# The Devlivore Post

VOLUME #5 · 13 OCTOBER 2026 · FREE


# GORGEOUS GOURDS!

## Hemingway Heights Welcomes the Pumpkin Pageant of the Season

BY Matilda Horowitz

**HEMINGWAY HEIGHTS** — There are few events that can bring the entire town of Hemingway Heights to a standstill. The annual Pumpkin Pageant, however, is one of them.

For weeks, residents have been whispering about it: Who will win? Will the reigning champion retain her crown? Which newcomer has the curves, coloring, and confidence to steal the judges' hearts?

This year, five lovely young gourds have arrived in Hemingway Heights from pumpkin patches far and wide, and residents could not be more thrilled to have them as visitors.

The competition will feature three distinguished judges, all traveling gourds with impressive credentials and absolutely no shortage of opinions. After careful deliberation, the judges will award the coveted Judges' Choice title, while Hemingway Heights residents will have their own opportunity to crown a favorite with the People's Choice award.

***Continued on Page 2.***



Pumpkin Pageant personnel gathering around Black Mondo Lane for the first night of town celebrations. Featuring (from left to right): Professor Mossbottom, Sir Wartwell Gourdington, Betty Boopkins, Miss Pumpkin Spice, Dotty Patchings, Penny Pearlsworth, (in the back) Ruby Broadbloom, and Countess Calabaza. Picture captured and submitted for publication by long-time pageant fan, Frodrick.

# WEATHER OR NOT

## October Forecasts

### METEOROLOGY

From mid-October through mid-November, the weather is expected to take on a decidedly more mysterious character. Temperatures will settle mostly into the 40s and 50s, with cool mornings, damp afternoons, and an increasing tendency for the sky to remain various shades of gray.

Rain will become a more frequent presence, arriving in everything from polite drizzles to long, steady downpours. Fog may occasionally settle in during the early hours, reducing visibility and giving familiar places the unfortunate appearance of somewhere one should not wander alone.

By November, daylight will grow scarce, shadows will lengthen, and the distinction between an ordinary evening and a suspiciously atmospheric one may become difficult to determine. Gusty winds will send leaves skittering through the streets, though where they come from—and where they ultimately go—remains unclear.

Overall conditions are expected to be cool, wet, and increasingly autumnal, with occasional breaks of sunlight serving as a reminder that the sun still exists.

Whether it intends to return for long is another matter.

### NIGHT WATCH

**NEW MOON** — Saturday, October 10, 2026
**FIRST QUARTER MOON** — Sunday, October 18, 2026
**FULL MOON** — Sunday, October 25, 2026 ***Hunter's Moon***
**LAST QUARTER MOON** — Sunday, November 1, 2026

### HOROSCOPE

**Aries, the Ram** *~March 21 – April 19~* Your confidence is admirable. Proceed boldly, but perhaps not toward the mysterious noise.

**Taurus, the Bull** *~April 20 – May 20~* You know what you want, and you intend to keep it. Unfortunately, something else wants it too. Guard your snacks.

**Gemini, the Twins** *~May 21 – June 20~* Your charm will get you out of almost anything. The trouble is, you may accidentally charm your way into something considerably worse.

**Cancer, the Crab** *~June 21 – July 22~* Your intuition is excellent, so trust that strange feeling in your gut. It is rarely wrong, although it has been known to be dramatic.

**Leo, the Lion** *~July 23 – August 22~* You crave attention and may finally receive it. Enjoy being admired, particularly if the admirer is still breathing.

**Virgo, the Virgin** *~August 23 – September 22~* You will attempt to bring order to a chaotic situation. The more you try the more chaotic it becomes.

**Libra, the Scales** *~September 23 – October 22~* You will face an important choice. Both options are questionable. Choose the one with fewer cobwebs.

**Scorpio, the Scorpion** *~October 23 – November 21~* Secrets come naturally to you, but one you've been keeping may have a life of its own. Consider telling someone before it finds them first.

**Sagittarius, the Archer** *~November 22 – December 21~* Your adventurous spirit demands excitement. This month, it may get more excitement than it specifically requested. Bring a flashlight.

**Capricorn, the Goat** *~December 22 – January 19~* Your ambition is admirable, your persistence formidable, and your refusal to take a hint genuinely impressive. Some doors are locked for a reason.

