

The Devlivore Post

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GREAT SLIME CRIMES: WHO IS REALLY BEHIND THE DESTRUCTION?

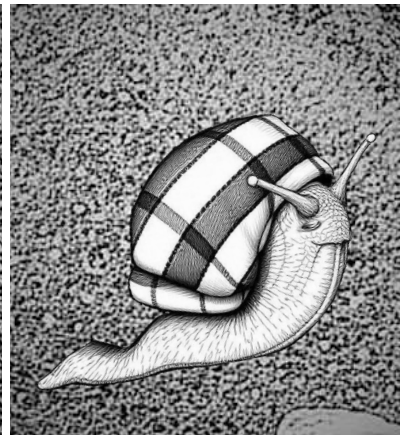
Town investigators have uncovered new evidence suggesting that the Banana Slug Collective may be expanding its membership — and residents of Stained-Glass Avenue are paying the price.



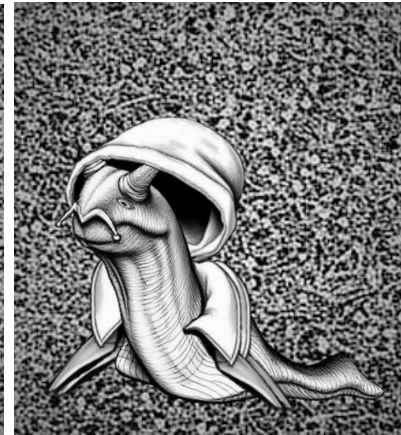
Bandana Nana



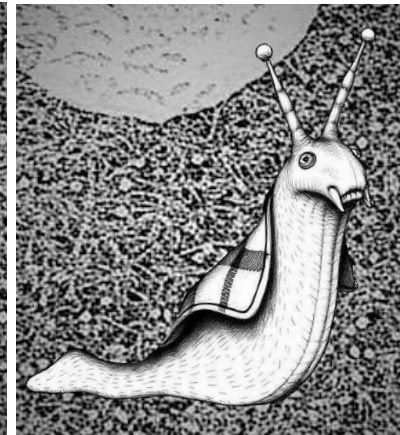
Danny Sluko



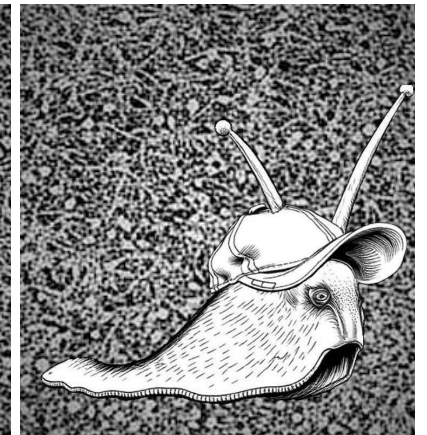
Sluglas Nugzales



Ooze Cruz



Flan L. Stan



Bobby Slimes

BY Matilda Horowitz

HEMINGWAY HEIGHTS — For months, the garden has endured a troubling increase in slime trails, chewed vegetation, suspiciously polished leaves, and other incidents authorities have been reluctant to officially describe as “targeted.”

But a pattern is emerging. What began as a handful of slugs engaging in petty crimes now

appears to be something larger. Neighborhood observers report seeing unfamiliar faces alongside known Collective members, raising the possibility that the organization has been quietly recruiting.

And nowhere has the alleged expansion been more destructive than Stained-Glass Avenue. Residents there have endured extensive damage to their properties, with several

occupants now determining that repairs may no longer be sufficient. A complete rebuild is reportedly being considered.

“It’s not just damage anymore,” one exhausted resident said. “At some point you have to ask whether the building still belongs to us.”

BANDANA NANA: THE HEAD

For many years, Bandana Nana was considered

one of the more stable residents of Hemingway Heights. He was a familiar presence near Hobbit Hill, particularly during early spring mornings and late autumn afternoons. Neighbors described him as predictable, unremarkable, and largely non-disruptive.

