



# Frighteningly Fun Halloween Ideas Scare Up Some Good Times

Family Features

Halloween is right around the corner, so it is time to carve out a spooky plan for your celebration. As little ghosts, goblins, princesses, and pirates around the country get ready for trick-or-treating, here are a few ghoulishly good ideas that will make your next Halloween fright night a scream.

Spooky candy treats. Add a few spook-tacular accents to your loot for trick-or-treaters: fake rubbery spiders, jiggly eyes, glow-in-the-dark rings, and other tricks that make Halloween special. Make everyone jump for joy by giving them bags of the Wonka Haunted Mix. This assortment of Howlin' Laffy Taffy and SweeTARTS Spooky Gummies is sweet, sour and in fun Halloween shapes.

Cast a spell over your home. Welcome trick-or-treaters or partygoers young and old with decorating ideas that will make your house the best on the block.

- Hang glow-in-the-dark cats, skeletons and spiders from ceilings and trees.

- Write scary Halloween messages on your front walkway using colored chalk or washable fluorescent paint.

- Tie small glow sticks with string to helium balloons and let them float over your house like mysterious lights in the sky.

- Not just the trick-or-treaters are looking for candy on Halloween, so be sure to have plenty of fun-size candy like Butterfinger and Nestlé Crunch around the house for easy snacking.

Start booing. Start a new neighborhood trend - Halloween Booing. Booing is a new Halloween tradition, but its roots can be traced back to the 1980s. Booing is mysteriously dropping a special treat at the home of a friend. Kids of all ages will love leaving secret "Boo!" bags filled with goodies like fun-size boxes of cool candy like Wonka Nerds on their neighbors' doorsteps. Then watch as eventually the whole neighborhood gets into the Halloween spirit.

Create a bewitching Halloween bash invitation. This is a terrific activity for crafty kids. Guests will practically hear the screams and smell the witch's brew when they open your homemade party invitation. Creativity is always the best way to grab your guests' attention. Make them especially memorable and sharable by attaching a piece of Wonka Howlin' Laffy Taffy. Celebrate with sweets and

treats. The candy aisle is not your only option for serving up decadent delights this holiday. Whip up this ghoulish graveyard goody for the kids (or the kids at heart) in your house.

## SPOOKY GRAVEYARD PIE

MAKES 8 SERVINGS

3 cups (about 32 cookies) finely ground chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs, divided  
3 tablespoons melted butter  
1 can (12 fl. oz.) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk  
2 large egg yolks  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1 3/4 cups (11.5-oz. pkg.) Nestlé Toll House Milk Chocolate Morsels  
8 chocolate filled vanilla wafer cookies  
Black and purple decorator writing gels

Wonka SweeTARTS Spooky Gummies Candy\*, Wonka SweeTARTS Skulls & Bones, or other assorted spooky Halloween candies  
Nestlé Butterfinger and Nestlé Crunch candy bars, crumbled

COMBINE 1 1/2 cups cookie crumbs and butter in 9-inch deep-dish pie plate. Press crumb mixture onto bottom and up sides of pie plate. Set aside remaining 1 1/2 cups crumbs for dirt topping.

WHISK together evaporated milk, egg yolks and cornstarch in medium saucepan. Heat over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is very hot and thickens slightly; do not boil. Remove from heat; stir in morsels until completely melted and mixture is smooth.

POUR into crust. Sprinkle with remaining 1 1/2 cups cookie crumbs. Press crumbs down gently. Refrigerate for 3 hours or until set.

DECORATE cookie tombstones as desired with writing gels. Sprinkle crumbled candy bar topping over the top of the pie. Insert tombstones around edge of pie. With spoon, mound cookie crumbs to form "fresh graves." Decorate graves with gummies and Skulls & Bones to make the pie as spooky as you want it to be!

\*Found in bags of Wonka Haunted Mix.

For more budget-friendly family-fun recipes and activities, visit [www.Meals.com](http://www.Meals.com), [www.NestleFamily.com](http://www.NestleFamily.com), or [www.CelebrationCorner.com](http://www.CelebrationCorner.com).

# FBI Calls For Alternate Web

LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The computer networks that control power plants and financial systems will never be secure enough and a new, highly secure alternative Internet should be considered for development, a top FBI official said Thursday.

Shawn Henry, the FBI's executive assistant director, said critical systems are under increasing threat from terror groups looking to buy or lease the computer skills and malware needed to launch a cyber attack.

In an Associated Press interview Thursday, Henry said jihadist militants looking to harm the U.S. can tap organized crime groups who are willing to sell their services and abilities to attack computer systems. He would not say which terror group or whether any insurgent networks have actually been able to acquire the high-tech capabilities.

But he said one way to protect critical utility and financial systems would be to set up a separate, highly secure Internet.

Henry sketched out the Internet idea to a crowd at a conference of the International Systems Security Association, saying that cyberthreats will always continue to evolve and outpace efforts to defend networks against them.

