

# Pumpkin love

The Circleville Pumpkin Show returns for another year of ultimate harvest celebration

By **Dustin Egan** The Gazette Staff

**CIRCLEVILLE — Giant pumpkins and squash, daily parades and one of the world's largest pumpkin pies again will draw thousands of spectators to the Circleville Pumpkin Show beginning early next week.**

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For a daily schedule of the 2011 Circleville Pumpkin Show, see **Page 3D**.

For a full schedule and history of the festival, visit [www.pumpkinshow.com](http://www.pumpkinshow.com).

Billed for years as "The Greatest Free Show on Earth," the popular event will begin with a Tuesday evening preview of concessions, rides and a performance by the Pumpkin Show Band and will continue through Oct. 22 in downtown Circleville.

What started as an agricultural exhibit and street fair in October 1903 has grown into the sixth-largest festival in the U.S., with an annual attendance of more than 300,000. Anyone who has driven down U.S. 23 during the event can attest to its popularity, as it's not uncommon to see traffic backed up along the exit ramps and down the far right lanes of the highway trying to get into the downtown area.

Nanisa Osborn, a member of the event's public relations/media committee, said there are several highlights that routinely draw a crowd.

"The giant pumpkins and the weigh-in always draw a large, dedicated crowd on Wednesday, and then once the largest pumpkin is set in the display, it is a favorite spot to have your family picture taken.

"In addition, the selection of Miss Pumpkin

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