



# The Monthly Buck

## The Buck Stops Here.

# Top 5 Halloween Costumes for 2009

By: Angel McBee and Felicia Miller

This month as you all know is Halloween. Every year children all over the country look forward to dressing up and going out in disguise to get candy. Picking out that perfect costume is most of the fun associated with the holiday. In case you're curious about why people started dressing up in costumes in the first place, here is what we discovered. We discovered something that people in the old days called mumm-ing. Mumm-ing is the first thing that allowed people to wear costumes, sing, play around, and be mischievous. People also called the festivities on Halloween going-a-souling. It offered people to go door to door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for treats. We're not sure when we stopped the door to door prayers in place of begging for candy, but it's definitely a lot more fun.

What we were more interested in this year was finding out what everyone was going to disguise themselves as for Halloween.

We asked the grades K-7<sup>th</sup> what they were going to be for Halloween and we got some great responses. We have a lot of different costumes but we are taking the 5 most popular ones, so if you are scared to get caught wearing what everyone else is you need to hurry.

- #1 Vampire-be careful for all those bloodsuckers
- #2 Football Player
- #3 Witch
- #4 Ninja.
- #5 Zombie

If you are disappointed that your costume matches someone else's, you still have time to make your costume an original creation. Some of the best costumes can be

found right in your own house. For some creative ideas, safety pin some pink or white balloons to yourself, throw on a shower cap and go as a bubble bath. You're mom's closet might also be a treasure chest of great ideas. Remember to be safe, wear glow sticks to be seen, only knock on doors of people that you know and with the porch light on, stay in groups for safety, and have fun.



# This Day in History

By: Calvin Armbrister and Laramie Furgeson

Halloween is usually a day that gets a bad reputation because it is a holiday that is associated with evil and bad spirits. There has actually been a lot of interesting things in history that have taken place on Halloween. On this day in history the following events took place:

October 31, 1892 first Sherlock Holmes is published

October 31, 1912 first gangster film opens

October 31, 1926 Houdini dies from a busted appendix.

October 31, 1950 Earl

Lloyd becomes first black in the NBA.

October 31, 1961 Stalin's body removed from Linin's tomb.

October 31, 1968 president Johnson announces bombing halt. October 31, 1984 prime minister of India is assassinated

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### Special points of interest:

- November and winter are approaching fast, so put up your flip flops and get out your coats.
- 2nd six weeks is almost over, get that work turned in, you have two weeks left.
- Remember to give thanks the entire month of November, we can all be thankful for something.
- Football season is coming to an end, lets tell our players how much we appreciate all their hard work and dedication.

# Editorial: Are you too old to trick or treat?

By: Zanna Beck and Kaegan Ricks

Kids love candy! I mean kids really love candy! Now define kids. Every time I go out trick or treating I see kids of all ages, I even see babies. Can babies eat candy, or do parents take them trick or treating because they are too old to go out themselves all dressed up and ring the doorbell for candy? Would people even give an adult candy if they went trick or treating? So I wonder, what age is too old to go trick or treating? I think once you're 16 you should stop trick or treating. If you're 16 it's time to stop trick or treating because it's time to let the little kids live, it's there time. Ride around in your



car and go buy some candy, go to a party and have fun. Little kids don't get to party. If you do go trick or treating take your little brother or little sister. Be nice. Kaegan disagrees with me he says, if you're too old to trick-or-treat then you're too old to have fun. Many people think that you must be young to trick-or-treat but it can be fun for all ages. Many people still love to go trick-or-treat at any age. I have even seen an elderly woman dressed up and going from house to house for that wonderful free candy and treats. Many people can't stop their kids from trick of treating only because they find a way to get out of the house. So next time you go trick-or-treating and you see someone that's a lot older

than you don't freak out, give them some candy. If you don't want to give candy, you could always give them a trick.



## Dia de Los Muertos-A Spanish Tradition

By: Nathaniel Mitchell

Dia de Los Muertos means Day of the Dead and is celebrated in Mexico and some places in America in place of Halloween. This Mexican holiday is from October 31st through November 2nd. This celebration is a day to celebrate, remember and prepare special foods in honor of those who have departed. During this celebration the streets are closed. The cemeteries are filled with

flowers, candy, Calaveras (skeletons and skulls), and parades. "Today, people don wooden skull masks called calacas and dance in honor of their deceased relatives. The wooden skulls are also placed on altars that are dedicated to the dead. Sugar skulls, made with the names of

the dead person on the forehead, are eaten by a relative or friend," according to Mary J. Adrade. The spirits stick around and are honored by their relatives until November 2nd when they go back to their graves to rest.



