‘Harvest Festival’ celebrates gardening

By Noah Nunez
General Reporter

The yearly “Harvest Festival” hosted by the university’s Office of Sustainability on Thursday, Oct. 22 was held in celebration of the university’s successful harvest of fall fruits and vegetables.

Part of the event was run by history secondary education major James Clinton, a junior who also leads the campus food recovery service, discussing how the harvest went and where the food produced goes.

“We grew some pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, okra, all sorts of things, and so were just celebrating a successful season,” Clinton said. “Those vegetables all go to local churches and food banks and organizations that provide good food to those in need in our local community.”

The event itself took place near the community garden on campus, where fruits and vegetables surrounded craft activities to help create a zen atmosphere for enjoying the season.

One of the activities available to engage with was garland making, which was hosted by environmental and marine science major Gabriella Paterza, a junior, to provide a simple craft that could be taken home without making a mess.

“I always wanted to craft with the stuff I have at home but never really know what to do, so having something that’s like here is the craft, sit down and do it right now, helps me kind of be grounded and actually participate in the stuff I like to do,” Paterza said.

While the event itself was in part a celebration of the previous harvest, it was also a time of reflection for those in the community garden as they take their skills and apply them to future seasons and harvests.

“Every season is a learning curve and learning experience. There are some things that this season didn’t really work out, and that’s okay because we are able to apply that knowledge next year,” Clinton said.

The Office of Sustainability does not just work to plant fruits and vegetables, though they are always looking for volunteers for that.

The organization itself hosts multiple other events to get students involved in sustainability and preventing waste.

Celebrations and events such as the “Harvest Festival” are used by the Office of Sustainability recycling coordinator, Heather Stearns, to shine a light on during events like this, which garner more visibility.

“I think visibility-wise, not just with the garden but trying to shed light on some of the programming and things that we do on campus, I think, is really important for the community to know,” Stearns said.

Events like this exist purely to help with raising awareness however rather than using their time to put on display why what they are doing is so important, the Office of Sustainability has taken a different approach, allowing their work to speak for itself.

The people visiting this event were not looking for an explosive or exciting night.

They wanted something relaxing almost therapeutic to do as they sat back and celebrated another year of gardening.



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNE

Pumpkins set up for ‘Harvest Festival.’



Office of Sustainability table at ‘Harvest Festival’ on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Enjoying fall with WSIN Radio’s pumpkin smashing

By Brianna Wallen
Editor-in-Chief

With pumpkins waiting to be carved, festive music filling the air and the smell of Wingstop nearby, WSIN Radio brought a little autumn magic to the Buley Patio on Oct. 20.

The student-run radio station hosted its pumpkin smash and pumpkin carving event at 5 p.m., inviting students to take a break from classes, embrace the fall season and spend time with their campus community.

“I wanted to celebrate fall, get people, get the radio station some awareness,” communication major Gerryiki Williams, a senior and general manager of WSIN, said. “Just to be out and in the open instead of on the second floor of the Student Center, kind of hidden.”

Guests were provided with pumpkins to decorate and carve while enjoying fall treats and music in the crisp October air.

The event was part of WSIN’s effort to become more visible on campus and encourage students to get involved with the station.

For a change, WSIN traded playing smashing pumpkins on the radio for smashing pumpkins in real life, turning its usual connection to music into a hands-on fall activity.

Sociology major Nailah Herbert, a senior and secretary of WSIN, said the idea emerged during an executive board meeting as members discussed possible events for October.

“We were like, it’ll be fun to actually create something since that’s kind of what our club is about, just creativity, music, and all that other things,” Herbert said.

For Herbert, the goal extended far beyond pumpkin carving or smashing.

“I hope students enjoy each other’s company, listen to music and just be able to tap into the radio and kind of what we have going on,” Herbert said.

Art and design major Kaiya Bryant, a senior and music director of WSIN, said that the station has recently focused on creating more community through events that encourage students to participate.

“We’re kind of having events back-to-back, and we’re lucky that it’s a very festive time of the year,” Bryant said.

The gathering also helped promote WSIN’s upcoming concert, where bands were scheduled to perform.

“We thought this would be a nice precursor and a way to advertise the concert,” Bryant said.

Bryant also embraced the opportunity to celebrate her favorite season.

“The wind is just right. The breeze. The air. The leaves. Oh, I love it! I love it! I love it!” Bryant said.

For Williams, however, one of the most meaningful parts of hosting events is seeing members return and reconnect as the semester progresses.

“I love seeing the general members come back,” Williams said. “You know how it kind of thins down towards the middle of the semester. Everyone comes back to do a little something and just get back together.”

For accounting major Jayden Newell-Kemp, a senior, the timing of the event made it perfect for the season.

“It felt very fitting for the time and the weather was perfect,” Newell-Kemp said.

Newell-Kemp as well as other attendees got to create their own seasonal masterpieces.

“My pumpkin is going in front of my door as a Resident Adviser, so I can get my residents in the spirit,” Newell-Kemp said.

With pumpkins in hand and music setting the mood, WSIN Radio turned an ordinary October evening into a celebration of creativity and connection with “WSIN Pumpkin Smash.”

This served as a reminder for students that sometimes the best way to enjoy fall is simply to show up, make something and share the moment with others.

Owls Decide: Sweet or sour candy?

By Mackenzie Byerlee
Features Editor



PHOTOS | LILY RAND

“Sour because it gives it more flavor.”
- Nursing major Janessa Cochran, a freshman



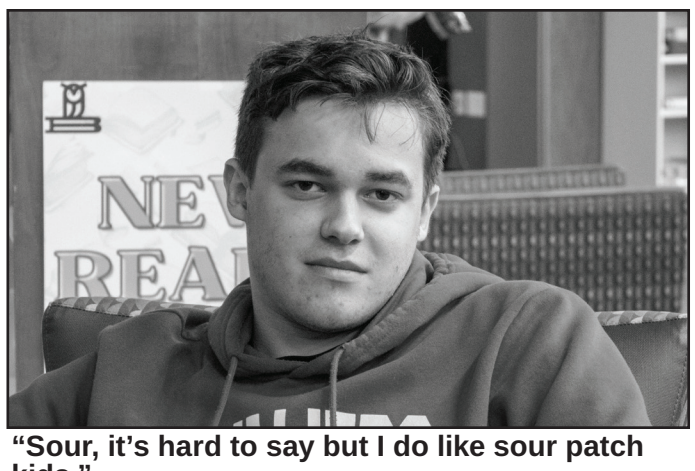
“Sour; I’ve always just liked it more.”
- Accounting major Makayla Cortes, a freshman



“Sour; I just really like sour patch kids.”
- Physical education major Makena Sullivan, a freshman



“Sweet because I don’t like things that are sour.”
- English major Matthew Sellan, a sophomore



“Sour, it’s hard to say but I do like sour patch kids.”
- Mathematics major Sean Allen, a junior



“Sour because I don’t like sweet things.”
- Healthcare studies major Dangeli Rodriguez, a freshman