

Weather

79°F

Partly
Sunny
Forecast »

Sponsored by: High Point Inn

Calendar

- ▶ Find Events
- ▶ Dining Guide
- ▶ Movie Times

CarsFind a used car
to buy
Find a used
Car:

Car:

Select a Model:

Zip Code: **Go**

Vehicle Research:

- [Find a New Car](#)
- [Sell a Car](#)
- [Research a Car](#)
- [Blue Book Values](#)
- [Buying Guides](#)
- [Payment Calculators](#)

Apartments

- ▶ Rentals
- ▶ Place Ad

Jobs

- ▶ Find a Job
- ▶ Fill a Job

Homes

- ▶ For Sale
- ▶ New Homes

Dating

- ▶ Find a date
- ▶ Your profile

Shopping

- ▶ On Sale
- ▶ Local Coupons

Classifieds

- ▶ Find Stuff
- ▶ Place Ad

Wisinfo

- ▶ Gateway to Wisconsin

Local | [Obituaries](#) | [Records](#) | [Engagement, Wedding, Anniversary](#) | [Photos](#) | [Special Sections](#)

Advertisement

MEMORIAL DAY SALE

JUST ANNOUNCED!

0% APR FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS Plus **\$1,000 BONUS CASH** ON SELECT '06 AND '07 VEHICLES

[SEE SPECIAL OFFERS >>](#)

Posted May 29, 2007

Garage sales still hot in eBay age

Summertime pursuit sees many longing for bargains

By Ed Lowe

Post-Crescent staff writer

Shelly Bruette was setting up the inventory at her first-ever rummage sale when a customer found his mark.

"I had an old sewing machine with the folding table," said Bruette, 33, of Appleton. "I had it priced at \$10. He offered five; I sold it for seven."

So even rummaging — that time-honored pastime of the bargain-hunting faithful — has become a competitive sport in the age of eBay.

The tires on the bike owned by Chris Hoffman for the past five years show no signs of wear. "Make an offer!" its price tag begged.

"I'm looking for one with the bigger (off-road) tires, said Hoffman, 40, of Grand Chute. Hoffman is a veteran of the rough-and-tumble world of the garage sale, that means to riches or key to unloading unwanted junk.

Hoffman said the vultures begin circling each morning 30 to 45 minutes before the rummage sales begin. To them, the pursuit of the deal overwhelms the innocence of this most casual exchange of greetings and goods.

"If something's two bucks and you sell it for a quarter, then they'll turn around and sell it in their own sale," Hoffman said Friday. "That's just the nature of the beast."

Such unbridled commercialism is not new, but the advent of the online action has helped foster it along. Conversely, some rummage sales are little different than before the horse-and-buggy days.

"It's a lot of work, but in the long run it's probably is" worth it, said Barb Calmes, 57, of Appleton.

"Get it organized right away, or else you're looking at a pile of stuff — everything's loaded on a pingpong table and you forget about having a rummage sale," Calmes said. "It takes a good two weeks.

"Put children's things out front. Clothes don't sell very well, except for the children's.

"You think you have things priced pretty low and then someone comes up and offers half price," she lamented. "That's kind of discouraging because you priced it pretty low enough to begin with because you don't want to be putting it back in the house or

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Comment](#)



[buy photo](#) [zoom](#)

Barb Calmes (left) and Penny Stenson of Appleton have fun convincing a friend of Stenson's to purchase a suitcase April 27 at a rummage sale at the home of Geri and Clarence Korth at 130 E. Lindbergh St., in Appleton. Calmes is the Korths' daughter. Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

Advertisement

Rummage sales

Tips for sellers:

Pick a sale date a few weeks away.

Set a specific time for your sale (e.g. 8 a.m.), but be aware of earlybirds — some are dealers.

Multifamily sales tend to do better, so enlist friends and neighbors.

Make sure clearly legible signs are in place on day of sale.

Be neat, but not necessarily perfect.

Have plenty of dollar bills and change.

Big items should be well displayed and

Advertisement



MEMORIAL DAY SALE!

0%

ON HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES!

Sale ends May 31st!

CLICK HERE

BERGSTROMAUTO.COM

Advertisement

packing it up in boxes afterwards."

Dave Rebro, the site coordinator of RummageWisconsin.com, a free statewide site "for residents to look for and post rummage sales," said there are two distinct breeds of garage sale-type sellers.

"Some people have sales to get rid of their stuff and other people have a sale to make some money," Rebro said.

In the later case, or that of the basic cheapskate, the low-ball offer is an inevitable outcome of the ritual, he said.

"Some people are just that way — they're going to (offer) the lowest deal no matter what," Rebro said. "Then, if they don't get it, they just move on."

After all, this time of year, there's always another rummage sale around the corner.

Ed Lowe can be reached at 920-993-1000, ext. 293, or elowe@postcrescent.com.

Big items should be well displayed and polished if necessary.

Kids' items are big sellers — as long as they're in good shape.

Supply cold drinking water to keep shoppers happy.

Donate unsold items to charity.

Source: rummagewisconsin.com

Listings of area sales

Classified Central, The Post-Crescent's daily classified advertising section, includes listings for rummage sales across the Fox Cities. See Page E-1 in today's paper or go online to www.postcrescent.com and click on the Classified Central logo in the left-side rail of our home page.







Community Conversation

This article does not have any comments associated with it

[Add Comment](#) | [Submit Letter to the Editor](#)







Explore More

Special Sections

-  Photo Galleries: Multimedia
-  Walk to cure Diabetes, May 2007
-  Home & Garden - May
-  Celebrate Appleton
-  NCAA Division III Baseball Championship
-  Lions of the Valley

[All special sections »](#)
[All magazines »](#)

Special Reports

-  'The Lion King' comes to Appleton
-  Outagamie County Asylum for the Chronic Insane
-  Summer Road Trip
-  Ban on Smoking
-  Cristian Cisneros case
-  Milwaukee Brewers coverage

[All special reports »](#)
[All magazines »](#)

Things to Do

movie LISTINGS »

LOCAL events »

May - June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23

[Advanced Search](#)

Advertising Links

[Services](#)
[Dining & Drinking](#)
[Home & Garden](#)

[Medical](#)
[Attractions](#)
[Shopping](#)

[Golfing](#)
[Automotive](#)
[Lodging](#)

Partners

[Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) | [Cars: Cars.com](#) | [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) | [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#) | [Weather: WFRV.com](#)

Contact us at **920-993-1000**. postcrescent.com is a Gannett Company website.
Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), updated April 11, 2007.

[Weather](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Dating](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#)

Company Links



[Appleton Post-Crescent](#) | [Fond du Lac Reporter](#) | [Green Bay Press-Gazette](#) | [Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter](#) | [Marshfield News Herald](#)

[Oshkosh Northwestern](#) | [Sheboygan Press](#) | [Stevens Point Journal](#) | [Wausau Daily Herald](#) | [Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune](#)
[Door County Advocate](#) | [Go Door County](#) | [Kewaunee County News](#) | [Oconto County Reporter](#) | [DePere Journal](#)