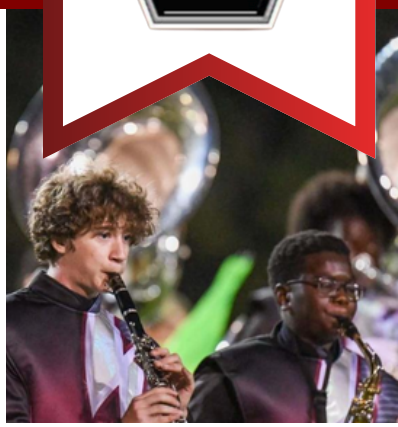
THE LIGHTNING BOLT

CHANCELLOR HIGH SCHOOL | OCTOBER 2025 | VOLUME 38,ISSUE 2











IMAGES BY YEARBOOK



SPOTLIGHTS | SPORTS NEWS | SCHOOL NEWS | REVIEWS | FALL HOLIDAYS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 3	**IN MEMORY OF TREY VANDERPOOL**
PAGE 4	**TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:** NEW FOOTBALL COACH: MR. DAWES
PAGES 5	**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:** **SARAH ULINCY**, TEEN ENRICHMENT NETWORK
PAGE 6-9	**SCHOOL NEWS:** YEARBOOK UPDATE HOMECOMING UPDATE BAND & ORCHESTRA WINS BIG WINS BIG AT THE STATE FAIR
PAGES 10	**SPORTS NEWS** FIELD HOCKEY
PAGE 11	**CLUB SPOTLIGHT:** FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
PAGES 12-13	**MOVIE REVIEWS:** THE CORPSE BRIDE DEMONSLAYER
PAGES 14-22	**SPECIAL EVENTS:** BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH DOWNS SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH NATIONAL PIZZA MONTH OKTOBERFEST HALLOWEEN
PAGES 23-28	**WRITER'S CORNER** FLASH FICTION CHALLENGE
PAGES 29-33	**FALL RECIPES** PUMPKIN BREAD AND MORE
PAGES 34-35	**ACTIVITY PAGES** FALL COLORING PAGE & WORD SEARCH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Trey Vanderpool

December 17, 2008 – October 7, 2025

BELOVED SON, CLASSMATE, FRIEND

Meet Your New Football Coach

WRITTEN BY CHHS STAFF PHOTOJOURNALISTS, FAWAD FARHATI, JASMYN CLARK & ANGEL H. CHAVEZ

CHHS: "Tell us about yourself and your background in football."

Coach Dawes: "I was a head coach for both minor and major football leagues for six seasons before coming to CHHS. It was intense."

CHHS: "Aside from football, what else do you do with your time?"

Coach Dawes: "I'm a musician."

CHHS: "Tell us more."

Coach Dawes: "People always told me that I had perfect pitch, so I taught myself how to play the piano, bass, and drums. Then, I started composing music."

CHHS: "Do you have any favorite musicians?"

Coach Dawes: "I love Bob Marley and Robert Kelly."

CHHS: "Tell us about your professional music career."

Coach Dawes: "I made some records, travelled worldwide, performed in million dollar arenas to crowds in the thousands, and two of my albums were billboard hits. In 2017, I was nominated for a Grammy award"

CHHS: "Any other hobbies?"

Coach Dawes: "No, I don't have any other hobbies. I take things too seriously."

CHHS: "How are you combining all that football coaching experience and natural talent to help guide the Chargers Football Team this year?"

Coach Dawes: "We're maximizing the time we have and we're doing much more than sprints. Football is so much bigger."



"THE WORST THING ANYONE CAN EVER TELL ME IS 'NO'."

Tap Into the Power of TEN

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALISTS, MYKEL HILL, GABRIELLA REYES & KAZIAH COLE

An exciting opportunity is coming all the students at Chancellor High School soon. Senior, Sarah Ulicny, Junior, Abigail Marble, and our new assistant principal, Melissa Rothrauff, are working together on the launch of a new student mentorship program at CHHS called the Teen Enrichment Network, or TEN, for short.
This program is managed by a non-profit organization that is focused on helping students increase achievement levels, in all areas of life, as they prepare for life after high school through networking, learning, and community building events in our local area. The meetings are held outside of normal school hours at a local library, for example. At these events, students will network and learn about topics like financial literacy, leadership, and conflict resolution, etc. In an interview, Sarah said she saw the effectiveness of this program when she saw how the life of one of her friends changed dramatically for the better. She recommends it to all students! Stay tuned for future announcements about this new opportunity and tap into the power of TEN. For more info about this program, visit https://teenenrichment.org/









IMAGES BY SARAH ULICNY & TEN

BEYOND THE BOLT

ORDER A YEARBOOK

CHANCELLOR HIGH SCHOOL

USE OUR ORDER NUMBER WHEN YOU LOG ON:

21720

YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM

Homecoming 2025

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALISM TEAM

After weeks of anticipation and guessing across the school, the big reveal of the Homecoming 2025 theme was unveiled early October by the SCA:Nightmare Before Christmas! HOCO tickets went on sale earlier this month. If anyone wants to attend this epic Homecoming Dance, double check this to do list:

1. Pay your class dues
2. Be in good standing
3. Purchase your ticket on the GoFan app with your Student ID

See the link on the student dashboard for answers to all your Hoco questions, including a link to suggest songs to the DJ!



IMAGE BY DISNEY & TOKYOPOP

3 Last Minute Homecoming Invitation Ideas

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, LAUREN BREDER

Cinematic Invitation: Create a poster with a quote, pun or image related to a film leading the question: Will you go to Hoco with me?

Musical Invitation: Use the lyrics from a song that is meaningful to both of you in a creative poster. The poster can be designed like an album cover, a concert ticket or sheet music all leading to the Hoco-prosal.

Food-Related Invitation: Stage this invitation around a favorite snack, meal or dinner out together. Have fun with food options as you lead up to the proposal.

Congratulations to the Grand Champions

WRITTEN BY THE STAFF JOURNALISM TEAM

Congratulations to the Lightning Regiment Marching Band for winning 1st place in class 2A at the Mills E. Godwin Invitational. They also earned 1st place Music, 1st place General Effect, 2nd place Visual, 3rd place percussion, and 3rd place guard. They were also awarded the 1st place Grand Champions of all of class 1 and 2A.







IMAGES BY YEARBOOK

FFA Wins at the Virginia State Fair

WRITTEN BY THE STAFF JOURNALISM TEAM

CHHS: “Congratulations on the recent wins at the State Fair. Can you tell us about it?”
Ms. Hannah: “We went to the Virginia State Fair this fall. There are opportunities for competition at the fair, but also many times throughout the school year. Then in June we’ll go to the State Convention at VA Tech. We’ll spend 4 days there competing and trying new events and just having fun.”

