

Yard sales turn unwanted items into bargains

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

Nowhere is the phrase “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” more true than at a yard sale.

Each Saturday when the weather is good, bargain hunters comb through tables of items in yards and garages that the owners no longer want, looking for that perfect find at a fraction of its usual price.

Karen Bower found one of those recently.

“I found an antique oak rocking chair that was beautiful, just last week,” she said. “It was \$35 but it should have been a lot more.”

On Saturday she was back at it again, combing through items at a \$2-a-bag sale in Hermiston.

“I just love to go to garage sales. I find great stuff I need,” she said, holding up a plastic grocery bag that included a lightly used Carhart jacket, desk lamp, wall hangings and a few small electronics. “This is a \$2 bag. Imagine!”

She goes yard sale-ing whenever she can, and said multi-family sales usually have the best finds.

The one she was at Satur-



Yard sale signs are posted at the corner of Seventh Street and Highland Avenue.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

day morning was put on by three families and included a wide variety of clothing, furniture and household items.

Tammy Wagner, who was handing out grocery bags to customers, said her family had been saving up items for a couple of years.

“We did the \$2 a bag so we could get rid of stuff,” she said.

Several young families were there at about 10:30 a.m. picking through tables

of children’s clothing, and Wagner said there had been a steady flow of people all morning. She wasn’t sure if people would be out looking for sales the weekend before school started, she said, but since it was such nice weather and the smoke had finally cleared it seemed like a good opportunity.

Some sales draw in casual passerby with signs, while others that are held farther out of town might require

some advertising on Facebook or in the classifieds to let the serious bargain hunters know that the sale is worth tracking down when they go out that weekend.

Off Edwards Road, an expansive multi-family sale featured clothing, tools, housewares, books and other items laid out over the yard and inside the barn.

Organizer Jan Hern-dan said she tries to have one with a few other fami-

lies once every other year. The sale was set to run Saturday and Sunday but she said a few people actually showed up Friday to ask if there was any way they could buy things early (they were asked to come back the next day). She said Saturday morning had been steady, and the camping equipment in particular had been going quickly.

She said usually knows it’s time to put on a yard sale when she is running out of room for new possessions and she has articles of clothing she isn’t wearing anymore because her style has changed. Her husband passed away since her last yard sale, she said, so she was also parting with quite a few of his things.

“It was just time,” she said.

On Division Avenue, a smaller sale of clothing, jewelry and a few larger items such as a guitar were on display. Lola Lopez said she had priced things according to what she would be willing to pay, and most of what she didn’t sell would likely be donated to Goodwill while the bigger-ticket items she would try and sell online. She had a DeWalt drill sitting near the front of the

yard and said throwing in a power tool or some fishing equipment can help wives convince their husbands to stop and take a look at a sale.

She is also a frequent shopper at yard sales herself, and said her favorite thing she ever bought at a yard sale was a small microwave that looked like it belonged in the 1970s.

“It was just the cutest ever microwave,” she said. “It was \$5.”

Jackie Alleman showed up at Lopez’s sale with a couple of kids from her neighborhood and a college student from her church. She said they carpooled from Heppner to hit up as many sales in Hermiston as they could, looking for back-to-school clothes and other deals.

It can be tricky to know what time to go out — some of the best finds get snatched up early in the day, but Alleman said the later in the day you go the more people are usually willing to come down on their prices.

“There’s a whole etiquette to yard sales,” she said.

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Mirasol health fair spreads wellness information

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Wellness checks, immunizations and free tacos were all offered up at the Mirasol Family Health Clinic’s wellness fair Saturday.

The Hermiston medical clinic offered the health fair to connect families with health services and information, and there were several families browsing through the booths on Saturday afternoon.

Tera Kulhanek was manning a booth for Lifeways, handing out information about mental health services in the area. She said she hoped to connect people with resources to help them have a more positive outlook on life.

“We’re here to support people,” she said.

The Umatilla Morrow County Head Start booth had car seats, so that staff could teach parents about the proper car seat for their child and the safest way to buckle them in. Head Start provides free car seat checks for parents at their offices as well, and discounted car seats are available for people who qualify for Women, Infants and Children or the Oregon Health Plan.

“We just want kids to be safe,” Tabitha Woods said.

They were also working on spreading the word about WIC and who is eligible for the service. The most popular part of the booth, however, seemed to be the opportunity for parents to measure their child’s height.

Next door, Cathy Wamsley was promoting the InterMountain Education



Camila Cazana, 6, practices brushing a stuffed dragon’s teeth at the Mirasol Family Health Clinic’s health fair Saturday.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Service District’s free oral health program. Working with Advantage Dental and a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, the IMESD is offering free dental checks to kids in all school districts in Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

She asked parents to give permission when schools sent home forms asking if their child could have a free dental exam at school, and handed out “tooth timers” to help kids know how long they should brush their teeth.

“I want the kids to know that it’s important to brush their teeth at least twice a day,” she said.

The health fair was held in the Mirasol parking lot on Saturday and offered other informational booths about wellness, as well as services such as \$10 sports physicals.

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All wildfires in Umatilla National Forest contained

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All wildfires reported in the Umatilla National Forest after last week’s thunder storms have been contained.

A news release from the U.S. Forest Service noted that the cooler and more humid weather expected this week should assist in mop-up efforts.

The Harrison Fire is still at 30 acres, according to the release, and is 100 percent contained. A 20-person hand crew is helping mop up the fire in the wilderness 16 miles west of Sumpter.

The Gilman Fire, located near Gilman Flats in the Heppner Ranger District, is also 100 percent contained. The fire is 954 acres. Grant County has

lifted Level 1 “get ready” evacuation notices for Monument, Ritter, Dale, Middle and North Fork communities.

Lightning sparked several fires in the Umatilla National Forest the weekend of Aug. 19, including the Gilman Fire, the Cupper Canyon Fire north-east of Monument, and the Low Ridge Fire southeast of Walla Walla.

While fires are currently contained, the fire danger rating remains at “High,” and public use restrictions of campfires and chainsaws are still in effect.

More information about the restrictions can be found at www.dnr.wa.gov, www.facebook.com/UmatillaNF or by calling the toll-free information hotline at 877-958-9663.

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would like to thank local businesses and individuals which helped make our annual golf tournament a success.

The tournament was able to raise over \$6,000 to support our local athletes!

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OTHER SPONSORS

Water Station Sponsors: Jill’s Silly Golfers and Family. The Beer and Snacks basket was created by Rita McDougal. The Mulligan basket was provided by American Printing, which also included a gift certificate from Eastern Oregon Mobile Slaughter.

TEAM PRIZES & DOOR PRIZES

Club 24 Express Fitness; Desert Lanes; Ste. Michelle Wine Estates; Hagerman Trucking; Midway Tavern; Ye Olde Pizza Shoppe; Pizza Hut; Neighbor Dudes; Hales Restaurant; Northwest Farm Supply; Randy’s Pro Shop; Norco; Blue Mountain Cabinet Suppliers of Hermiston/Jeff Edmundson; Les Schwab; Smitty’s Ace Hardware and Deanna Plum/Tastefully Simple.

LUNCHEON

Lunch sponsored by Tom Huxoll, owner of Cascade Automotive, and was served by The Knights of Columbus, and Special Olympics coach, Doris Boatright. Hermiston Safeway and 7-Eleven also contributed to the luncheon.