

The Willows of Easley
105 Willow Place
Easley, SC 29640

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In

October Birthdays

In astrology, Libras are those born between October 1–22. Libras, symbolized by the scales, strive for balance, avoid conflict, and desire fairness for everyone. To achieve this, they are charming and diplomatic. Those born between October 23–31 are Scorpios. Scorpios are passionate and deep, qualities that help them counsel others. Resourceful and determined, Scorpios make good managers.

Lee Iacocca (executive) – October 15, 1924
Dizzy Gillespie (musician) – October 21, 1917
Minnie Pearl (comedian) – October 25, 1912

Our birthday gems:
Vera Kennedy – October 2; Buck Clary – October 6th; Doris Powell – October 14th; Clyde Ellison – October 21st; Annie Blackman – October 22nd.

Jack of the Lantern cont. from pg. 1

die, God would not allow someone who caroused with the Devil into heaven. In the end, Jack was sent into the dark of night with nothing but a lamp fashioned from a carved-out turnip, lit with a lump of glowing coal. For this reason, the Irish have long carved images of “Jack of the Lantern” from turnips and, later, potatoes or beets. The scary, glowing faces were used to frighten away Stingy Jack and any other evil spirits.

When Irish immigrants came to North America, they discovered a new medium for their jack-o'-lanterns: pumpkins. With their hollow centers and wide, thick, orange shells, these gourds were a perfect vessel. Today, pumpkins are grown on every continent except Antarctica, and people around the world use them to carve jack-o'-lanterns.



Popcorn Poppin' Month

Spinning and Weaving Week

October 1–7

Guardian Angels Day

October 2

International Top Spinning Day

October 14

Mulligan Day

October 17

International Artists Day

October 25

All Hallows' Eve

October 31

Whispering Willows

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Jack of the Lantern

Every October, once pumpkins have grown fat and orange, these gorgeous gourds are picked and used in a wide variety of ritual activities from baking pumpkin pie to carving jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween. But there's no need to wait until October 26, Pumpkin Day, to make the most of your favorite pumpkin traditions.

Pumpkins have been grown in North America for 5,000 years. While these gourds are native

to Central America and Mexico, the tradition of carving pumpkins began across the Atlantic Ocean in Ireland. The practice of carving “jack-o'-lanterns” began with an Irish folktale about “Stingy Jack.”

The legend says that Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink, but then the tightfisted fellow did not want to pay. Jack tricked the Devil into transforming himself into a coin he could use to buy the drinks, but Jack put the coin into his pocket

next to a silver cross. The Devil, so near a cross, could not change back into his devilish self. Jack made the Devil promise not to claim his soul should he die. The Devil had no choice but to agree. However, when Jack did

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Did you know?

In 2017, 179 million people celebrated Halloween. Spending on average, per buyer, \$86.13 in candy sales and recording a new record of \$9.1 Billion dollars over all.



Name the Newsletter

In conjunction with Wren Hospice, we will be hosting a 'name the newsletter' contest. The winner will receive a raffle basket.

The residents will vote to either keep the existing title "*Whispering Willows*" or change to a new name of the newsletter for the Winter issue.

The ballots for naming the newsletter will be in an envelope next to the Life Enrichment Directors office on the bulletin board. Submit completed ballots to Becky. Deadline to name the newsletter is on Halloween (Oct. 31st).



Remember to be heard,
you need to vote!

Watch for your Absentee Ballot to come in the mail! If you need help with understanding the issues, the LED can help explain them to you but cannot and will not help you decide how to vote.

Ballots will need to be placed back in the mail by the date indicated in order to count on the November 11th, 2018 General Assembly Election (Midterm Elections).

Intuitive Magic

On October 31, Halloween, strange things may go bump in the night. Perhaps this is why this date is also Increase Your Psychic Powers Day. Psychic powers derive from extrasensory perception (ESP), senses beyond our physical five senses. There is no scientific evidence to confirm the existence of psychic powers, yet clairvoyants believe in abilities such as reading

minds and divining the future. Perhaps another way of looking at psychic ability is by redefining it as *intuition*. Hindus believe in the third-eye *chakra*, an energy center located between the eyes that is the center of our power of intuition. So even if you do not believe in psychic ability, consider October 31 an opportune time to open yourself up to new and wondrous possibilities.

Thank You, Sir Frobisher

On October 8, be sure to wish all your Canadian friends a Happy Thanksgiving. In 1578, more than 40 years before the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving in the Americas, English explorer Martin Frobisher held a Thanksgiving celebration in present-day Newfoundland. He and his crew gave thanks for surviving their exploration of the Northwest Passage. This Thanksgiving celebration was finally formalized as a national holiday in 1879. Today, it does not honor Frobisher but is a harvest celebration similar to America's Thanksgiving, complete with turkey and pumpkin pie. And as far as Frobisher's claim to the first Thanksgiving, some historians think that Spanish explorers may have given thanks even before Sir Martin.



The Wonders of Yosemite

Natural wonders abound in California's Yosemite Valley: the famous Half Dome, the granite cliffs of El Capitan, giant sequoia trees, and delicate waterfalls. While such natural beauty brings peace to its visitors, its journey to becoming a national park in October of 1890 was anything but.

The Yosemite Valley had been inhabited for 3,000 years by Native American tribes. The Ahwahnechee was a band that did not hesitate to fight off invaders to their territory. A neighboring

tribe, the Miwok, called the Ahwahnechee *Yos s e'meti*, a word meaning "those who kill." It is from this word that Yosemite valley got its name. This word, it seems, could also refer to the white European settlers in the region. Once gold was struck in California in the mid-19th century, white Europeans overran the valley. As news of California's gold spread, more settlers arrived, and in 1864, President Abraham Lincoln moved to preserve seven square miles of the valley and the Mariposa Grove of

sequoia trees as a public trust of California, marking the first time the U.S. government protected public lands.

In 1889 naturalist John Muir ventured into Yosemite. He was awed by its beauty and also worried that the surrounding valley was unprotected. With the help of Washington, D.C., magazine editor Robert Underwood Johnson, Muir lobbied Congress to protect Yosemite as a national park. On October 1, 1890, Congress set aside over 1,500 square miles of land as Yosemite National Park.

Notable Quotable

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

~ John Muir, naturalist

Conservation Quiz

Are these facts about the planet's protected parklands true or false?

1. The world's largest national park is in Alaska.
2. Yellowstone was the world's first national park.
3. The Great Smoky Mountains are the most visited park in America.
4. America has more protected land than any other country.

ANSWERS: 1. False, the largest national park is in Greenland; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 53.9% of Venezuela is protected land



What's a Frappe?

October 7 is Frappe Day, and for many people this begs the question, "What is a frappe?" Denizens of America's northeast corner, known as New Englanders, know that a *frappe* is a milkshake blended with ice cream. But wait a minute—isn't

a milkshake a blended drink made of milk, ice cream, and syrup? Not in New England. Up there, milkshakes don't include ice cream but only contain milk and syrup. To further confuse matters, travel to Rhode Island and you'll likely find *cabinet*

on the menu. A cabinet is a frappe uniquely made with coffee ice cream, coffee syrup, and milk. Why is this regional drink called a cabinet? One story suggests that soda jerks once kept coffee syrup in wooden cabinets behind the counter.

