



PRESS RELEASE

Local Holiday Bazaar Feels Economic Times

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With holidays fast approaching there are many people in need. Whether it is for clothing, or food for their families, many are starting to feel the pinch.

This year's Holiday Bazaar at the Casablanca's Big Tent was run by local Carrie Gomez, along with a few volunteers on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Admission to attend was \$1 along with one non-perishable canned good.
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Gomez spent the last three months preparing for this event and looks forward to it every year.

Last year the event was held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

This could be part of the reason why attendance seemed to be lower, or maybe it was the Nellis Airshow that had something to do with it.

As Gomez stated, all monies collected at the door with the canned goods are donated locally at Mesquite's Salvation Army and the food pantry to help those families that need it.

"It's all for a great cause," Gomez said.

She also mentioned that while patrons entered the tent, they were given tickets which were for a drawing later that day, and prizes totaling \$1,000 were to be given out.

Local talent took the stage throughout the day, with one memorable icon, Ed Gutierrez playing his saxophone at the age of 88.

Karate for Kids performed, followed by dancers who took the platform.

Spending all her time on this event, Gomez was able to recruit 83 vendors to settle in for Saturday's bazaar.

When asked how she is able to acquire these many vendors she answered, "I do lots of advertising through press and internet, using a mass database, but only to those who give me access to their emails."

While many patrons were wandering through the tent, it appeared that most of them were doing just that, wandering and looking...not purchasing anything.

Not a lot of customers were willing to spend their money so freely.

One woman browsing at jewelry stated that she thought some of the vendors were overpriced.

Several vendors were disappointed with the turnout.

Carol Gomes was just one of the many independent sales consultants working at the bazaar.

Gomes' business is Scrapbooking & Stamping.

She said "I would love to be able to teach anybody that wants to learn scrapbooking, especially in this economic downturn."

Gomes is located here in Mesquite and hopes with the holidays coming soon she may gain some interest, as she is offering some free classes to get started.

Most vendors were self employed independent consultants, offering products from such companies as Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, S Nolan Art Designs, and Tomboy Tools.

Tomboy Tools strategically sells Pink Tools for cancer awareness.

This company wants to teach women basic home improvement projects.

Nancy Eaton was representing the company, and while others seemed to be slow she remarked "Business is good and steady."

A few booths over was Jean Perry with her own business "YouSoapia."

Perry specializes in soaps and fragrances without chemicals.

She has worked other trade shows with Carrie Gomez.

"Business is very slow," Perry said. "I'm surprised because Carrie runs great shows. I believe the economy has something to do with it."

While many roamed throughout the tent, most were browsing and didn't seem to be spending their money.

People said they were cutting down on purchases this year.

While charities try to succeed in today's economy, Carrie Gomez remains positive.

This Holiday Bazaar had interesting vendors but fell short on customers.

Gomez kept a big smile on her face.

Her goals and ambitions are just as big.

When asked what was next for her, she replied, "In 2010 I'd like to aim for one a month, anything charitable to help others."