

Terra Nova Times

Volume 15, Issue 9

Terra Nova High School

October 28, 2020

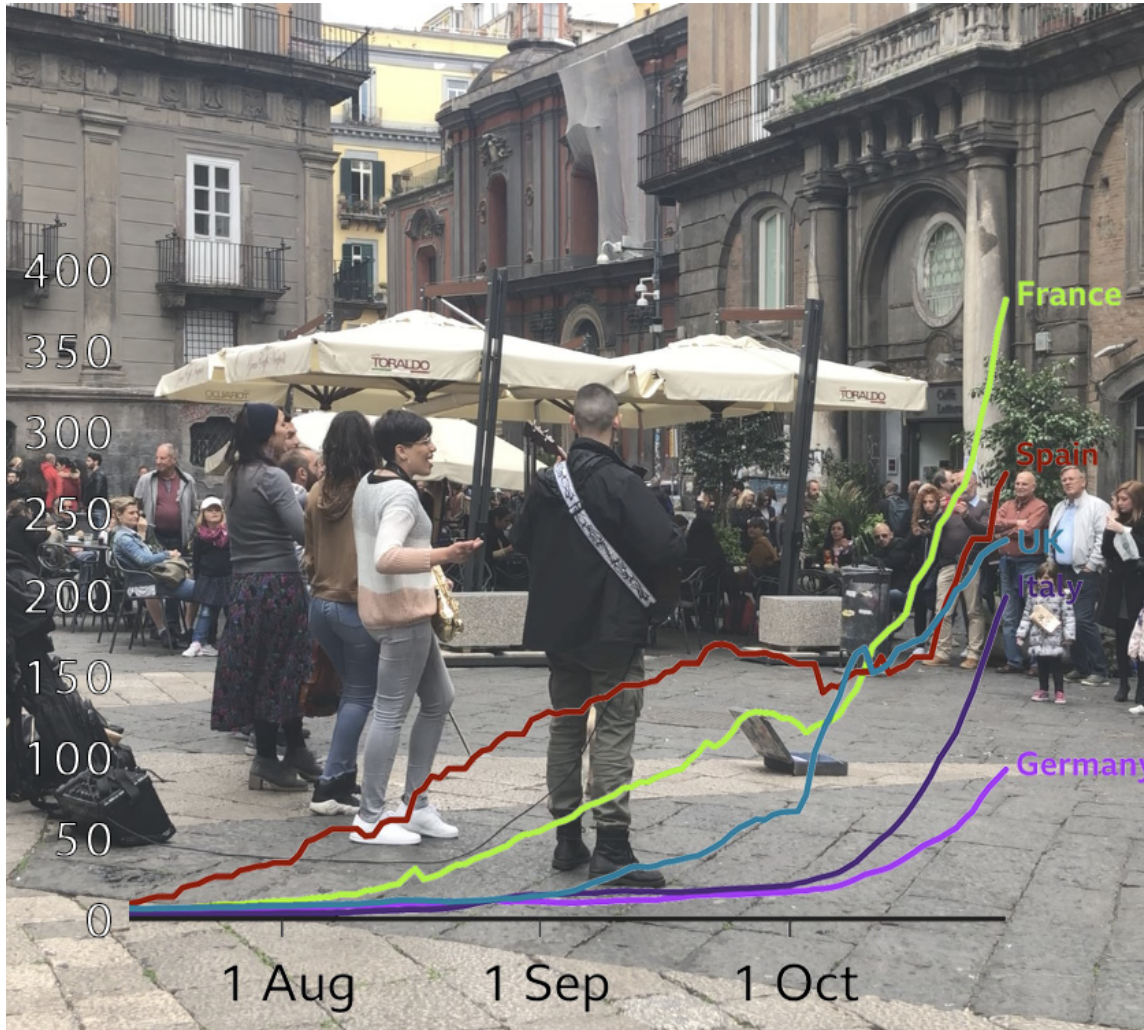
COVID-19 strikes again in Europe

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

COVID-19 is once again spiking in Europe. The daily case rate is higher than it was earlier this year. This may be due to either a “second wave” or an increase in testing. It is likely a combination of both.

This increase in cases is most dramatically shown in larger countries such as Italy, which has almost double the daily cases that it did earlier this year, and Spain, which has almost triple the daily cases than it did earlier this year. Italy has just recently passed China’s death toll, and it has been hovering around a hundred deaths since Oct. 20. Italy has now reinstated many of its previous restrictions again.

According to John Hopkins University, “Russia has the highest number of coronavirus cases on the continent with over 1.4 million cases, as well as breaking the record for daily confirmed cases with just under 16,000 cases.” The Republic of Ireland is moving to “Level Five” restrictions, which is the country’s highest COVID-19 lockdown protocols. The UK has a three-tier system, where regions are classified as low, medium, or high risk.



Jenson Ho / Terra Nova Times

Scenes like these from Europe are part of the distant past as COVID cases skyrocket.

Dr. Margaret Harris from the World Health Organization said, “Unfortunately, people sort of did behave as if it had

gone away, and it hadn’t, and that’s why numbers have been steadily increasing since June.”

The overall relaxing of the

social distancing and other precautions of the majority of the people in Europe has led to the cases increasing significantly.

It is likely that these trends will continue in other regions of the world before a vaccine is present to fully help to extinguish the virus. However, even after a vaccine is developed, it will take some time for it to be mass produced and distributed to the masses in order to gain herd immunity.