CHHS: “What are the competition categories at the Fair and how did the students do this year?”
Ms. Hannah: “Our FFA Chapter competed in two events at the VA State Fair; Lawn Tractor Driving and Horticulture Demonstration. Camden Rissman Placed 6th in the state for Lawn Tractor. Bella Nalley and Veronica Huffman placed 3rd in Horticulture Demonstration.”

CHHS: “How do students prepare for the Lawn Tractor competition?”
Ms. Hannah: “The Lawn Tractor competition has 3 pieces. 1) Driving through an obstacle course, 2) A 45 question parts identification test, 3) A 25 question written safety test. Camden prepared by working for his grandmother for the last several years. She has land that needs to be maintained and Camden has learned most of his information by doing the work. For Horticulture Demo, the team demonstrated how to make refrigerator pickles. They used my family recipe that I use every summer. They broke the recipe down into steps that could be repeated for a crowd then practiced making the pickles. They created a fun display board with the recipe, steps, and fun facts. For the contest they "perform" the demonstration in front of judges.”







The Unstoppable Field Hockey Team & Coach Larkin's 350th Win

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALISTS, WILLIAM GRACK & AISHA HAIDARI

CHHS: "Tell us a bit about yourself...how did it all begin?"
Coach Larkin: "I started teaching Spanish 1 and 2 approximately 32 years ago and when the school said they needed a field hockey coach, I volunteered. I enjoyed it so much that I ended up staying."

CHHS: "Tell us a bit about this unstoppable Field Hockey Team this year."
Coach Larkin: "There are four coaches that are great and work really hard. The coaching staff push the girls really hard in practices from 5-8pm. Practices include skills and drills work and 1-2 mile runs at every practice from August to November. They all work hard and play hard at Chancellor, and they all play really well!"

CHHS: What's next?"
Coach Larkin: "I just want to win one more game!"







IMAGES BY YEARBOOK

Club Spotlight: Fellowship of Christian Athletes

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, LAUREN BREDER

This month's club spotlight is on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Open to all students at ChHS, it is held in Ms. Hood's room (A113) every Friday during Charger Time with the goal of providing a space to discuss christianity while building community. If you are not familiar with the history of this club, "it is a national and international organization that focuses on serving both athletes and coaches in the United States and over 100 countries worldwide. Based in the United States, it has grown into a significant global ministry, conducting camps, conferences, and ministry efforts across numerous nations," according to the Oklahoma Archive.

The official chapter of FCA at Chancellor High School is sponsored by Ms. Hood and led by a church volunteer from Faith Baptist Church. Several student volunteers at the school have also committed their time to the club's operation. In an interview with both the volunteers and the club leader, they emphasized that a central goal of the club is to help support the members' journey towards God through activities like "reading the bible and praying for one another".

For more information, go to the Team Reach group chat. For more information on the inational organization, check out this link: https://www.fca.org/



IMAGE BY FIRST LIBERTY



Corpse Bride Breakdown

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, SIREEN EL BAKRI

Looking for the perfect movie to watch in this fall? Tim Burton's Corpse Bride may just be the movie for you. In this movie, there are visuals of two completely different worlds: one dull and gray, and the other vibrant and full of life. Although the characters are clay figures, the use of stop motion makes them move in an incredibly realistic way.

The story unfolds in a love triangle between the three main leads, Victor, Victoria, and Emily. It is full of symbolism, like the butterflies, piano, and the songs, to show the connections between the characters..

Victor, a nervous groom, runs off to the woods the night before his wedding, and stumbles upon Emily, a corpse bride. Before Victor knows it, he and Emily are suddenly engaged in the land of the dead, but which bride will Victor choose?

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind love story during this holiday season. For more information on this movie, check out IMDb at https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0121164/



IMAGES BY ABPOSTERS

"BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME..."
VICTOR

Demonslayer: Infinity Castle Does Not Disappoint

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, WILLIAM GRACK

Hailed as one of the best animated films of 2025, according to reviews on IMDb, and a box-office record-breaker, the new Demon Slayer movie was released in the United States just a couple of weeks ago.

It is the first installment of a three-part trilogy, including new major plot points and backstories for existing characters.

The movie opens with the main characters falling through the Infinity Castle, a fortress with infinite floors. After hitting many different levels, they begin to explore to better understand the castle, with many characters encountering a demon to fight.

One character, Shinobu, fights a demon named Doma. Two other characters, Tanjiro and Giyu, fight a demon named Akaza. Zenitsu fights a demon named Kaigaku.

During these fights, we learn more about the demons the characters are battling.

The movie ends with characters recovering from the previous battles and others heading into a new fight. What a cliffhanger!

If you enjoy high-action animated movies, don't miss Demonslayer: Infinity Castle!

“

“THE ONLY COMPETITION YOU HAVE IN LIFE IS YOURSELF.”

ZENITSU



IMAGE BY DRYDEN WIRE

The Story Behind the Pink Ribbon

WRITTEN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, LAYLAH SARGENT

October marks a busy time with Halloween, fall festivals, and Homecoming. But it is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month: a month dedicated to educating the public about the risks and symptoms of the disease.

Did you know that, according to the FDA, 1 in 8 women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer during their lifetime, and while many may pass away from the disease,

Many also survive. It is important to see your doctor if you have any pre-existing family history or signs of the disease and work on prevention with regular screenings, maintaining a healthy weight and exercising daily, and limiting or eliminating alcohol consumption.

The story behind the pink ribbon begins with Charlotte Haley. She introduced a peach-colored ribbon to raise awareness for breast cancer. As her grassroots idea gained attention,

Estée Lauder and Self magazine approached her for permission to use her logo in their campaigns, but Haley declined. Self created a pink version of the logo instead and today it is the symbol recognized worldwide.

It is vital that we recognize the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and understand the signs and prevention strategies for the disease.

You can help spread awareness by wearing pink in October and sharing this important information with your friends and family.