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WEATHER OR NOT September Forecasts



METEOROLOGY

Mornings will begin gray, afternoons may briefly reveal the sun, and residents will spend several weeks insisting they can still wear shorts.

Temperatures will settle into the low to mid-60s, with occasional appearances by the upper 60s that will be treated as a surprise gift from the universe.

Marine clouds will continue arriving from the Sound each morning, and rain chances will steadily increase throughout September and October. Daily forecasts will remain carefully vague enough to preserve plausible deniability. Officials advise residents to remain calm, dress in layers, and avoid looking directly at the forecast.

For September, the region will fully embrace its natural habitat: wet sidewalks, damp leaves, early sunsets, and coffee shops filled with people wearing rain jackets despite it not actually raining. Sunset will occur progressively earlier, providing residents with the sensation that the workday has ended roughly six minutes after lunch.

Winds will increase in activity and vindictiveness. Initially, they will merely rustle leaves and gently rearrange pedestrians’ hair. By late October, gusts may demonstrate a personal interest in seasonal decor, unsecured recycling bins, and anyone who has recently said, “It doesn’t look that bad outside.”

NIGHT WATCH



NEW MOON — Thursday, September 10, 2026

FIRST QUARTER MOON — Friday, September 18, 2026

FULL MOON — Saturday, September 26, 2026 **Corn Moon (Harvest Moon)**

LAST QUARTER MOON — Saturday, October 3, 2026

HOROSCOPE



Aries, the Ram ~March 21 – April 19~ You will turn a minor inconvenience into a personal challenge. Against all odds, you will win.

Taurus, the Bull ~April 20 – May 20~ The first crisp evening inspires you to make soup. You will spend three hours choosing the correct soup.

Gemini, the Twins ~May 21 – June 20~ You will make two conflicting plans over the weekend. Naturally, you will attend both.

Cancer, the Crab ~June 21 – July 22~ You will retreat into your home and become emotionally attached to a blanket you found on sale.

Leo, the Lion ~July 23 – August 22~ Someone will compliment you casually. You will remember it daily for six months.

Virgo, the Virgin ~August 23 – September 22~ You will detect the first sign of autumn before anyone else. You will also have strong opinions about how the leaves are being handled.

Libra, the Scales ~September 23 – October 22~ You will carefully consider whether to wear a jacket. By the time you decide, it will be raining.

Scorpio, the Scorpion ~October 23 – November 21~ The darker evenings will make you mysterious. Soon after, you’ll graduate to suspicious.

Sagittarius, the Archer ~November 22 – December 21~ You will agree to something before hearing the details. The details will be considerably more interesting than expected.

Capricorn, the Goat ~December 22 – January 19~ You will begin preparing for winter before anyone else. They will laugh now. You will remember this in January.

Aquarius, the Water Carrier ~January 20 – February 18~ You will have an idea nobody asked for. It will be oddly brilliant, and you will be deeply annoyed that nobody thought of it first.

Pisces, the Fishes ~February 19 – March 20~ A falling leaf will trigger a profound realization about your life. You will forget it before reaching your next destination.

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Continued from Page 1.

That perception began to change following the arrival of the Silver Hearts in Obsidian Circle.

No evidence was ever formally produced regarding allegations of damage to Silver Heart blooms, but the claims spread quickly through the town’s informal information network — a system believed to consist primarily of one resident telling another resident something they “heard.”

Whether the rumors reflected an actual change in Bandana Nana’s behavior or helped provoke one remains unclear. What is documented is what happened next: a noticeable increase in coordinated banana slug activity along Stained-Glass Avenue.

Bandana Nana was subsequently taken into custody in connection with the events, cementing his transformation from quiet neighborhood regular to the suspected head of what investigators now believe may be a much larger organization.

Considered to be at the top of the organization, Bandana Nana is the Collective’s apparent leader and easiest senior member to identify. He wears a bandana, which investigators consider both a fashion choice and a possible declaration of authority.

Bandana Nana is rarely observed rushing. He does not need to. His position appears secure, and he carries himself with the quiet confidence of someone who has already decided how the meeting will end.

Sources familiar with Collective activity say he has been involved in coordinating movements throughout Hemingway Heights, although the exact nature of these operations remains unclear.