Why does this matter to Americans? Europe’s COVID-19 trends are often predictive of what the US will face approximately two weeks later. But currently, America seems to be following the same trend; its highest infection rate was 85,000 on Oct. 23. Even California, with more conservative reopening plans, has had an increase in infection rates over the past few days.

As we approach the colder seasons, it may even cause even larger amount of infections as German Lopez, a senior correspondent for Vox News, said, “The fall and winter still threaten to make things worse. Schools will continue to reopen. The cold in northern parts of America will push people back inside, where the virus has a much easier time spreading than the outdoors. Families and friends will come together for the holidays. A flu season could strain the healthcare system further.”

TN collects toiletries for the homeless in SF

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

Terra Nova is hosting a Toiletry Supply Drive this week Oct. 26-30, from 8am to 4pm. Anyone is welcome to donate, and all donations can be dropped off in front of the main office at Terra Nova, in a designated bin labeled for the toiletry supply drive.

For this drive, we are looking for items such as single-use masks, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry detergent, diapers, toiletry kits, and paper grocery bags. All items must be sealed and unopened in order to be donated.

Terra Nova is working with Compass Family Services, an organization that helps stabilize and reconstruct the lives of families who are homeless in San Francisco. Terra Nova Leadership chose to work with Compass Family Services because “They [Family Compass Services] had COVID-19 specific relief needs and were really clear on what they were asking for,” said Leila Vuskovic, committee head of the department in charge of organizing donation drives.

The main goal of Compass Family Services is to help stabilize and get



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

Some of the many toiletries the homeless need help with.

homeless families back on their feet. They aim to help families achieve economic independence, as well as become emotionally and physically healthy. Over 90% of families that go through their

program are successful in attaining the previously listed goals. Compass Family Services values equality and diversity and are committed to pursuing these values through their work. If you would like

to find out more about Compass Family Services, visit www.compass-sf.org.

Proper hygiene affects how a person views themselves, and a lack thereof causes a loss of confidence and self respect.

Dr. Colleen Anderson, the Associate Dental Director at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, explains the importance of good oral health: “[We] provide education about oral hygiene and how their oral health connects to their other medical conditions.” Not only do homeless people lack the proper supplies necessary to maintain good dental hygiene, but they also do not have access to a healthy, nutritious diet. These two factors combined lead to a large increase in health issues among the homeless, and contribute to the overall problem of inadequate care within the homeless community. Cleanliness helps prevent infection as well as other major medical issues, something that is commonly witnessed throughout homeless communities. It also allows homeless people who are looking to find a job or find a place to stay, to be taken seriously.

Robby Bancroft, who has done extensive work with the Pacifica Resource Center, said that toiletry donations are critical for “helping them prepare for work, job interviews, and housing search.”

TN alum for Pacifica School District

By Kyle Gossage
Times staff writer

Jared Steele, TN alumni and former TN biology teacher as well as the head coach for Cross Country and Track & Field teams, is running to be a board member for the Pacifica School District. Steele's main goals are to make a safe plan for the return to schools and smooth the transitions from elementary school to middle school, and middle school to high school.

Steele said, "The next two years are going to be a game of 'catch-up.' There needs to be a focus, if not a change in curriculum, on how we can get students caught up for the academic skills they've missed out on since March 2020. Once we return to 'normal,' it can't just be 'business as usual,' but rather how we can make up for the time missed during this transitional period." Steele also has several long-term goals he plans to achieve if elected to the school board: "I'd love to take a closer look to see where efforts need to be made to prepare 8th graders for high school, in addition salary is a big undertaking, especially as a realistic goal to achieve something substantial in the course of two years"

Jared Steele's former TN band direc-



Courtesy of Jared Steele

Young Jared Steele as drum major of the 2012 Terra Nova band.

tor Michael Pens said, "I'm so excited to see a former Terra Nova student taking on the responsibility of helping Pacifica schools, especially during such a challenging time...Though it seems like a lifetime ago, I remember Jared always working selflessly for the betterment of others. He was bright, energetic, and made

everyone around him more engaged."

Elias Sanchez, a TN alumni and former Cross Country and Track champion said, "Steele was easily one of the biggest role models through my time in high school. He not only got me through the finish line of some of the biggest races a runner could be in, but he coached

me on how to be a better person, and the fact of the matter is that Steele was a significant positive factor in my life when I was just simply finding my way."

Samantha Johns, a teacher in the Pacifica School District and long-time friend of Jared Steele, said, "Over the last few years, I have on numerous occasions seen Jared running, late on a Saturday morning, keeping his slowest cross-country student company. He would stick with them and encourage them until they finished, no matter how long they took. It always strikes me as such a kind gesture and is just indicative of his character. He is a truly good person who wants to see our school district improve." She also said, "Jared wants to help students have smooth transitions between K-8, high school, and beyond so that all students can find success. He has taught in the classroom, so he has first-hand experience of the daily struggles of teaching and navigating our current education system. He respects and values teachers and wants to find long term solutions to increase compensation, which will help to attract and retain teachers that we are struggling so dearly to find. I also personally love that he thinks every child deserves a full arts education and that denying students arts would be a disservice."

Unofficial ballot boxes crop up in California

By Sophie Phelps
Times staff writer

With the election quickly approaching, you may have noticed that, due to the pandemic, in person voting has been limited and replaced with mail in voting in the State of CA, although San Mateo County has had all-mail-in elections for the last few years.

The way mail-in voting works is that you receive your ballot in the mail, fill it out, and then return it by mail or in a ballot drop box, which is a secured box meant for the collection of ballots normally overseen by election officials to ensure voter safety and to prevent fraud.

