

# REGION

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Little Valley resident Andy Wolf's gigantic pumpkin, weighing in at 1,407.3 pounds, is the largest in New York state and the third largest in the world.

P-J photo by Rodney Stebbins

## Pumpkinville Houses Third Largest

By RODNEY STEBBINS

**GREAT VALLEY** — While it's still a New York state record, Andy Wolf's gigantic pumpkin is only the third-heaviest in the world this year.

But bad news for Wolf is good news for Dan Pawlowski, owner of Pumpkinville, the fall village and cider mill located in Cattaraugus County, where Wolf's 1,407.3-pound pumpkin is on display again and may be there through Halloween.

"The pumpkin is back at Pumpkinville after our weekend trip to a contest in Columbus, Ohio," said Wolf, a 26-year-old from Little Valley. "Right now, it's there 'until further notice,' but I never know if I will get an offer from someone to buy it."

Wolf set the New York state record at competition in Cooperstown the first weekend of October. The old record was 1,141 pounds, which he said was broken by the top five pumpkins at this year's competition. Jamestown's Tim

Bailey came in third place with a pumpkin that weighed 1,217 pounds.

A pumpkin grown in neighboring Pennsylvania set a new world record at 1,469 pounds, according to Wolf, while one in Rhode Island weighed in a 1,443 pounds.

"I'm number three in the world this year — looks like that's where I'll stay as the major contests are now done," Wolf said.

Pawlowski said the giant pumpkin has drawn a few extra visitors to Pumpkinville.

"People have come out of curiosity," he said, noting they've had above-normal attendance so far this season. "We've gotten some (nice) coverage because of it. I do this for a living, and what a heck of a job it is to grow something like that. Andy's a very dedicated young man."

The pumpkin is on display just inside the main entrance to Pumpkinville, which is located on Sugartown

Road in Great Valley. Pumpkinville is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Oct. 31. Admission is free.

Besides prize money from the competitions, the pumpkin itself could be worth a lot to the right people.

Wolf said that there are companies, especially in Europe, that will pay top dollar for his prize possession.

"I would like to get at least a couple thousand (dollars) for it," Wolf said. "The main sticking point is that I would have to get all my seeds back out of it. I would like to work something out to have a major business display it — it's just a waiting game right now."

Wolf said he might try "shopping it around to a few buyers," but there's a very good chance his pumpkin will be on display at Pumpkinville until the end of the month.

If that's the case, he might have a friend carve it, or "I'll just chop it up to get the seeds out," he said.