One investigator described him as “the kind of slug who knows more than he says.”



Extensive damage to Stained-Glass Avenue. Captured August 2026 by Winston Smith.

DANNY SLUKO: “SECOND IN COMMAND”

Immediately below Bandana Nana is Danny Sluko, frequently referred to as the Collective’s “second in command.” He is known for fashioning a leather jacket.

This has raised questions. How does a slug wear a jacket? Who made it? Is there a dress code? Does the Collective have a tailor?

These questions remain unanswered.

Investigators have yet to determine whether the jacket is functional, symbolic, or simply extremely cool.

Mr. Sluko appears to occupy a position of considerable influence and has been spotted in the company of several other senior members. A source close to Mr. Sluko confirmed that he and Bandana Nana were previous business associates, although the nature of the business was not disclosed.

Bandana Nana and Mr. Sluko supposedly formed the Banana Slug Collective when slugs in Mr. Sluko’s hometown were “Salted Out” — an initiative many towns take to deter slug-related crime, and something Hemingway Heights has also adopted in moderation with

the temporary “Salty Grounds” order beginning in May of this year and continuing throughout the summer months.

A resident of the neighboring Silver Hearts in Obsidian Circle, often considered the downtown region of Hemingway Heights, reported seeing Mr. Sluko “sluggin’ about” in the neighborhood.

“He just looks like he’s up to no good.”

While slugging suspiciously is not yet a crime in Hemingway Heights, officials continue to encourage residents to report any sightings of suspicious activity in connection with the irreparable harm to the homes of Stained-Glass Avenue.

SLUGLAS NUGZALES

Then there is Sluglas Nugzales, recognizable by his thick flannel beanie and exceptionally relaxed demeanor.

Sluglas is perhaps the most difficult member to investigate because he seems genuinely pleasant.

Residents throughout Hemingway Heights, both on and off the record, describe Sluglas as kind and agreeable, and say he appears happy to listen. He is also frequently described as having a remarkable ability to lose track of what is happening while it is still happening.

When referred to as “Mr. Nugzales,” sources shared that Sluglas is often confused by the name and only responds to “Sluglas” or “SlugNugz,” as sometimes used by Collective members in casual settings.

During informal questioning by town officials, Sluglas reportedly paused for an extended period before asking what the question had been.

When reminded, he smiled, nodded, and said,

“Yeah.”

Investigators found no reason to believe he was being evasive.

According to reports from residents, town officials, and sources close to the Collective, Sluglas seems less interested in strategy than in simply seeing where the day takes him. His presence at several Collective gatherings, however, suggests that his apparent absent-mindedness should not necessarily be mistaken for a lack of involvement. It may simply be that he forgot.

OOZE CRUZ

Ooze Cruz is considerably harder to overlook. Wearing a hoodie and a distinctive mustache, Mr. Cruz has emerged as one of the Collective’s more charismatic members. He is also, according to multiple sources, a little annoying.

“Ooze talks. A lot,” stated a source close to the Collective.

He jokes, charms, wanders, and appears remarkably comfortable speaking to anyone who will listen. His friendliness, however, is accompanied by a shifty quality that has made town investigators reluctant to turn their backs on him.

Several sources described him as “the guy who seems trustworthy until you realize you have somehow agreed to help him move something.”

His exact responsibilities within the Collective remain unknown.

He has not clarified or confirmed his role within the Collective. He did, however, appear amused by the question.

Continued on Page 3.

COBBLESTONE’S CELEBRATES THE MILE CLUB

Devlivore footwear institution prepares to launch the weeklong community event as residents are invited to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes

BY Matilda Horowitz

DEVLIVORE — For generations, residents of Devlivore have relied upon Cobblestone’s for the repair and maintenance of footwear needed to navigate the town’s famously unforgiving streets.

The arrangement has remained largely unchanged: Residents leave their shoes on the counter in a seemingly empty shop. They do not need an appointment. They do not need to identify themselves. They do not need to leave a note. One week later, the shoes are ready.

Nobody seems to know exactly how. The system has nevertheless proven remarkably effective.

