



What's Halloween Without a Cool Pumpkin Carving?

By Eli Mundis

Tusker Tribune Staff

We all know the famous holiday of Halloween, but this article explores a less known part of this spooky holiday; Pumpkin carving!

Whether as used for decoration, symbolism, or any other reason you may have, pumpkin carving is a core aspect of Halloween for fun and creativity!

There are many different types of faces you can carve onto your pumpkin, so we have compiled a list of different ways you can style yours today.

Firstly, we have a basic type of pumpkin, with two eyes and a big, jagged mouth. This type of pumpkin carving is the easiest and quickest one to make, so you could easily make this type.

If you want to get more creative, you could make a piece of art and paste it onto the pumpkin. This method does take more time, resources, and skill, but it is a great way to improve your decorations!

The last method we have is to create a three-dimensional carve. This method is used by adding other resources (such as clay) to your pumpkin. This can be done in multiple ways, but is the most creative of all!

These pumpkin carving ideas are great ways to level up your decorations this Halloween!



Get Set for This Year's Chorus and Band Concerts!

By Andrew Tatto

Tusker Tribune Staff

Now that the year is in full swing, here are the important dates to know if you want to go to the winter chorus, orchestra or band concerts.

The chorus and orchestra concerts will occur on **Wednesday, December 9th** with the rain date being **Thursday, December 10th** in the SMS auditorium.

The 6th grade chorus and orchestra preform at around **6:30**, and the 7th and 8th grade chorus and orchestra preform at around **7:45**.

The band concert occurs at around **6:00 pm** on **Monday, December 14th**, with the snow date being **Tuesday, December 15th** in the SMS auditorium.

If there are students who are preforming, **they should arrive about 20-30 minutes before their concert starts**, and meet up in the room that their teacher tells them to meet in. Any changes can be found on the Somers Central School District Performance Calendar, on the Somers Central School District Website



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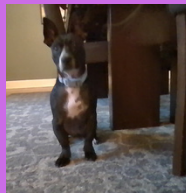
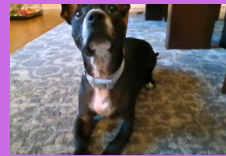
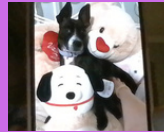
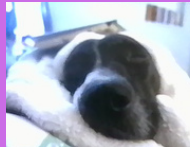
Medication Take Back Day



Do you have any unused or expired medication at home? Well, you're in luck because Medication Take Back Day is here! Hosted by Somers Partners in Prevention, they take any medication that is no longer in use including sharps, old prescription and over-the-counter medicine and more.

Why should kids our age care?

Medication can be disposed in unsafe ways like household trash or flushing down the toilet. It can get into the local water supply, the environment and hurt poor creatures. Also, your pets can get into your unsafely disposed of medications and get seriously hurt. Pictured below is my dog Tootsie. She is a sweet, loving dog that is always there for me when I need her. It's important to protect caring dogs like this one. Lastly, medication can be misused and hurt young people like us.



Important Dates and Info

Medication Take Back Day is on October 24, 2026. Students, like myself can volunteer for service hours, so I will be at Van Tassel Park from 9:00am to 1:00pm. If you have any questions on dates or details please message Ms. Casey on Schoology.

Food Pantry Donations

If you would like to drop of any food donations too you could, but please know that we only take non-perishable food items, which means no milk, eggs, cheese, veggies, fruit, or anything that needs to be kept in a fridge.

THANK YOU!!!!

Thanks again for reading this. Make sure to spread the news about Medication Take Back Day. If you are coming whether you are dropping off medication, food, or just volunteering, know that everyone, meaning Ms. Casey, Ms. Periera, Mrs. Johnson (my mom!), Mrs. Cucchiarella, and all of the Somers Partners in Prevention members are really thankful to have everyone helping out even if it's just in a small way!

**By Meeka Johnson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Looking for More Halloween Costume Suggestions?

By Drew Pucci
Tusker Tribune Staff

With Halloween coming up, many people are struggling to find a costume. Keep in mind that you are not allowed to have masks or inflatables at school. Here are some great Halloween costumes for you:

1. Spider Man: With the new movie coming out over the summer, this is a great and popular option. You can even throw in some silly string to make it more realistic.
2. The Statue of Liberty: This is a great option for last minute ideas because you only need something to put in the air and a book.
3. Mario and Luigi: If want to do something with a friend, this is a perfect option for you.
4. Stormtrooper/Jedi: If you like Star Wars, doing one of these is a lot of fun. (But no Stormtrooper helmet in school)
5. Marty McFly: If you like the Back to the Future trilogy, this is great for you!
6. Doctor Doom: With Avengers Doomsday coming out in theaters in December, this might be a popular choice.

