

Community comes together for Harvest Festival

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COVENTRY — In order for the Western Coventry Elementary School Harvest Festival to happen, the whole community has come together, says PTA Coordinator Michele Carignan.

With hayrides, pumpkin carving, and an array of contests, the festival on Oct. 25 is the first event of the school year for students and their families, Carignan says, and the 4 to 7 p.m. timeslot will be packed with fun and learning.

Canned goods for the food pantry gain admission to the festival, Carignan says, and this is only possible because local businesses have donated their time and goods for the event.

Right now, going out for the day as a family can be very expensive, says Carignan, but all



Last year's hayride at the Western Coventry Elementary School Harvest Festival.

the donations make it possible for whole families to both have a wonderful day and help local families in need.

While the festival happens annually, there are some new aspects this year, according to Carignan. It is the first year of an

Apple Pie Bake-off with local celebrity judges. In addition to Chef Frank Terranova, of NBC10's "Cooking with Class," the Coventry High School Culinary Arts Department will evaluate pies baked by students.

"We wanted to incorporate

something festive for the season," Carignan says.

Also in cooperation with the high school, the cosmetology department will be hosting a "Haunted Hair Salon," she says.

The TOK Karate Studio will be putting on a ninja show and students can take a karate class with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Darth Vader, according to Carignan.

There will be an entire health and safety section to the festival as well, she says.

Local orthodontist Dr. William Gordon will be bringing the CHIPS child identification program to the festival, according to Carignan, and students training in the nursing program at the Alpine Nursing Home will be doing a "mad scientist" health and science presentation.

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