

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Despite the snow and frozen pumpkins, Cox's Pond pumpkin patch will be open under the sun this weekend. The forecast calls for 60 degree weather for the popular Halloween event.

Located at Cox's Ponds, two and one-half miles west and one-fourth mile north of Champion, the fall fun spot is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For 23 years Jeanine and the late Arlyn Cox and the Ed Cupp family have hosted the pumpkin patch. Arlys Cupp said Monday that although the recent weather froze their pumpkins, "I think they'll be OK for outside" decorating. She said the income from selling pumpkins pays for the pumpkin patch.

Also for sale will be crafts, gourds, Indian corn, popcorn and the Imperial Dive-Recovery Team's caramel apples.

Adams Bank and Trust is giving away cotton candy, while Pinnacle Bank is giving away hot dogs.

Cupp said that for a small fee people may take pony rides or visit a petting zoo featuring many unusual animals.

Also available is a wagon ride through the corn maze, this year "Happy Haunted Campground." Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-Hers and individuals have set up their notion of camp sites within the maze.

As in the past, inflatables will adorn the landscape.

A scarecrow decorating contest will be held, with children and adult categories. Cupp said entries need to be set up at the pumpkin patch Friday between 4-6 p.m.

There will also be several contests offered, such as guessing the amount of candy in a jar, and the weight of a giant pumpkin donated by Larry and Tinker Raasch.

Ann Miller of Pages of Time will be on site to take pictures.