To learn more about breast cancer, you can visit these sites:

- <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/knowledge-and-news-women-owh-blog/breast-cancer-awareness-month#:~:text=October%20is%20Breast%20Cancer%20Awareness,ray%20picture%20of%20the%20breast.>

IMAGE BY KOMEN.ORG

Show Your Support All Year Long

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, ALIANA STIFLER

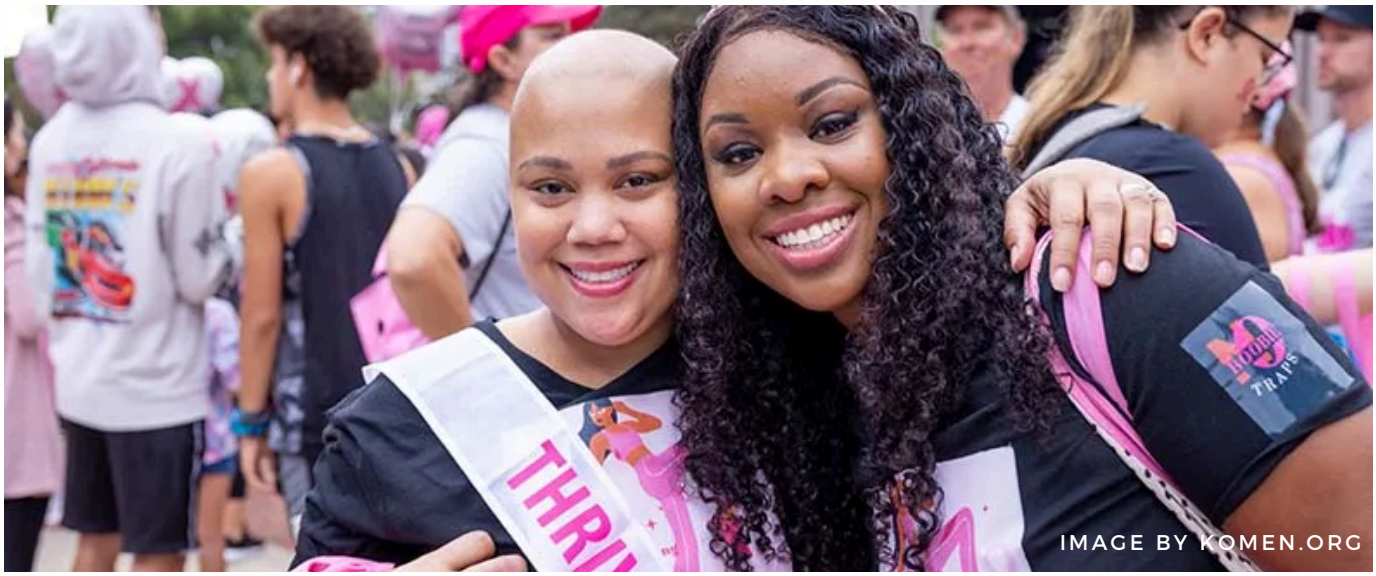
Have you ever wondered about the best way to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but weren't sure where to start?

This is a common feeling for people in the United States and around the rest of the world, and it is the reason that the Mary Washington Hospital Foundation organizes a breast cancer walk in Fredericksburg on Oct. 4th every year.

Individual and group participation in the various breast cancer awareness events and charities brings in significant funds for research, patient support and financial aid to those who have breast cancer and to their families. Some of those funds go to Mary Washington and they are used to research new treatments, prevention and early detection, so your support literally helps to save lives.

To find out exactly how much support touches other people's lives, I interviewed some classmates in SCA to get their thoughts on the matter, starting with Jade Bumbrey. She told me about her boyfriend's mother. "She's been fighting, She's the strongest person I know," she said. Jada Byrd, speaking about her grandmother said, "I think there should be much more awareness and support because it's a very serious condition."

These attitudes resonate with most people, especially now, as awareness is growing. Your voice matters, so share your stories, spread awareness, and if you want to show your support locally in Fredericksburg, a great option is to participate in the breast cancer walks each year. For more info, sign up at runsignup.com.



By the Numbers

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, LORELEI PETERSEN

In a world of data and stats, the numbers tell an important part of the story. Check out the below numbers and information to get a more concrete understanding of how Breast Cancer affects both men and women, on average, annually.

Diagnoses per Year:

- Women: 316,950 cases of invasive cancer and 59,080 non-invasive cases
- Men: 2,800 cases of invasive cancer

Mortality Rate:

- For women: 42,170 deaths per year. For men: 510 deaths per year

Signs and Symptoms:

- Change in the look and feel of the breast or nipple
- Nipple discharge
- Lump, hard knot, or thickening of the breast, underarm, or chest areas
- Change in size or shape of the breast
- Dimpling, puckering, or redness of the skin
- Itchy scaly sores or rashes on the nipple

NOTE: Some of these signs and symptoms in men may be caused by something benign or non-cancerous. Check with your primary care doctor with any concerns.

What is the recommended age to start breast cancer screening?

- 40 yrs old, if considered a low to no risk category
- Younger than 40, if you have a family history of breast cancer. Speak with your primary care doctor about any concerns.

Treatment Options

- Early invasive cancer: surgery, radiation/drug therapy or clinical trials. According to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, ¨Over the past 40 years, breast cancer treatment has greatly improved due to findings from clinical trials.¨
- Targeted therapy: targets the cancer cells while leaving the healthy cells alone. After treatment and remission, most patients don't experience a recurrence of the cancer.

If you want more information about breast cancer or you'd like to support ongoing research, visit the Susan G. Komen Foundation at https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer/

IMAGE BY KOMEN.ORG

You Are Not Alone

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, MAKENA JOHNSON

For many October is a fun and festive month, but for others it is a nightmare as they suffer in their own homes and families. It's Domestic Violence Awareness Month or DVAM. According to the Justice Department, "domestic violence is violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically involving the abuse of a spouse or partner. Domestic violence isn't just physical; it can also be sexual, emotional, economic, verbal, psychological, or technological."

The Justice Department article went on to define each category stating that "**Physical abuse** can include things like hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, throwing things at you, etc. **Sexual abuse** can include coercing, or attempting to coerce, any sexual contact or behavior without consent... **Emotional abuse** can be undermining an individual's sense of self-worth or self-esteem. This can include constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, or name-calling. **Economic abuse** [is] controlling or restraining a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled. This includes using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information. **Psychological abuse** [includes] intimidation, threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends, destruction of pets and property, and forcing isolation from family, friends, school and/or work. **Technological abuse** is an act or pattern of behavior that is intended to harm, threaten, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit or monitor another person that occurs using any form of technology, including, but not limited to, internet-enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras, and imaging programs, apps, location, tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies.

"Abuse can happen to anyone. There is no stereotype, no classic victim. This makes it hard to spot victims of domestic violence. People being abused might act as if they are afraid of their partner, but they may just as easily seem confident, unconcerned, or even confrontational. You don't always have to keep it a secret or hide it; you can get help, and there are resources.