The main controversy surrounding mail-in voting is around the reliability and security of mail-in voting. President Trump has repeatedly

questioned the legitimacy of all-mail-in elections in which every registered voter is sent a ballot (versus classic absentee voting, where the voter must explicitly request a ballot). The California GOP has inflamed controversy by placing ballot drop boxes of their own in various locations such as churches, gun stores, and gas stations.

Many argue that what the GOP is doing is illegal and can be cited as a felony, and that only the official election ballot boxes are legitimate. The GOP counters that they are following a law created in 2016 that allows "ballot harvesting," a system in which campaign volunteers go to people's houses and collect their ballots and turn them in for them. This leaves a grey area where ballots can be tampered with or lost. The Democratic party argues that the 2016 law regard-



Sophie Phelps / Terra Nova Times

One of many official drop boxes located in California.

ing ballot harvesting is centered around a designated person collecting the ballots and that the ballot boxes placed by the GOP do not have an authorized person watching over them.

On Oct. 5, California's secretary of state, Alex Padilla, and

Attorney General Xavier Becerra sent out a cease-and-desist letter to the Republican party demanding that they remove all unofficial ballot boxes, in addition to providing the names, addresses, and birth dates of everyone who turned in their ballot to

one of the unofficial drop boxes to confirm legitimacy. Becerra made it clear that he views this as a major threat to the election and wants it taken care of immediately: "Anyone who tampers with the vote is tampering with free and fair elections," he said.

The GOP did not seem interested in taking down their ballot boxes, as shown in a tweet by Ken Calvert, a GOP member: "We have stood our ground and our legal ballot collections WILL continue." The GOP did not want to comply with the previous cease-and-desist order placed earlier this month. With the ongoing controversy amidst the election, we have yet to see a definite answer on whether the ballot boxes placed by the GOP will be forced to be removed or continue to collect ballots. To be sure you are putting your ballot in an official ballot box, look for a box like one pictured above.

Don't forget: Daly City city council elections are also coming up

By Leila Eliares
Times staff writer

As the whole country is starting to vote for president, local elections in Daly City are also taking place. Local elections allow for people to vote for a mayor, council members, and other positions in their city or town. They can also occur at any time. While some of the candidates are familiar with sitting on the City Council, others are quite new.

This year, Daly City residents are able to elect candidates for city council positions, mayor, vice mayor, city clerk, and city treasurer. Many of the candidates for Daly City Council already have

positions like Mayor Glenn Sylvester and Vice Mayor Juslyn Manalo. The current city clerk, Annette Hipona, and treasurer, Daneca M. Halvorson, are also running to keep their current positions.

In addition to the current city officials, Shakeel Ali is also looking to be elected for Daly City Council. As a teacher, Ali had been a long-term substitute at Terra Nova for a few years and is now a Special Education teacher at El Camino High School. Additionally, Ali is the President of the Jefferson Elementary School District Governing Board of Trustees, a board member of the Pacifica School Volunteers, and a co-founder of ASK Academy. He describes ASK Academy as "a volunteer organization working

with youth aged 12 to 25 in Daly City and The San Francisco Bay Area." If elected to Daly City Council, Ali looks to create affordable housing and help the youth in Daly City by creating more job opportunities. Ali stated, "We need to develop more internships and apprenticeships in STEM careers, arts, and business, not just in retail or fast food restaurants."

Daly City city clerk is now an open position, and Carley-Ann Manalo is hoping to win your votes for that seat. Manalo's inspiration to run for city clerk comes from her family. "I took inspiration from my mom, who, despite raising a family and working full time, would help immigrant families with the process of assimilating with life in the United

States. My sister, Juslyn, is also someone I deeply admire as the first Filipina Mayor of Daly City," she said. A city clerk is responsible for storing important documents like voter and election information. Additionally, they ensure all city council acts are legal. Manalo is not only looking to help the residents of Daly City, but to also change and improve the position of city clerk. Manalo added, "I think change needs to happen in the way the clerk's office provides its service to the community. It should be a more compassionate office with an emphasis on kindness, respect, empathy, and inclusiveness...putting more emphasis on maintaining quality service rather than preserving cold hard bureaucracies."

Staying safe this Halloween

By Katalina Huazano
Times staff writer

With Halloween creeping up on us, many kids and adults are looking forward to the opportunity of dressing up and eating endless amounts of candy. But with the fright of COVID-19 this year, people are wondering whether there will be Halloween at all.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 657,572 children have tested positive for the coronavirus and with the predicted spike in autumn, participation in trick-or-treating has been up for debate.

Dr. Devi Ananda, a pediatrician at Sutter Health said, "Pediatricians in San Mateo County feel that it is not safe for kids to trick-or-treat in the traditional way because it greatly increases the risk of exposure to COVID. COVID rates are still high in communities. While we want to celebrate our holidays and traditions, we have to keep the health and safety of children in mind."

But if you do not live in San Mateo county take into consideration the amount of cases that your specific county has and at what rate it is increasing or decreasing. Also, acknowledge if anyone in your family or bubble group is prone to sickness or has health conditions.



Katalina Huazano / Terra Nova Times

Even pumpkins are scared of the deadly coronavirus this year.

Tony Burrell, mother of three young daughters who lives in San Francisco, said, "We will not trick-or-treat this year, un-

fortunately. It is too risky to be going to people's homes. We don't know how much precaution others are taking, so I would

rather be safe than sorry. We are going to be creative, though, and do a candy hunt in our home."

