

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Oregon Zoo visitors can use GPS-enabled devices to locate four geocache containers hidden in public spaces around zoo grounds.

Treasure Hunting Game Catches On

Zoo joins fun with GPS gamers

If you notice Oregon Zoo visitors looking down at their GPS devices instead of up at the animals, don't be surprised. Since the zoo joined millions of people worldwide in the game of geocaching this spring, some visitors have been almost as interested in finding the zoo's caches as its cats.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure-hunting game that originated

in Oregon. In it, players search for hidden containers called caches using GPS-enabled devices, and then share their experiences online.

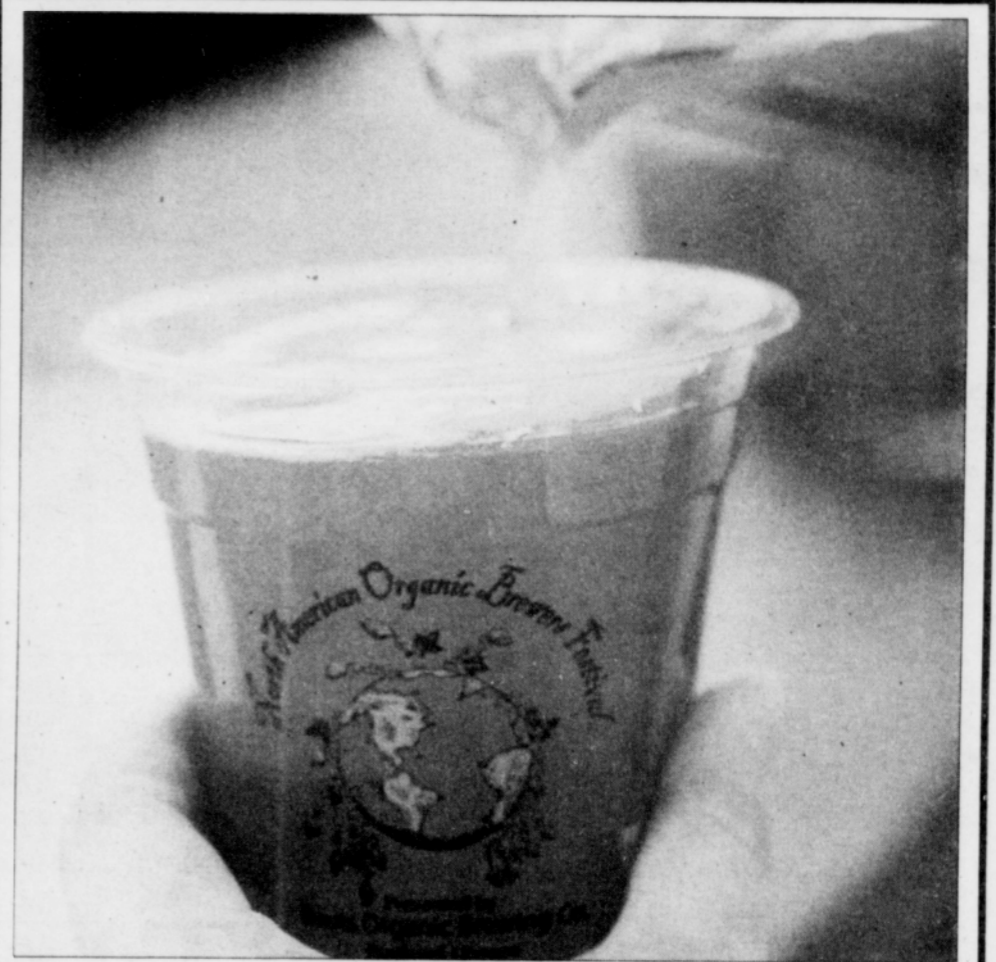
In March, the Oregon Zoo placed four caches on its grounds, posting the GPS coordinates online at geocaching.com.

"The zoo's caches are designed to be fun and family-friendly," said Lorrie Strawn, Oregon Zoo admissions supervisor and a geocaching enthusiast. "They are hidden in public spaces to make it safe and exciting for children to participate. But it's also fun for adults, and a

great place for beginners to gain experience."

Each zoo cache is a small locked box with a logbook inside. Its GPS location and lock combination are posted on geocaching.com for players to find and use to open the cache. Decorations on each cache reflect the environment in which it is placed: a picture of silverware on the cache near the animal commissary, for example, and a painting of a train on the cache by the zoo railway.

For more information about geocaching, visit geocaching.com.



Organic beers and ciders from 39 different breweries will draw folks to Overlook Park in north Portland, Friday, June 29 through Sunday, July 1, for the North American Organic Brewers Festival.

Organic Brew Fest at Overlook Park

The 8th annual North American Organic Brewers Festival will take place this weekend at Overlook Park in north Portland.

Designed to raise awareness about organic beer and sustainable living, the festival serves up more than 60 organic beers and ciders from 39 different breweries. Styles run the gamut from Belgian Whites to Cascadian Darks, offering something for every palate.

There's also live local music,

organic food, sustainability-oriented vendors and non-profits, a soda garden with complimentary Crater Lake Root Beer for minors and designated drivers, and a children's area with face painting and activities.

The festival is a family friendly event, and minors are welcome with parents. Admission is free.

Hours are Noon to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and Noon to 5 pm on Sunday.

Farmers Market Events

Kenton -- Portland Farmers Market is breaking ground on a new farmer's market location in the Kenton Neighborhood of north Portland, where residents can buy produce and goods and hear local music on Friday nights, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

King -- Healthy farm-fresh produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods and other special foods, draws shoppers to the King Portland Farmers Market at King School Park, each Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 28.

Portland -- Portland Saturday Market in Old Town/Chinatown, the largest arts and crafts market in continuous operation in the United States, has over 350 vendors and is open every Saturday and Sunday through Christmas Eve at 2 S.W. Naito Parkway.



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