One of the best things we can do is let the victim know they are not alone and help them reach out to friends, loved ones, local organizations, or law enforcement for help in ending an abusive relationship," concluded the Justice Department article. For more information on DVAM, visit https://www.justice.gov/ovw

IMAGE BY DVAM

Different, but Not Less

WRITTEN BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, KEMARI SMITH

Everyone is different, and that's what makes people special, not less. Some people are born with conditions that make their bodies or minds work a little differently, but that doesn't mean they can't do great things. Down Syndrome Awareness Month is observed in October every year, to help celebrate these people and learn more about the condition.

Down syndrome is a condition people are born with that can affect how they learn and grow. Sometimes they might need extra help, but they still have talents, skills, and strengths like anyone else.During October, there are walks, fundraisers and events to support people with Down Syndrome. Many people wear blue and yellow or share stories online to raise awareness. These actions help fight negative stereotypes and show the importance of being kind and respectful to people that had zero control over their situation.

Overall, Down Syndrome Awareness Month is about celebrating difference and making sure everyone is treated with respect and gets the same love and chances as everyone else. It is a reminder to be supportive and inclusive, not just in October, but every day. Speaking of being supportive and inclusive,.check out the the image of the new Gucci beauty model with Down Syndrome.

Sources: https://enablingdevices.com/blog/october-is-down-syndrome-awareness-month/ & https://ndss.org



IMAGE BY GUCCI

In Crust We Trust

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, FAWAD FARHATI



IMAGE BY TILLAMOOK

Today we celebrate the world's most beloved slice, even if it sounds cheesy. National Pizza Month is celebrated during the month of October, and to some, celebrated weekly and even daily. It's a popular food worldwide, from pepperoni for most, to pineapple for others. On average, a total of 8 million pizzas are eaten daily. Pizza, which includes flat bread mixed with many toppings — including cheese, tomato sauce, garlic and vegetables — has been culturally popular across the centuries.

However, the modern pizza we all know and love was popularized in Naples, Italy. The name came from a man named Raffaele Esposito, credited with creating the Pizza Margherita in 1889. Fast forward many years later, even famous cartoon series mention pizza countless times. These cartoons include "Teen Titans," "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "The Simpsons" and even "Scooby Doo." Michelangelo of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles also said that "Wise men say, forgiveness is divine, but never pay full price for late pizza."

To some, pizza isn't just a food; it's also a resource that brings groups of people together for one meal. Pizza is often eaten at parties, sports arenas and events at home. Pizza is known for coming in large quantities, making it a great food to satisfy that hunger, but also good for some leftovers, just in case you don't finish. NBA legend Charles Barkley even admitted that he frequently ate pizza in college: "Three or four times a week, no question."

So today, grab a slice, try a new topping or share a pie with friends and family. However you celebrate, make it count, because pizza isn't just food, it's an experience. This October, have some people come over, so there won't be any leftovers.

Sources:https://fadeawayworld.net/charles-barkley-ordered-pizza-100-times-in-200-days-when-he-was-in-college?

Oktoberfest at King's Dominion

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, DESTYNI FRICK

Every autumn, an fun and festive Bavarian event occurs worldwide: Oktoberfest!

While many places host Oktoberfests across Virginia, the closest location to Spotsylvania is Kings Dominion from Sept. 20 to Nov. 2. Thousands of people attend this special event so grab your tickets online at www.kingsdominion.com

If you do not mind driving a little further, you could also go to Busch Gardens, where they technically celebrate Oktoberfest all year long in the German section of the park.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "The festival originated on Oct. 12, 1810, in celebration of the marriage of the crown prince of Bavaria, who later became King Louis I, to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen."

Oktoberfest is a fun and festive option to Halloween and it is very popular worldwide. This tradition supports the Bavarian culture and Gemütlichkeit, which means comfort or coziness.

At Oktoberfest, people wear traditional Bavarian clothing: girls wear Dirndls and guys wear Lederhosen, do the Chicken Dance, listen to oompah bands playing Bavarian music, and enjoy delicious food. Some of the options include pretzels, Lebkuchen (cake), Bratwurst (sausage), Wiener Schnitzel (hot dogs) and Sauerkraut (cabbage). All ages are welcome, but if you are younger than 16, you'll need adult supervision to attend. For more information, go to www.britannica.com/topic/Oktoberfest







IMAGES BY KINGS DOMINION



IMAGE BY TOT

Is Halloween Still a Hit With Teens?

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, D'ANGELO ANGELES

As the years pass and teens get older, does the thrill of Halloween fade? Well, Devan on yourteenmag.com wrote that "When it comes to Halloween, it is awkward to be a teenager. People think you are too old to go trick or treating." But, what do the people of Chancellor think? According to a spontaneous survey at lunch, roughly 72% of 40 Chancellor students still go out to Trick-Or-Treat. "Why might that be the case?" I wondered. The students of Chancellor said that they still go out for the fun of it, and of course, to get free candy. The opposing 28% of non-trick-or-treaters said that they are too busy or have no interest in handing out candy themselves. How about you? Will you be Trick-or-Treating this year?
https://yourteenmag.com/teenager-school/teens-high-school/too-old-to-trick-or-treat

What Will You Be Wearing on Halloween?

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALISTS, ANGEL HERNANDEZ CHAVEZ

The big day is almost here and it's a day where people head out of their houses for parties, trick or treating, and just plain old goofing around. People also dress up and wear costumes. They can be scary, creative, or inspired by movies. There is quite a history to wearing costumes on Halloween. Originally, they were meant to ward off spirits among many other things. The big question to go along with the big day is what will you be wearing? For more information on the history of costumes, check out this link: https://www.cnn.com/style/article/history-of-halloween-costumes

Halloween Movie Review

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, JASMYN CLARK

What's the best part of Halloween? Is it the candy or is it the costumes? The holiday is approaching and we all know what that means: scary movies! When you think about scary movies during Halloween, you might think of the classics: The Conjuring, Nightmare on Elm Street, or Friday the 13th. But what about other movies?

Variety magazine stated that the Top 10 spooky and scary Halloween movies consists of The Karate Kid (1984), House of 1000 Corpses (2003), Donnie Darko (2001), E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982), Pumpkinhead (1988), Halloween III: Season of The Witch (1982), The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993), Trick 'r Treat (2007), Hocus Pocus (1993), and Halloween (1978).

The options are really endless. As stated by Variety, "These are the best films to get you into the seasonal spirit." If you like watching scary movies, especially in the dark, try a few of the above movies and try not to jump out of your skin!