THE COBBLER WHO IS RARELY SEEN

Cobblestone’s proprietor remains one of Devlivore’s more enduring mysteries.

Few residents can recall seeing the cobbler in person, despite the fact that his shop has apparently remained operational for as long as anyone can remember.

Rumor holds that he is a modestly built man with a rounded posture, a thick mustache, and a permanent working apron. Descriptions vary somewhat regarding the mustache. They do not vary regarding the apron.

“He’s always working,” said one resident.

When asked when she had last seen him working, she admitted that she had never actually seen him.

Nevertheless, residents continue to leave their shoes at Cobblestone’s with remarkable confidence.

There is no apparent concern that someone might take them. There is no sign-in sheet. There is no ticket system. There is not even a particularly convincing door. The shoes are simply left on the counter, and somehow, the cobbler knows what needs to be done.

NOTES ARE AVAILABLE, BUT GENERALLY UNNECESSARY

Customers may leave written instructions when requesting something specific. According to longtime residents, this is mostly a habit.

“I leave a detailed request for exactly what I want,” said one customer. “Even when I think I might have forgotten to mention something, they come back perfect. So, I must be more diligent than I remember.”

Another resident reported leaving a note requesting a particular shade of leather.

“I was very specific,” she said. “But they came back in a different shade than what I asked for and were somehow exactly what I wanted.”

Cobblestone’s has never publicly explained how the cobbler knows what customers want. The matter has not become a significant concern among residents.

“It saves time,” said one customer. “Not that time is much of a concern here. It’s more of a habit to have.”

BUT THIS WEEK, THE SHOES AREN’T BEING REPAIRED — THEY’RE BEING REMEMBERED

This week, however, Cobblestone’s is taking part in the recurring event known as The Mile Club. Residents are being invited to select a pair of shoes belonging to another resident and wear them for exactly one mile.

The shoes are displayed throughout the shop for participants to browse. No particular pair is assigned. Residents simply choose their preferred pair, and the selected footwear is then worn for one mile through Devlivore before being returned to Cobblestone’s.

The purpose, according to previous attendees of the event, is to encourage residents to experience the town through someone else’s routine. Or, more specifically, through someone else’s footwear.

“YOU NOTICE DIFFERENT THINGS”

The event has attracted a moderate turnout, with residents stopping by throughout the week to examine the available footwear and select a pair for their mile.

Some participants have reportedly chosen shoes based on appearance. Others have chosen based on size. A few appear to have selected shoes based entirely on where they suspect the shoes have previously been.

“You can tell some shoes have been places,” said one participant.

Asked where she believed her selected pair

had been, she pointed toward the eastern side of town.

“I don’t know,” she said. “They just felt like east shoes.”

Participants are not told who owns the shoes they select. They are also not told where the shoes normally travel. This has resulted in considerable speculation.

One resident said he selected a pair of work boots because he believed their owner probably had a “very different morning routine.”

Another chose a pair of polished black shoes because, according to him, “I wanted to see what kind of person walks around in these.”

The identity of the owner remains unknown.

ONE MILE, EXACTLY

The Mile Club is strict about distance. Participants are expected to walk exactly one mile before returning the shoes to Cobblestone’s. Walking less than one mile is discouraged. Walking more than one mile is apparently unnecessary.

When asked how participants are expected to know when they have reached exactly one mile, previous attendees offered little clarification.

“People know,” said one resident.

Continued on Page 3.

Continued from Page 2: *Slime Crimes*

FLAN L. STAN

Rounding out the senior group is Flan L. Stan, who wears a flannel shirt and sports a distinctive pair of mustache “whiskers.”

Stan is frequently seen with Mr. Cruz, and the two appear to spend a considerable amount of time joking around together. Whether their humor serves as a distraction, a morale-building exercise, or simply two friends having a good time remains unclear.

Mr. Stan himself has not offered much insight into the Collective’s operations. He has, however, demonstrated a suspiciously high tolerance for Cruz’s antics.

Other than Mr. Stan’s proximity to and observed amusement of Mr. Cruz, town officials have no reason to suspect him of being a direct offender in the Stained-Glass Avenue terror.

