A Free Monthly Newsletter From Your Friends at PACIFIC

October 2026

NEWS You Can Use

PACIFIC SINCE 1856 RECORDS MANAGEMENT

October Service Awards

Celebrating Pacific Employee Anniversaries

9 Years
Cher Vue

4 Years
Peter Foy

3 Years
Riley Goodrick

2 Years
Joseph Bustamante

1 Year
Jacob Isaguirre

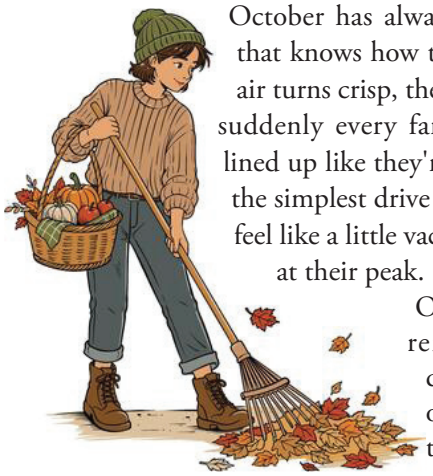
"Adversity is like a strong wind. It tears away from us all but the things that cannot be torn, so that we see ourselves as we really are."

— Arthur Golden

What's Inside This Month?

Thoughts from Richard Steed
Want to Win a $25 Amazon Gift Card?
History of the Jack-o'-Lantern
October Holidays and Events
Trivia Quiz: All About October
October Offers!
Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Is Your Records Program Actually Secure?

Thoughts from Richard Steed



October has always seemed like a month that knows how to make an entrance. The air turns crisp, the trees put on a show, and suddenly every farm stand has pumpkins lined up like they're waiting for a bus. Even the simplest drive down a familiar road can feel like a little vacation when the leaves are at their peak.

Of course, October also reminds us that change doesn't always happen on our schedule. One day the trees are green, and the next we're looking at a hillside that seems to have caught fire. We can enjoy the show, but we can't make it last. Eventually, the leaves fall, the colors fade, and we're left with bare branches and a rake that seems to get heavier every year.

Maybe that's part of October's charm. It reminds us to appreciate things while they're here, but also to accept that seasons change. Not everything is meant to stay exactly as it is. Sometimes there's a natural rhythm to letting go, even when we're not quite ready.

And then there's the practical side of autumn. We put away the summer furniture, sort through the garage, and decide which things really need to be kept for another year. It's amazing how much can accumulate when we're not paying attention. A little cleanup now can save a lot of frustration later.

That same idea applies to records management. Information has its season, too. Some records need to be preserved, while others have served their purpose and can be properly disposed of. Knowing the difference helps us make room for what matters and keeps yesterday's clutter from becoming tomorrow's problem.

So enjoy October while it's here. Take the scenic route, admire the foliage, and maybe tackle that one drawer you've been avoiding. The leaves will fall when they're ready, and there's no sense rushing them. But if you happen to find a few things you no longer need, consider that autumn's version of spring cleaning.

Richard

Shred 6 Drives for the Price of 5

One (1) Hard Drive shredded FREE for every five (5) you bring in during the month of October!

History of the Jack-o'-Lantern



The tradition of the jack-o'-lantern began, surprisingly enough, with a turnip rather than a pumpkin. According to Irish folklore, there once lived an unhappy, mean old man named Stingy Jack. He often played tricks on his neighbors and was generally avoided.

The story goes that one night, the Devil himself came to visit Stingy Jack. Jack offered the Devil some apples from his tree but told him he would have to climb the tree to pick them himself. Once the Devil had climbed high into the branches, Stingy Jack quickly pulled several crosses from behind his back and placed them around the tree. The Devil was trapped, and Jack told him he would remain there until he promised not to take Jack's soul. The Devil finally agreed, climbed down, and left Jack alone.

Several years later, Stingy Jack died. He went to Heaven but could not get past the Pearly Gates. St. Peter turned him away, telling him he was too mean and miserable to enter. Jack then went down to Hell, but the Devil kept his promise not to take Jack's soul and turned him away as well. With nowhere to go, Jack found himself wandering in utter darkness outside the gates of Hell. He begged the Devil for a light, and the Devil tossed him a burning ember from the depths of Hell. Jack placed the ember inside a hollowed-out turnip and used it as a lantern. From that time onward, according to the legend, Stingy Jack roamed the earth with his makeshift lantern, forever known as Jack-o'-Lantern.

The Irish and other communities in the British Isles developed a tradition of carving turnips, gourds, and even potatoes, then placing a lighted candle inside to ward off wandering spirits on All Hallows' Eve, the night before All Saints' Day. Over time, the practice became associated with Halloween and the jack-o'-lantern. Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America, where pumpkins soon became the preferred choice because they were larger and easier to carve.

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To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves.

— Mohandas K. Gandhi

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October Holidays and Events

Daily Observances:

1 International Day of Older Persons
2 World Farm Animals Day
4-10 World Space Week
4 National Ships-in-Bottles Day
5 Child Health Day
8 National Depression Screening Day
9 Leif Erikson Day
9 World Post Day
10 Universal Music Day
11 Southern Food Heritage Day
12 Columbus Day
13 National Face Your Fears Day
14 Be Bald and Be Free Day
15 Get Smart About Credit Day
15 White Cane Safety Day
16 World Food Day
17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
18 World Menopause Day
19 Evaluate Your Life Day
22 International Stuttering Awareness Day
22 Smart is Cool Day
23 National Mole Day
24 Make a Difference Day
25 Mother-in-Law Day
26 Mule Day
27 Cranky Coworkers Day
27 Navy Day
29 National Cat Day
30 Create a Great Funeral Day
31 Halloween