## Top Ten Halloween Jokes

By:Kaegan Ricks



1. What do skeletons say before they begin dining?  
Bone appetite!
2. What is a ghouls favorite drink?  
Slime juice
3. What does Mrs. Ghost serve for dessert?  
Ice scream
4. What do fishermen say on Halloween?  
'Trick-or-trout!'
5. Where do spooks go to post a parcel?  
The ghost office.
6. What did the vampire say to the Invisible Man?  
'Long time, no see!'
7. Why is Dracula so unpopular?  
Because he's a pain in the neck!
8. What runs around a cemetery but doesn't move?  
A fence!
- 9.What did the mother ghost say her children?  
'Don't spook until you're spooked to.'
10. Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?  
He had no Body to dance with.

# Laptops in Use

By: Tyler Smith

For the past two weeks since we have had our laptops, we have learned a lot. Several teachers have used lessons where we get the opportunity to use our laptops for various assignments. Mrs. Damron has let us use the laptops for web quests over chemical bonding; Mr. Rapstine has let us use our laptops for Study Island. Mr. Cox has allowed students to use the laptops to write and to work on at the end of class. Mrs. Cotton lets us use the computer for this news letter and various web quests and quizzes. We have been learning power point and we are all good at using the web-

cam to make videos. I also heard something about making a weather report video for the weather station on the news, I bet we can use our webcams for that. I think that it is neat that we can turn in work directly to a teacher's website without even doing the assignment on paper; this should save a lot of trees in the future. Now we would all like to thank Mrs. McAnally for getting the laptops for us to use. I think this ability with the new technology will help us and teachers with the homework and I hope we will get to use these in the high school, because we love them.



**"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important."**  
-Bill Gates

# My Favorite Basketball Memory-A Feature Story

By: Felicia Miller

As the game started the team was getting ready to go out. As for me, I was getting ready to jump for the ball. Luckily, I was the one who got the ball and not the other girl. While we raced down the court to make a shot I was left behind to make sure that the other team wouldn't make a basket. The game took a long time but by second period we were ahead, but just by a couple of points. We really wanted to win this game. We were pretty happy and just couldn't wait till the second quarter. As the game was going on I was really getting into it and right as I was about to play defense, (which is what I do best in basketball) the coach had to pull me out and it really ticked me off. The

buzzer went off for half time and we were really lucky because the other team had the ball and was about to make a shot. Luckily we were saved by the buzzer. After the long talk with our coach about how we really need to win this game, we got pumped up and were ready to represent our school and make the coach proud. As we started the third quarter one of our players fell and had to be taken out of the game. Everyone was devastated. Thankfully we had back up players and that made us feel a lot better. By the fourth period adrenalin was high and the audience was on the edge of their seats. We knew that we

Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.

*John Wooden*

could beat them. As we came to the end of the fourth period I got the ball and had to take it down the court. I was really scared, everyone was watching and waiting for me to make my move. I could smell the sweat in the air and feel the smooth surface of the basketball and I could see that there was only three seconds left in the game.

I hope everyone is ready for basketball season, because I can't wait. Let's go out there and have a great season!



**Basketball season is here!!!**

# Mrs. Hopkin's Ranch-A creative writing Scary story

## By: Bryce Hillhouse

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There has been a lot of very disturbing rumors going around about Ms. Hopkins's ranch. Ms. Hopkins was down by the stream fishing when a burglar broke into her house. She heard a very loud bang so she ran up to her house to see what was going on. Once she got to her house she observed some kids standing in her kitchen that were in their mid teens. She shouted "what are you doing in my house," and the biggest one turned and fired a pistol striking her in the chest and killing her.

A few months later Billy was dared by some of his friends to go visit Ms. Hopkins ranch. Billy was the new kid in town and everybody thought that he was a scaredy cat. Billy wanted to prove that he wasn't, but deep down he knew that he was. Billy was afraid to go to the ranch but he didn't want his friends making fun of him either. Late one night, Billy decided to get on the internet and find out exactly what happened on her ranch and see what all the commotion was about. Billy got on the internet and googled the truth about Ms. Hopkins's ranch. After he clicked search, a very gloomy looking house came up. Just the image of the house gave him the creeps. Billy started to read some very disturbing facts. One fact quoted that Ms. Hopkins spirit haunts the ranch. Billy later discovered an even more interesting fact, he discovered that the burglars had not been arrested; the police had the prints off of the bullet but could not confirm a shooter. Billy started to wonder if the shooter was still in the area.