For more info on Halloween movies, go to https://variety.com/lists/best-halloween-movies-ranked/scary-stories-to-tell-in-the-dark-2019/

Halloween Hoopla

WRITTEN BY STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST, MYKEL HILL

When black cats prowl and pumpkins shine, you'll be in for a scare that's very divine! Halloween is a global, annual holiday celebrating all things spooky, bringing people of all ages together. Whether it's dressing up, watching movies, throwing parties, or trick-or-treating, there's many different ways to enjoy Halloween.

What do you enjoy most about this day? Is it eating sweets or perhaps wearing a costume of your favorite character or person? Whatever your preference, be sure to prepare for any surprises, as there may be a ghost or a ghoul around every corner.

In the Danse Macabre, Stephen King said "We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones." While that's an intriguing thought, there are still people who choose not to associate themselves with all the Halloween hoopla for religious or personal reasons and that is okay. Whichever camp you choose, stay safe out there and have an enjoyable Halloween eve!

The Crystalline Express

A 1000-WORD SHORT STORY, LUCILLE MANISCALCO (WRITING CLUB)

The gentle hum of the train drew close. Kaz stood solemnly in the station, amid the quaint bustle of city folk walking from the terminal to designated trains. It had been a long evening, tending to the tracks, watching people go to and from. The lights above dimly illuminated the silver rails, adding to the glum and despondent atmosphere. A faint scent of petrichor lingered in the air like a spell. She had been waiting for who knows how long to go home.

With a loud crackle, the speakers from above came to life: "Attention all passengers, be advised. There has been a slight schedule change. The train to Rinehedge has unfortunately broken down, but alas, we do have a replacement train. Please board the Crystalline Express."

Reluctantly, Kaz began walking through the terminal to the nearby train, stepping up the stairs and into the Express. The place smelled faintly of smoke and cashmere, the seating almost full. There was only one seat left available; she would have to share it with another person. The train was bustling with strange individuals, some with multiple eyes or ashen skin. The pale lights above barely warmed the cars, a peculiar chill in the air. She was the only one from this station to enter, as everyone here had alighted from some other station.

She sat by a stranger, and wished she could have found a different spot, but the stranger did not seem to mind. No further announcements came through the speakers as the train began lurching along the tracks and through the starless night. The outside world seemed nonexistent, the darkness consuming the rolling plains beyond. It was extremely late, maybe even the A.M. hours now. With no clocks around, no one could tell.

Kaz adjusted to the space rather well. It was quiet, aside from the occasional clank from the engine rooms. She could almost fall asleep, if not for the clanking noises. The dreary atmosphere felt familiar, perfectly mimicking the station. Most of the people around her were too busy in their own worlds, asleep, or watching outside the windows.

After a few minutes, the world outside seemed to brighten. It was not from the sun rising, but more like light from an unknown source. Kaz could not see through the windows; the stranger was looking out and blocking her view. The waning night began to end without warning, the black of night fading into a bitter scarlet.

The speakers overhead made a loud clamor, trying to start themselves up with little success. The sounds above made little to no sense, just blurred words drowning in static. No one seemed even slightly perturbed, but it certainly wasn't normal. The system eventually cut out, being replaced with an eerie silence. Kaz stared at the door of the train car, seeing a strange figure behind it.

Before she could even register what was happening, the train took a turn for the worst, The train jerked towards the side, almost falling over. The entire hull shook, knocking some out of their seats, including Kaz. The stranger next to her seat helped her up as the two both looked over at the door. Something must've gone horribly wrong. It was like the train was no longer being controlled, being overtaken by something else. The stranger, who by now she'd learned was named Tyler, stumbled forth to the door, trying to open it. Although Kaz wasn't one for playing hero, she joined in, managing to kick it open. While the passengers watched from afar, terrified yet intrigued, the duo entered the adjacent space.

It was pitch black, the oil lamp above having gone out. The smell of sulfur quickly singed their noses. Kaz could hear the sound of shallow breaths and enervated groans, but couldn't locate the source. A shallow light came from the coal box, but not enough to brighten the space. Tyler held his fists up, sensing danger in the room. Two white eyes seemed to glow within the darkness, beckoning them forth. Kaz picked up a nearby crowbar that was lying against the wall, prepared to fight back as well.

A dark figure seemed present in the room, with a silhouette of a dreadful amalgamation beyond mortal comprehension. Its spectral hand reached towards the two, sinister yet oddly kindred. It led with an alluring glint in its eyes. Kaz backed up, Tyler walked forward. The spirit lurched at Tyler with a manic grin, its crimson and jagged teeth almost glowing in the hazy darkness. Kaz was quick to react, attempting to swat it away. It hissed in response, even though the attack didn't do anything

The now angered spirit thrashed against the train's walls using its long and obscene arms to keep itself steady. Kaz kept herself on her feet, running in to make another attack. The beast's form seemed to blend in with the darkness, making it hard to pinpoint it's location, but she could track its cacophonous laughs and shrieks. Deeming it harder to fight in the pitch black, Tyler kept an eye out for any kind of light source.

As Kaz continued to fight off the spirit's perilous rage, Tyler continued to look around for something to lighten the room.The beast seemed to stray away from anything bright. The crowbar wasn't doing much good, but it did keep the spirit at bay temporarily. It had no real form; it was just a shadow. The swaying storm raged on.

With one more blow, the room suddenly became bright. Tyler had found an old lighter and was holding it up to the creature. It attempted to back away, but was backed into a corner next to a window where the coal was being left to burn. Kaz dipped the end of the crowbar into the burning fire, letting it heat up before pointing it back at the spirit. With one final strike, it shrieked before dissipating into the endless night.

The oil lamp above flickered before coming back to life and the red sky was slipping back to dull darkness. The chaos was over. The conductor was on the floor, knocked down by the spirit. Kaz, who'd had enough of it all, stepped back, letting Tyler help the conductor up. After a few more minutes, the train slowed to a halt, letting passengers off and the duo separated.

Kaz walked forward, ignoring the looming stares from the various strangers. The dawn of the new day briskly illuminated her face, and thinking on all that had happened, she smiled and thought to herself that should ride the train more often.

Pilot Alexi

A 100-WORD DRABBLE, WRITTEN BY SHAWN KAIN (WRITING CLUB)

Alexi rested in the seat of his cockpit, his brow furrowed, his knuckles white beneath his black glove as he squeezed the control stick. Every small movement of his hand moved the fighter's control surfaces. He looked ahead, seeing nothing but the clouds. It would be peaceful, he thought, if he wasn't in a war zone.

