

Good Gourd, That's a Big Pumpkin!

BY **JOLENE HUSTEAD** (AKA SOCCER MOM)

I am coming up to my 6th year as "Soccer Mom" in the West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta in Tualatin and I would love to think that practice makes perfect in this sport of the gourds. I have learned many important lessons following the yearly paddle through the Lake of the Commons.

I have learned that just the tiniest amount of water over the lip of the pumpkin can fill that 800lb monster faster than you can say "Abandon Pumpkin!" I also learned that there is no speed gained by going the safe route and choosing a gigantic 1,200 lb pumpkin that wouldn't capsize if you danced the hula in it. Not so great for a winning a pumpkin race. The next few years followed with pumpkin geometry (πr^2) and various attempts to figure out how to fit my 5'10" costumed body into a slimy pumpkin. Last year ended with a very unceremonious capsize and rescue by the Alder Creek Rescue canoe. My legacy and pride must be vindicated, therefore Soccer Mom will continue on in hopes of keeping upright with the likes of Captain America, Gourd Vader or maybe even a rubber ducky.

It's not like you can practice throughout the year at the local gym to get your pumpkin



Photo courtesy Eric Hermann.



Photo courtesy Lisa Thorpe.

groove on. The members of the Pacific Giant Vegetable Growers are currently growing these amazing vessels for our races. They arrive in trucks and forklifts and have their own weigh in contest right before the paddle. I can't give away my crucial pumpkin choosing skills. There is a method to the Pumpkin Paddlers madness. But I can say that every, crazy costumed paddler that you see climb in a pumpkin has made a pact with their pumpkin to carry them safely across the waters. So come on out and see if the pumpkins hold up their part of the pact. If we aren't already underwater, we can hear every cheering spectator laughing and loving life in Tualatin!

The Regatta is held rain or shine on Saturday, October 17 from 10am-4pm at the Lake of the Commons, Tualatin. There will be a costume contest for kids, pie eating contests, 5k Regatta Run, pumpkin golf, pumpkin bowling, music, hot food, drinks and of course the regatta itself!



Jolene Hustead aka "Soccer Mom" is a Tualatin resident, married with two boys. Jolene enjoys kayaking the Tualatin River and cooking a variety of unique foods to test on her family.



Photo courtesy Lisa Thorpe.



Photo courtesy Scott Marx.

**THE CITY OF TUALATIN'S
12TH ANNUAL
WEST COAST GIANT PUMPKIN REGATTA**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015, 10AM-4PM
THE LAKE OF THE COMMONS • 8325 SW NYBERG STREET, TUALATIN, OREGON

PEMCO Insurance **WILSONVILLE Toyota** **WHOLE FOODS MARKET** **NEW SEASONS MARKETS** **Pacific PLYWOOD** **Vegetable Commons** **COMCAST** **TUALATIN**

PUMPKIN GARDING • 5K REGATTA RUN • STROLLING ENTERTAINMENT • KIDS GRAFTS
GOSTUME CONTEST • MUSIC • T-SHIRTS • HOT FOOD • DRINKS • AND MORE!
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16TH ANNUAL TERMINATOR WEIGH OFF!