The next week at school Billy was setting with his friends Zach, Cory and Jacob. He was telling them about the very strange facts that he had read. He explained that the burglars had never been arrested. "The police did not even have a confirmed identity," he explained. Billy's friends turned and looked at each other and let out a very suspicious gasp. This concerned Billy but Billy just shook it off and thought that they might have just found that interesting. Since he was the new kid in town and had only knew the kids for 2

weeks he figured that he just doesn't know them that well yet.

Finally Billy decided that he might as well go and visit the ranch. He thought to himself "what real danger could there be anyway". Billy didn't believe in spirits and demons and that kinda stuff. The next day at school Billy told his friend that he had decided to visit the ranch. Zach got a real excited look on his face and started asking real into depth questions on when he was going, what time was he going and was he going alone. Some of the questions that he was asking concerned Billy. Billy thought to himself "why is he asking these questions so into depth?" Billy knew from then on that something was going on that was very strange. Zach repeated his questions again, Billy replied "I haven't decided yet." Zach got a very disgusted look on his face and started insulting Billy again calling him a coward and a sissy. Billy finally got fed up with the insults and he said "I'm going to go Friday night by myself at 5:00. The boys replied "no that's too early, if you are a real man go at night or lets say around 9:00." Billy thought about it and agreed.

Friday came way too soon for Billy. All day he had a very weird feeling in his stomach. When he arrived at school he could not help but noticed that the three boys that dared him to go to the ranch of a dead woman just happened to be absent that day. When the bell rung at 3:30 Billy's stomach dropped to his feet he knew what was soon to come. That night he was setting at the kitchen table eating dinner with his parents. Billy knew he had to explain that he was going to visit the ranch that night even though he was scared to. When he told his parents that he was going his dad gave him a very angry look. His father said "Billy, I will ask you again, what is the deal with you wanting to go to the ranch?" Even though Billy didn't want to tell them he explained that his friends wanted him to go. He explained that his friends had dared him to go visit the ranch at 9:00 a

clock. His dad looked at him with a very puzzled look and he said that is when the cops are switching their shifts. Shortly after his mother added that 9:00 a clock is also the approximate time that she was killed. Billy got very nervous but figured he would be okay. Billy told them that he had to do this and his parent finally gave him permission. Nine a clock came all too quick for him. He set out for the ranch around eight thirty p.m. Once to the ranch his stomach kind of cleared up a little bit. He observed the house and the stream. Billy proceeded on to the house and once inside he found something very strange. He discovered that there was some freshly cooked bacon on the stove. This was very disturbing to him. He said to himself, "wait this house was deserted, so why is their freshly cooked bacon on the stove?"

Billy was standing in the kitchen with a very puzzled look on his face. He heard steps behind him and turned very quickly only to discover Zach standing with a gun pointed at him. Billy said "why are you doing this ma?" Zach got a very evil look on his face, and laughed. Billy heard more foot steps behind him, he turns and Jacob is standing there with a shot gun aimed at him. Billy shouts out "I thought that you were my friends, why are you doing thi?" Then he heard another very familiar chuckle from beside him. Very sarcastically Billy says "let me guess Cory". So Billy proceeds to turn around and discovers Cory standing there. Zach asks him well have you figured anything out yet. Billy with a very unsure look on his face replies what do you mean. Zack replies very hastily "we are the unknown burglars, and I am the unknown gunman." Billy says "you have been very suspicious to me all along." Zach says, "oh, is that so?" Billy replied "ya like when I said at lunch that the burglars and the gunman were still unknown how you three turned and gasped at each other." Zach says "ya we done it, we are responsible for her death, then very quickly corrects himself. I am responsible for her

## Mrs. Hopkin's Ranch cont.....

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Billy got scared and ran out of the door. The boys chased him and when Billy exited the door Zack fired to shots striking him in the leg. Billy plummeted to the ground and rolled over to see the three boys walking up to him. Zach stood over him and aimed his pistol at Billy's head. Then Billy heard his fathers voice say "wait Zach, it's not Billy's fault." Billy looked behind him to see his father standing there with a rifle aimed at the three

boys. Zach shouted "YOU WERE THEIR WHEN MY FATHER SHOT HIM SELF AND YOU MAID NO EFFERT TO STOP HIM!!"! Billy's dad replies "Billy had nothing to do with this so why are you taking it out on him." Zach replies, "so you know what it feels like to lose somebody so dear to you." Billy's father says, "me and your father were best friends I was affected also by his death." Zach replies, "obviously not because you didn't try to stop him. Billy's dad answers him their was nothing I could do I was in the restroom when I heard the gun go off." Zach answered back, "so, you couldn't have stopped him." His father says "no, I couldn't have, so put the gun down and let my son go." Zach started to cry and put down his weapon. Jacob set down his weapon also. Billy crawls over too his father and Billy hears his father's radio. "I need back up". Shortly after a couple other officers showed up and arrested the three boys. Billy was very upset while watching the kids that he believed were his friends, being loaded into the back of a squad car, but at the same time he was happy for finally solving the mystery. That night Billy asked his

