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Brewers 67%
 Cubs 33%
(As of noon Monday)

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KNOW HIM?

He owns an insurance agency and enjoys peace and quiet



SWEET SPOT

Bakery offers variety of cakes, pastries

PAGE 4

'QUOTABLE'

American taxpayers are not happy. But this way, you're ... (creating) an environment where the loans become politically palatable.

— Jeremy Anwyl of edmunds.com, on the ousting of GM CEO Rick Wagoner

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JOINING THE DASH FOR THE CACHE



LYNN VOLLBRECHT/STAFF
 Beloit residents Debbie and Terry McCann discover a geocache Sunday in Beloit. The couple is among a growing number of local residents who use global positioning system units to hide and find caches.

Local residents use GPS units for more than driving directions

BY LYNN VOLLBRECHT
 STAFF WRITER

COVER STORY

JANESVILLE — Debbie McCann has a favorite quote to describe one of her hobbies.

"Geocaching: using multi-billion-dollar satellites to find Rubbermaid hidden in the woods," the Beloit woman said.

As the weather warms, outdoorsy types — armed with global positioning system units — are lacing up their hiking boots and getting ready

to hit the trails.
 "A lot of people (still say), 'Geocache? What's that?'" said Therese Oldenburg of Visit Beloit. However, as GPS units have become cheaper and more readily available, "I think more people have gotten into it," Oldenburg said. "More people have GPS units, and

See Geocache, page 2



FILE
 Geocachers rely on handheld global positioning system units to hide and find caches.

Learn the lingo

All you needed to begin geocaching is Internet access and a GPS unit.

■ **Cache:** A small, waterproof container, hidden by geocachers, with a logbook and small trinkets or toys inside.

■ **Geocaching:** The act of seeking out caches hidden by others.

■ **GPS unit:** An electronic tracking unit that uses a network of global positioning satellites to determine the precise location of a cache.

■ **Multi-stage cache:** The first cache has clues or coordinates for a second cache, and so on.

■ **Muggle:** A non-geocaching civilian; it's important for serious geocachers to not let on what they're doing.

■ **Nano or micro cache:** A very, very small cache.

■ **Puzzle cache:** Actual coordinates are not provided; geocachers must solve word and math problems to determine the coordinates.

■ **Virtual cache:** Not an actual item, but a place; geocachers take a picture of the place and upload it online.

To find caches, visit www.geocaching.com; type in a ZIP code to obtain coordinates of local caches.

You're invited! Thursday, April 16

10 am-3 pm

Mercy Health Mall Open House

- Tour the mall to see what we offer
- Sign up for free drawings
- Listen to a variety of speakers
- Attend Mercy's Strong People fitness demo
- Attend Mercy Vision Center Trunk Show
- Save 20% on walkers and scooters
- Enjoy lunch, refreshments and giveaways

5-7 pm

Forward Janesville Business After 5*

- Enjoy chair massages, refreshments and appetizers
- Play Mercy Health Mall Trivia to win prizes
- Register for door prize drawings
- Connect with local business leaders
- Learn about our many services



* \$5 admission for Forward Janesville members; \$15 for nonmembers. No need to register.

For more information, call Mercy HealthLine at (608) 756-6100 or toll-free (888) 39-MERCY.

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IN BRIEF

ROCK COUNTY

■ Voters will continue to choose coroner:
The Rock County coroner will continue to be an elected position. The Rock County Board of Supervisors voted 16-12 Thursday to overturn a 2005 decision to switch to an appointed medical examiner in 2011. The change four years ago came on the heels of the conviction of former coroner Karen Gilbertson, who pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office after being charged with stealing prescription drugs from crime scenes. She died while serving her sentence. Gov. Jim Doyle appointed current Coroner Jenifer Keach in 2005; she was elected to a four-year term in 2006. The office will appear on the November 2010 ballot.

NEWSMAKERS

Megan Muhs, Jack Spoden
Muhs, a Craig High School junior, and Spoden, an eighth-grader at St. John Vianney Grade School, each spent a day last week job-shadowing Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan, D-Janesville, and studying the legis-



lative process. "I had a chance to watch the Assembly in session, and it was really interesting," Muhs said. Spoden agreed. "I was glad to have a chance to see government in action, and learn how it works," he said. At Craig, Muhs is involved in cross country, track, student council, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Link Crew and Visual Arts Classic. She also is a lifeguard and swim instructor at the Janesville YMCA. Spoden plays basketball for St. John Vianney, participates in the Janesville Youth Football program and volunteers for political campaigns. He will attend Craig High School next year. "I am proud that Janesville continues to produce fine young people who are willing to take an active role in their community and state," Sheridan said. The legislator said he is open to requests from students interested in a job-shadowing experience. For more information, call Sheridan's Madison office at (608) 266-7503.