In order to check what ac-

tivities are safe, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted a list, categorized from lower, moderate, and high risk activities for Halloween just in case families are unsure what is deemed safe.

Joshua Ababseh (11), Halloween enthusiast, said, "I feel like little kids should be able to trick-or-treat because growing up, there was nothing more exciting than getting free candy! Obviously, it's not the smartest thing to be grabbing candy and handing it out, so maybe like pre packed goody bags at your doorstep could be a good alternative or just block by block trick or treating."

If you do partake in trick or treating, costume masks do not compensate for cloth masks, and be sure to respect your neighbors' decisions in choosing whether to hand out candy.

But if you decide to stay at home, there are still plenty of activities that can be done, like virtual costume contests or watching a scary movie while baking some Halloween treats.

Jennifer Kraske, a mother of two in Pacifica, got creative and said, "This year, we are a little nervous about trick or treating, so I bought some candy in glow in the dark wrappers to do an Easter egg style hunt in the backyard! We'll also be doing some pumpkin painting."

COVID-19 has evolved and vaccines restarted

By Eleanor Jonas
Times staff writer

As of Oct. 23, there have been nearly 8.5 million coronavirus cases in the US, with approximately 223,000 deaths. On Oct. 5, the Center for Disease Control confirmed that people can be infected through airborne transmission, especially in enclosed spaces.

A genetic study of more than 5,000 genetic sequences of COVID-19 was released on Sept. 23 by Houston scientists, showing the virus's continual mutations, one of which may make COVID more transmissible. The virus has spines surrounding its core that help attach it to human cells. One mutation, which changed an amino acid in its genetic structure from aspartic acid to glycerine, affects those spikes, which may enhance the virus's transmissibility. Fortunately, deadlier mutations of the virus were not found.

While the study has not been peer-reviewed, David Morens at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said there is a strong chance that the coronavirus may be more transmissible in response to human interventions like social distancing. A larger study in the UK on 25,000 genomes has corroborated this evidence, suggesting that a mutation changing the spike protein may be exacerbating the spread of the virus.

In an interview with Dr. Anthony Fauci of NIAID by Dr. Chessare, conducted on Oct. 1 and released by the Greater Balti-



Sophie Phelps

Drive up COVID-19 tests are available at Urgent Care via their website

more Medical Center, Dr. Fauci discussed his hopes for a COVID-19 vaccine. He explained that six candidate vaccines are currently in a clinical trial in the US, five of which are in phase three, and that

"we project that we'll get an answer as to whether we have a safe and effective vaccine by November or December."

The companies involved in manufacturing the vaccines, according to Dr.

Fauci, are creating tens of thousands of doses, hoping to have 700 million in order to vaccinate the entire US population. Most of the vaccines on trial would have two doses per person. If the trials are successful, there would be the means to vaccinate vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and healthcare providers, at the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021.

Two major coronavirus vaccine trials from AstraZenca and Johnson & Johnson have been restarted after being stopped due to safety concerns. One trial participant of AstraZenca's vaccine suffered a sudden neurological illness, which halted the experimental trial. This trial has now been restarted after confirming it was independent from the vaccine and receiving the all clear from the FDA. In Johnson & Johnson's vaccine trial, one participant suffered from a stroke which may have been caused by the vaccine, but it has now been found that there was "no clear cause," said Johnson & Johnson. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine trials have already restarted.

Dr. Fauci insists that masks and social distancing measures should at least continue until the second half of 2021, after which life may begin returning to normal if vaccines are effective and don't receive too much resistance from the anti-vax movement. Despite his encouragement to use caution, Dr. Fauci stated in the interview, "I feel cautiously optimistic that we will have one or more vaccines that are in fact safe and effective to a satisfactory degree."

Opinion

Perspectives: Abortion

In the last several years, our country has become more divided. Our leaders have only polarized us more, and therefore, it's up to us to bring each other together again. Reproductive rights is possibly one of the most polarizing topics to discuss politically. Here in California, many people lean towards liberal values and support the idea of women being able to decide for themselves whether to terminate a pregnancy. However, walk through your neighborhood, and you will hear different perspectives on abortion. It can be upsetting to try and listen to opposing views, but we can't make progress without attempting to discover the commonalities between our perspectives. I interviewed two students about their thoughts surrounding abortion, opportunity, and how the lack of representation in government may impact our rights as women. The students' names will remain confidential by request because, for many of these students, their opinions may not fit in what ideology is normally accepted and they should have the right to their opinions without possible harassment. Overall, this article should aim to try and diversify your perspective and try to understand the other side.

Pro-Choice...

Pro-Life...

Should it be strictly women making the final legal decisions on abortion in the government?

"I think it should be women, yes, but that's not crucial to me. I just think it should be someone in the science field that has the knowledge of what's safe and what's not. I don't care what anyone's opinion is, that shouldn't affect people. It should be what is safe to do and what is not at the end of the day."

"No, because men are affected by abortion, too. There are men who want to keep the child. Now, this is rooted in a belief that an abortion is killing a child, but it also obliterates one of the major pro-choice arguments. If an abortion would alleviate a woman of responsibility for a child, wouldn't allowing a man to adopt and be the primary care giver for a child also alleviate her of the responsibility?"

What are some areas of health and your rights as a woman that you don't think the government should have any involvement in?

"Again, I don't think the government full of people with no background in health should be making any health decisions. I think they can have a say in protection laws for women of the sort, but that is about as far as they should go."

