



THE VOICE OF THE
CALDERA

The Ink Rooms
Mansion Offices
Magma Avenue
Cauldron
NW Ward 3

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The Cauldron Echo strives to present local news in a neutral light. The views of those interviewed are not necessarily the views of this newspaper.

If you have a story then we want to hear from you. Contact us on the address opposite or come to the Tipped Tankard on Ash Avenue any Freeday evening where we hold weekly community meetings and share our love of stories. We hope to see you there.

THE SUN GOES DOWN ON DUSKHAVEN

Cauldron's greatest swimming competitor has hung up his trunks for good. At 576, Faragel Duskhaven, originally from Celene, feels he is getting too old to keep up with the younger competitors coming through. The elf was recalling some of his favourite memories yesterday.

"It's been an absolute pleasure to swim for Cauldron. I feel I have seen some great days and beaten off some tough competition, the most memorable of which was defeating Sasserine for 20 years running in the Annuals. I wish I could have my time again but my priest tells me that curing age just isn't possible. I told him I might just change religions. He looked like he hoped I was joking."

Duskhaven's wit is legendary and will be sorely missed from the camaraderie that exists within the Cauldron team.

"We're really going to miss him." said a despondent Pellir Rhomus, Cauldron's new hope. "Faragel has taught us all so much. He's always been there due to his elvish ancestry so none of us can remember life without him. I really hope he continues to come by and watch us train."

These sentiments were echoed by Faragel's coach, Jax Gorgoran.

"Faragel will be the first to admit that he has struggled of late and that's purely down to age. It won't be the same around here without him. I

don't think he'll know what to do with himself."

Whatever Duskhaven will be up to, Cauldron can applaud a sporting hero as he takes his seat in the Cauldron Hall of Fame. Nice one, Duskhaven.



Faragel Duskhaven wears his Champion's Torc

Cauldron Echo

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WORD ON
THE
STREET

- Bluecrater Academy has announced that there are spaces for those wishing to learn more about the arcane. Anyone interested should visit the academy on Magma Avenue.
- The Tipped Tankard has extended its Happy Hour opening times, now daily anytime before sunset.

KIDNAPPING RING SMASHED!!!

It emerged today that the kidnappings plaguing our good city have finally been put to an end. Jenya Urikas, acting high priestess of the temple of St Cuthbert, released this statement.

"The city of Cauldron owes its gratitude to a group of adventurers who delved the dark caverns below us and rescued a great many citizens."

When asked who these mysterious adventurers were, Urikas avoided answering directly.

"I am not at liberty to divulge that information. What is important is that Cauldron's citizens are safe once more".

The kidnapers, led by a strange creature called Kazmojen, were hiding out below

Jzardirune, a long deserted gnomish enclave, and in a place called the Malachite Fortress. Students of history will remember tales of this



An artists impression of the beholder

place and the dwarf hero Zenith Splintershield who marched from his fortress to conquer the Underdark, never to be seen again. Kazmojen and his cronies apparently adopted this abandoned abode and plied their dirty

trade. On a happier note, the children of Lantern Street Orphanage will sleep much better now that three of their four missing children have been returned.

As for the fourth? Well it depends on who you believe. Some say that he perished. Some say he has run away. However, what is most troubling is the awful rumour that he was snatched from the clutches of our heroes before they could escape, by a beholder.

Whatever or whoever you believe, Cauldron has some new heroes in town. Competition for the Stormblades? This reporter thinks they might just be...

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CONCERNS OVER FLOOD FESTIVAL

The annual Flood Festival may be under threat by, wait for it: flooding.

The recent mild winters have made the citizens of Cauldron complacent. That has been the opinion of Sarcem Delasharn, high priest of St Cuthbert, for some time.

"Unfortunately, this complacency has filtered through to the local clergies." he claimed. "This has resulted in them not allocating resources to create the magical items required for fighting the floodwaters this year."

When asked what made him

think we would see a flood, he replied "I have consulted the divine and all the signs are there."

Sarcem has left Jenya Urikas in charge whilst he journeys to Sasserine for the necessary aid. We wish him a safe path and a swift return.

STORMBLADES DO IT AGAIN!

It seems that an issue cannot go by without having to mention the Stormblades. This magnificent adventuring party, made up of some of Cauldron's great noble houses, have just returned from defeating a kobold tribe living a little too close for comfort. Zachary Aslaxin II explains.

"When we heard that the mines of Cauldron were infested by these evil creatures we knew that we had

to act quickly. However, Cauldron can rest easy now as the threat has passed."

Annah Taskerhill, the group's leader, added:

"We know that the citizens are indebted to us but that does not mean we won't continue to strive for them. We will always be here for them. And besides, there's good money in this game."