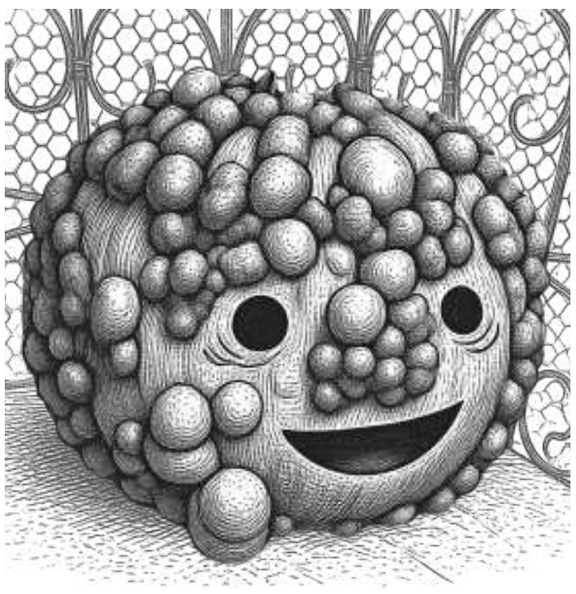
**Aquarius, the Water Carrier** *~January 20 – February 18~* Your unconventional ideas will intrigue others. One of them may even work. The others should perhaps not be tested after midnight.

**Pisces, the Fishes** *~February 19 – March 20~* Your vivid imagination makes ordinary life more interesting. Unfortunately, you may have trouble determining which parts are imaginary.

*Continued from Page 1.*

And while the competition is expected to be fierce, organizers remind everyone that this is, first and foremost, a celebration of friendship beauty, and seasonal vegetables with excellent personalities.

**MEET THE JUDGES**



**Sir Wartwell Gourdington**
***Large Orange Pumpkin | International Warty Division***

Sir Wartwell Gourdington has traveled extensively throughout the world's finest pumpkin patches, collecting honorary titles, admiring his own reflection in puddles, and developing what some consider an unhealthy interest in surface texture.

A magnificent specimen covered in dozens of round warts and growths, Wartwell insists that his unusual appearance is not "bumpy," but rather "architecturally complex."

He is known for his discerning eye and his belief that a pumpkin should "never be afraid to have a little texture."



**Ruby Broadbloom**
***Large Red Pumpkin | Eastern Patch Circuit***

Ruby Broadbloom comes to Hemingway Heights with a reputation for being both enormous and exceptionally glamorous.

Known affectionately as "The Big Red One" by admirers back home, Ruby has spent years judging county harvests, fall festivals, and at least one highly disputed pumpkin pie contest.

Her judging philosophy is simple: "Size matters, but so does presence."

She is expected to be particularly attentive to confidence, color, and overall stage charisma.


**LIFE COACHING**

*You can do anything you put your mind to.*

*You can also stop doing it.*

*We offer both.*



**2 ¢ENTS**

**Because everyone else seems to know better.**

*Forget unsolicited advice. It's better when it costs something.*

We offer other people's opinions, personally vetted to ensure they're ***not*** expert, ***not*** professional, & ***never*** unique.

*Because why make your own decisions when you can follow what everyone else is doing?*



**FORTUNE TELLING**

Come see the future!

*Why wait when you can anticipate!*

**It could be good! *It could be bad!* It could be somebody else's!**




**Professor Mossbottom**
***Medium Green-Grey Pumpkin | Deep-Ridge Specialist***

Do not let Professor Mossbottom's modest size fool you. This distinguished green-grey gentleman is considered something of an academic in the pumpkin world.

His deep ridges have earned him numerous accolades, and he has reportedly spent years studying the subtle relationship between pumpkin symmetry, stem posture, and "general gourd energy."

Professor Mossbottom is traveling from a remote pumpkin patch rumored to be so prestigious that ordinary squash are required to make appointments.

**MEET THE CONTESTANTS**



**Betty Boopkins**
***Two-Time Reigning Champion***

Could she make it three? The glamorous Betty Boopkins returns to Hemingway Heights hoping to make pageant history. With her porcelain-white coloring, petite figure, and unmistakable vintage-starlet charm, Betty has already captured the hearts of residents—and two previous crowns.

