

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Photo identification:**

From left, Jarrett Senn (bass), Kelsey Yaden (soprano), Gracie Goodwin (alto), Emily Patrick Sanders (lead), Abigail Faulk (manager), and Makenna Faulk (alternate).

## **Painting, carving among Oct. 8 Pumpkin Day activities**

The first day of fall doesn't officially begin until Sept. 22, but City of Enterprise event planners are already inviting everyone to get ready to celebrate fall and focus on the season's most famous fruit.

The pumpkin will be the center of attention in a variety of fun-filled activities on Pumpkin Day, 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Enterprise Farmers Market. This will be the second time the city has hosted Pumpkin Day, and organizers hope it will become a much-anticipated annual event.

"Last year, this was one of the highlight events at our market," said Mayor Kenneth Boswell. "Children had a blast painting pumpkins and everyone enjoyed the festival atmosphere. This year promises to be just as much fun, and we've added a pumpkin carving contest to the mix, so come out and join us on Oct. 8."

Activities begin this year at 7 a.m. when farmers with fall produce open up under the cover of the open-air market. Arts and crafts vendors with items such as handmade baby clothing, rugs, wood and jewelry items and even custom embroidery products will be ready for early holiday shoppers at that time as well.

Children and teens will especially enjoy the activities beginning at 9 a.m., which include a story time with local author Mary Rollins at 9 and pumpkin painting and decorating from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Rollins, a former Hillcrest Elementary School teacher and Children's Librarian at the Enterprise Public Library, has authored several children's books. She will be reading from one of her stories about pumpkins.

The City of Enterprise will be providing pumpkins to paint for the first 100 children up to age 18. Paints and other decorating materials will also be provided. McDonalds is sponsoring the Pumpkin Painting and Decorating Contest this year. For those who would like to enter their pumpkins in the contest, the entries will be judged just after 11:30 a.m. Prizes from McDonalds will be awarded at 11:45 in three age categories – 6 and under, 7-12, and 13 and above.

The first-ever Enterprise Championship Pumpkin Carving Contest is being sponsored by All About Art. Owner Jessica Goodson invites adults and teens to participate in the contest by carving pumpkins at home and bringing them to the market to be put on display beginning at 9 a.m. Designs can be jack-o-lantern style or some other creative depiction. Age categories are 12-18, and 19 and above.

The public will get a chance to choose the best carved creation by coming inside the Farmers Market meeting room and voting between 9 and 11:30 a.m. Prizes provided by All About Art will be awarded at 11:50 a.m.

"This is going to be a great contest. You can carve your pumpkin at home and take all the time you need. Just bring it in and invite all your family and friends to come in and vote for your pumpkin," Boswell said. "I am really looking forward to seeing these carving entries!"

At 9:30 a.m., vegetable carver Betty Hall, who many people may remember from Watermelon Day in July when she carved beautiful designs in watermelons and squash, will be sharing her talents with the local community again. She will be sharing some tips on how to carve vegetables and will be available to answer questions as she carves.

Those attending Pumpkin Day will get a real treat beginning at 10:30 when the Zion Chapel High School FFA Quartet, winners of the 2016 FFA State Championship, performs on the market's outdoor stage. With their distinctive bluegrass sound, the group sings traditional hymns and contemporary gospel music. The group is raising funds to attend the national competition at the National FFA Convention later in October.

The group is made up of singers and musicians Jarrett Senn (bass), Kelsey Yaden (soprano), Gracie Goodwin (alto), Emily Patrick Sanders (lead), Abigail Faulk (manager), and Makenna Faulk (alternate).

Tabitha Sanders, who volunteers her time to help the group, said the quartet members are very excited to have an opportunity to sing in Enterprise and hopes that everyone will come and hear them and support them.

“This group of young people has made 31 appearances since June 27, sacrificing every weekend but two in order to reach their goal,” said “They are proud to be representing Zion Chapel School, the very supportive community of Jack and all of Coffee County.”

Members of the Enterprise High School FFA will be on hand Oct. 8 to cheer on the quartet and will also be helping with activities throughout the morning.

Sodas and water will be available at the Senior Citizens Center table. Individuals and families can also have pictures made in a scenic setting decorated for fall and can purchase pumpkins from the produce vendors.

Pumpkin recipes and pumpkin decorating materials will also be available.

“With all of this activity, we are looking forward to a great day,” Boswell said. “Come out and have fun with us.”