"We can't tech our way out of the cyberthreat," Henry said. "The challenge with the Internet is you don't know who's launching the attack." A key step, he said, would be to develop networks where anonymity is not an option and only known and trusted employees have access.

The vulnerabilities of critical systems such as power plants, the electric grid or Wall Street

were a prime topic during the conference, reflecting growing concerns by U.S. officials.

Government security officials say cyber attackers are using the Internet to steal money, ferret out classified secrets and technology and disturb or destroy important infrastructure, from the electrical grid and telecommunications networks to nuclear power plants and transportation systems.

And while Henry described a system for the future, the head of the Pentagon's Cyber Command warned that the attacks against critical systems are increasingly carrying destructive viruses or malware.

Gen. Keith Alexander, who also is director of the National Security Agency, said the Pentagon and intelligence agencies must do more to protect their computer systems and coordinate with private companies to safeguard public networks.

And when a computer network is infected, someone should be able to disconnect it, he said.

"Is it the FBI? Is it the NSA? Is it the military or is it the ISPs — the Internet service providers? But somebody can turn that device off," Alexander said during a conference of the International Systems Security Association.

Alexander added that the Defense Department is finalizing policies that will determine what the military can do in the event of a cyber attack.

The Defense Department has set up a trial program to share cyberthreat data with some large military contractors in order to prevent intrusions. The Homeland Security Department is looking at that model to protect power plants, financial networks or other key systems.

# High Income Workers' Share Of Total Wages Grows

BY TOM RAUM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fifty percent of U.S. workers earned less than \$26,364 last year, reflecting a growing income gap between the nation's rich and poor, the government reported Thursday.

There were fewer jobs, and overall pay was trending down — except for the nation's wealthiest. The number of people making \$1 million or more soared by over 18 percent from 2009, the Social Security Administration said, citing payroll data based on W-2 forms submitted by employers to the Internal Revenue Service.

Despite population growth, the number of Americans with jobs fell again last year, with total employment of just under 150.4 million — down from 150.9 million in 2009 and 155.4 million in 2008. In all, there were 5.2 million fewer jobs than in 2007, when the deep recession began, according to the IRS data.

The figures are just one more

indication of the toll that the worst downturn since the Great Depression has taken on the U.S. economy. They were published as demonstrations rage on Wall Street and in cities across the nation protesting a widening income gap between average wage earners and the nation's wealthiest.

The unemployment rate remains stuck at 9.1 percent, with more than 14 million out of work and 11 million other discouraged people who have stopped looking for work or are stuck in part-time jobs. Since 1980, roughly 5 percent of annual national income has shifted from the middle calls to the nation's richest households, according to the Census Bureau.

While the average U.S. income last year was \$39,959, the mean income — the figure where half earn more and half earn less — was much lower, \$26,364. This disparity reflects the fact that "the distribution of workers by wage level is highly skewed," according to Social Security.

# California Adopts 'Cap-And-Trade' Plan

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— California has adopted the nation's most comprehensive system designed to provide a financial incentive for polluters to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Air Resources Board voted unanimously Thursday to adopt the final draft of its "cap-and-trade" plan.

The plan is a key part of the state's landmark 2006 global warming law, which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

While implementation begins in 2012, industry compliance starts in 2013, targeting power plants and other of the worst polluting facilities, with others joining in 2015.

The program will require pollution producers to buy permits that allow for a specified amount of greenhouse gases each year, declining over time. Those permits could then be bought and sold in a marketplace.

# Obama Not Inspiring Confidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The extreme funk that settled over the country during the summer has eased slightly, but Americans remain gloomy about the economy and more than half say President Barack Obama does not inspire confidence about a recovery.

A sizable majority — more than 7 in 10 — believe the country is headed in the wrong direction and, in a new high, 43 percent describe the nation's economy as "very poor," according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. Among those surveyed, less than 40 percent say Obama's proposed remedies for high unemployment would increase jobs significantly.

The pessimism is not a good sign for the nation's recovery hopes and presents a more urgent challenge for Obama as he mounts his re-election bid.

About 4 in 10 think unemployment will rise in the coming year; just 23 percent expect it to decrease. And few expect the government to be able to help. Only 41 percent say the government can do much to create jobs, and less than 40 percent say the main elements of Obama's jobs proposal would increase employment significantly.

What's more, expectations for the coming year have not improved, with 41 percent believing the economy will remain the same, 27 percent saying it will get worse and 30 percent saying it will improve.

# Greek Lawmakers Vote In New Austerity Bill

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek lawmakers passed a deeply resented new austerity bill Thursday, caving in to the demands of international creditors in order to avoid a national bankruptcy, as a second day of riots left one protester dead and more than 100 people wounded.

The austerity measures won 154-144 in the 300-member parliament despite dissent from a prominent Socialist lawmaker who voted against a key article of the bill. The vote was expected to pave the way for a vital (euro) 8 billion (\$11 billion) payout from creditors within weeks so Greece can stay solvent.