Critics say she has "the face of a silent-film star and the attitude of someone who knows exactly where the best sun is."

Betty, naturally, declined to comment. She simply tilted her stem and looked fabulous.

**Pageant status:** One to watch.
**Known for:** Vintage glamour, confidence, and winning.

***Continue below —***

*Continued from above —*



**Countess Calabaza**
***The Mysterious Dark Horse***

Dark green bordering on black, Countess Calabaza has arrived with an air of mystery and absolutely no intention of explaining herself.

Little is known about her past. Rumors suggest she comes from a secluded pumpkin patch where contestants are trained in elegance, dramatic pauses, and looking mysterious beside a pile of leaves.

She has already become one of the most talked-about contestants in town.

**Pageant status:** Enigmatic.
**Known for:** Drama, mystery, and an excellent resting gourd face.



**Miss Pumpkin Spice**
***Orange, Ambitious & Ready for Her Close-Up***

Bright orange and bursting with enthusiasm, Miss Pumpkin Spice is the contestant most likely to introduce herself to everyone in town.

She reportedly entered the competition after being told she had "a very marketable orange."

Her campaign slogan, "Orange You Glad I'm Here?", has already appeared on several handmade signs around town.

**Pageant status:** Energetic newcomer.
**Known for:** Cheerfulness, color, and relentless networking.



**Penny Pearlsworth**
***A Classic Beauty***

Elegant, understated, and completely white, Penny Pearlsworth believes that true beauty speaks softly.

Penny hails from a prestigious patch where she was reportedly raised around heirloom gourds and taught the finer points of posture, grace, and politely ignoring criticism.

Her supporters describe her as "timeless." Her detractors have called her "very white." Penny has chosen not to dignify that remark.

**Pageant status:** Classic contender.
**Known for:** Grace, poise, and impeccable coloring.


**LIFE INSURANCE**

Because you never know.

And neither do we.




**Dotty Patchings**
***The Spotted Sensation***

Perhaps the most distinctive contestant in this year's lineup, Dotty Patchings is a petite orange pumpkin decorated with splashes of yellow and green.

Her unusual coloring has made her an instant neighborhood favorite, with youth and long-time residents alike stopping by for a closer look.

Dotty reportedly considers herself "a little bit country, a little bit couture, and a little bit whatever happened while I was growing."

**Pageant status:** Wild card.
**Known for:** Spots, personality, and refusing to blend in.

**A CROWN, TWO TITLES & ONE VERY EXCITED TOWN**

With five contestants, three international judges, and an entire neighborhood watching, anticipation is reaching a fever pitch in Hemingway Heights.

***Continued in Page 3.***

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Residents are encouraged to study the contestants carefully before casting their vote for People's Choice. The judges, meanwhile, will be watching for beauty, personality, presentation, and that elusive quality known only as "gourd appeal."

Whether Betty Boopkins manages a historic third victory, a newcomer steals the crown, or the People's Choice vote sends the judges into a heated debate remains to be seen.

One thing, however, is already certain: Hemingway Heights has never looked this glamorous. The pumpkins have arrived. The judges are ready. The crown is waiting. Let the gourd times roll.

# A GARGOYLE'S GREATEST DREAM

## Frodrick Reveals His Lifelong Hope: To Become a Pumpkin

BY Matilda Horowitz

**HEMINGWAY HEIGHTS** — While most residents of Hemingway Heights are busy preparing for the annual Pumpkin Pageant, one local resident has found himself contemplating something much more profound: *What if he were a pumpkin?*

For Frodrick, the beloved gargoyle of Hemingway Heights this is not a passing autumnal fancy. It is, by his own account, the great dream of his life.

"I've always known I was meant for pumpkinhood," Frodrick told *The Devlivore Post*, speaking with the breathless enthusiasm of a creature who has just discovered a very exciting secret about himself.



Frodrick pictured October 2026. Captured by Winston Smith.

"I have the qualities, you see. The *inherent qualities*. Handsome. Giving. Whimsical. Slightly lumpy in places. Frankly, I don't see what the hold-up is."

