



Photos by Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

Spooky orbs.

## Contest: It first started with patrons carving about 20 pumpkins

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"This was a good surprise," she said. They also did not visit Driftwood specifically for the pumpkin-carving and saw the contest advertised on a sign only when they got there.

"We came here by referral," Garrett said, adding they were told Driftwood is a "local favorite."

The activity is just one aspect that lends to Cannon Beach's charm and gives the town "a good feel," Grant said.

"It's what mainstream America is missing these days," he said of Cannon Beach.

### 100 pumpkins

When the contest first started, patrons carved about 20 pumpkins. Last year, the total increased to about 90. This year, the restaurant had more than 100 pumpkins

**'It turns into an annual trip to Cannon Beach to carve pumpkins. What a great memory that's going to be lodged into their brain.'**

**Kyle Genin**  
contest manager

ready to go.

The contest was shortened to one week instead of two this year, because the pump-

kins start seriously decaying after that, Genin said. The staff wanted to avoid having to rinse the pumpkins in bleach water to extend their longevity, which was a time-consuming but necessary task last year, he said.

Despite the consistent clean up required, Genin said he and other staff members feel scrubbing sticky pumpkin residue off the deck, tables and chairs is worth the way in which the contest brings people to the Driftwood to socialize. It's not uncommon to find people conversing, sharing equipment and enjoying a drink while carving.

The mixture of alcohol into the activity sometimes leads to interesting creations, but only one person has suffered an injury so far. Luckily, it was just a mild laceration on their finger, Genin said.

Everyone who participates in the con-

test gets a T-shirt. On the final day of the contest, the restaurant's owners and management select first-, second- and third-place winners, who get \$100, \$75 and \$50 gift cards, respectively.

Genin said he takes pictures of each entry and puts them online. He is thinking about next year adding a winner for the person whose entry receives the most "likes" on Facebook.

Whether it is the free T-shirt or a desire to relive childhood memories that drives participation, the contest is "just a great community event," Genin said. Additionally, it keeps visitors coming back to town at a time of year when tourism usually begins slowing down.

For some people, "it turns into an annual trip to Cannon Beach to carve pumpkins," Genin said. "What a great memory that's going to be lodged into their brain."

## Worried mom spreading word about Teal Pumpkin Project

Halloween can be scary for children with food allergies

Associated Press

MEXICO, Mo. — For children with food allergies, the scariest part of Halloween can be sorting through candy after a night of trick-or-treating to find something that won't send them into shock if they eat it.

Even one fun-size candy bar can force kids such as 9-year-old Nate Robertson, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes last year, to get an insulin shot. Whenever the Mexico, Missouri, boy receives candy or treats, he has to call his mom first to find out if he can have them.

"He doesn't get a lot of treats," Sara Robertson, Nate's mother, told the Mexico Ledger. "We have to kind of decide if it's shot-worthy."

Robertson and other parents in the northeast Missouri community are spreading the word about a national effort to make Halloween



Photo courtesy of Food Allergy Research and Education

more inclusive for children with food allergies.

The Teal Pumpkin Project was started last year by the national advocacy organization Food Allergy Research and Education, or FARE,

to raise awareness about children with serious and even life-threatening food allergies, and to make them feel included during the sweets-centered holiday.

FARE has set a goal of

getting 100,000 households to participate by placing teal-colored pumpkins on their porch or lawn, or by printing out the official sign from FARE's website and placing it on the front door

or in a window, to tell trick-or-treaters that non-food treats are available for those who can't eat candy.

The color teal was chosen for the project because it has been used to signal food al-

lergies for nearly 20 years.

"So many holidays are centered around food," said Robertson, a speech therapist at Children's Therapy and Early Education in Mexico. "You don't want to take away from the original purpose, and this provides an opportunity for the child to participate without having to give everything back. It lets them feel normal and like they belong."

Robertson heard about the Teal Pumpkin Project from a cousin whose child has severe allergic reactions to wide range of common food ingredients, including eggs, dairy, wheat and sesame.

Robertson's cousin can go into anaphylactic shock an allergic reaction that can include dizziness, loss of consciousness and extreme breathing difficulty by eating candy that contains or has come in contact with any of those ingredients.

The reaction can be fatal without an emergency dose of the hormone epinephrine.

Robertson said the Teal Pumpkin Project is a way to offer safe treats while also raising awareness of food allergies in general.

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