However, investigators stated, “No one is 100% ruled out, but we are focusing our efforts on the decision-makers of these orchestrated attacks.”

BOBBY SLIMES

Perhaps the most mysterious figure is Bobby Slimes.

Mr. Slimes wears a baseball cap facing forward. All sources confirm that he is quiet, nice, and noticeably slow-moving. He is also an excellent listener. Unfortunately for investigators, he has very little to say.

Mr. Slimes’s face provides almost no usable information. Sources close to him reported that he does not appear sad, angry, confused, excited, suspicious, or particularly concerned at any given moment. At the same time, he rarely looks as though he has a complete understanding of what is happening around him. This makes him extraordinarily difficult to



read. During a recent observation, Mr. Slimes reportedly watched a lengthy argument between other Collective members without visibly taking sides. When the argument ended, he continued sitting there, unfazed.

Investigators consider Mr. Slimes a person of interest, though they are not sure why. Rumors have spread that investigators are keeping a watchful eye on Mr. Slimes’s whereabouts due to reports of sluggish behavior.

A GROWING ORGANIZATION

The central question now facing Hemingway Heights is whether these six senior figures represent the entirety of the Banana Slug Collective — or merely its leadership.

Recent sightings suggest the latter. Residents have reported unfamiliar slugs appearing in areas previously associated with Collective activity. Numbers appear to be increasing at the same time damage is spreading.

Stained-Glass Avenue is reportedly considering rebuilding from the ground up. The damage has been impressively extraordinary for an organization whose members move approximately one foot per hour.

Yet perhaps that is precisely what makes them difficult to stop: they are slow, persistent, and stealthy.

For now, Bandana Nana and his senior members remain at the center of the investigation. Their motives are unclear. Their organizational structure is murky. Their membership numbers are unknown.

But one thing is becoming increasingly difficult to deny: the Banana Slug Collective is no longer just a few slugs sliding around.

Continued from Page 2: *The Mile Club*

Several participants have nevertheless reported returning to the shop at distances they described as “close enough.”

A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE DEVLIVORE

While the event is intended primarily as a casual community activity, participants say The Mile Club offers residents an unusual opportunity to experience familiar streets from unfamiliar routines.

A resident who normally takes the southern route home may find himself walking north. Someone accustomed to the market district may discover the quiet streets near the old well. Another may simply discover that a stranger’s shoes are considerably more comfortable.

“Everybody has their route,” said one longtime resident. “You don’t realize how different the town looks until you’re walking somebody else’s.”

The event has been described as particularly successful among residents who regularly travel the same streets. For one mile, at least, they are encouraged to go somewhere else.

THE COBBLER HAS NOT COMMENTED

Cobblestone’s proprietor has not made a public statement regarding The Mile Club.

Residents say this is consistent with his usual approach to community affairs. He is believed to be aware of the event. Some residents have suggested that he may have organized it himself. Others have pointed out that no one has ever actually seen anyone organizing anything. The distinction has not prevented speculation.

One resident suggested that the cobbler knows exactly who owns every pair of shoes in the shop. Another suggested that he knows where every pair has been. A third suggested that he knows where everyone is going. None could explain how they arrived at these conclusions.

THE MILE CLUB WEEK: FROM SUN-DAY THROUGH SUN-DOWN

The Mile Club will remain open throughout the week. Residents interested in participating may visit Cobblestone’s and select from the available footwear. No registration is required. No appointment is necessary. No explanation is expected. Participants are simply asked to choose a pair, walk one mile, and return the shoes to the shop. After that, the shoes will presumably return to their owners.

As for the cobbler, he will presumably continue doing what he has always done: working somewhere behind the counter, wearing his apron, knowing what everyone wants, and remaining, as ever, almost entirely unseen.



