



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Book

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Alberg's day job is as the senior brand communications manager for Hydro Flask, and his wife Rae Alberg is the founder and teacher at Bend Forest School, a nature immersion and early education program. They have two children: a son Loren, 5, and daughter Birdie, 4.

"I personally love just the rhyme and the lilt of Margaret Wise Brown's original text," Lucas Alberg said of "Goodnight Moon." "And being an outdoorsman and just loving the outdoors, and working in the outdoor industry, too ... we're just an outdoor family. So I kind of wanted to pay tribute I guess to that original book, but through the vein of the outdoors. That was the goal. There's no pretending it's not inspired by that book. It's very analogous in cadence and such to that book, and that was intentional just because I think that book is so wonderful. But I did want to put an outdoor spin on it."

Alberg — who was born and raised in Kansas and has lived in Bend for the past 11 years and the Pacific Northwest for more than 20 years — said he and his family have camped frequently over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic, often camping locally at dispersed areas throughout the Deschutes National Forest, including forest roads near the Metolius River.

"My kids love camping," Alberg said. "This past year with COVID, we camped more and more. That was one silver lining. We camped more locally, just dispersed camping back on forest roads and such."

Marie Myers said the book is ideal to bring on camping trips.

"That would be really fun to be reading this story to your kids in your tent or camper as you're going to sleep," she said.

Aside from providing some nighttime reading on camping trips or just at home, Alberg wanted to pay tribute to "Goodnight Moon," one of the first books he and Rae read to their children.

"There's a ton of 'Goodnight' spinoff books, but one thing I realized was that none of them really did pay tribute or were an homage as far as the text," Alberg said. "For me, that was one thing I really wanted to do. It's inspired by that classic book, but it also pays tribute to it."

When Alberg received his advance copy of "Goodnight Great Outdoors," Loren, who is in kindergarten and just getting started in reading, read his father's name on the cover.

"That was a pretty cool moment," Alberg said.

After writing the book and li erg approached Marie Myers for the illustrations. Born and raised in Medford, Myers, 37,

has lived in Bend for six years and paints original artwork and designs her own line of greeting cards, fine art prints and calendars. An avid trail runner like Alberg, she owned his trail running book and had worked with him previously on a project for Hydro Flask.

"I read his manuscript," said Marie Myers. "I just really loved the cadence and the word choice. I thought it was really pretty."

And she was extra motivated by the outdoors angle, as her favorite projects are inspired by a connection to nature.

"That was the most exciting part," Marie Myers said. "It was a project completely aligned with my personal work and what I enjoy most. It felt natural. It was a really easy project to say yes to."

Alberg's process for writing "Goodnight Great Outdoors" was in stark contrast to his process for writing "Trail Running Bend and Central Oregon." Obviously, they are much different books, but the

trail running book took years — researching, running and writing. The children's book? Alberg said he wrote it in just a few hours.

"I whipped it out in an evening in all honesty, and there was very little refinement or editing," Alberg said. "And then I pitched it and they were like, 'Yeah, this is great.' It's funny how that works. You work and work and work on something and don't get any bites. Then something else you don't work on as much, people love it."

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TOP PICKS
WHERE TO EXPLORE

High Desert destinations



Makenzie Whittle/Bulletin file photo

The Christmas Valley Sand Dunes as a rainstorm approaches.

Christmas Valley Sand Dunes — The sand dunes about 20 miles east of the town for which they're named are an off-highway-vehicle rider's playground. The constantly shifting dune system here is home to 11,000 acres of bare dunes open to OHVs. The area is rugged and doesn't have trash collection so pack out what you pack in. The dirt and gravel access roads can be impassable when it's muddy, so always travel with caution and stay in designated areas as surrounding lands are a mix of private property and areas strictly closed to any motor vehicles.

Flatiron Rock Trail — Winter is a wonderful time to explore the Oregon Badlands Wilderness Area just east of Bend. The sandy terrain hardens up this time of year making a day hike out there a breeze. Flatiron Rock offers one of the best views in the Badlands of the Cascades to the west while being completely immersed in High Desert landscapes. Take the Flatiron Rock trailhead for about 2.75 miles to reach the triangular-shaped rock, from there, you can take the half-mile trek east to the Castle, another interesting lava rock formation.

Tam-a-lau Trail — The steep hike up the trail at Lake Billy Chinook is only about 1.5 miles before it levels out on the high plateau above the lake west of Culver. Any amount of extra energy you spend getting to the top is worth it for the views that await. It's another good trail to take during cooler months as there is little shade. The full there-and-back-again mileage comes in at 6.5 miles, but there are several spots along the ridgeline to turn back and cut the journey short. Right now, hikers will need to park in the Upper Deschutes Day Use Area and walk back across Jordan Park towards the campground for the trailhead.

— Makenzie Whittle, The Bulletin

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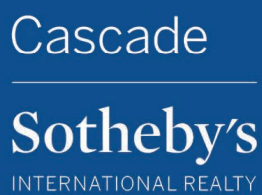
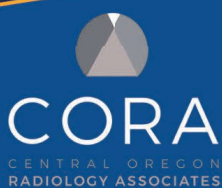


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