When asked about their thoughts on the smashing of

Kazmojen's slave trade by a new adventuring party, they waived it aside.

"Obviously this Kazmojen wasn't much of a challenge." replied Cora Lathemire, who puts the blade into Stormblade. "Perhaps the more testing trials should be left to us."

Stinging words it has to be said. Who will end up on top? The Stormblades think they know the answer.



Cora Lathemire speaking yesterday

Skie's Treasury: For all your magical needs. Great rates for repeat customers. Do you qualify for the adventurers discount?

GOBLIN GRAFFITI HERALDS NEW NUISANCE

An increase in graffiti written in goblin is giving rising concern that these disgusting creatures are walking our streets at night. Special teams armed with potent cleaning concoctions are out in force in an attempt to clean the walls of various effected public buildings. Yorik Boywer, a cleaner who was yesterday scrubbing the walls of the Town Hall said,

"It's not like we've got nothing else to do. These bastards are causing us all problems. They deserve to be killed."

That may be Yorik's view but it has to be said that no physical harm has come to anyone...yet.

When asked about this new threat to our piece of mind, Terseon Skellerang, captain

of the guard, released this statement.

"We've seen activity like this before so I'm hoping it will be short lived and these creatures will return to their holes soon enough. However, any increase in activity will result in them incurring the full wrath of the authorities."

Let's hope it is enough when needed.

HAS HOOKFACE AWOKEN?

His name has haunted the dreams of us all as children but until now there has been nothing seen of the great red dragon that terrorized the sky over 100 years ago.

However, there has been an increase in the amount of people claiming to have recently seen him. The sto-

ries vary but it is plain that a wyrm of some description is active in the region, as the charred remains of cattle and other beasts will testify.

We questioned Mayor Severen Navalant about the sightings and he had this to say: "I have no doubt that there is some creature caus-

ing these disturbances. However, I sincerely doubt it is Hookface, as the carcasses found would do little to satisfy such a large creature's appetite."

Maybe, but Mayor Navalant could not elaborate more and his demeanor was of little comfort.



Mayor Severen Navalant

LAKE MONSTER SIGHTING

Nobby Gurner, a Halfling living on the banks of Crater Lake, has fished the waters of Cauldron for more years than he can remember. However, it seems that Nobby has hung up his nets for good. Why? Well it's down the fabled Crater Lake Monster.

"I was out on the lake just the other evening," Nobby recalled whilst enjoying an ale, courtesy of the Echo, "when my net snagged something. As you know, the lake is very deep so I thought it was a large pike or similar. I tugged and nothing happened. I



The sign of the Drunken Morkoth Inn. Coincidence?

was just about to tug again when a pair of enormous eyes appeared just

under the surface of the water. They stared at me for ages before another fisherman's boat came close and unwittingly frightened it off. I'll not go on that lake again in a hurry."

Talking with the locals, it seems that many uphold Nobby's claims of a monster in the lake but no one was able to give a credible description. For now the Echo will reserve it's thoughts on the matter, although if there is a monster it begs the question: Where did it come from?

CITY GUARD WELCOMES IT'S FIRST HALF-ORC RECRUIT

Who said that the citizens of Cauldron were narrow minded? In a bid to be racially inclusive, the city guard have been actively recruiting from underrepresented races. Their first successful applicant is a Half-Orc from The Pomarj, many miles to the north, called Griff. We asked Griff his thoughts on becoming a protector of Cauldron. He had this to say.

"Me like to fight. Cauldron have lots of bad things to hit. I like hitting bad things. Easy to make choice so I come here."

At 6'6", Griff is an imposing figure. He spent his first day walking the avenues and meeting the citizens in a bid to learn his beat. Some people greeted Griff happily and offered gifts. However, many

more were skeptical. One resident, remaining anonymous, had this to say.

"What's wrong with our own type doing the work? This is the beginning of the end. Soon it'll be all of our livelihood threatened and then we'll see some real trouble."

Let's just hope Griff is around to settle any ugly disputes.

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VHALANTRU DONATES YET MORE TO THE NEEDY

Lord Vhalantru is showing the way to those nobles who have forgotten that charity begins at home. In a bid to improve the labour market, the popular lord has highlighted the need to develop more employment opportunities. To this end, Lord Vhalantru is funding a scheme to look at how to attract businesses from other cities to our own. So how is he

intending to do it?

"I've taken a long hard look at the success of other cities like Sasserine and seen how they have been able to attract and retain business. By subsidising their set up costs we can offer entrepreneurs an incentive to come to Cauldron"

When asked where these set up costs will come from, Lord

Vhalantru was up front.

"We have to be honest and say that the a lot of the money will come from the city coffers. However, a minimum tax hike is a small price to pay for securing a successful future for our citizens."



Lord Vhalantru speaking at the Cusp of the Sunrise last night