### A DREAM BORN IN YOUTH

According to Frodrick, his desire to become a pumpkin dates back to his younger days in Devlivore, where he claims he first encountered a magnificent squash that would change the course of his life.

"I saw one once—a very fine pumpkin. Round. Noble. Full of purpose. And I thought to myself, *Frodrick, my boy, there is your future.* I knew immediately."

Frodrick's early life in Devlivore remains somewhat mysterious. He remembers being there, remembers gargoyles, stone, and "a great deal of atmosphere," but has never been able to explain exactly how he eventually found himself in Hemingway Heights.

"I must have traveled," he said. "Or been transported. Possibly carried by a very large bird. It's all rather hazy. But that isn't important. What matters is that I am here now, and the pumpkins are here now, and frankly the timing is perfectly perfect."

### "I HAVE THE QUALITIES OF A PUMPKIN"

Frodrick is particularly confident that his personality makes him a natural candidate for transformation.

"I am handsome. I am generous. I am whimsical. And I have excellent autumnal energy."

When asked what exactly constitutes "autumnal energy," Frodrick became visibly excited.

"Oh! Leaves. Crisp air. Slight melancholy. Soup. Small decorative objects. You know—*fall*." He hunched over and lowered his voice. "I was born for it."

Frodrick also believes his gargoyle heritage gives him certain advantages over ordinary pumpkins.

"Pumpkins are protectors, you know. They stand watch. They guard porches. They frighten away evil spirits."

He gestured proudly toward himself. "Gargoyles have been doing that for centuries."

The logic, while unconventional, is difficult to argue with.

### HIS CONFIDANT, RUFUS

Frodrick has discussed his pumpkin ambitions extensively with Rufus, the considerably larger gargoyle who also hails from Devlivore and now resides in Hemingway Heights.

Rufus has a colorful past of his own, having once enjoyed a career as a comedian. These days, however, he is considerably quieter. Very considerably. Frodrick, however, considers Rufus one of his closest friends.

"I tell Rufus everything," Frodrick said. "*Everything*."

He then described a recent conversation between the two gargoyles.

"I said, 'Rufus, do you think I have what it takes to become a pumpkin?' And he looked at me. Not a word. That guy is intriguing."

According to Frodrick, Rufus's silence is evidence of a profound friendship built on mutual understanding.

"He doesn't need to say much. That's what I like about him. Very thoughtful. Very mysterious."

At this point, *The Devlivore Post* would like to note that Rufus did not, in fact, say anything during the interview.

"He's always been a wonderful listener," Frodrick added.

### THE TRANSFORMATION HE BELIEVES IS COMING

Frodrick has already begun considering what sort of pumpkin he would become.

"I don't think I'd be one of those enormous fellows," he said. "Too showy. I prefer dignity. Perhaps a handsome little white pumpkin. Very distinguished. Or orange. Orange has excellent visibility. Maybe slightly warty." Frodrick then nodded decisively. "Yes. A few tasteful warts."

As for his eventual transformation, he has no particular plan for how it will happen.

"I've heard there are spells. And wishes. And mysterious autumnal forces."