father what Zack was talking about when he said that he was there the night his father killed himself. Billy was very confused because they were new to the town and his father didn't hang out with anybody. His father told him that Zach's father and him were buddies all the way through school. He then revealed that his father was their next door neighbor in their previous town. Billy replies "Mr. Winburn ? "His father answers "yes that was Zach's father". Billy then asked "but how come I never saw Billy there". His father then tells him that his Mr. Winburn had attempted suicide many times but failed. Sin result he was put in a foster home.

The next day was the trial for the three boys Zach was sentenced to life in prison, Jacob was sentence to 50 to 75 years with possibility of paroll after 45 years, and Cory was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The next week Billy and his family packed up and moved again to another small peaceful town with no history of any murders or any history relating to his father.

## UIL-Competing with the Best

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UIL is in full swing at the elementary and Jr. High School and coming up quick for the High School Academic events. All of the teachers have been working really hard and students and teachers have been putting in extra time after school, before school, and during tutorials in

order to get ready for upcoming competitions. Everyone is excited about the speaking events, math events, reading, listening skills, music, and all of the other areas that we get the chance to compete in. We all have to do school work, but we rarely have a chance to get awards and re-

wards for it. UIL gives us the chance to not only get out of school for the day, but show how smart and talented we are to all of the other school districts around. We want to wish luck to all of the students who will be competing in the next couple of weeks. Break a Leg!

## Funny Epitaphs by: Dustin Fern

An epitaph is a short phrase on a person's tombstone done in remembrance of a person.

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake; stepped on the gas instead of the brake. —Pennsylvania Tombstone

To follow you I'll not consent, Until I know which way you went.-in reply to a previous headstone

I told you I was sick.-a hypochondriac

John Brown is filling his last cavity.-Dentist's tombstone

Here lies Owen Moore, Gone Away, Owin' more than he could pay. —England

I was somebody, Who is no business of yours.-Vermont

Under the sod and under the trees, lies the body of Jonathan Pease. He is not here, there's only the pod; Pease shelled out and went to God.-Massachusetts tombstone

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## Spotlight on Superintendent Vaughn

### By: Jaxon Rogers and Laramie Furgeson

We have seen our new Superintendent Mr. Vaughn around campus and at various school activities and many of us recognize his voice from the announcers box at the football games, but we got the opportunity to talk with him on a more personal level and we thought that everyone would be interested in getting to know the man behind the scenes here at White Deer schools.

Mr. Vaughn attended Plainview, and Lleveland schools, but grew up in Petersberg. His mom was a music teacher and he comes from a singing family, so we need to talk him into singing for the talent show this year. After teaching 8th grade at Estacado and being principal at Spring Lake Earth, White Deer managed to get him to move here to be our Superintendent. Mr. Vaughn and his wife Nan have two children and four grandchildren and the couple are currently enjoying getting to know the community and people here in White Deer. Hopefully he has been able to take advantage of the Bass

fishing at the lakes because he claims to be a "huge bass fisher."

Mr. Vaughn credits teachers and coaches for helping him make the decision to become a superintendent. He said that "if it weren't for teachers and coaches, I might have been a drop out, so I am paying it forward." You might not realize that Mr. Vaughn went to Wayland Baptist University on a Track scholarship. We feel very lucky to have someone running the district who would like to see White Deer become an even better community than it already is, and who supports us in everything we do.

When asked about his goals for White Deer in both the schools and the community, Mr. Vaughn said that he would "like to see more homes because there is a demand for new housing." If we had more homes here, then the school and the community would have a chance to grow. Mr. Vaughn would also like to see our district attain exemplary status, see

more technology on campus, and expand upon a larger extra-curricular program. I know that we as students would also like to see our schools meet those goals. It would be really great to have more choices for extra-curricular activities.

We had a really good conversation with Mr. Vaughn and have decided that he is a benefit to our district. It is kinda nice and kinda scary to see the superintendent on campus for no reason at all, but we think that it is pretty nice that he likes to be involved in the things that we do and is not someone who we only see at school assemblies and graduation.

So, as a district, we would like to welcome Mr. Vaughn and his family to White Deer and we promise to work hard to make our school look good in all that we do.