Just as he began to relax, alarms blared from the flight computer and radar. A missile from beyond visual range, rapidly falling toward him. Alexi's breath quickened, his chest feeling tight as he went over his options: flares, evasive maneuvers, anything to keep from getting hit.

As the missile continued to approach, Alexi pulled back on the control stick violently, bringing the aircraft up into the sky. Flares launched behind him, but the projectile was not deterred. The beastly thing continued to chase after him.

As his aircraft continued to climb, the clouds began to break. Alexi squinted his eyes as bright, unending light shone into his pupils. He blocked out the sound of the alarms, looking forward, into the deep blue sky.

The Wanderer

A SHORT STORY, WRITTEN BY LEONIDAS BUMGARNER-SMITH (WRITING CLUB)

The lights blind his eyes as he walks onto the stage. The smell of fear from others in the air stings his lungs, but for John there is no fear in his body, only excitement as he imagines all the possibilities. He is a tall and slender man, with dark green eyes, and long hair swept up neatly in a bun. His mind wanders as he dreams of winning the competition. That one thousand dollar cash prize could really help his family. They haven't always been too well off, and with his father getting laid off from work recently, he needs this win. It all comes down to one word: E X H I L A R A T E D, If he can spell that word correctly, he can win.

"Hello, Mr. John, are you alright? We've been waiting for you." In that moment, he felt his excitement shift into fear and his dream started to crumble. The smell of fear was oozing from every part of his body now. "Mr. John? If you need a moment, we can... "I DON'T NEED A MOMENT," he screamed at the top of his lungs. Without hesitation, he apologized, He had no idea where that sudden outburst came from, but he hoped it didn't disqualify him. "Oh, Mr. John there's no need to yell, I think we should all take a ten-minute break. It'll give you time to get back on track". With those words, it felt like his whole world was not only crumbling, but also now crashing down around him now. His once lofty and pure dreams felt burned down to the ground and polluted.

As he sat outside of the building, attempting to get himself back on track, he heard a woman crying in the nearby bushes. Uncertain as to whether he should or shouldn't talk to her, he eventually stood up and started to leave, Then, he overheard her yelling to herself, "God, why am I so stupid? I just had one job and I completely blew it on one word."

Although he was now several feet away, her next words made him freeze. She said "E". "Surely, she can't be speaking about the same word," he said to himself. Then, she said "X". "It's just a coincidence, I'm sure," he thought to himself, Then, she said "H". "I'm still convinced it's something else," he consoled himself. Then, she said "I". "Could this girl be just like me?" he wondered. Then, she said "L". I thought I was the only one," he marvelled. Then, she said "A". "I need to know," he thought to himself. Then, she said "R-A-T-E-D". Like the phoenix, his dream was resurrecting from the charred wreckage of his mind as he turned and started walking back towards the bushes.

Three minutes had passed.

"Hey, I couldn't help but overhear that you were crying, and I wanted to come over and tell you that I was stumped on that exact same word." There was no response. The girl in the bushes merely looked his way and then turned back around and started crying again. He recalibrated his approach and said, "I'm John, by the way. What's your name?" Once again, no response, only a disgruntled stare, As a last ditch effort, he said, "Listen, if you don't want to talk, I understand. I'll leave you alone". That's when she finally responded with the quietest "I'm sorry. I'm just very disappointed in myself and I tend to take that out on other people. I try to make sure no one can see me upset." "I understand," replied John. "Sometimes when I'm really nervous, I let my mind wander and visualize the best possible outcome, but it didn't quite go as planned this time."

Five minutes had passed.

The two of them spent some time explaining their shared situations and introducing themselves further. Her name was Sarah, and she was only a few months younger than John. She was a short stocky girl, her eyes embedded with dark brown, and all the strands of her hair seemed to shoot off in random directions. She was a six-time National Spelling Bee champion, but she no longer felt challenged, so her parents shipped her off to the west coast in hopes that her purpose would be recovered. That wasn't going as planned either. In fact, since arriving, all she been receiving was discrimination and the title of outlaw, no matter where she went. John was amazed at this, he was actually talking to someone who was considered a professional at this sport. They talked for what seemed like hours, the topic was once about spelling bees and the word EXHILARATED, but then they began to ramble about the most random things.

John told her that surely his chance might be over after his stunt, but he knew that wasn't being completely honest. He did have one more chance. He was just being melodramatic. Sarah had gone through the same experience, but unlike John, she had no more chances. Talking about anything and everything and enjoying each other's company felt easy with Sarah, John eventually proposed going out after everything was over. This excited Sarah and her already flushed face shifted from pink to crimson as her embarrassment began to rise, "Yes, John, I would love to go out with you". Captivated,something shifted in John and he said, "Then let's go right now, Sarah!". "Right now?" "Yeah," he replied, "What more do we have to lose? Besides, I want to learn more about you." All was going well until John's timer went off. Nothing could describe the look on Sarah's face when she heard that alarm."Sarah, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, I have one more chance to win the championship and I can't let anything stop me," John said as he was running away from her. Sarah stood there, lifeless, and again completely dejected, with a single tear tracing the shape of her face. She knew that she might never see John again. Ten minutes and thirty seven seconds had passed.

Sprinting, John burst through the humongous double doors into the judges room. He noticed that they were just about to move on to another student, so with the same volume as before, he yelled, "STOP, I'M HERE!' One of the judges said, "Mr. John, you are thirty seconds late. Unfortunately by competition law I must now say that you ca- ". "Listen, I was just sprinting from the other side of the campus, and I ran into some trouble, but I'm here now and I'm ready, so please give me one last chance." he implored. "Fine," the judges said reluctantly. Turning to the next student a judge said, "You may go take a five minute break, Ms. Catherine." As a third chance had been given to John, he approached the stage full of determination. Suddenly, an inspector walked into the room. Twelve minutes had passed.

"Excuse me, have you seen a young girl by the name of Sarah James?" asked John. "She never showed up." said the inspector. "Sarah who?" said one of the other judges. Hearing Sarah's name, his determination to win was replaced by disappointment. In that moment, he realized that she was more important than the competition and the prize. Without a word, John stood up from his seat on stage and simply walked away. No one stopped him, but they were rattled by his behavior. With ragged breaths, John ran through the halls of the building and asked random people if they'd seen a girl named Sarah. He quickly realized that she had gone unnoticed by everybody but him. He ran outside towards the bushes.