Monthly Observances:

National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
National Arts and Humanities Month
National Chiropractic Health Month
Right-Brainers Rule Month
Celiac Disease Awareness Month
Church Library Month
Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
American Cheese Month
Antidepressant Death Awareness Month
Billiard Awareness Month
Car Care Month
Celebrating the Bilingual Child Month
Co-op Awareness Month
Dyslexia Awareness Month
Emotional Intelligence Awareness Month
Global Diversity Awareness Month

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PacBlog

Ransomware Recovery Starts Offline

PacBlog is the monthly web log of Pacific Records Storage To read this month's installment, please click the title below.

https://pacific-records.com/ransomware-recovery-starts-offline/

You may also access the PacBlog at the URL below. There you will find this month's installment along with archives of previous installments.

http://pacific-records.com/category/pacnews

Have A Question For Us?

We love to hear from all our good friends and clients who enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. If you have a question related to off-site document storage, shredding, media vaulting, or document imaging, please feel free to give us a call or send us an email.

(888) 893-6054 or info@pacific-records.com

Do You Want To Win A $25 Amazon Gift Card?



Each month we'll give you a new challenge of some type. All those who reply with a correct answer are eligible to win. At the end of the month we'll draw the name of one lucky winner.

Here is this month's challenge:

What does Dracula look for at the library?

Last Month's Answer to:

Why did the apple go out with a fig?

Because it couldn't find a date!

Last month's Winner:

SUSAN ROSSI

Email your answer to **info@pacific-records.com**

Trivia Quiz: All About October

October is known for colorful fall foliage, pumpkin patches, Halloween, and fascinating historical events. Put your seasonal knowledge to the test with this month's trivia challenge!

1. What is the birthstone for October?
2. Which famous illusionist and escape artist died on October 31, 1926?
3. What is the name of the Celtic festival that helped inspire modern Halloween traditions?
4. Which planet was discovered by astronomer William Herschel in October 1781?
5. What famous New York City parade, held annually on Thanksgiving Day today, began in 1924 as a celebration organized by a department store?
6. Which American president was born on October 14, 1890, and later became the Supreme Allied Commander in World War II?
7. What is the traditional name for the full moon that occurs in October?
8. Which famous American poet wrote "The Raven," first published in January 1845?
9. On October 24, 1945, what international organization officially came into existence?
10. Which classic 1931 horror film features Boris Karloff as a monster brought to life by a scientist?

Answers on Back Page!



"First and foremost, I think of myself as a disrupter."

3 months FREE secure Destruction service

Get 3 months of free Secure Destruction service when you sign up for a new Secure Destruction account with a one-year agreement. Just mention this coupon! ***Email info@pacific-records.com for more information.***

Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Is Your Records Program Actually Secure?

Every October, Cybersecurity Awareness Month sends businesses scrambling to update passwords, run phishing tests, and review firewall rules. All of that matters. But it leaves out a category of risk that most Sacramento-area businesses never audit: the records themselves.

Your network can be locked down and your data can still walk out the door in a banker's box.

Where the gaps usually are

Most breaches involving physical records are not sophisticated. They are ordinary lapses that nobody owned.

- **Documents stored on site.** Boxes in a back room, a storage unit, or a hallway closet are exposed to fire, water, theft, and casual access by anyone with a key. There is no log of who opened the box or when.
- **No retention schedule**. If your company keeps everything forever, you are holding years of Social Security numbers, patient records, and financial data that you have no legal reason to keep. Every extra year of storage is another year of liability.
- **Shredding handled in house.** An office shredder produces strips that can be reassembled, gets ignored when it jams, and generates no destruction record. If a regulator asks you to prove a specific file was destroyed, a wastebasket is not an answer.
- **Digital files with no physical backup.** Ransomware encrypts what it can reach. If your only copies live on a connected network, an attack can take out your primary data and your backup in the same hour.
- **Unvetted vendors.** Anyone can print "secure shredding" on a truck. Without certification, employee background screening, and a documented chain of custody, you are trusting a stranger with your clients' data.

What a secure program looks like

A records program that would survive an audit has four things in place:

- **Controlled access.** Every file is tracked, every retrieval is logged, and only authorized people can request a document.
- **A written retention policy.** HIPAA, FACTA, and California privacy law all set expectations for how long records are kept and how they are disposed of. Your policy should map to those requirements, not to habit.
- **Certified destruction.** Records that reach end of life go through NAID AAA certified destruction, with a certificate of destruction on file as proof.
- **Offsite protection for digital assets.** Backup tapes and media stored in a climate-controlled, air-gapped vault give you a recovery path that ransomware cannot reach.

Start with an honest inventory

Before Cybersecurity Awareness Month ends, walk through your facility and answer three questions. Where are our physical records right now? Who can access them without asking permission? Can we prove what we destroyed and when?

If any of those answers make you uncomfortable, you have found your project for the fourth quarter.

Pacific Records Management provides secure offsite storage, document scanning, media vaulting, and certified destruction for businesses throughout Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, Napa, and Solano counties. Contact us to schedule a records assessment and close the gap between your cybersecurity policy and your actual practice.



Did You Know . . . You Can Pay Online?

Pacific customers can pay their invoices online at:

https://pacific-records.com/pay-your-bill



Trivia Quiz Answers:

1. Opal; 2. Harry Houdini; 3. Samhain; 4. Uranus; 5. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade; 6. Dwight D. Eisenhower; 7. Hunter's Moon; 8. Edgar Allan Poe; 9. The United Nations; 10. Frankenstein

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Modesto (209) 343-4630 • Napa/Solano County (888) 893-6054 • Reno/Sparks (775) 358-2323

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