Now here are some popular classic options that are used a lot each year:

- Skeleton: A popular choice each year.
- Ghostbusters: A simple costume that isn't as popular but is still fun to be.
- Pumpkin: This is the classic option for Halloween and is great if you want to be simple and have a cheap costume.
- Zombie: Grab some old or torn clothing and you are all set!
- Ghost: A great choice if you want an extremely simple costume.
- Witch: Get a pointy hat and a broom and you are good!
- Mummy: Unique option that isn't too popular but is still a classic.
- Vampire: With a cape and some fake teeth, this costume is perfect and classic.

Overall, these are all great and fun Halloween costume ideas. From unique costumes to classic ones, this list can help you find a last-minute costume. Happy Halloween!



Why do People Celebrate Halloween ?

By Isabella Mendoza
Tusker Tribune Staff

In a just few weeks, millions of children will put on costumes and head out into their neighborhoods to collect candy. While trick or treating feels like a modern tradition, the roots of Halloween actually go back many more than 2,000 years. What began as a serious ancient festival has transformed over centuries into one of the most popular, community focused holidays celebrated around the world today.

The story started a long time ago with an ancient autumn festival called Samhain in Europe. People celebrated the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. To celebrate the changing seasons, communities would gather, light big bonfires, and wear festive outfits. It was a special time for the cozy winter months ahead.

As time went on, different cultures added their own fun ideas to the celebration. The holiday eventually got the name Halloween, and when families moved to America, they brought these traditions with them. Neighbors started gathering to share autumn stories, gathering to share autumn stories, playing games, and celebrating together. Over the years, these friendly get together were turned into the modern holiday we enjoy today, filled with creative costumes, pumpkin carving, and trick or treating! From ancient bonfires to modern candy bags, Halloween proves that a great tradition never goes out of style; it just gets a little bit sweeter!





Try This Fall Crossword By Weston Volpe! Answers will appear in next week's Tusker Tribune!

School Days (or School Daze)

By Emily Gardella and Victoria Ramos
Tusker Tribune Staff

I grabbed my chunky backpack built like a gorilla and went out for the bus like a black panther hunting its prey. Then the big fat beluga bus came in like a wrecking ball eating cheese sticks viciously.

As I started walking, I dance-walked up the steps. I fell flat on my giant face just like a donkey trying to run from a feisty lion. The most popular boy stared at me like a was a two-headed monkey struggling to eat water from a leaf that has worms on it.

I finally get my big self-up from that dirty disgusting floor and sat right next to the most popular boy, like a raccoon flirting with his new girlfriend. Then I realized that I was sitting on the 6th grader who was just trying to eat their Takis like a lemon juice bandit, but I squashed them like Artemis II falling off the earth. I was so embarrassed that my noise piercing slipped off into their bag of Takis! They picked it up and stared at it like a kangaroo, examining its toenail. Then they stuffed it into their mouth like Joey Chesnutt devouring a 67-course meal.

Once I arrive at school, I'm careful not to fall again but this time my friend Emily was waiting for me and I fell like a BIG UGLY RAT right onto the concrete AGAIN and all EMILY did was Laugh like an old dad laughing at his own jokes. I get right back up looking nothing like a diva track star and I go to hunt down for Emily like a giant pack of lions looking for their meal.

Once the first bell rings, I rush to my locker and open it, and my Chinese cuisine lunch meal falls out onto the most popular kids' ugly koala shaped head. I rush into my class. I'm probably 41 minutes late for and my teacher goes, "BAHHH WHY ARE YOU LATE!!!! I ALWAYS KEW YOU WERE A BIGGIE!" She adds, "Always going to the lunchroom for Takis and Dubai between periods. You really need to cut down the carbs you ungrateful little bratty child."

I pulled my head down like a monkey pretending to be ashamed, but then . . . I put on my loudest music and strut down the classroom like a flamingo skipping to the bathroom and stat dancing like Dua Lipa singing the manifesting song. Then I started to feel the groove and started to sing, levitating and I started levitating like Tung Tung and all his 41 aura friends. I followed him up to the Skibidi world where all the people levitated like aura farming steal a brainrot gods.