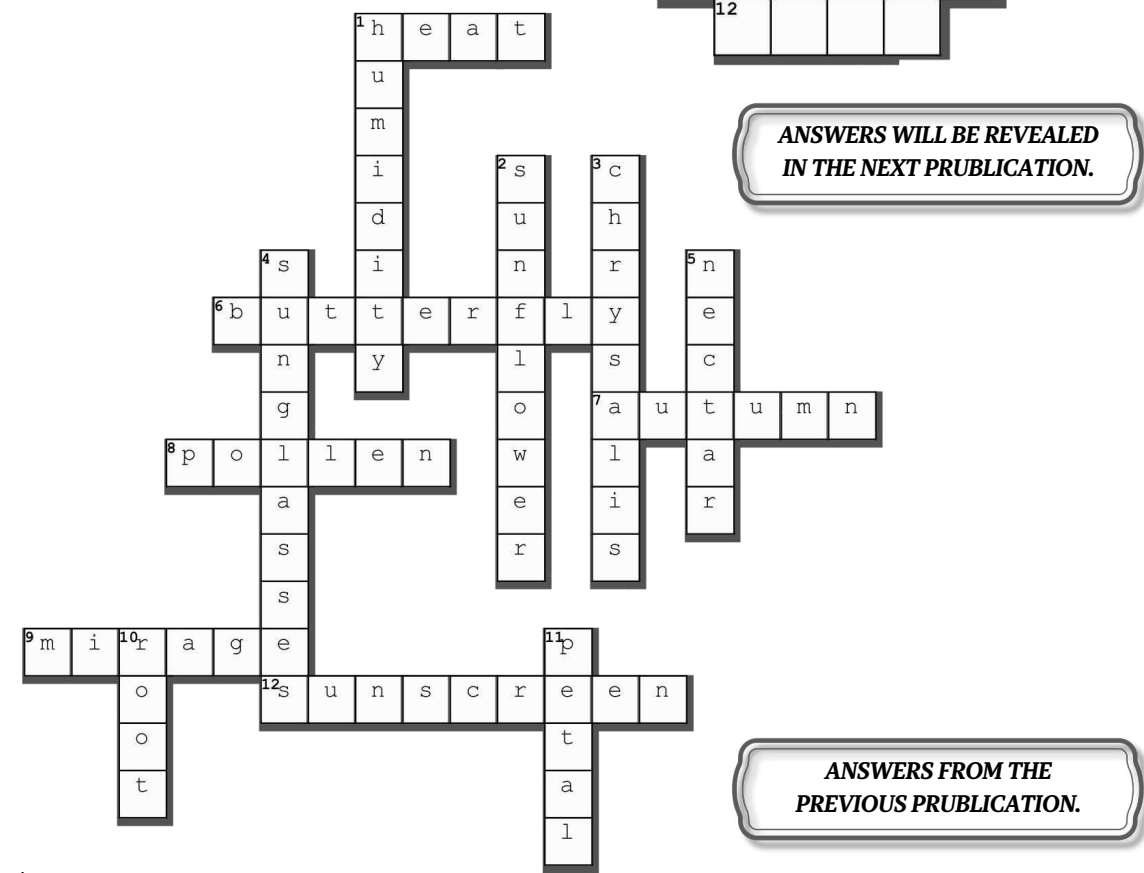
CRISS CROSS

DOWN

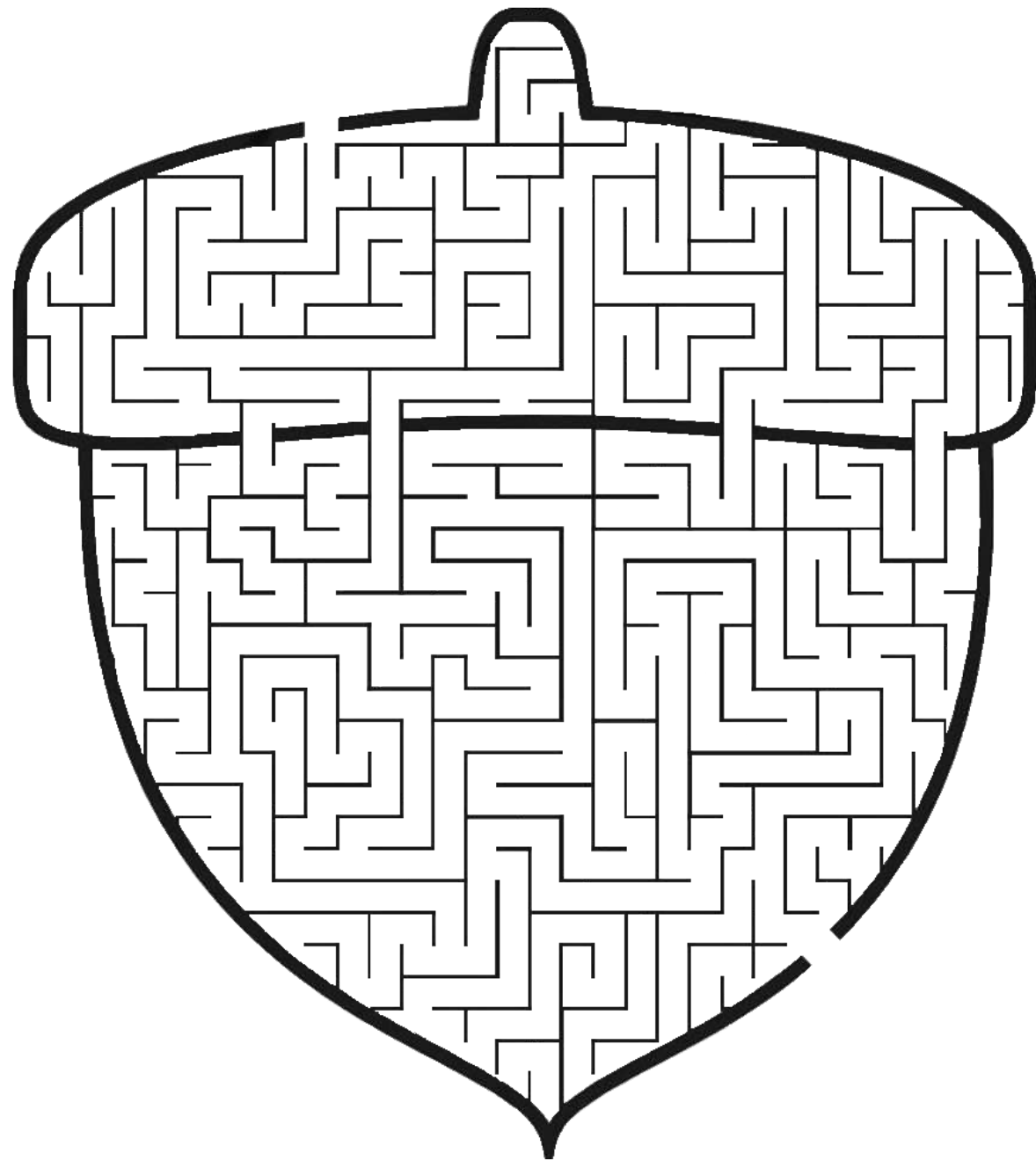
1. A small nut that grows on an oak tree.
2. Crisp autumn fruits often picked in September.
4. Colorful parts of trees that fall in autumn.
5. A figure placed in a field to scare away birds.
7. A day when daytime and nighttime are nearly equal in length.
10. A fall drink often made from apples.

ACROSS

3. It starts again when summer ends.
5. Cozy clothing worn when the weather gets cooler.
6. Autumn fruits that ripen in late summer and September.
8. The gathering of crops from fields.
9. Another name for the fall season.
11. Seasonal movement of animals to a different place.
12. A fall crop often seen growing in tall fields.