"Health is what immediately affects my ability to live well. Therefore, pregnancy, a normal consequence of intercourse, does not fall under the line of health concerns regarding abortion. Regarding what the government shouldn't have its hands in, I think health should be privatized. The only healthcare I think the government should be involved in is emergency care. Health is a private decision that should be made by responsible individuals. Anything the government puts their hands into, it makes these things broad and not specific to individual liberties."

What are some ways society should improve in order to do a better job at preventing unwanted pregnancies in the first place? Especially among teenagers?

"Some ways society should improve preventing unwanted pregnancies is taking away the shame with it. I feel like even the shame of teenagers wanting to get on birth control and contraceptives like that, but there is obviously a huge shame against teens that are pregnant and do want to follow through with it and have the baby. Mostly, just getting rid of the shame from wanting to get on birth control and just educating teens. We should provide a better sexual education system because a lot of schools either don't offer it or promote abstinence, which is not realistic and doesn't really help anything."

"We need to reestablish virtue in our children. There needs to be a great understanding of what is acceptable and a sense of boundaries that are more in the line with safer 'traditional' values. Even if they seem outdated or old, they are unavoidably 'safer' and are proven. Sadly, these things ought to be taught by parents, but often parents don't hold those values. I am very hesitant to say schools/government should fill that role because that's a generally very bad idea. Providing assistance for private schools, however, and allowing for school choice, I believe will help this very much because then the schools have an incentive to watch over students and care for them...I must admit I am biased from my own Christian values that tend to keep teenagers safe and prevent unwanted pregnancies."

Do you believe that if abortions were banned everywhere they would still occur illegally? Why do think this is or isn't a problem?

"Yes, I think they would still happen illegally. It's a big problem because of the health risks unsafe abortions pose to women. They can have a lot of damage on the reproductive system and can be fatal."

"Yes, the number of illegal abortions will most definitely rise. But, the total number of abortions will drop. We will save countless lives. I do believe they will still happen, but over time as resources (and billions of dollars of taxpayer funding) moves away from the abortion industry, we will have so much more for helping people dealing with unwanted pregnancies."

Would you ever consider adopting in the future? Especially adopting from a woman who isn't ready to raise the child?

"I definitely want to adopt and/or foster. I would rather adopt a child that's already been in foster care just because a lot of people adopt straight from the mother... and that leaves a lot of children still in the foster care system that need a happy home."

"Yes. I do not know if I will, but I would consider it. But also for all those pro life people who will not consider it, they are not morally obliged to. If we say you believe murder is wrong, you do not necessarily have the moral obligation to stop all abortion with every breath you take. Many people do, and they are incredible people. But other people have other callings."

PROTECT
SAFE, LEGAL
ABORTION



Safe Halloween alternatives

By Savannah Sky Escobar
Times staff writer

The spookiest time of the year: a day of celebration, tricks, treats, and hanging out with a bunch of your friends. But of course, COVID-19 has put a great halt in the wicked festivities of the October closing. With the importance of social distancing, it's safe to say that the big Halloween block parties will have to sadly be cancelled this year, but that won't stop us from having a terrifically terror-filled holiday. These virus-safe Halloween alternatives from fellow students and teachers are here to sprout some fun ideas you can do that Saturday night.

There's nothing wrong with dedicating the day to yourself, so maybe a **self-care night** is the move. Terra Nova alumna



Courtesy of Helena Achziger

Keep the Halloween spirit by carving pumpkins.

Helena Achziger said, "Definitely dressing up and having a costume photoshoot... Make dinner and bring it somewhere and enjoy the spooky night with a picnic outdoors." Got an awesome costume you wanna show off? You still can with an at-home photoshoot, and bet-

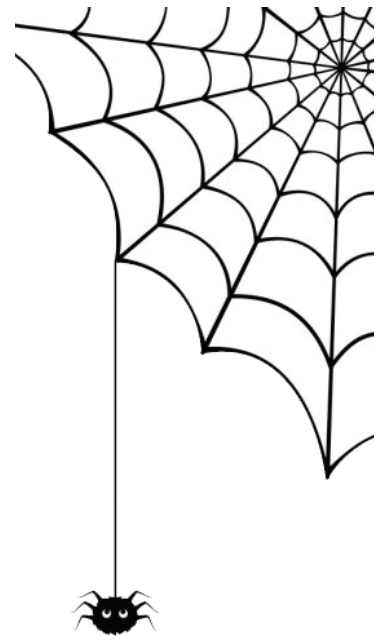
ter yet, a serene picnic to top it all off. And if you have a pet or a sibling, bring them along.

DIY activities are another Halloween alternative perfect for all members of the family. Clara Bellinger (12) has big plans for Halloween: "The plan is to watch scary mov-

ies and make these Halloween crafts called shrunken apples. They're like apples we carve and dry out so they shrink to look like old skulls." Pumpkins aren't the only thing you can carve on Halloween, after all, and there are dozens of other crafts you can participate in at home. Put on a spine-chilling movie, or play a ghostly tune on a speaker, and toast to a safe, quarantined Halloween. Staying true to beloved traditions is important, as Bellinger said, "The Bellingers love Halloween."

The whole point of Halloween this year is to be safe and follow COVID-19 protocols. If you choose to celebrate with a select friend or two, be sure to socially distance, wear a mask, and gather earlier in the day so all festivities can be done outdoors.

Surraya Mahasin (12) said, "Me and my friend are gonna



just watch Halloween movies while dressed up. Fire pit in the backyard, maybe some candy apples and tarot card readings."

