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# Alamogordo Daily News

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**AUCTION**

## Atari games net \$37K on eBay

The highest paid game was a mint condition E.T. that sold for \$1,537; 20% of proceeds to go to the historical society, 80% to the city

**By Jacqueline Devine**  
[jadevine@alamogordonews.com](mailto:jadevine@alamogordonews.com)  
[@DearestDevine on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DearestDevine)

They say "one man's trash is another man's treasure" and this was proven to be true for Alamogordo as the first round of 100 Atari games auctioned on eBay

ended Thursday night at 9 p.m. raking in a staggering \$37,471.39. The highest paid game was E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial reserved in its box that went for \$1,537. The second highest paid game was another E.T. that was only the cartridge, for \$710. The games are all from the infamous

Atari dig that were excavated from the Alamogordo Landfill earlier this year.

Tularosa Basin Historical Society Vice President Joe Lewandowski said he wasn't expecting the total to be that high. He said he was expecting if anything up

**AUCTION » PAGE 8**



Visitors to the Video Game Museum of Rome play working Atari cartridges of Pac-Man and E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial in a classic arcade style console.

COURTESY PHOTO

**HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE**

## TRAINING BEGINS

**FEDERAL COURT**

## Mescalero

**custody since his arrest, Martinez sated in the release.**

Capt. Matt Hoyle, F-16 instructor pilot, said the simulator provides accurate replications of the environmental conditions while flying the aircraft in

tors are still required to be Combat Air Force ready.

"Our task as commanders is two fold," Fredrick

structor pilots and essentials.

Fredrick said one jet cost approximately \$25 million. He said such an

said. "About the time we're graduating them the next class will be here already going through Col.

fighter squadron is estimated to bring the total number of personnel to about 800.

**Auction**

FROM PAGE 1

to \$20,000.

"The last time I checked, the total was \$14,800 before the auction was about to end and I thought that's great that's the range I was expecting," said Lewandowski. "Then towards the end it just kept going up and up, I couldn't believe it."

While many different Atari 2600 games were being auctioned, the E.T. cartridges were the most popular by far which is ironic since it has been dubbed the "worst video game of all time." The other non E.T. cartridges in the bunch weren't as sought after but they still managed to average a total of \$500. The lowest price to own a piece of Atari gaming history was a copy of Missile Command that went for \$160.



COURTESY PHOTO

Video Game Museum of Rome displays Atari cartridges unearthed from the Alamogordo Landfill in an exhibition called "E.T. The Fall: Atari Buried Treasures." Games being displayed are E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, Star Raiders, Warlords, Defender, and Asteroids.

Lewandowski said there's still 750 more games to be auctioned and the next batch of games should be posted by late next week, but there is no exact date yet.

"We're thinking of put-

ting 100 games first like we did the first time then 50 after that, and then another 50. It's really a continuation, back to back," said Lewandowski. "We're really not sure how many auctions in total there's go-

ing to be at this point."

The coveted E.T. game that sold for a surprising \$1,537 went to an individual in Canada and other games went as far as Morocco said Lewandowski. He added that he will provide a report with all the details for the commission and the public soon.

Lewandowski said the demand for more games is strong as more game enthusiasts keep contacting him asking when they're going to post more so they can own a piece of Atari landfill history.

"I keep getting messages from people around the world asking me if there's anymore left, it's crazy," said Lewandowski. "The people that lost the bids are demanding more but I keep telling them they have to keep checking."

Lewandowski also reported that he has sent five games to the Video Game Museum of Rome which include E.T., The Extra-Ter-

restrial, Star Raiders, Warlords, Defender, and Asteroids. The museum has them neatly displayed in an exhibition called "E.T. The Fall: Atari Buried Treasures."

"Along with the five games we also sent them articles and pictures from the Atari dumping of 1983 as well as recent pictures of the Atari dig," said Lewandowski. "As a little extra we also sent them a little bag of Alamogordo dirt. It just makes the whole package much more authentic."

On Dec. 1 The Tularosa Basin Historical Society and the city will get together to discuss what to do with the money raised from the games. Lewandowski said he will not see a dime from it, contrary to what some people think. He said 20 percent will go to the historical society and the remaining 80 percent will go to the city. "This is a unique situa-

tion in that this money is unexpected, it came from nowhere. In my personal opinion, I would like to see the money being used for something special for the residents of this community," said Lewandowski. "I would like for it to be used for something recreational, like a park. I don't want to see it being spent on pot holes or anything like that. It would be good, but again this is something special. I want the city to build something."

The documentary "Atari: Game Over" debuts on Xbox Live Nov. 20 which chronicles the company's rise and fall via its biggest commercial failure, E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial. The documentary, produced by FUEL Industries and Microsoft, will also feature the unearthing of the cartridges from the Alamogordo Landfill putting to rest the biggest urban legend of the gaming world.

**Saturday Evening**

A - Alamogordo C - Cloudcroft H - High Rolls \* indicates Pacific feed

	A	C	H	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(27) KASA	9	9		(5:30) NCAA Football Texas vs. Oklahoma State (L) 'TVPG'						News 13 KASA	News 13 KASA	HighSchool	HighSchool		
(42) KRWG				Heartland	Newshour.	Time Goes By	Manor Born	Nova "Emperor's Ghost Army"		Austin City Limits (N)				*** Danny Deckchair	
(3) KVIA				Pre-game / (:05) NCAA Football Florida State vs. Miami (L) 'TVPG'						Live From the Artists Den				Roadtrip	Rudy Maxa
(34) KOAT				Pre-game / (:05) NCAA Football Florida State vs. Miami (L) 'TVPG'						(:20) Postgame / PostGame					
(31) KOOP										ABC7 News					

**November 15, 2014**