WEEK 2 · NOVEMBER 2026 · FROM THE SAVAGE ENERGI TEAM

Chasing the Chills

Where Halloween really comes from, a haunted school in Lorain County, a hotel that used to be a hospital, and how to tell us your story.

WELCOME

Hey, Chill Chasers

The candy's on sale and the decorations are going back in the attic. Most people think the spooky season ended Saturday night.

The people who started this holiday would disagree. For them, Oct. 31 was the doorway, and the days right after were when the dead were closest. So this week we're looking backward: where the traditions came from, and a few fresh cases where the history might explain the haunting.

LORE & TRADITION

Lore and Tradition: Why Halloween Never Really Ends on the 31st

It started as a festival of the dead. The Library of Congress traces Halloween to Samhain, a pre-Christian Celtic festival of the dead. Christian missionaries later set All Saints (All Hallows) on Nov. 1 and All Souls on Nov. 2, hoping to replace it. Instead, the two mixed, and we got All Hallows Eve. In colonial Mexico, a similar blend of All Souls and Indigenous ancestor celebrations became Día de Muertos.

The first jack-o'-lanterns were turnips. National Geographic reports that on Samhain eve, people carved frightening faces into turnips, beets, and potatoes to ward off restless spirits. A plaster cast of an early 1900s "ghost turnip" still sits in the National Museum of Ireland.

Stingy Jack, the soul with nowhere to go. In the 18th century Irish folktale, Jack tricks the devil twice, then dies and is barred from both heaven and hell. The devil gives him an ember to light his turnip lantern, and he wanders between the two forever.

The part we love most. The same story was used to explain will-o'-the-wisp: flickering lights over Irish bogs. Travelers who followed them could end up in a sinkhole, and people blamed Jack or a lost soul. The lights are real. National Geographic says they come from gases given off by decomposing matter in the marsh. A real thing people could see, a natural cause, and a ghost story wrapped around it. That's paranormal investigating in one paragraph.

When Irish immigrants came to America, they found pumpkins carved a lot easier than turnips. You know the rest.

Sources: Library of Congress, Halloween and Día de Muertos Resources · National Geographic, "The twisted transatlantic tale of American jack-o'-lanterns"

HAUNT NEWS · NORTHEAST OHIO

Haunt News: Close to Home

Grafton's old school is open, and the stories came with it

- News 5 Cleveland visited the former Grafton School in Lorain County, now the Grafton Haunted School House for its second season. The school served more than 200,000 students from 1936 to 2005.
- Owner John Minor Jr. says paranormal investigators have claimed to find evidence of real hauntings there: "All kinds of shadows, windows opening, doors closing on their own."
- One scare actor says she still gets "a random cold chill" in "the warmest part of the building."
- *Source: News 5 Cleveland, Oct. 29, 2026*

Our take: Seventy years of kids, teachers, and custodians leaves a lot of history in a building. But a working haunted attraction full of fog, actors, and sound effects is about the hardest place on earth to collect clean evidence. If anyone gets in there off-season with the props powered down, that's the investigation we'd want to see.

Ohio makes the top five again

- A 2026 study by Hard Rock Bet, reported by the Dayton Daily News, ranks Ohio the fifth spookiest state. It counts 191 haunted locations, 66 ghost towns, 2,719 ghost sightings, 4,763 UFO sightings, and 335 Bigfoot reports.
- Northeast Ohio shows up on the ghost sightings list: Youngstown (34), North Ridgeville (24), and Ravenna (24). Springfield led the state with 69.
- *Source: Dayton Daily News, Oct. 26, 2026*

Our take: Those counts come from public reporting websites (Ghosts of America for the ghost sightings), so they measure who's posting, not what's real. Still fun. And it means a lot of you have a story. We want it.

HAUNT NEWS · CASES WITH ROOTS

Haunt News: Cases With Roots

Colorado: the hotel that used to be a hospital

- KRDO spent a night at Hotel St. Nicholas in Cripple Creek, built in 1898 by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy as the town's first hospital. "All of these were medical rooms," co-owner Sura-Quay Arbon said. "This is where people lived or died."
- The reporter slept in room 11, the old surgery room. Overnight, his camera caught mostly him sleeping and one odd pop. Earlier, a motion detector went off once, in an empty room, as investigator Gail Conners talked about a friend she had lost.
- *Source: KRDO, Oct. 30, 2026*

Massachusetts: the doorbells that aren't connected

- Agawam Paranormal investigated the manor house at the H.A. Moses Scout Reservation in Russell. Staff report

slamming doors, a presence in the family's old bedrooms, a woman in period clothing on the grounds, and the manor's two doorbells ringing even though they've long been disconnected.