When he was just about to give up, he heard the softest of crying sounds and he knew. He walked towards the bushes and said, "EXHILARATED." The crying stopped, There was silence for a few moments and then the word 'exhilarated' was whispered back. "Sarah, I'm so sorry I left you. I chose the competition over you, someone who stood by me when I was feeling like I wouldn't amount to anything and I feel terrible. Please, will you come out from the bushes and talk with me?" he pleaded. "You left me so easily? What more is there to say other than I've always had the pressure of being the greatest on my back and for a brief moment, you showed me that there was more to life than chasing success. I was so glad to meet someone like you and I thought that since we'd both lost our chances that we could start something new together. Then, you left me and it felt like another earthquake deep in the ocean floor silently erupted in my heart all over again," she cried. The resulting emotional tsunami overtook her. Time seemed to stand still and John finally said, "I left the competition for you, Sarah." Hearing the words, but still drowning in emotion, she looked at him and said, "What do we do now John?" He looked at her and said, "I'm not sure." She tried, but she couldn't forgive, Eventually, they parted ways, and started wandering with both loss and grief as their new travel companions, Stopping to look back at her one more time, John realized that though he'd forfeited the chance to win the prize, and lost Sarah, he'd actually won and he never looked back again.

3 Quick, Simple and Fantastic Fall Treats

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, AISHA HAIDARI

Fall is a season full of colorful leaves, cozy traditions, and a new opportunity to start fresh. It's a season that makes people slow down and enjoy small things, especially food. A lot of people enjoy cooking in the fall because of the seasonal ingredients and the cozy feeling it brings. Baking something warm on a chilly day just makes the season feel special.

Some popular fall recipes include pumpkin bread, muffins, apple cider doughnuts, and, of course, the pumpkin spice latte. There are tons of seasonal flavors to try once fall arrives. Fall recipes are easy to make, full of flavor, and perfect for sharing with family and friends. Here are some easy and mouthwatering recipes that might bring joy to your life. Start right now and let these recipes fill your day with joy.

While pumpkin-flavored treats are popular in the fall, like the high demand for pumpkin spice lattes, apple and cinnamon flavors are also popular. So, enjoy all these easy to make fall recipes to share with family and friends.



IMAGE BY DUNKIN

Pumpkin Bread

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, AISHA HAIDARI



IMAGE BY TASTE OF HOME

One of the easiest fall treats to make, according to iHeart eating, is pumpkin bread. It's warm, sweet and perfect with a cup of tea. Let's dig into the recipe!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 - 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 15-ounce can pumpkin purée
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease and flour two 8-by-4-inch loaf pans.
2. In a large bowl, whisk oil and sugar together. The mixture will look like wet sand.
3. Whisk in eggs until well combined.
4. Add the pumpkin puree and whisk until well combined.
5. Whisk in the flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, baking powder, and salt until just combined. Overmixing the bread will cause it to be tough.
6. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans.
7. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean.
8. Let the loaves cool in the pans for 10 minutes, and then remove to a wire cooling rack to finish cooling.

Enjoy your pumpkin bread with your perfect pumpkin spice latte and check out the original recipe here: https://www.ihearteating.com/easy-pumpkin-bread/



Pumpkin Latte

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, AISHA HAIDARI

IMAGE BY TASTE OF HOME

An incredibly easy fall recipe is a Pumpkin Spice Latte. Literally, it takes less than 5 minutes. Make this drink, relax, and enjoy reading your favorite book as you sip!

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup black coffee or 2 shots of espresso
- 3/4 cup whole milk or non-dairy milk of choice: almond, oat cashew, coconut, etc.
- 2-3 TB pumpkin puree
- 1-3 TB pure maple syrup or honey, stevia, or brown sugar (amount depends on sweetness desired)
- 1/2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract
- Whipped Cream

Instructions:

Brew 1/2 cup of your favorite coffee. You may desire more coffee, so make a little extra if desired. Set the coffee aside and keep warm. In a small saucepan, over medium heat, warm the milk, maple syrup, pumpkin pie spice, and pumpkin puree. Whisk the ingredients until the milk begins to bubble on the sides. Turn off the heat and add the vanilla extract. Pour the warm milk in a large bowl or work in the saucepan. Use an immersion blender or milk frother to create the milk froth. If you don't have an immersion blender or milk frother, vigorously whisk the milk in the saucepan (with a fork or whisk) as the bubbles begin to form (while heating the milk). Pour the frothy milk into a large coffee mug. Then carefully pour the coffee into the frothy milk. Serve the coffee warm.Add the whipped topping directly to the top of the latte before serving.

This pumpkin spice latte is perfect for a quiet fall morning, a study break, or curling up with your favorite book. Let the cozy flavors fill your day. Click here for the original source for this recipe: https://livesimply.me/homemade-pumpkin-spice-latte-real-deal/

Apple Cider Donuts

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, AISHA HAIDARI



IMAGE BY TASTE OF HOME

An incredibly simple fall treat is apple cider doughnuts. They are sweet, slightly spicy and perfect for a chilly fall morning, and yes, anyone can make them!

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups (360 mL) apple cider
- 2 cups (250 g) all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled*
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. apple pie spice*
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. (28 g) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (100 g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (100 g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (120 mL) milk, at room temperature*
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Topping

- 1 cup (200 g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. apple pie spice*
- 6 Tbsp. (85 g) unsalted butter, melted

Instructions for Baking Apple Cider Doughnuts

1. Reduce the apple cider: Stirring occasionally, simmer the apple cider in a small saucepan over low heat until you are left with about 1/2 cup. Start checking at 10, 15, 20 minutes, etc., until you have 1/2 cup (120 mL). Mine takes about 20 minutes. If there are any spices or solids on top of your reduced apple cider, leave them. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (177 C). Spray a doughnut pan with nonstick spray. Set aside. Recipe continued on the next page.

Apple Cider Donuts, continued

WRITTEN BY STAFF JOURNALIST, AISHA HAIDARI



IMAGE BY TASTE OF HOME

3. Make the doughnuts: Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, apple pie spice and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.

4, Whisk the melted butter, egg, brown sugar, granulated sugar, milk and vanilla extract together. Pour into the dry ingredients, add the reduced apple cider and whisk everything together until smooth and combined. The batter will be slightly thick.

5. Spoon the batter into the doughnut cavities. For ease, I highly recommend using a large zip-top bag. Cut a corner off the bottom of the bag and pipe the batter into each doughnut cup, filling about halfway.

6. Bake for 10 to 11 minutes or until the edges and tops are lightly browned. To test, poke your finger into the top of the doughnut. If the doughnut bounces back, it is done. Cool doughnuts for two minutes, then transfer to a wire rack. Regrease the pan and bake the remaining doughnut batter.

