

# The Inside Story

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For days in September, rows and rows of red, white and blue flags adorned the grounds of Memorial Park in Omaha, each flag representing and honoring an individual whose life was lost in the attack of our country on September 11, 2001. It was with great pride that I could be a part of the memorial this year. As hundreds of volunteers meticulously placed each flag, I was able to “capture” those moments for them. I couldn’t be more



proud of the images that I was able to share with everyone involved with the memorial. The flags and every life that they represented were the stars of each image and made each second of time spent as a part of this project worthwhile.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike".

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A photograph of a skydiver in a blue shirt and orange helmet jumping over a student in a pink shirt. They are both smiling and have their arms outstretched. The background shows a vast landscape with green fields and a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Fearless?

Foolish?

Or Just Plain Fun!

By Jody Batenhorst

“You’re crazy!”

“Do you have a death wish?”

“I could never do that!”

These are common reactions I receive when I tell people that I went skydiving this summer. Many of those I told also questioned if I was scared. My immediate answer was, “no”. Although, that may not be entirely true. Part of me probably was scared. I, however, refused to let that stop me.

Besides, isn’t that why people go to amusement parks, haunted houses, and do crazy things like jump out of airplanes? They want to be scared. They want some controlled chaos, excitement, and fun in their lives. I am one of those people. I need an occasional thrill, a once in a lifetime kind of adventure every now and again.

It can be pretty amazing to see what you can find within yourself when you push past your comfort zone. See what you can find. Face your fears. It just might add a little more life to your years!

## Nebraska's Ghostly Adventures

By Mackenzie Schmidt, guest student contributor

Stories of ghosts and gremlins aren't just for children seeking out a Halloween scare anymore. Paranormal investigators (yes, it is a real job!) have been hunting spirits all throughout Nebraska for many years. With several ties to pioneer trails and wandering criminals, it's no wonder that our great state seems to attract a large amount of old souls in never-ending distress. If you're looking for a ghostly adventure this October, here are a few places you might like to visit.

**Lincoln: Robber's Cave – Van Dorn Park.** Now sealed with its original entrance underneath a Subway restaurant, Robber's Cave in Lincoln has had plenty of activity in the past. First used by the Pawnee tribes to contact Tirawa, the god of all things, this tunnel was also used as part of the Underground Railroad and a hideout for Jesse James in 1876. Located near the state penitentiary and a mental institution, convicts and patients often ended up in the tunnels and sometimes died within them. These stories lead many to believe that the cave, in all of its glory, is haunted by their ghosts.

**North Platte: Fox Theatre.** Fox Theatre, now renamed the Neville Center for the Performing Arts, was built in 1929 by former Nebraska governor Keith Neville. Visitors of the theatre's balcony lighting booth report many sudden temperature drops as well as spirits reaching out to touch their hands.

**Plattsmouth: Hannah's Grave.** Local legend tells the story of the death of an infant and the passing of her young mother, shortly thereafter. Locals claim to often hear the mother crying out for her child while a lantern floats around seemingly without an owner.

**Chadron: Olde Main Street Inn.** This is said to be the home of a friendly ghost named Jack. Unexplained footsteps and objects moving from one spot to another mysteriously have been reported at the Inn.

**Omaha: Prospect Hill Cemetery.** A ghostly sighting in 1874 was enough to be published in the Omaha Daily Bee newspaper. The report claims a woman in white was seen and heard demanding to know where her children were before she walked back to her grave in the cemetery and disappeared.

All information used in this article was obtained from [www.hauntedplaces.org](http://www.hauntedplaces.org)

## Pumpkin Swirl Cheesecake

### Ingredients

25 finely crushed ginger snap cookies  
½ cup of finely chopped pecans  
¼ cup of melted butter  
4 (8 ounce) packages of softened cream cheese  
¾ cup of sugar, plus ¼ cup of sugar  
1 teaspoon of vanilla  
4 eggs  
1 cup of canned pumpkin  
1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon of ground nutmeg  
Dash of ground cloves

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Combine ginger snap crumbs, pecans and butter, then press onto the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan and spread one inch up the sides.

2. With an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese, ¾ cup of sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Add the eggs one at a time, and mix on low speed until each is completely blended into the mixture. Remove 1 and ½ cups of the batter and place into a separate medium sized bowl – this will be your pumpkin batter. Stir the remaining ¼ cup of sugar into the new batter, as well as the canned pumpkin and spices. Spoon half of the pumpkin batter into the crust, and then top with spoonfuls of half of the plain batter. Repeat this step. Then, drag a knife through the batter several times for a marble effect.

3. Bake the cheesecake for 55 minutes, or until the center is nearly set. Cool completely before moving it to the refrigerator to set for a minimum of four hours. Cut into 16 slices and serve immediately or store in the refrigerator for later use.



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