Continued on Page 6



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Any student interested in joining the Tusker Tribune Newspaper Club should contact Club Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org.

To visit the Tusker Tribune Website, click here: [Tusker Tribune School Newspaper](http://TuskerTribuneSchoolNewspaper)



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

School Days

From Page 5



Then the teacher started screaming at me like a police officer: “STOP IT YOU-”

I started just tuning her out like Brr Br Patipim and dancing my grooviest moves. Then I got so tired that I started sleeping on the classroom floor. Then I started glitching and grooving to my favorite song, “The Rizzler” and I looked like an intelligent panther figuring out how to order a Grimace shake. I was dreaming about it for about 67,000 million years and I couldn't believe this purple atrocious smiling verity McDonald's shake was sitting right in front of my spooky scary skeleton face.

Then my face got wet from all the aura dripping from it. Then I woke up . . . I was finally at my favorite part of the day, and the subject I'm best at--lunch. I'm so good at eating, I love my delicious fiery red juicy crunchy Takis that rumble my stomach like thunder strutting across a sky of cotton candy. I went into the lunch line with my weird friend, Marliana, and she started singing the national anthem, and she got some weird looks from some kids as if she was an eight-legged racoon! I checked out my delicious bag of Funions, smelling crusty like an old mouse that got trapped in the Sahara dessert

After that long, and obnoxious lunch line filled with hungry, hungry big hippos, I finally sat down, and gobble gobbled my delicious lunch just like a flamingo eating 67 aura tallied shrimp from Acorn Angel Lake. I was so full I was bulging out of the whole lunchroom like the only rhino left on the earth trying to gobble his last meals before the sun fell onto verity.

I was so disappointed in myself. I didn't cut off the Takis or anything. I kept eating and eating. It's okay because I like showing my big differences.

Next, I gathered my notebooks from my pink aura Verity themed locker, dropping my Takis on the kid below but it's ok, because they have red luscious locks, so it just blends in like a lizard in the trees hiding from big backs like me.

DINNER TIMEEEE! YAYYYY! MY SECOND FAVORITE, but first will always be desert where I get to eat the delicious apple crumble cheesecake, cinnamon spice waffles with a touch of blue cheese and my absolute favorite ICE CREAM with pickles and Takis.

Next at 7 pm, my mom took me to the Verity convention!!! I was so excited that I dyed my hair yellow! Next I danced and took a picture with Verity like a choppy tiger eating cheesy beans and steamed rice. My hair steadied and fell off, exposing a shiny bald head. Next my feet grew into big fat feet with wrinkles on my forehead.

Next thing you know, I'm a 67-year-old Unc eating my Takis with my juicy, crunchy, amazing, wet, buttery, slimy, satisfying, bright butter yellow Verity sauce except this time as a old grumpy aura farming grandpa.

The End

Stephen King's the Perfect Author for Halloween Fright

By Aidan Sacchetti
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's the perfect time for horror movies/books, and the perfect author is Stephen King. The name might not ring a bell, but if I said the 2017 movie It, that might jog your memory. He also has other movies you might recognize, including Pet Sematary, Misery, Cujo, Carrie, Stand by Me, The Shining, The Shawshank Redemption, The Green Mile, The Mist, or The Dead Zone.

King was born on September 21st, 1947. Currently, he has published over 60 novels and hundreds of short stories.

King was born in Portland, Maine, from Donald King and Nellie Ruth King. When Stephen King was only a toddler, his father left his family.

After he graduated from the University of Maine at Orono in 1970, King worked as an industrial laundry worker and a high school teacher before starting his writing career. King published his first novel, Carrie, in 1974, which enabled him to quit teaching. Then he starting writing hit after hit, with examples like 'Salem's Lot (1975), The Shining (1977), The Stand (1978), It (1986), Misery (1987), and the series of The Dark Tower (1982-2004).

Fame comes with critics, and due to how popular he was, critics claimed that any book he released would become a hit since his name is Stephen King and didn't require skill anymore. King proved them wrong by making a fake name , "Richard Bachman," and still became famous under that name for a bunch of books.

King had a family consisting of his wife Tabitha Spruce and his three children Naomi, Joe, and Owen. He has won the National Book Foundation Medal (2003) and the National Medal of Arts (2014).

