

Fall Fun at Pumpkin Hollow

KATHRYN HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

Looking for cute autumn pictures and activities, but not sure where to go? Only an hour and some change away from Jonesboro, Pumpkin Hollow is the perfect place for some fall fun.

Many Northeast Arkansas locals remember Pumpkin Hollow fondly from childhood field trips and visits. However, after going for the first time as an adult, I can confidently say that this autumn attraction isn't just for kids.

Located in Piggott, Arkansas, this pumpkin patch has expanded substantially since it opened in 1993.

Our state's agriculture support organization, Farm Bureau Arkansas, reports that, every season, the patch brings up to 25,000 visitors, a staggering number for such a rural location. Though this farm has now become very popular, it is still full of rustic charm and a homemade feel—

with no AI posters in sight. What draws all of these people to the one-horse-town of Piggott? A major pull is the affordability, as general admission to the patch is \$15 for all ages above two. This price felt fair, especially after having spent four hours at the patch.

With special attractions tickets for \$5 each, one can do a number of additional activities at the pumpkin patch. Though many of these activities are targeted for a younger audience, multiple are for all ages, like the aptly-named apple cannon. Shooting unusable apples out of a potato cannon is both extremely fun and a smart way to reduce waste.

Along with the apple cannon, activities at the pumpkin patch also included a zipline, train ride, putt-putt golf, and cornhole golf for adults.

At first, the train ride seemed like a less-exciting attraction, but its audio description made it special. As you mount the



Photos above offer glimpses of Pumpkin Hollow activities, including a train ride, mums, a hungry goat and the entrance to the famous corn maze. Other activities include an apple cannon, zipline, putt-putt, and cornhole golf.

train and ride through the patch the narrator, an owner of Pumpkin Hollow, describes the scenery and the history of the farm, making it not only quaint, but also informative.

There were plenty of free activities included with general admission, too. Walking into the hollow, guests are greeted by friendly goats, though you should be sure to bring quarters

if you're looking to feed them.

A hayride through the patch will take you to the famous corn maze, and this year's theme honors the 250th anniversary of the United States. If you choose to enter the maze, be warned that it may take upwards of an hour to complete the challenge and win your free prize.

Next to the maze were numerous pumpkin patches

for both pictures and picking. However, the best pumpkins have already been picked, so those remaining are mostly for field trips.

Pumpkin Hollow's fun doesn't end at sunset. On Friday and Saturday nights, the farm transforms into Horror in the Hollow, featuring "haunts," scary rides, and live music. Glimpses of these attractions

are visible during the day, walking past the asylum and zombie paintball bus, but the sunset brings about the real magic.

During both the day and night activities, attendees can grab a bite to eat from the concessions—featuring classic snacks, barbeque and pumpkin pie. There's no need to stop at pumpkin pie, because, just a few feet from the snack-shack, you can stroll through patches of real, locally-grown pumpkins.

There are a great variety of colors, shapes, and sizes of pumpkins and gourds. The pumpkins were very affordable, at only a few dollars per pumpkin, based on variety and size. They also have gorgeous mums for sale for only \$15 each.

Pumpkin Hollow was the perfect place for some fall fun at an affordable price. Though it holds nostalgia for many, the farm isn't just for kids—it's a beautiful attraction that all can enjoy.

A-State Pre-Vet Club to host 6th annual Furry 5K

ROBYN CANARD
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Arkansas State University Pre-Vet Club, in association with Ag for Autism and the College of Agriculture, will host their sixth annual Furry 5K this Saturday at 8 a.m.

The race will begin at the College of Agriculture and from there, participants will run or walk with their pets along a marked course around campus. In addition to the 5K, there will be a costume contest for pups as well as race-related awards for those who complete the course.

In accordance with years

past, the Pre-Vet Club has partnered with Ag for Autism for the Furry 5K. Ag for Autism, a Jonesboro-based non-profit established in 2012, works with the community to collect donations and hold fundraisers to help support autistic people and their families. The non-profit has raised over one million dollars to date for local schools and families, as well as funded autism research and therapy programs through their proceeds.

Lilli Larson, a member of the Astate Pre-Vet Club and a volunteer for the Furry 5K, said she noted the significance

of the Furry 5K, saying that it is not only important to the Pre-Vet Club, but to the community as well.

"Furry 5k is one of the Pre-Veterinarian Club's most important fundraisers for the club itself and for autism advocacy," Larson said. "It's the club's way to connect with the community while promoting and contributing to an essential cause."

Abby Cooper, the A-State Pre-Vet Club's president, said the reasons to attend don't stop at supporting local charities.

"I feel like this event is super important for community

involvement," Cooper said. "An event like this might just be where you meet your new best friend or your dog's (new best friend) and you can do so while supporting two amazing organizations."

To sign up for the Furry 5K, there are several posters around campus as well as a post on the official Pre-Vet Club's Instagram with the QR code for registration. A five dollar registration fee is required to enter, which will go towards both the Pre-Vet Club and Ag for Autism.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VET CLUB INSTAGRAM

Members of the pre-vet club pose for a photo during last year's annual Furry 5k.

Where the Wild Things Howl



Comic by Ivory Roberts | Special to The Herald

Comic inspired by the Student Activities Board's Tuesday homecoming event, "Where the Wild Things Howl," which featured food trucks, a petting zoo and bungee jumping.

Doctoral Study to Examine Academic Advising, Participants Needed

JOHNATHAN REAVES
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

A research study at Arkansas State examines perceptions of academic advising by A-State students. Johnathan Reaves is a doctoral student in the Arkansas State University Educational Leadership program, with an emphasis in higher education administration. Reaves' study examines how Black college freshmen perceive interactions with academic advisors and how advising sessions can contribute to academic success.

The research study examines interactions between academic advisors and Black freshmen, defined as those in their first two semesters of college at A-State. The goal of the research

is to identify ways that institutions of higher education can better serve students by providing academic support and helping them persist to graduation.

Students who are eligible for the study are those who identify as Black students, those who are within their first two semesters at Arkansas State, those who live in Arkansas, those who are between 18 and 24 years of age, and students who have had at least one academic advising appointment with an advisor at Arkansas State. Participants will participate in one interview session, either in person or online through Microsoft Teams. The interview is expected to last between 45 and 60 minutes.

Those who participate will receive a \$15 e-gift card upon completion of the interview. Participation is voluntary, and all responses will remain confidential. This study has been reviewed and approved by Arkansas State University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB determined that this study meets the ethical obligations required by federal law and University policies.

The research project is for Reaves' dissertation, which is titled "Examining Black College Freshmen's Perceptions of Academic Advising and Advising's Role in Persistence".

For more information, or to participate in the study, please contact Reaves at johnatha.reaves@smail.astate.edu or call (870) 972-3244.