

Geocaching 101: On the hunt for fun

A container holds Lauren Wenger's 'stash' of cache – from her family's geocaching adventures.



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter



Contributed photo/Tanni Wenger

Friends Lauren Wenger of Canyon City and Morgan Wyllie of John Day find a geocache near Canyon Mountain Trail in the Canyon City area.

Exploring activity takes Wengers off beaten path

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY – Tanni Wenger, her husband and their two daughters recently started the trending family-friendly activity of geocaching.

It's said to be the world's largest treasure hunt with over 2 million geocaches worldwide.

Tanni had read about geocaching and, after her some encouragement from her friend Kimberly Walker, she and her family gave it a try last March.

Since then, the Wengers have found 75 caches, using a smartphone app – GPS units can also be used.

A visit to www.geocaching.com is the way to get started.

It's free to sign up, and the instructions and coordinates for nearby geocaches at the website.

Coordinates are added to the phone or GPS, and the hunting begins.

Geocache containers come in all shapes and sizes, and they usually include a log book for the hunter to sign and a trinket to take, with the expectation that an item of equal or greater value will be left behind.

Nine-year-old Lauren Wenger showed a plastic container holding all their finds so far, including small sunglasses, a dollar bill, key chains, Hot Wheels cars – they even found a 14-kt gold ring.

Tanni said they like to leave behind Grant Union Junior-Senior High School bottle-cap buttons they've made, or other small items.

Lauren said geocaching is a lot of fun.

"I like finding them, looking at the new trinkets and exploring new places," she said.

She added, one of the hardest to find was near the Whitney cemetery, placed by a stump.

Using the phone app, a signal goes off when they are within 30 feet of a cache.

Tanni said they often stop to geocache while traveling out of town.

One of her favorite finds was near a local "shoe tree" (where discarded shoes hang from branches), and another was at Phillips Reservoir which led them down a path to a scenic view.

Geocaching at night was something they tried recently – it was set up by Canyon City resident Tammy Bremner.

They used the flashlight on their phone, which gave directions on where to shine the light – it led them to reflectors in trees, and the nearby cache.

Tanni said one cache caught her husband by surprise. The container was a small velvet-covered rabbit bank, and, at first, he thought it was a real rabbit.

"It's a nice family activity, and it shows you off-the-grid locations where you may not go to otherwise," she said.

Already, Tanni is teaching others the joy of geocaching.

She and some Grant Union summer school teachers led a group of students to find six geocaches around John Day.

"I saw them out later that evening, geocaching on their own," Tanni said.

Grant County Kruzers present
20th Annual
CLASSIC CAR SHOW 'N SHINE
Sat. August 1st, 2015, 9am - 3pm
Prairie City Park

Schedule - Registrations - Photos
www.ortelco.net/~kruzers

Lookin's Free!

1188
Brewing Company

Beer
Wine
Appetizers
Soup
Salad
Sandwiches
Entrees

141 E Main St., John Day • 541-575-1188

DAYVILLE CAFE
It's on the way!

- Homemade Desserts
- Hand Baked Fish & Prawns
- Fresh Painted Hills Beef
- Hard Ice Cream Milkshakes

DAYVILLE, OREGON
212 W Franklin Avenue • 541-987-2122
Wed. - Sat. 7am-7pm • Sun. 8am-4pm

Thomas Orchards
Kimberly, Oregon
541-934-2870

WE PICK YOU PICK

- Cherries
- Peaches
- Apricots
- Nectarines
- Apples
- Pears

What's Kasasa?

It's like a **FREE ATM** on every corner.

Free Kasasa checking refunds your ATM fees, nationwide.* So even if you use one of the big banks' ATMs, we'll pay you back. No more searching for a "free" ATM.

OLD WEST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
www.oldwestfcu.org

Ask for **free Kasasa** checking

*To qualify do the following activities: 1) have at least 12 debit card purchased post and settle, 2) have a direct deposit, ACH credit or ACH debit, and 3) be enrolled in e-statements. Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. The following activities do not count toward earning account rewards: ATM-processed transactions, transfers between accounts, debit card purchases processed by merchants and received by Old West FCU as ATM transactions and purchases made with non-Old West FCU issued debit cards. "Monthly Qualification Cycle" means a period beginning on the last business day of the previous month through one (1) day prior to the last business day of the current month. When account qualifications are met you will receive reimbursements for nationwide ATM fees incurred during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in which you qualified. When account qualifications are not met, ATM fees are not reimbursed. ATM fee reimbursements will be credited to your Kasasa account on the last day of the statement cycle. Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements may apply. No minimum deposit is required to open the account. Limit one account per primary account holder social security number. There are no recurring monthly service charges or fees to open or close this account. Contact an Old West FCU service representative for additional information, details, restrictions, processing limitations and enrollment instructions. Federally insured by NCUA.

Kasasa is a trademark of BancVue, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A. Federally Insured by **NCUA**

650 W. Main St. John Day, Oregon (541) 575-0264	162 W. Front St. Prairie City, Oregon (541) 820-4601	2036 Broadway Baker City, Oregon (541) 523-5535	301 S. Main St. Pendleton, Oregon (541) 278-6800	1739 N. First St. Hermiston, Oregon (541) 564-0264	709 Ponderosa Village Burns, Oregon 541-573-3143.
---	--	---	--	--	---

Grant County
REGIONAL AIRPORT

JOHN DAY AIRBASE
MALHEUR National Forest

ANNUAL FLY-IN & BREAKFAST
Saturday, Sept. 12th
7:00 - 11am
FREE RIDES
1st grade-12th grade

BREAKFAST BY CLIFF HOUSE CATERING
Pancakes, eggs, ham, fruit juice, coffee, tea & more!
ADULTS..... \$7
CHILDREN..... \$5

- USFS Aerial Rappelling Demo
- "Sixchuter" Powered Parachute Flyover
- Aviation Firefighting Demos
- Aircraft on Display - As available
- Candy Drop & more!

72000 Airport Rd., John Day • 541-575-1151
manager@gcra.org

Tires LES SCHWAB
551 W. Main, John Day • 541.575.1346

Wherever you travel in **GRANT COUNTY,** Les Schwab is there!

Tires • Wheels • Brakes • Batteries • Alignment • Suspension • Sudden Service