broadside. This time Mikayla's crosshairs were properly low for the 146-yard shot. Mikayla and Justin walked down to find it while I watched from above.

The 21-year-old cleaned her prize to prepare the meat she will enjoy for the next year. Then she and her mother dragged the buck down to a spot where we could load it on a vehicle before Mikayla would drive

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Nonfiction guidebooks are gateway to authorship

By Peter Madsen

WesCom News Service

When northwest Oregon native and journalist Lee-Ann Kriegh moved to Bend in 2012, she fell in love with the trees and birds, flowers and critters. Wanting to learn more about them, she began sifting through nature guidebooks, but wasn't satisfied by what she found on local bookstore shelves.

"There wasn't a book available that took the approach I was looking for," Kriegh said. "I had all the field guides, the Audubon guides, those sorts of books. And they're wonderful and necessary, but they didn't tell me stories or help reel me in or teach me the basics — and that's what I wanted to do."

Kriegh's book, "The Nature of Bend," which was released in 2016, makes her one of about 40 Central Oregon authors who have their titles available at local bookshops and libraries. A smaller slice — around half a dozen — have written books with outdoor themes, such as guidebooks to nature or recreation.

But for many like Kriegh, having one's name on the spine of a book is a crown-

ing achievement — being a published author. And Kriegh encourages others to do the same. Publishing a book isn't an impossible, pie-in-the-sky dream. It's a workable goal that can be achieved through pragmatic steps, according to multiple authors and publishers.

Look before you plunge

You should be ready to make a serious time commitment toward the topic you'll dedicate a book to, Kriegh said. She spent an estimated 2,000 hours working on her full-color guidebook, which she dedicated to 350 species. That's about 20 hours each week for 2-1/2 years, including weeks off, she said.

"More broadly, it's a big undertaking, and you have to have a big passion for your subject," she said. "Otherwise, it's going to go into a drawer."

Kriegh, 46, initially set off on the traditional publishing route by sending a detailed proposal to a book publisher. While she waited, the full-time copywriter who owns WordDoc, a writing and editing business, began plugging away at the book. Half a year passed before the publisher declined Kriegh's proposal.

Central Oregon seemed too small a market, she recalled them saying.

"You wouldn't think that would take six months to decide," Kriegh said with a laugh. During that time she decided she wanted to keep complete control of all the book's elements — how it was going to look, the voice she would use, how it would be distributed, rather than court another publisher.

She opted for self-publishing, which means not only would she pick up the check for printing, but she would also assume the editing, marketing and distribution responsibilities usually handled by a publisher.

Kriegh coordinated with more than 40 photographers, both professional and amateur, who donated about 650 images to her book. She also conferred with local naturalists and scientific papers for the fun, engaging details she was after. Kriegh outsourced layout duties to a designer.

"It was a fun challenge," she said.

Kriegh established her own publishing company, Tempo Press, and ordered two print runs from a small Illinois press. "Establishing" Tempo

Press was just for fun, so there would be a nod to my beloved dog (Tempo) on the spine," said Kriegh, adding that she funnels all book proceeds through her writing and editing business.

Across two print runs, the wholesale cost of an individual copy ranged from \$4 to \$7. The book retails for \$20. Kriegh says she sold thousands, but wouldn't give a specific number. She's heard a lot of positive remarks about the engaging way she's presented facts and anecdotes about these species that "help people feel connected and put a smile on their faces."

Kriegh is currently working on "The Nature of Portland," a similar book she hopes will appeal to an urban audience. She'll stick with self-publishing and will again visit bookshop after bookshop, introducing herself and persuading staff to stock her book.

"The whole goal of the book was to get people more interested in nature," Kriegh said. "The more you know about a species, the more you care about them and work to take care of them. ... I've heard people say they take the book out with their kids, for

instance, and that just means the world to me."

An untapped niche

At Dudley's Bookshop Cafe, "The Nature of Bend" is propped face-out in the "Local Interest" section, which includes guidebooks, Central Oregon histories and other genres tackled by local authors. More than 40 titles cram the section.

Owner Tom Beans said Central Oregon's community of published authors, particularly those who deal in nonfiction with an outdoorsy bent, is "fairly robust."

"I get approached on average at least once a week by a local author wanting us to carry their book," Beans said, adding that they usually take the book on consignment. "We're happy to do it."

Along with "Nature of Bend," other locally themed guidebooks, such as Jason Chinchin's "Central Oregon Boulderling" and Kim Cooper Findling's "Bend, Oregon Discoveries," are steady sellers. Dudley's sells three to five of most guidebooks each week — and more during summer. "It speaks to Bend itself and what people are

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