The Messenger is ... People you know

Name: John B. Wickhem.
Age: 60.
Hometown/residence: Janesville.
Occupation/civic memberships: Insurance agency owner, and member of Janesville Noon Rotary Club, United Way of North Rock County, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Ducks Unlimited, Vest-A-Dog of Wisconsin and the St. Elizabeth Nursing Home Fundraising Committee.

Family: Wife of 33-plus years, Donna, one daughter and two sons.
Favorite food: Subway sandwiches, salmon and sour kraut.
Favorite music: Easy-listening music.
Favorite movies: "The Greatest Game Ever Played."
Favorite books: Those written by Clive Cussler or John Grisham.
Favorite vacation place: Lake of the Woods in Ontario, Canada.

In my spare time I: Golf, fish, hunt, walk, ride my bike and enjoy nature in all its glory.
I think the most important issue in the Janesville area is: Keeping people interested and involved in the needs of our community members, by making our community a better place to raise and educate our children.
If I could change one thing: People trashing our environment.
Peak experience: The birth of our children.
Pit experience: The death of my father.
If I could sit down to supper with anyone, living, dead or fictional? George Washington.
Most people don't know I: Like peace and quiet.
I can't stand: A rude person.
I wish I knew how to: Build a



JOHN WICKHEM

house.
Motto, inspiration or favorite quote: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

■ GEOCACHE

Continued from page 1

once you have the GPS unit, (geocaching) is free."
Part orienteering, part treasure hunt, geocaching really got its start in May 2000, when a Beaver Creek, Ore., man decided to test the federal government's network of global positioning satellites. He hid a "stash" in the woods and, using the Internet, gave other GPS users the coordinates and challenged them to find it.

Using a GPS unit and the Internet, a person hides a cache, then logs its coordinates and any necessary clues online. Aficionados say the activity appeals to all age groups.

"The kids just love it. It's such a family hobby," said McCann, a Beloit schoolteacher. "It's a perfect hobby for children."

McCann has started a number of Beloit-themed travel bugs, including a toy ambulance that has traveled, via caches and geocachers, to Germany and back.

"There's a very active (geocaching) community in Beloit/Janesville," she said.

Jim Lyke of Milton said geocaching is ideal for his wife and two children.

"We read about it, and it just sounded like something that was cool, fun to do," Lyke said. "We like to hike anyway, and it gave us an excuse to get out. It was always all four of us."

Though the frequency of the family's adventures has declined as the Lyke children reached high school age, they still receive updates on two caches they stashed locally — one on the Ice Age Trail between



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Above, a cache containing a Beloit Mill Race travel bug, at right, sits in a cache on a mountain in Oregon. The Mill Race is a challenge to see which of two geocaching travel bugs, placed at opposite ends of the country, first makes its way back to Beloit's Beckman Mill.

Milton and Janesville, and one on the historic Milton College campus. "Every time somebody finds our cache, we get an e-mail," Lyke said. "So many of them have said, 'Wow, we didn't know (Milton College) existed. We didn't know anything about it.'"

Educating travelers about her area is why Christine Martens of the Central Wisconsin Conservation and Tourism Bureau in Wausau decided to include geocaching in a program to promote U.S. Highway 51.

"It just seemed like a natural match with getting people into the communities off of Highway 51," Martens said. "It's a game, it's a



treasure hunt, it's a great way to keep the kids interested."

Martens, who began geocaching five or six years ago, has seen an increase in geocaching.

"There are a lot of them out there, now," she said. "It seems like everybody's got a cache out there."

Beloit is no exception. "Easily, within a five-mile radius of our city center, there are 50 of them," Oldenburg said. "People really do like the thrill of the hunt."

In December, Oldenburg added to the thrill by starting the Mill Race. She sent "travel bugs" — essentially a little, metal dog tag printed with a beetle — to mills on opposite sides of the country. One

travel bug was sent to a cache at Butte Creek Mill in Eagle Point, Ore.; the other was sent to South Carolina.

The goal is to see which one first makes its way back home to the Beckman Mill, a restored, operating gristmill outside Beloit. Geocachers have moved the Oregon travel bug about a half-dozen times, taking it from cache to cache toward Wisconsin.

"That one's moving along," Oldenburg said. "The South Carolina one hasn't been picked up yet. You can track (its progress) online."

Like Martens, Oldenburg believes geocaching is a great way to highlight a city's hidden gems.

"There's cool, little places tucked away in Beloit," Oldenburg said, adding that those places are perfect spots to hid caches. "There's a really amazing Indian mound down by the creek, and nobody knows about it."

McCann said geocaching has taken her to places — both in Beloit and beyond — she would not have seen if not for the GPS-based game.

"We geocached in Cozumel, Mexico, and it took us to places we never would have found, beautiful overlooks off the tourist track," she said. "It just takes us to places we never would find, otherwise."

The activity also allows each individual to personalize his experiences.

"I think a lot of people who like geocaching are nerds, and use this as an excuse to get outside," Lyke said, laughing.

Martens believes geocaching satisfies "the innate human need to solve a puzzle."

"Everyone wants to be Indiana Jones, right?" she said.

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