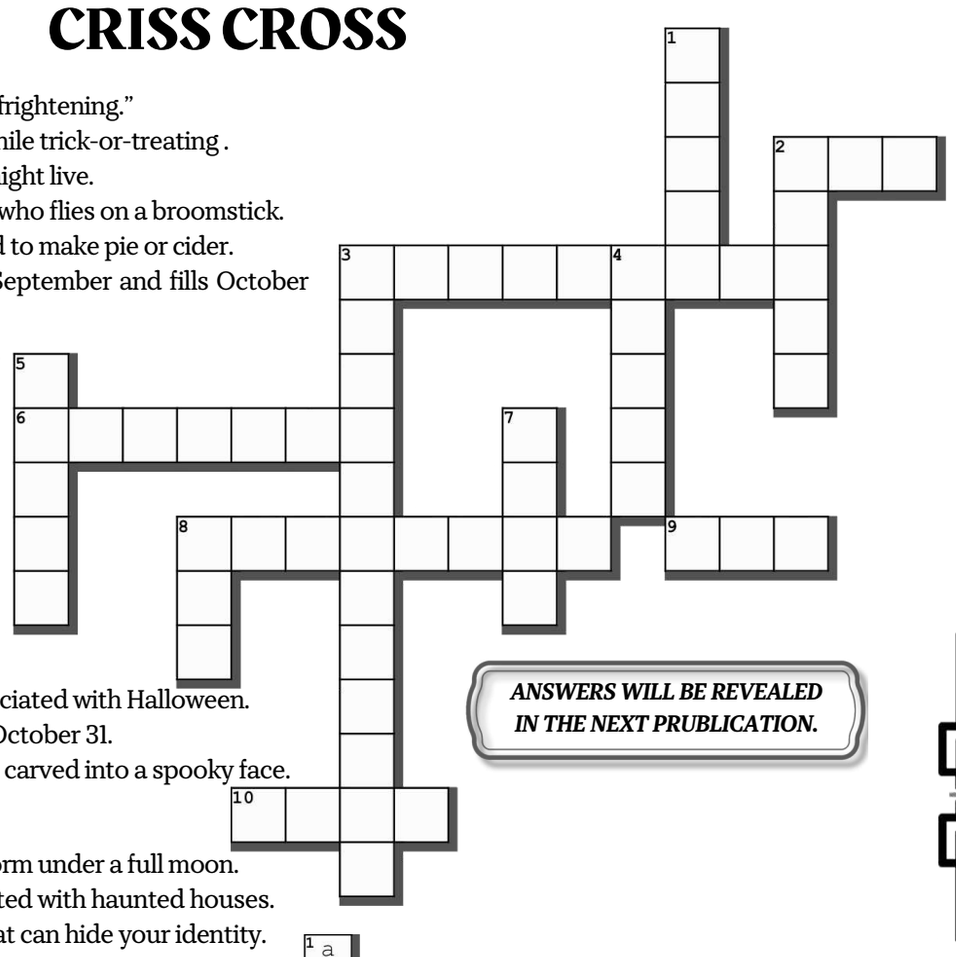
For now, Frodrick remains exactly what he has always been: a small gargoyle. As the interview concluded he added, "I'll keep you posted."

From *The Devlivore Post*, we have no doubt he will.

# CRISS CROSS

**DOWN**

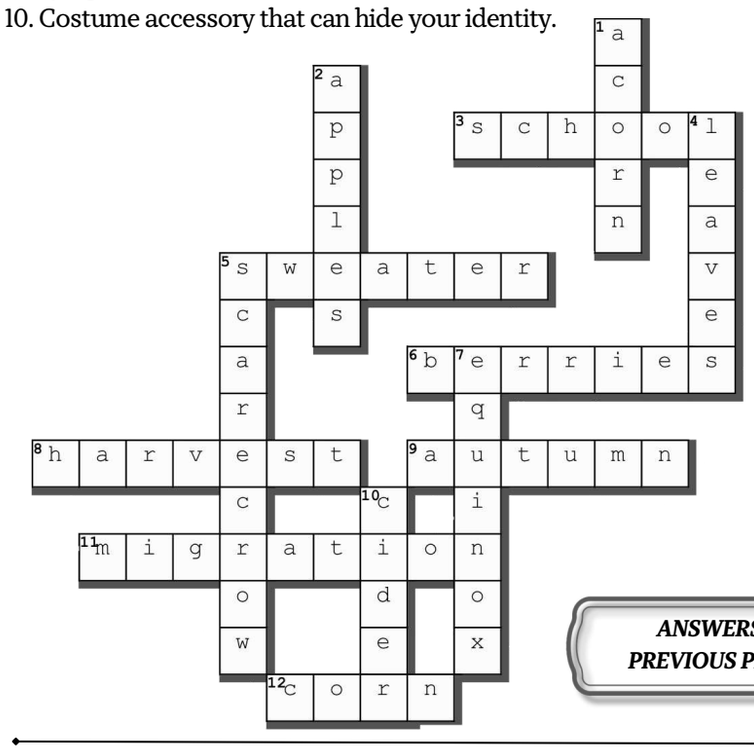
1. Ghostly word meaning "frightening."
2. Sweet treat collected while trick-or-treating .
3. A home where ghosts might live.
4. Spell-casting character who flies on a broomstick.
5. Autumn fruit often used to make pie or cider.
7. Season that begins in September and fills October with colorful leaves.
8. Spider's sticky creation.