You might not find all of King's books in the middle school library, but you might find The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon or The Eyes Of The Dragon because King made them for his kids. And if you ever watch It, now you know that the director didn't come up with the story, Stephen King did.



The Right Lure Makes All the Difference

By The Great Outdoorsman
Tusker Tribune Staff

Today I'm going to talk about a new lure that has come on the scene, very recently--the dice/urchin bait, and what is my favorite brand to throw. I want to clarify the difference between these two baits.

The dice bait is usually smaller and less expensive. They also usually come in packs of 2-6. The urchin is much bigger, more expensive and only comes in singles or packs of 1 or 2. For bait casters, you want to throw the urchin. I like the urchin for a bait caster because it requires much better casting capability with heavier lures and it also needs a beefier hook; this hook needs the stronger hookset of the baitcaster.

Now, the dice bait is much better with a spinning outfit; it is a much, much, much, lighter lure. And weightlessness is just something a baitcaster cannot throw. My only advice is that you need a swivel for line twist on a spinning reel. I prefer, for lure recommendations, the strike king tumble weed in the color "smallmouth candy". It is the best dice bait to throw for beginners. It will get bit and catch bass, bluegill and many other species. T

hat is all I have for today and I will see you next time.

The Space Search Saga Continues--Mariner 3 and Mariner 4

By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, or MRO, has been in space for over 20 years. And yet, the MRO is still in operation. It continues to send data back to Earth, just as Mariner 4 did in the 1960s.

But what was Mariner 4? What happened to Mariner 3? How does this relate to MRO? Well, today, we are going to find out.

November 5, 1964. This day is important because today is the day Mariner 3 was going to be launched. It was launched on an Atlas-Agena, just like Mariners 1 and 2. Sadly, misfortune struck that day. Even though it was launched successfully, Mariner 3 never reached Mars. This was because a protective covering over the main camera failed to open, causing Mariner 3 to become too heavy. This caused Mariner 3 to become out of power eight hours after launch.

Although Mariner 3 never reached Mars, it did go into orbit around the Sun, never to be seen or heard from again. Hope was not lost, though. Because, like Mariner 1, Mariner 3 had a twin, Mariner 4. Will Mariner 4 succeed? *Find out in the next issue of Space Daily.*



By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

In the last issue, we learned about how Mariner 3 lost power eight hours after launch. And we also learned that Mariner 3 had a twin, Mariner 4. So, will Mariner 4 succeed? Well, today, you get to find out!

November 28, 1964. This was the day Mariner 4 was going to be launched. Just like its predecessors, Mariner 4 was launched on an Atlas-Agena rocket. Just like Mariner 3, Mariner 4 was launched successfully, and didn't shut down after launch. This set on course for Mars, the red planet.

It took longer than Mariner 2 to reach its target, taking eight months to get to Mars. But, did Mariner 4 succeed. The answer is . . . Yes! Mariner 4 successfully performed a flyby of Mars on July 15, 1965. It made a close approach of 6,118 miles. Mariner 4 took 21 pictures of Mars.

Before Mariner 4, some people speculated that there could possibly be life on Mars, just as they had assumed for Venus. But, like Mariner 2, Mariner 4's data showed that Mars didn't have any big life forms (like animals or plants), but it did not rule out bacteria that could live below the surface.

After its historic flyby of Mars, Mariner 4 shut down over two years later on December 21, 1967, the first day of winter back on Earth.

Now, how do Mariner 3 and Mariner 4 relate to the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter? Well, although Mariners 3 and 4 were launched decades before MRO, they both share the same object of study for one thing, and they also looked for signs of life on Mars. Even though Mariner 4 ruled out surface life, there could still be small bacteria life under the surface of Mars.

Next up on Space Daily: Will Mariner 5 continue the unlucky odd-numbered Mariner streak? Will Mariner 5 reach Venus? Is it true that Mariner 5 was considered to be the first comet mission? Find out in the next issue of Space Daily!



Hurricane Allen Set Some Tragic Records

Hurricanes Weekly Issue #2

By Maksym Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

There have been many destructive and extremely intense Atlantic Hurricanes over the years. But the most intense hurricane by wind speed was a Category 5 hurricane in 1980. The hurricane's name was Allen. This is the meteorological monster's story.

