

GOOD GRIEF!

Little Valley Man's Giant Pumpkin Sets N.Y. Record

By RODNEY STEBBINS

GREAT VALLEY — Andy Wolf has been growing crops since he was a young boy raised on a farm.

Now, the Little Valley man is the holder of a rather large New York state record — one that's currently on display in one of the area's favorite fall destinations.

A giant pumpkin grown by Wolf and his wife, Christy, weighed in at 1,407.3 pounds last weekend at a statewide competition in Cooperstown, breaking the old state record of 1,141 pounds.

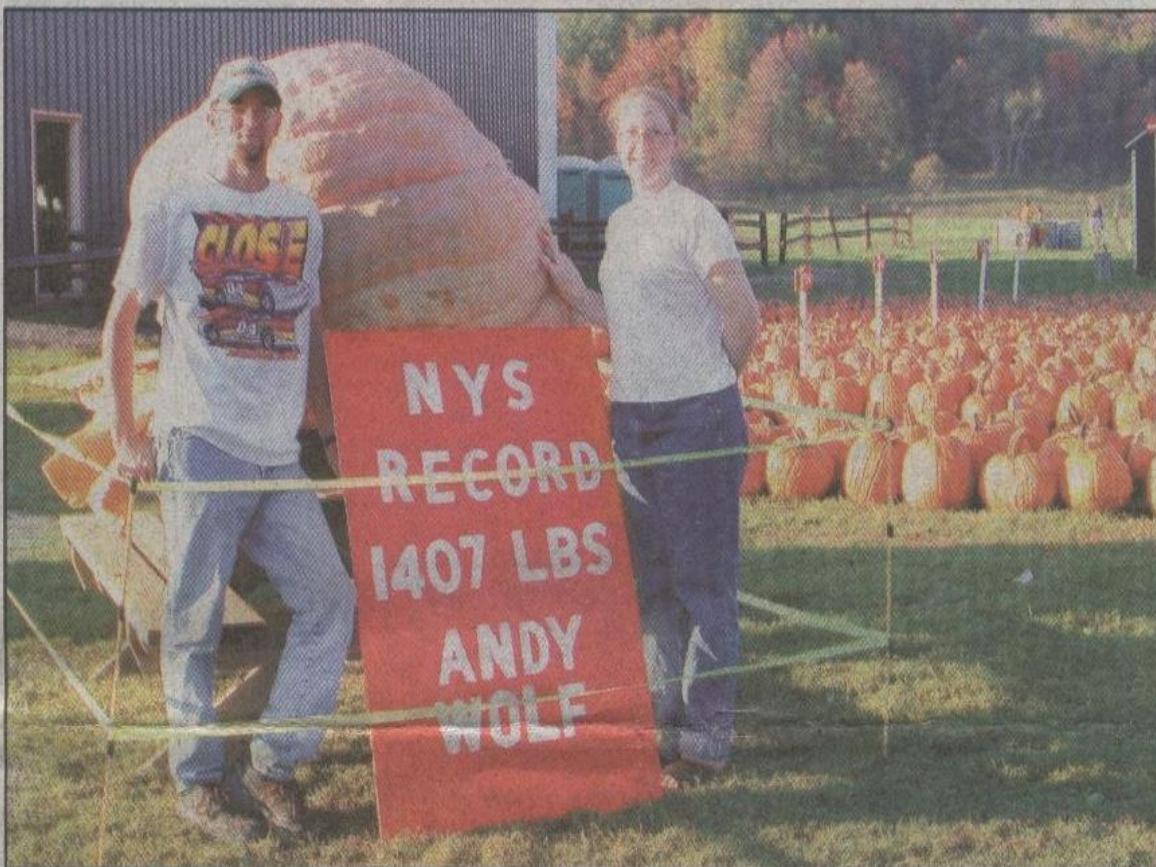
Wolf said the top five pumpkins at this year's weigh-in were all heavier than the old state record, including a 1,217-pound entry from Jamestown's Tim Bailey, good for third place. There were more than 50 people in the competition from all across the state, they said.

"It grew larger throughout the season than expected," said Wolf, 26, about his great pumpkin, which is currently on display at Pumpkinville — the fun family farm located in Great Valley.

Wolf attributed the warm, dry weather with hot, humid nights to the record growth of his pumpkin, along with a new organic fertilizer.

According to Mrs. Wolf, the seeds were planted in May.

"They just grow like normal



Andy and Christy Wolf of Little Valley stand in front of his New York state record-setting pumpkin, which weighs in at 1,407.3 pounds. It is on display at Pumpkinville in Great Valley.

P-J photo by Rodney Stebbins

pumpkins," she said of her husband's competitive crop. "They just need a little extra care."

"Growing up on a farm, I've been growing (things) forever," said Wolf, who's been growing pumpkins competitively since 1999. "It's a good backyard hobby — it's something anyone can do and if you can have some success with it, even better."

The record-setting pumpkin will be on display at least until Saturday just inside the entrance to Pumpkinville, which is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day at 4844 Sugartown Road, Great Valley. Admission is free.

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Pumpkin

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Wolf said he may be taking the pumpkin to Ohio this Sunday for another competition. If his state record-setter holds up against competition from other states, he has heard a company in Europe may be willing to make an offer for buy the pumpkin.

If he doesn't take it for other competitions, the pumpkin may be on display at Pump-

kinville beyond this Saturday, he said.

According to Dan Pawlowski, Pumpkinville owner, several hundred people visit the farm daily during the week and thousands on the weekends during its season, which runs annually from late September to Oct. 31.

Pumpkinville has an abundance of squash, apples, gourds, Indian corn and, of course, pumpkins.

By the thousands, pumpkins are available either in the six-acre "pick your own" patch or in huge piles. The farm offers a fall family adventure for all ages. Available to visitors are pony and hay rides, the corn cannon shoot, a corn maze, farm animals, goat mountain and lots of special display and unique exhibits.

A working cider mill uses a 120-year-old press. Customers with an appointment may bring their own apples and workers will make them into cider.

There are several specialty shops, including a craft shop, pastry shop, apple barn, painted pumpkin barn, corn crib, and a bounty barn filled with local maple and honey products, fudge, harvest bounty and more.

Group and school tours are welcome on weekdays. Appointments are appreciated.

For more information about Pumpkinville, call 699-2205 or visit the Web site www.pumpkinville.com.

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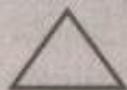
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