



# Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox  
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503-371-3631

Date: October 23, 2007

## Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment a Great Success

Salem, OR—This year there was more merriment than ever before at our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment. Despite the blustery weather 146 Pumpkin Fun Run participants crossed the finish line. Andrew Miller, 12, placed first of 26 in the 1-mile children's course at 07:20.4. Paul Paschelke, 24, placed first of 120 in the 5k at 18:05.5. Proceeds from the race, sponsored by DPS, Inc., benefit educational programs at the children's museum. Those who braved the rain to run the 5k and 1-mile course options received free admission to the festival and a first glimpse at all the hands-on harvest activities and crafts.

Throughout the day, Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment, sponsored by Foresters, drew approximately 975 visitors including over 60 volunteers. Many took advantage of the free admission with a carved pumpkin, adding to the massive display that totaled 458 pumpkins—more pumpkins than we've had in the past two years! If you missed the announcement, Drew Lanning of Amity won the pumpkin weight-guessing contest. The pumpkin was exactly 36.9 pounds.

We hope you had the opportunity to taste our fresh pressed cider, make a cornhusk doll, and boogie down with the Great Pumpkin to the tunes of LuAnn Ritts and Cash & Company. Next year's festival will take place Saturday, October 18, 2008. Mark your calendars now. And think about ways you can help us break our record by organizing a pumpkin carving party and dropping off your creations the day before.

### **A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village**

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

P: 503-371-3631 F: 503-316-3485 E: info@acgilbert.org W: www.acgilbert.org



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We're grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this community event a great success. Our generous sponsors are listed below:

Presenting sponsor    Foresters

Supporting sponsor    Purple Squirrel Services, Inc.  
Dwane Brenneman

Activity Sponsors    Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill  
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Resident Lending Group  
Salem Electric

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Salem Multicultural Institute & World Beat Festival  
Susan P. Cook, Attorney-at-Law  
Willamette Queen

**In-kind Sponsors**

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FASTSIGNS  
Fordyce Farm  
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LifeSource Natural Foods  
One Green World  
Oregon State Fair & Expo Center  
Roth's Family Markets  
Salem Monthly  
Wildfang, Inc.

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