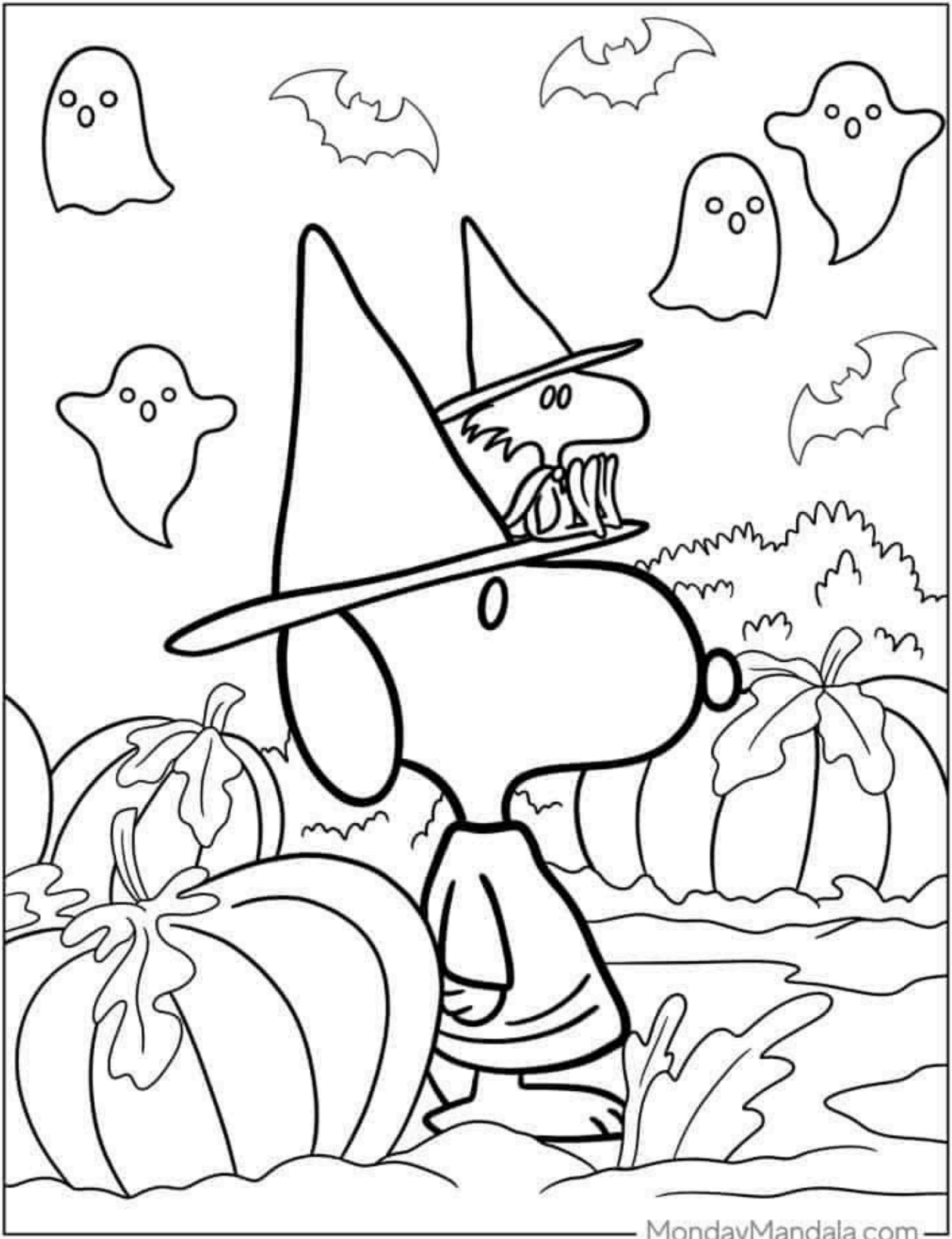
7. Coat the doughnuts: Combine the granulated sugar, cinnamon and apple pie spice together in a medium bowl. Once cool enough to handle, dunk both sides of each doughnut in the melted butter, then generously in the apple spice topping.

Notes:

Doughnuts are best served immediately. Leftovers keep well covered tightly at room temperature for up to two days or in the refrigerator for up to five days.

These apple cider doughnuts will be ready in no time. Curl up with your favorite book, start sipping your favorite latte and enjoy a perfectly cozy fall treat.

To access the original recipe, follow this link: https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/baked-apple-cider-donuts/


MondayMandala.com



AUTUMN



WORD SEARCH

I	C	K	K	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	T	D
X	W	D	P	S	I	R	C	Q	F	H	N	C
R	E	G	A	I	L	O	F	Y	I	C	C	P
O	H	A	Y	S	T	A	C	K	C	U	I	R
O	S	P	E	A	S	K	P	D	W	D	E	P
V	C	G	I	Y	S	T	I	W	Z	B	B	C
T	H	T	N	N	R	B	F	Y	M	O	N	P
H	O	Z	O	E	E	S	Y	E	V	X	R	W
A	O	I	E	B	E	C	T	V	H	Z	O	O
N	L	S	J	V	E	P	O	K	Z	X	C	G
K	V	Q	A	W	E	R	I	N	F	H	B	K
S	L	E	K	S	D	Y	G	P	E	A	P	S
G	L	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	H	L	F	M
I	A	T	E	K	C	A	J	H	N	L	N	A
V	F	G	O	U	R	D	K	Y	O	O	C	F
I	L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	V	W	J	T
N	D	S	Q	U	A	S	H	V	E	E	K	S
G	R	J	G	P	D	Z	Z	I	M	E	V	E
A	I	E	X	Z	U	A	K	X	B	N	D	V
W	T	Q	D	Q	F	M	N	E	E	V	K	R
N	K	B	A	I	F	K	P	M	R	X	W	A
R	Z	D	D	Q	C	J	S	K	U	A	U	H
O	X	X	D	K	H	K	A	I	I	T	G	I
C	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	R	N	U	M
A	K	L	X	O	N	I	U	Q	E	B	L	A

WORD LIST

ACORN
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
BRISK
CIDER
CORN
CRISP
EQUINOX
FALL
FESTIVAL
FOLIAGE
FOOTBALL
GOURD
HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HAYSTACK
JACKET
LEAVES
NOVEMBER
OCTOBER
PINE CONE
PUMPKIN
SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER
SQUASH
SWEATER
THANKSGIVING
TREES




CHANCELLOR H S
HOME OF THE CHARGERS
Hispanic
Heritage Month!
IMAGE BY LIBRARY