On July 30, 1980, a tropical wave emerged off the coast of Africa. It strengthened to become the second tropical depression of the season on July 31. Even though the system was moving at 20 knots, which doesn't usually let these systems develop, Tropical Depression Two intensified and became a tropical storm on August 1 and received the name Allen. Tropical Storm Allen then intensified to Category 1 hurricane status the next day. A reconnaissance aircraft did not reach Allen until August 3, which was a Category 2 at the time.

Hurricane Allen continued to intensify, before making landfall as a high-end Category 3 with 125 mile per hour winds. Allen impacted the Winward Islands, which contained the island of Barbados and many other islands, on August 4. Allen then rapidly intensified to Category 5 hurricane status on the same day, with a low pressure of 911 millibars, with wind speeds of 180 miles per hour. Allen then weakened late on August 5 and early into August 6. This could have been the end of Allen's tale. But it wasn't. Allen remained a major hurricane (category 3 or above), the entire time.

Then, Allen began a second round of rapid intensification. Allen then had its second peak intensity with wind speeds of 190 miles per hour, and a low pressure of 899 millibars, on August 7. This set a record for the highest wind speeds ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean, a record that would not be repeated until Hurricane Melissa came along in 2025.

Hurricane Allen then weakened to wind speeds of 130 miles per hour on August 8. But then, Allen had a third round of rapid intensification. It then had a third peak intensity of 180 miles per hour winds and a low pressure of 909 millibars. Hurricane Allen then began to weaken on August 9. At this point, Hurricane Allen was nearing another landfall in Texas. Allen then made landfall on August 10 just northeast of Brownsville, Texas, at category 3 intensity with 115 mile per hour winds and a low pressure of 945 millibars. Later in the day, Allen was downgraded to a tropical storm just west of Laredo, Texas. Allen was then downgraded to a tropical depression at daybreak on August 11. Allen then dissipated later in the day.

In total, Allen caused one billion dollars in damage during its life and caused over 200 deaths. Due to its record setting intensity and the amount of damage Allen caused, the name Allen was retired from the rotating Atlantic Hurricane naming list and was replaced with the name Andrew for the 1986 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which itself was retired in 1992.

Next issue: Learn about Hurricane Beryl (2024).

Thanks for reading Hurricanes Weekly!



Hurricane Beryl Left Damage and Spawned Tornadoes



Hurricanes Weekly Issue #3

By Maksym E. Chorny
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season was full of historic systems in one of the costliest hurricane seasons on record. So, each of these historic hurricanes will get their own articles in Hurricanes Weekly.

But today, we are going to learn about Hurricane Beryl, the records it set, the damage it caused, and its meteorological history.

Hurricane Beryl formed on June 28, 2024, in the Main Development Region of the Atlantic Ocean, becoming the second tropical depression of the season (the first storm of the season was Tropical Storm Alberto). The system then rapidly intensified to tropical storm status later that evening, receiving the name Beryl.

The system then strengthened to Category 1 hurricane status on June 29. Beryl continued to rapidly strengthen, before making landfall as a high-end Category 4 hurricane in Grenada. After landfall, Beryl strengthened and had a peak intensity with wind speeds of 165 miles per hour and a low pressure of 934 millibars on July 2.

The next day, Beryl passed just south of Jamaica at category 4 intensity. Beryl then made a second landfall as a high-end category 2 on July 5. The landfall location was the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Even though Beryl weakened after landfall, it didn't dissipate and emerged off the coast of Mexico as a high-end tropical storm. But Beryl was nearing a third landfall in Texas. And hurricanes don't survive very long over land.

Right before landfall, Beryl reached Category 1 intensity. Beryl then made landfall in Matagorda Bay, Texas, on July 8, with wind speeds of 90 miles per hour and a low pressure of 978 millibars. Beryl then weakened on to a tropical storm on July 9 just northwest of Houston, Texas. Beryl then weakened to a tropical depression later the same day.

After that, Beryl became a post-tropical cyclone and moved across the northeast United States on July 10, before dissipating on July 11 over Ontario, Canada. In total, Beryl caused over \$6.8 billion in damage, and a total of 64 deaths were confirmed. Beryl also caused a Tornado Outbreak in Texas, with the most intense tornado being an EF 3. (EF stands for Enhanced Fujita).

Next Issue: Learn about Hurricane Debby. Although it was much weaker than Beryl, that doesn't mean Debby wasn't destructive.

Thanks for reading Hurricanes Weekly!