Getting dressed up even though you'll stay inside this Halloween is mandatory, no exceptions. As said by Mahasin, "It's more about being in the spirit of Halloween than anything else."

Warning: this article will make you hungry

By Savannah Sky Escobar
Times staff writer

With the leaves changing colors and the weather turning brisk, Fall is definitely a favorite among many. Festive baked goods are made left and right to make use of seasonal fruits and vegetables. Everyone has their preferences when it comes to fall treats, and we are lucky to hear from a few Tigers on what their favorite mouth watering fall dessert recipes are.

Pumpkin is a staple in the Autumn season. You can practically turn any regular dish into an even better one if you add pumpkin to it, and here is why. Terra Nova senior Claire Schaffer, said, "Every fall, my mom just throws it down in the kitchen when she makes her signature pumpkin bars... They're just like really good, it's so rich in flavor." Now, coming from someone who has personally tried one of Ms. Schaffer's pumpkin bars, I can confirm that they really are worth the hype.

Claire went on to say, "All you need are some eggs, granulated sugar, an ounce of pumpkin puree, which is best homemade, sifted all purpose flour to make sure there's no lumps, baking



Savannah Sky Escobar / Terra Nova Times

Savannah's step by step process to making cherry pie.

powder, lots of ground cinnamon, baking soda, and a pinch of salt. Mix it all together, bake, and somehow something is born... and don't forget the cream cheese frosting." There are hundreds of pumpkin dessert dishes that embody the wonders of this fall ingredient, and these pumpkin bars are up there.

Butter, sugar, and cinnamon are universally an amazing combination of ingredients, especially in the fall and

winter seasons. Buddy Vaughan (11) can vouch for this, as he said, "My mom makes this bomb monkey bread glazed with caramel, and it's actually the best thing ever. She gets literally any breakfast dough you can find at a grocery store and shapes them into little balls, coats them in butter, and then dips them in a white and brown sugar mixture with ground cinnamon. Put them in a bundt cake pan and sprinkle some walnuts —

it's literally so easy." And that it is. It's the perfect dessert that's fun to share, because when it's finished and taken out of the pan, you can easily slice (or tear) a piece for yourself and dig in.

Baking is not only about the process of cooking up a treat and eating it — it's experience and tradition held with loved ones around you. Senior Gianna Guterres said, "Pumpkin cookies with brown butter is what me, my mom, and my grandma make together." This recipe includes all the ingredients needed for cookies, plus pumpkin puree, and a delicious brown butter frosting, which Gianna explained, "You need three cups of powdered sugar, one teaspoon of vanilla, three to four tablespoons of milk, and one third cup of butter, but do not use margarine or spread; it will burn." Safe to say that it might be hard not to eat all the frosting before the cookies get out of the oven.

Apples, pumpkins, pears, and peaches are ample this time of year, so be sure to support farmers markets near you and bake up from your choice of tarts, cobblers, cakes, cookies, pies, rolls, breads, and many more. Take a break from the screen and learn a new fall dessert — you won't regret it.

The history behind some of the most persistent Halloween symbols

By Natasha Valdez
Times staff writer



Halloween is widely known as a day for dressing up as anyone or anything our heart desires and nocturnal candy-collecting festivities. Our modern-day perception of Halloween is very different from its origins.

Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain in which people would light bonfires and wear costumes. Nov. 1 was the day to honor all saints, though they decided to incorporate the traditions of Samhain, which was known as Hallowe'en, and later Halloween.

Trick-or-treating originated in America when the idea of Halloween was first introduced, and people would go door-to-

door asking for food or money.

According to Cynthia Ansley's publication on the story behind Halloween, "Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings or mirrors."

In addition, Halloween has always had its mysteries and superstitions. For instance, in medieval France and Spain, black cats were to be considered as living things that carried bad luck and curses towards humans that came across them and were said to be associated with witchcraft. The superstition and mystery associated with black cats came to America when the Puritans

also suspected black cats had association with witches. Ever since then, black cats have been used as a symbol of bad luck, misfortune, and are therefore used as decor to spook treaters.

The history of witches and Halloween itself also came from Celtic culture. Witches were seen as supernatural female healers, and when religions came together to celebrate the Celtic festival of Samhain, they avoided supernatural beings or notions at all costs. Though they were once seen as helpful, the combined ideas of different religions came to perceive them as evil creatures who practiced sorcery.

Among other popular Hal-

loween decorations, skeletons originated from the Celtic festival of Samhain on Oct. 31. Skeletons have always represented the end of physical life. They were the stark reminder of death, and it was believed that on Halloween night, the spirits of the dead can walk earth.

Finally, bats. Originating from the Samhain festival, bats would surround the sacred bonfires because of their attraction to bugs and other flying insects that also were attracted to the bonfire's light. Bats were said to have the ability to transform into vampires and suck the blood from humans. This myth immediately linked them to the spooky holiday.





Skull and Bones: Yale's **Secret Society**



By Shayla McCann
Times staff writer

There have always been rumors about secret societies in the United States. But there is a secret club at Yale University named Skulls and Bones whose mission is world domination. The club is thought to control the world because not only have three past United States Presidents participated, but other incredibly powerful men joined the club and were vague when asked about it. Overall, this club seems undoubtedly suspicious because of all the “coincidental” powerful alumni and vague answers from members.

