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## Finding treasures at flea market

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Northwest Guardian

Published: 01:52PM September 15th, 2016

It was all about selling and buying, as clothing, furniture and just about anything else under the sun went to new homes Saturday at Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's sixth annual Fall Flea Market on Lewis Main. Family and MWR has two such events each year: one in the spring and one in the fall.

More information

"The best part of the Flea Market is that Goodwill comes to take all your leftover stuff away, so you don't have to haul anything home at the end."  
Allyn Benson

At the recent event, more than 50 vendors offered thousands of items from boots, bicycles and baby clothes to guitars, handbags, Disney items and DVDs.

One popular big ticket item was Alyssa Matthews' big, comfy-looking, yellow leather chair, which her sister, Allyn Benson said was a steal at \$30. Although several people remarked how nice the chair would be for watching Seahawks games on TV, the chair hadn't found a new home by 11 a.m., with only one hour left in the event.

"That's OK," Benson said, "The best part of the Flea Market is that Goodwill comes to take all your leftover stuff away, so you don't have to haul anything home at the end."

Sure enough, a Goodwill truck was parked in the parking lot near the Fest Tent, for just that purpose. Although Benson might not have taken home the chair and other items from her tables, she still had a truck load of items she bought at the event to cart home.

"I bought this great credenza. It will go in my living room to store other stuff," she said, as she pointed to a large wooden piece of furniture behind her tables. "And, I got these really cute stars," she said, pointing to a big box of metal home decor items, which she said she plans to hang from her daughters' bedroom ceiling and string with white Christmas lights for effect.

This was the first year Benson and her family had a booth at the event.

"We've been shoppers for several years though," she said.

Cheyenne Chandler of Yelm and her friend, Amanda Wooley, both military spouses, had tables next to each other. When they didn't have anyone buying items for short periods during the day, the two spent their time talking.

"I've got a lot of housewares and baby stuff I'm just trying to get rid of, so as long as I make enough money to pay for the booth, which is \$12, I will be happy," Chandler said, adding she'd already made \$9.10 during the first hour of the event.

"This is a good deal," Bonney Lake resident Colt Ward said, as he picked up a bound-together bundle of nearly new baby bibs off Chandler's table, with a purchase price of 50 cents.

Ward and his wife have a 2-year-old son and a newborn baby boy, so the bibs will be useful, he said. He also was proud of his find of a lawn edger, which he bought from Wooley's booth.

Wooley, who had sold \$20 in the first hour — from the sale of the lawn edger — said she was primarily trying to get rid of stuff before the birth of her own baby, who is due Nov. 22.

Her plethora of items included a new, aqua-colored bridesmaid's dress, which she'd purchased before becoming pregnant.

"I was supposed to wear it in a wedding in May, but I was too big by then so I had to buy another dress," she said.

At the next booth over, retired Air Force veteran Shirley Chatters of Lakewood had a few tables filled with items for sale. Her highest ticket items were three porcelain statues she'd purchased while serving in Germany in the 1970s. She said she hoped to get \$150 for the statues, for which she'd paid more than twice that price.

Her 6-year-old grandson, Malachai, was helping hawk items at the event.

"I've sold two of my books already," he said.

The location of the Marlatt family booth, next to an entrance door, may have been one reason items were flying off the tables.

Captain Josh Marlatt, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, and his wife, Capt. Crystal Marlatt, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, said they've collected too many things in their two years of marriage and about five years of military service. During that time, they've served in several locations, including Afghanistan, Italy, Korea and stateside.

"We have so much stuff; we just want to get rid of some of it," Josh said.

Sergeant Major Richard Meadows, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, I Corps, shopped from several vendors' tables with his 7-year-old daughter, Olivia, as his wife Wendy manned the family's three sale tables.

Olivia purchased a small plastic bunny rabbit with a clip she planned to attach to her backpack. She also had her eye on a few other items, including a toy poodle family she hoped to buy, if her mom sold enough of her old toys.

"I need \$2 more," Olivia said.

Sergeant First Class Gabriel Ortizgarcia, 308th Brigade Support Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, and his 9-year-old daughter, Gabriella, said they had no plans to purchase any items at the event.

The duo were selling glassware, DVDs, books, toys and more at rock-bottom prices — most at four for a dollar or less.

"Everything's got to go," Ortizgarcia said. "We've had three or four yard sales at home and still have this much stuff to get rid of. If (items have) been boxed up in the garage too long, you don't need them."

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