**ACROSS**

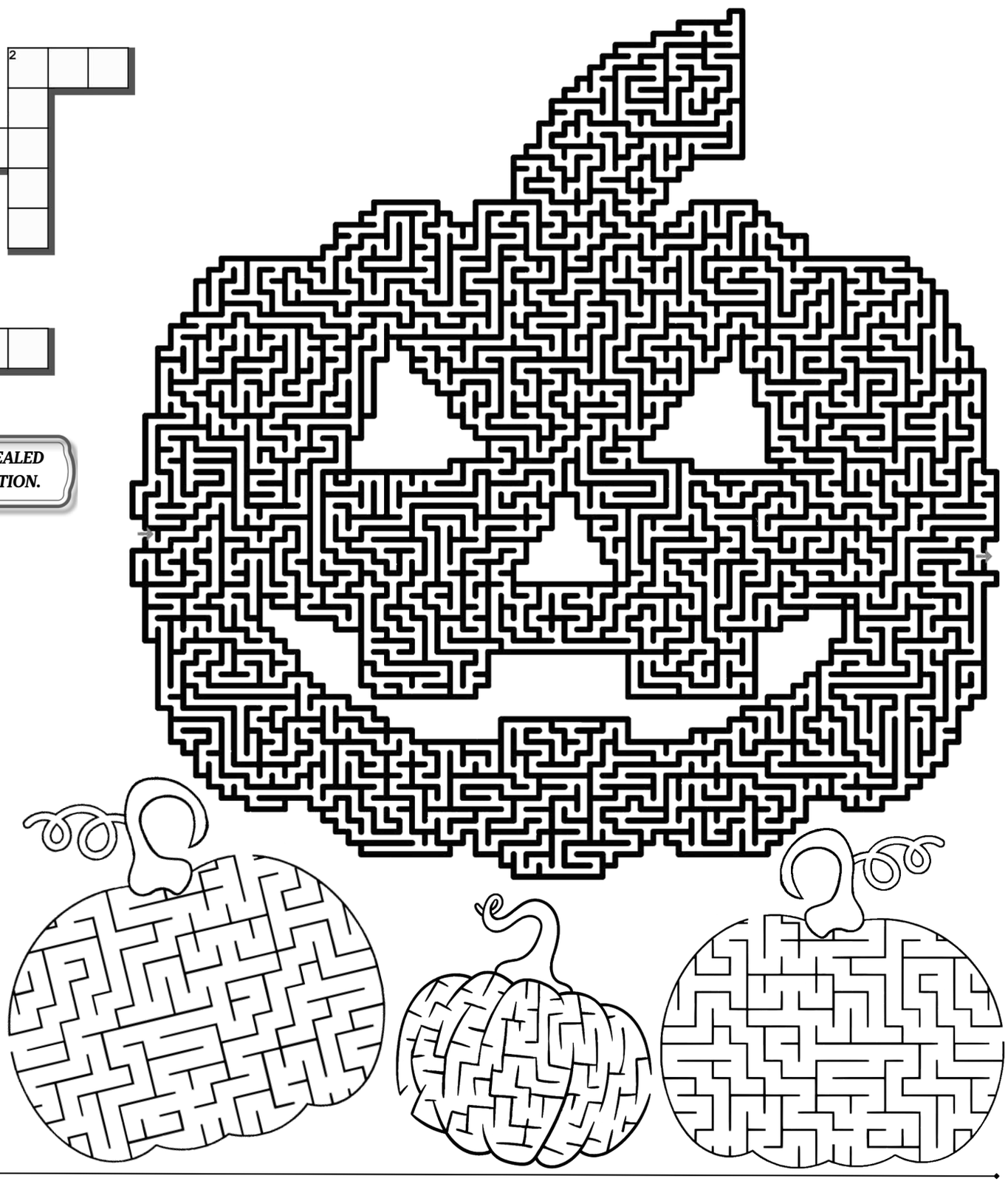
2. Black animal often associated with Halloween.
3. Holiday celebrated on October 31.
6. Orange vegetable often carved into a spooky face.
8. Creature said to transform under a full moon.
9. Flying mammal associated with haunted houses.
10. Costume accessory that can hide your identity.