LABYRINTH



RECIPE

Blackberry Apple Crisp

with Brown Butter Oat Streusel

OUR SEASONAL PICK BY
Chef Ja Ja

INGREDIENTS

- 4 medium apples, peeled, cored, and cut into ½-inch slices
- 2 cups fresh blackberries
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp light brown sugar
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- Pinch of salt

STREUSEL

- 6 tbsp unsalted butter
- ¾ cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp kosher salt

METHOD

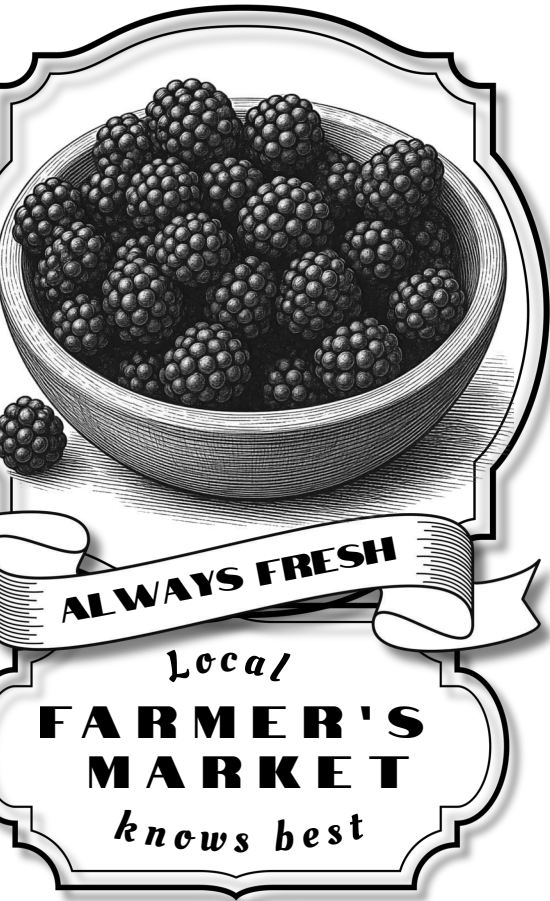
Preheat the oven to 375°F. Lightly butter a 9-inch baking dish or similarly sized shallow casserole.

In a large bowl, combine the apples, blackberries, granulated sugar, brown sugar, lemon juice, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg, flour, and salt. Toss gently until the fruit is evenly coated. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and spread into an even layer.

For the streusel, melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Continue cooking for 3–4 minutes, swirling occasionally, until the butter is golden brown and smells nutty. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly.

In a medium bowl, combine the oats, flour, brown sugar, walnuts, cinnamon, and salt. Pour in the browned butter and stir with a fork until the mixture forms irregular, crumbly clusters.

Scatter the streusel evenly over the fruit, making sure to cover the edges as well as the center.



Bake for 40–50 minutes, until the apples are tender, the blackberries are bubbling, and the topping is deeply golden brown. If the streusel begins to brown too quickly, loosely cover the dish with foil for the final 10 minutes.

Remove from the oven and allow to cool for at least 15 minutes before serving. The filling will thicken slightly as it rests.

Serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or a spoonful of softly whipped cream. Scatter a few fresh blackberries over the top if desired.

WHY IT WORKS

Blackberries are still appearing along roadsides and garden edges, while apples are beginning their long autumn arrival. This crisp brings the two together in a dessert that feels equally at home at the end of summer or the beginning of fall.

The blackberries become soft and jammy as they bake, their tartness balancing the sweetness of the apples. Browning the butter before adding it to the streusel gives the oats

HIDDEN PICTURES



CAN YOU FIND THESE HIDDEN OBJECTS?

BUTTERFLY

TEACUP

CROWN

CARROT

CATERPILLAR

ENVELOPE

PAINTBRUSH

WATERING CAN

SLICE OF PIE

SEWING BUTTON

SPYGLASS

DICE

PENCIL

BANANA

LADDER

ACORN

LIGHT BULB

FISH

SOCK

HEART

KEY

BONUS: CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN MUSHROOM?

and nuts a deep, toasted richness, while lemon keeps the fruit bright.

It is the sort of dessert that makes the seasonal transition feel less like an ending and more like an excellent excuse to turn on the oven. Best served warm, preferably with ice cream

melting into the corners of the dish and a few more blackberries waiting on the counter.

Here at The Devlivore Post, we welcome the thoughts, stories, artwork, and notices of our fellow residents. If you have something to share with the community, submit it to our office for consideration in an upcoming issue.

CUFFING SEASON IS UPON US

You can cuff just about anyone.
But not with just any cuffs.

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