Skulls and Bones started in 1832 with the goal of a brotherhood that will look after each other forever. Skull and Bone’s published headquarters is located on 64 High Street in New Haven Con-

necticut. The headquarters is called the Skull and Bones Hall, but it’s nickname is the “Tomb.” Each year, the club accepts 15 new members by tapping them on the shoulder and asking, “Skull and bones do you accept?” Afterwards, each member has to take an Oath of Secrecy to protect the almighty club. Then, each new initiate gets a no-strings gift of \$15,000 cash and guaranteed financial security for life. The newly accepted members have to share their sexual history and other information and are then given nicknames based on their personality and experiences.

A Yale student named Jonathan Ed-bones lives in the Jonathan Edwards dorm, which is near the Tomb. He recalls, “April evening following tap night at bones, if one could climb to the tower of Weir Hall, the odd castle that overlooks the bones courtyard, one

could hear strange cries and moans coming from the bowels of the tomb as the 15 new tap members were put through what sounded like a harrowing ordeal... something about it made my skin crawl.” This is extremely eerie because there is so little known about this secretive club that anything is possible.

A former Bonesman was recorded mentioning the club saying, “The membership is private.” When different Bonesman were asked about being in this club, they either changed the subject or they asked to leave the room. Fellow Bonesman Averell Harriman (Class of 1913) was found to help funding for Hitler in the 1930s. Bonesman also helped fund Bush Jr.’s campaign for the presidency by spending millions on billboards. All of these head-turning moments should prove that this secret society is real and intelligent.

This secret society has dozens of powerful members such as William Howard Taft, the 27th president and Supreme Court chief justice (Class of 1878), George Herbert Walker Bush, a director of the C.I.A. and Vice President to Ronald Reagan (Class of 1948), Lyman Spitzer (had the idea for the Hubble space telescope), Potter Stewart (editor of Yale Law and Supreme Court justice), and lastly Frederick Wallace Smith (founded FedEx). These authoritative figures have sworn an oath to never reveal what really goes on inside and this legendary club, which should show you the lengths to which they’ll go to avoid attention.

Even then, powerful men have been caught in pictures with other members and have pretended to not know anything about this club when asked about it. Why is this club so secretive? What are they hiding?

Halloween's Dark Origins

By Shayla McCann
Times staff writer

Halloween is a fun holiday known for traditions like hanging out with friends, dressing up as your favorite character, and trick or treating. But not many people realize how these traditions began and their dark history.

The history of Halloween is connected to Ireland and Scotland’s festival, Samhain. Samahin is a Celtic celebration of summer’s end. According to Business Insider, “the veil between the Otherworld and our world thins during Samahin, making it easier for spirits and the souls of the dead to return.”

Some Christians are against celebrating Halloween and do not let their kids trick or treat or dress up. Charisma website says, “You need to understand that engaging in dark practices can open up doors to spiritual darkness for yourself and your entire family.” The Bible says to “abstain from every form of evil” Isaiah 5:20, and for some Christians, that means not celebrating Halloween.

However, the satanic bible says that Halloween is the most satanic holiday of the year. Mr. LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan, wrote, “The two major Satanic holidays are Walpurgisnacht (May 1st) and Halloween.” It is said that some Satanists believe making human sacrifices during Halloween will bring

them closer to Satan. Due to his teachings, followers have taken part in *Jeremiah Films’s*, which contain a forced human sacrifice: “the video features an interview with a bearded young man who claims he was sexually and emotionally abused as a child captive of a satanic cult. One Halloween, he says, he was forced to plunge a knife into the heart of his friend, a little girl named ‘Becky,’ as she hung bound on an altar.” Some Satanists take Halloween a little too far.

Favorite traditions like dressing up and trick or treating have a hidden past behind them that no one is talking about. A druid were religious teachers or priests of the Celts. According to the Dailyherald.com, trick or treating was formally

“Druids looking for virgin sacrifices. Soul cakes were left at the doorstep to feed wandering souls of the departed. Goodies were left to feed demon spirits so that they would not cause destruction. Later goodies were given to pranksters to keep them from bothering one’s house and properties.” Another example of hidden meanings is superhero costumes. According to Dailyherald.com, they are from roman mythology and are “preoccupied with a satanic supernatural”.

Aside from its dark history, Halloween is now celebrated as a fun and enjoyable holiday, with kids dressing up and trick or treating. However, those who know some or all of its origins have mixed emotions for the holiday.



Perfect your pumpkins this pandemic

Carving Conversations with Luke

By Luke Avery
Times staff writer

Luke (L): COVID-19 has gotten in the way of so many holiday pastimes so far, but I refused to let it take away Halloween, too. To get into the Halloween spirit, I decided to catch up with some recently tested COVID-negative friends to celebrate the pastime that includes an unsupervised use of blades on big orange plants in the most festive way possible: pumpkin carving. If you, reader, are unable to participate in Halloween pastimes, use this article to get you in the spooky season spirit. Now let's get started. I still can't believe they gave us such a great discount on the pumpkins at Safeway!

Mckyra (M): Oh hush, we all know there was literally no discount.

Sabina (S): Yeah, you can't just say something for an article and act like no one's gonna fact check you.

L: I can't hear you over the sound of my 10 Safeway rewards points. But anyway, so what do we do? Slice it open from the top and hope for the best?

S: Yeah... I don't know about you, but my pumpkin can and will be a masterpiece.

M: You just gotta make sure all the pumpkin seeds are out of it.

S: Oh, so that's what the sharpened metal spoons are for.

M: Yup, you open up the top with the serrated nail clipper, and use the sharpened metal spoon to get the seeds out.

L: We're getting educational out here, I see, y'all.