Clouds of tear gas choked central Athens ahead of the vote as riot police intervened to separate rival demonstrators who fought for several hours with firebombs and stones outside parliament.

A 53-year-old construction worker died of heart failure after attending a mass rally, while 74 protesters and 32 police officers were hospitalized with injuries, police and state hospital officials told The Associated Press. Several dozen more injured protesters received first aid from volunteer medics who set up a makeshift treatment site on Athens' main Syntagma Square.

Police said they detained 79 people suspected of violent conduct.

# Ohio Exotic-Animal Owner Deep In Debt

ZANESVILLE, Ohio (AP) — The exotic-animal owner who killed himself after turning loose dozens of lions, tigers and other beasts was deep in debt, and a fellow big-cat enthusiast said Thursday that he had taken in so many creatures he was "in over his head."

A day after sheriff's deputies with high-powered rifles killed nearly 50 animals set free by Terry Thompson, the sheriff refused to speculate why he did it. Many neighbors, meanwhile, were puzzled as to why Thompson — a man who seemed to like animals more than people — would lash out in a way that would doom his pets.

However, court records show that he and his wife owed at least \$68,000 in unpaid taxes to the IRS and the county, and he had two federal tax liens filed against him last year. He had just gotten out of federal prison last month for possessing unregistered weapons.

Kenny Hetrick, who has six tigers and other animals on his property outside Toledo, said he used to see Thompson at exotic-animal auctions a few times a year in Ohio. Many of Thompson's tigers had been donated to him by people who bought baby animals that they no longer wanted once they started to grow, Hetrick said.

"He really had more there than what he could do," Hetrick said. "I don't know what his deal was, but he was in over his head."

# Spooktacular Halloween Goodies

Family Features

Halloween! Every year the kid in me eagerly anticipates celebrating this festive autumn holiday. I enjoy conjuring up a ghostly good time for family and friends.

Frighteningly good ideas for tricks, treats and eats are at your fingertips: [www.VeryBestBaking.com](http://www.VeryBestBaking.com).

## EASY HALLOWEEN COOKIE CUPS

MAKES 2 DOZEN COOKIE CUPS

1 package (16.5 ounces) Nestlé Toll House Refrigerated Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar Dough

1 cup (6 ounces) Nestlé Toll House Swirled Milk Chocolate & Peanut Butter Morsels

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease 24 mini-muffin cups.

PLACE squares of dough into prepared muffin cups; press down to make a deep well.

BAKE for 9 to 11 minutes or until edges are set. Remove from oven to wire rack(s). While still warm, fill cookie cups with morsels. Morsels will soften and retain their shape. Cool completely. With tip of knife, remove cookie cups from muffin pan(s).

\* NOTE: 1 cup (6 ounces) of any flavor Nestlé Toll House morsels can be substituted for the Swirled Milk Chocolate & Peanut Butter Morsels.

## SPIDERWEB MUNCH

MAKES 12 SERVINGS

2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels

1 cup creamy peanut butter, divided  
1/3 cup powdered sugar  
3 cups toasted rice cereal

HEAT morsels and 3/4 cup peanut butter in small, heavy-duty saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until smooth; remove from heat. Add sugar; stir vigorously until smooth.

PLACE cereal in large bowl. Add 1 cup melted chocolate mixture; stir until evenly coated. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Using small metal spatula, shape into 10-

inch circle with slightly raised 1-inch-wide border. Pour remaining chocolate mixture in center of circle; spread to border.

FOR SPIDERWEB:

PLACE remaining peanut butter in small, heavy-duty plastic bag. Cut tiny corner from bag; squeeze to pipe concentric circles on top of chocolate. Using wooden pick or tip of sharp knife, pull tip through peanut butter from center to border. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm. Cut into wedges.

## Celebrating 30 Years



Chauncey and Carla (Hanson) Christiansen of Volin will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Oct. 24, 2011.

The couple was married on Oct. 24, 1981, at the First Lutheran Church in Wakonda, SD.

A card shower is requested to help them celebrate their 30th anniversary. Greetings and well wishes may be sent to 30172 449th Ave., Volin, SD 57072.



Masquerade Jewelry FAIR

Wednesday, Oct. 26 7:00am to 5:00pm  
Thursday, Oct. 27 7:00am to 2:00pm

Benedictine Center Lobby  
All Jewelry is only \$5.00!!  
Great Christmas Ideas!!

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital  
Cash, check and credit cards accepted.  
Fair sponsored by the Avera Sacred Heart Foundation.

### 35th Wedding Anniversary

Marvis and Linda Tronvold will be celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary with a free open dance at the Moose Lodge, Yankton, SD, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011.

The couple was married July 7, 1976, in Hartington, NE. Their children are hosting the event.

They have four children: Marcie Tronvold, Yankton, SD; Kristi (Steve) Petersen, Tabor, SD; Brad (Michelle) Tronvold, Yankton, SD; and Cindy (Josh) Bohlmann, Sioux Falls, SD. The couple has 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.