*ANSWERS WILL BE REVEALED IN THE NEXT PRUBLICATION.*




*ANSWERS FROM THE PREVIOUS PRUBLICATION.*

# LABYRINTH



# RECIPE

## Maple Pumpkin Hazelnut Cake

OUR SEASONAL PICK BY
Chef Ja Ja




**INGREDIENTS**
***CAKE***

- 1¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs
- ¾ cup pumpkin purée
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup neutral oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup finely chopped toasted hazelnuts

**INGREDIENTS**
***MAPLE GLAZE***

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1–2 tablespoons milk or cream
- Pinch of salt

**METHOD**

Heat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and line an 8-inch round or square cake pan. Whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, spices, and salt.

In another bowl, whisk the eggs, pumpkin, maple syrup, brown sugar, oil, and vanilla until smooth. Fold the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture just until combined. Fold in the toasted hazelnuts.

Pour into the prepared pan and bake for 35–40 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for about 15 minutes, then remove from the pan and let cool completely.

For the glaze, whisk powdered sugar, maple syrup, milk, and salt until smooth. Drizzle over the cooled cake. Finish with toasted hazelnuts and, if you like, a tiny sprinkle of flaky sea salt.

**WHY IT WORKS**

October calls for warm spices, cozy baking, and desserts that make the most of pumpkin. This cake brings those flavors together with earthy pumpkin, maple syrup, and cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves for a warmly spiced flavor that feels perfectly suited to the season.

Pumpkin keeps the cake especially tender and moist, while maple syrup adds a deeper, more rounded sweetness than sugar alone. The brown sugar brings a subtle caramel note, complementing the pumpkin and spices without overpowering them. Toasting the hazelnuts before folding them into the batter is a small extra step, but an important one—it brings out their natural oils and gives them a richer, more pronounced nuttiness.

The batter comes together quickly, and gently folding the dry ingredients into the wet keeps the finished cake soft rather than dense. Once baked, the cake is tender enough to absorb some of the maple glaze while still holding its shape. The glaze adds a glossy finish and a final layer of maple sweetness, while the toasted hazelnuts and a pinch of flaky salt provide texture and balance.

It is the kind of cake that feels generous without being fussy: warmly spiced, gently sweet, and just rustic enough to make you want to cut another slice.

# CLASSIFIEDS

### WANTED

*Someone to sit in the garden and look busy. No gardening required.*

*Someone to sit beside the fire and tell me what happened today. Even if nothing happened.*

### LOST & FOUND

*Lost: Favorite pen. Comfortable hand-feel with fluid ink flow.*

### PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

*Conversations with crows are considered privileged only when food is being exchanged. Otherwise, protections are notwithstanding.*

### FOR TRADE

*One good afternoon. Looking for a quiet evening in return.*

*One perfectly good window. Will trade for a door. Creaking ok.*

### FOR SALE

*Six jars of preserves. Five are strawberry. One is not. Seller is unwilling to clarify.*

### SEEKING

*Someone willing to sit beside the pale rabbit while it completes its paperwork. Must be comfortable with prolonged silence and occasional accusations.*

### THINGS THAT TURNED UP

*Suspicious bench on downtown walkway. Acts like it's been there this whole time. I'm not convinced.*

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

*The pale rabbit's waiting list has reached 84 names. Residents are reminded that submitting multiple names under different handwriting will not improve their position. It will, however, be noticed.*

### FOR HIRE

*Expert tea seeper. Strong opinions on steeping times preferred.*

*Someone to open the curtains each morning. Must be willing to admire the weather before getting started.*

### SEEKING

*A person who knows the difference between fog and mist. This has become an unexpectedly important distinction.*

### MISSING

*A small wooden sign reading PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THIS SIGN.*

*An important decision. Please return as soon as possible. Hoping to avoid making another.*

### LOST & FOUND

*Found: Incredible pen. Only willing to return to owner if they disclose where more can be found.*

### WANTED

*One warm loaf of bread. Or something that smells equally reassuring.*

*An alibi for Thursday afternoon. Nothing elaborate.*

### SEEKING

*A reliable conversationalist for walks after dusk. Topics of interest include weather, birds, and things we probably shouldn't mention.*

# COLOR CORNER