5 minutes pass of cutting pumpkins to Spotify free music and McDonald's ads

S: I got the eyes, but I'm stuck.

M: I got the mouth done, but its toothy grin is mocking me.

L: I'm messing up, I'm messing up...

Mckyra and Sabina ignore Luke

S: You know what? I'm just going to make this the derpier face I can do.

M: Go for it, just make sure you use the big cutter for mouth and a smaller one for the eyes.

L: I'm messing up, I'm messing up!

S: You just started.

M: Ignore him. His pumpkin is actually looking good right now. He's just making close cuts.



Luke Avery / Terra Nova Times

Carving pumpkins is a great way to get into the Halloween Spirit

L: Yeah, actually, I think I'm good. I just gotta make a little more space for [the] mouth.

5 more minutes pass as the group made their final touches

L: So what we learned today is to use dif-

ferent size blades, make sure to get the pumpkin seeds out, and don't make too precise cuts.

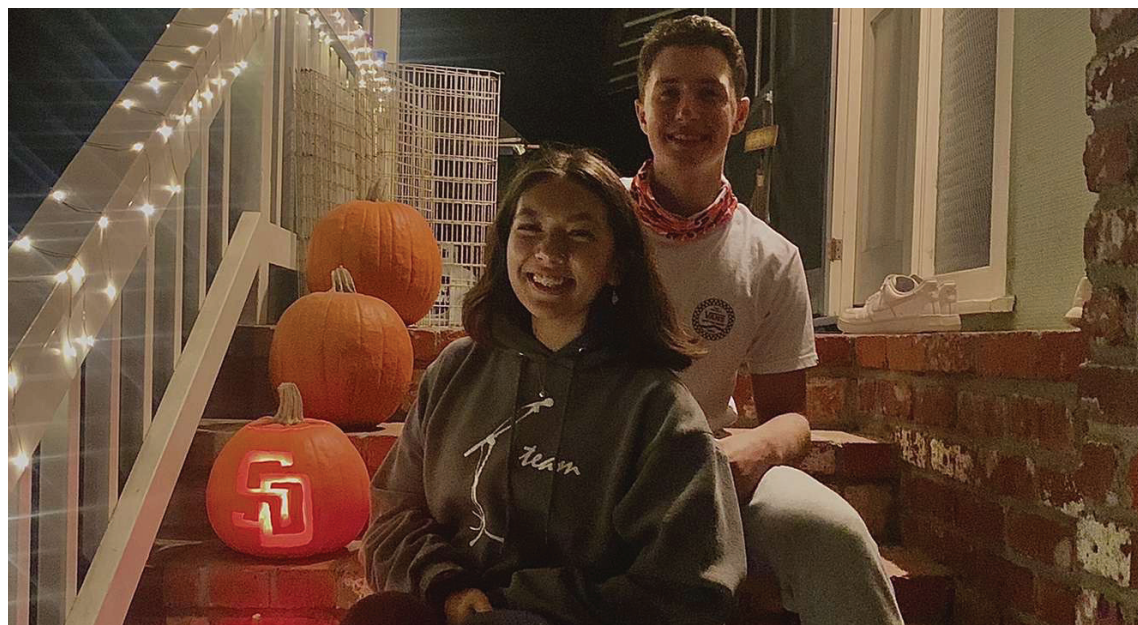
M: Stop making this a learning experience for your article — this isn't "Reading Rainbow"!

Because it's tradition, that's why.

By Naomi Sanft
Times staff writer

Over \$600 million is spent every October on pumpkins in the U.S. These pumpkins are not all for eating, however — most are for carving. The history of pumpkin carving began in Ireland and has been a tradition for centuries. It originated from an Irish myth about a man named "Stingy Jack."

According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him, but refused to pay. In order to pay for the drinks, Jack convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin. Once the Devil did so, Jack pocketed the money and prevented the Devil from returning to his original form. Jack did eventually release the Devil on the promise that his soul could never be claimed. Years later, Jack died, leav-



Courtesy of Talia Rosen

Seniors Talia and Connor protect themselves from Stingy Jack this October.

ing him in quite a predicament. Jack's mischievous behavior made him an unwelcome guest in heaven, and the Devil, keeping his promise,

would not claim Jack's soul. Instead, the Devil subjected Jack to roam the Earth with nothing but a burning coal. Jack carved out a turnip and put the

coal inside to use as a lantern. The Irish referred to him as Jack of the lantern, which eventually became "jack-o'-lantern." The Irish would carve fac-

es into turnips and potatoes to scare away Jack's wandering soul. In America however, pumpkins became the popular replacement. Although this explains why we carve pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns, it does not explain why the act is associated with Halloween.

Halloween originated from the Celtic festival Samhain, which later became All Hallows' Eve or Halloween; Samhain was celebrated on Oct. 31, which marked the end of summer. It was believed that on this day, souls from the otherworld would roam the earth. People would wear costumes to disguise themselves from evil spirits. Folklore about Stingy Jack spread from Ireland throughout Celtic culture and became associated with the Samhain festival. When the Roman Empire conquered the Celtic region, the tradition spread eventually made its way to America in the 19th century.

How do you use a pumpkin?



"I like collecting tiny pumpkins."
-Hailey Hata (9)



"I enjoy eating a lot of pumpkin pie..."
-Cian Eskinazi (10)



"I like carving them!"
-Ella Boldt (11)



"I like to carve them, then use the seeds to bake and eat."
-Connor Seyer (12)



"My favorite culinary use of a pumpkin is in a curry."
-Mr. Colvig