- Founder Rob Goff calls himself "an open-minded skeptic." The team logged orbs on night-vision cameras and a flashing EMF detector.
- *Source: Western Mass News, Oct. 30, 2026*

Our take: Hospitals, surgery rooms, family bedrooms. When a place keeps producing the same kind of story, Tabby starts with the records: who lived there, who died there, and what happened in that exact room. As for orbs on night vision, those are usually dust or bugs. The disconnected doorbells are the interesting one. First step: check the wiring.

The AI ghost-hunting debate

- The Guardian reports that GhostTube Seer, an app that turns phone sensor signals into AI-generated images of "spirits," has more than 1 million downloads on Google Play.
- Paranormal researcher Alex Matsuo isn't sold: "If you're using AI, you're using some sort of large language model, what data are you training it on to [determine] what's a ghost?"
- New tech is nothing new here. Thomas Edison tried to build a "spirit phone."
- *Source: The Guardian, Oct. 30, 2026*

Our take: We'll use any tool that helps, and we ask every tool the same question Matsuo does. What's the baseline, and what else could cause this reading? A machine that guesses what a ghost looks like can't answer that.

THIS MONTH

Go Chase Some Chills (Lake County)

The season isn't over at the old county poor house.

- **Lantern Tours,** Lake County History Center, Painesville Twp. Tuesday, Nov. 17 and Tuesday, Nov. 24, 8 PM. Eventbrite
- **Public Ghost Hunt,** same building. Saturday, Nov. 21, 7 PM. Eventbrite

Check the organizer before you go. Tickets and times can change.

THE CREW

From the Team

- **Savagely Paranormal Shorts:** quick hits on @savagelyparanormal.
- **Full investigations:** long form lives on @savageenergi.
- **The crew:** April (Founder and Chief Executive Savage), Megan (Lead Investigator), Tessa (Evidence Analyst), Tabby (Historical Researcher), and Teagan (Tech Specialist).

GET INVOLVED

Your Turn

Tell us your Halloween story. Did something happen at your place this Halloween you can't explain? Hit reply and tell us. The best ones (with your OK) might end up in a future issue.

Something going on at your place? Investigations are always free. Requests go straight to April and the team through savageenergi.com/contact, and we reply within 24 hours.

If you'd like to say thanks, give directly to Lake Humane Society in Mentor. No money ever goes through Savage Energi.

Know someone who loves this stuff? Send them to savageenergi.com to sign up for Chasing the Chills.

Stay curious,

April and the Savage Energi team

Sources (checked Nov. 1, 2026)

1. Library of Congress, "Halloween & Día de Muertos Resources," Research Guide. https://guides.loc.gov/halloween/
2. National Geographic, "The twisted transatlantic tale of American jack-o'-lanterns." https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/the-twisted-transatlantic-tale-of-american-jack-o-lanterns
3. News 5 Cleveland, "Grafton Haunted School House embraces spooky side of historic landmark," Oct. 29, 2026. https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/oh-lorain/grafton-haunted-school-house-embraces-spooky-side-of-historic-landmark
4. Dayton Daily News, "Ohio is the 5th most haunted state and Springfield has the most ghost sightings, study says," Oct. 26, 2026. https://www.daytondailynews.com/lifestyles/ohio-is-the-5th-most-haunted-state-and-springfield-has-the-most-ghost-sightings-study/article_f0f00563-a6c1-5984-8414-42722780282d.html
5. KRDO, "Hiding in Plain Sight: KRDO13 searches for REAL ghosts in one of Colorado's most haunted hotels," Oct. 30, 2026. https://krdo.com/news/2026/10/30/hiding-in-plain-sight-krdo13-searches-for-real-ghosts-in-one-of-colorados-most-haunted-hotels/
6. Western Mass News, "Ghost hunters investigate reported activity at Moses Scout Reservation," Oct. 30, 2026. https://www.westernmassnews.com/2026/10/30/ghost-hunters-investigate-reported-activity-moses-scout-reservation/
7. The Guardian, "Ghost in the machine: how AI is haunting the search for the supernatural," Oct. 30, 2026. https://www.theguardian.com/technology/ng-interactive/2026/oct/30/ai-ghost-hunting
8. Lake County Historical Society events (Eventbrite). https://www.eventbrite.com/o/lake-county-historical-society-7949019341
9. Lake Humane Society, Make a Donation. https://lakehumane.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/

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