

LIEUTENANT DALE NEW MAYOR OF THE NETTLES

Lieutenant Dale has been appointed by Governor Stanfield as the new Mayor of the Nettles. The appointment has been approved by Queen Aurala. Lieutenant Dale was born in Passage and attended the Batallion Academy. His thesis was *Meditation, Coffee and Cherry Pie; Unorthodox Salves against the Supernatural*. This subject led him to become stationed under Mayor Macbannin, ultimately becoming the lieutenant responsible for the security of Cauldron Hill. As such he is deemed capable to withstand the dangers, as predicted by the late Skyseer Nevard Sechim, originating from Cauldron Hill. Mayor Dales first orders have been to start the rebuilding of the manor. He also declared access to Cauldron Hill as strictly forbidden, by penalty of death. The security of Cauldron Hill and the surrounding Nettles has his highest priority.

What exactly happened at the mayor’s manor on the 24th of Nymm is still being contested. Multiple conspiracy theories abound. What is known, is an earthquake hit Cauldron Hill, causing the mayor’s manor to collapse and catch fire. Fountains of a black oily substance killing by a touch, erupted from the Hill. Most employees of the mayor died that day. The mayor died in the courthouse, the following morning. The mayor’s assistant in magical research Kaja Arendt’s body has not been found. She has not been seen since.

According to the authorities the fountains were caused by the earthquake and quelled by a team of REA agents at the premises. The Passage Post has spoken with REA agents



Nina Simone and Oxtan Halderan at the premises that day. Their research was clearly focused at the garden shed, but nothing extraordinary could be seen in this shed. The fountains and oily pools disappeared shortly before some other agents and mayor Macbannin left the shed, as told by a couple of survivors. The aforementioned agents told us everything was under control and taken care off. They would need a long time to investigate what really happened and what caused the earthquake and explosions. After the death of the mayor these agents were taken of the case, because they were too personally involved. Chief Inspectress ir’Saxby of the REA has confirmed she has put her best team on the investigation to ensure everything what happened at Cauldron Hill will be uncovered. She also admitted Kaja Arendt was their prime suspect.

All of the above, implies the REA agents and mayor Macbannin ended the oily threat as stated by the authorities. But why was the mayor taken to the courthouse in Central District? The authorities claim he was possessed by spirits of Cauldron Hill and was taken to the courthouse to keep him in a safe location. These spirits forced him to commit suicide the next morning. Is this true? One of the guards at the courthouse told us, he seemed to think clearly and was looking forward to the questioning the next morning. So was mayor Macbannin a suspect for what happened at the Hill? Did he commit suicide or was he murdered by the authorities for becoming too popular. Other rumors suggest, that the mayor included all his employees in a curse to empower himself, killing them all. Sacrificing them to power an Eldritch Machine. {see MAYORS MURDER, pg 2, COUNTLESS CONSPIRACIES, pg 11}

MILITARY AND INDUSTRY

The Kaybeau Armament and Technology Exposition dominates the main festival grounds of Passage for the last months of the year, but the city is already preparing for the summit between Aundair and Breland. Scheduled for early next spring, the summit will see the rulers of the two nations meet and discuss an industrial and military alliance. Diplomats for the other nations are expected to attend. Even the famed minotaur arbiter from Droaam, Brakken of Heffanita. {cont. pg. 8}.

PLAYING FIELDS IN STRAY RIVER

Stray River district has a new place to keep the kids in the district occupied. With festive music, loud cheers, and screaming of kids the new playing fields were opened for the public. On a bright and sunny afternoon kids of all ages could be seen playing sports games on their own field for the first time. While the kids were running and screaming, the parents and other visitors strolled along at the fair next to field.

The Passage Post spoke with the organiser of the festivities accompanying the opening, the cobbler Dosy Ennes. "I'm so happy, the children finally have their own place to play games. A place where they can play without the risks of playing on the street" said a proud Dosy. "It took awhile to get things going, but in the end we all can be proud of the result. I really would like to thank Morgan Cippiano for his support on this project. Without him it would not have been possible. Look at how happy all the children are." {cont. pg. 6}

WHAT HORROR!

City watch is investigating a new bizarre serial killer in Central District, who first struck in the middle of summer. The authorities are unsure of a connection between the five victims, save that all of them had their brains removed through the palates of their mouths. {cont. pg. 5}

WEIRD NEW ILLNESS

Goodson’s Estuarial Reformatory has become home to a growing population of demented people, now numbering nearly thirty. All of them suffer from a condition doctors are calling Distant Madness. Suspected to be a magical affliction, perhaps fallout from the events on Cauldron Hill in the summer, the condition causes victims to feel physically displaced and unable to tell how far away things are. The mad men and women hail mostly from Parity Lake. A few cases were reported in North Shore, but the wealthier victims have the resources to afford magical alleviation. {cont. pg. 3}

WUNDERBAHN

A bill in Parliament is being considered to levy a salary tax on the entire nation to fund a significant increase in the lightning rail network of Aundair, increasing trade and transport in the whole nation. The Windshire representative in parliament, Catherine ir’Romana, has proposed a counter bill that would fund what she calls the Faery Road, “a roadway more in keeping with Aundair’s wonderful traditions.” Rather than paved roads or conductor stones, Romana’s road would require the creation of hundreds of magical portals connecting every village, town, and city. However, the magical reagents required to activate the portal could cost over 100 gold galifars to transport just a handful of people. This would make it very expensive in use, although significantly less to what House Orien charges for teleportation circles. Romana’s opponents in Parliament call the idea preposterous. {see PORTAL POWER, pg. 8}

WORSENING CORRUPTION?

In the wake of Reed Macbannin’s downfall, more people are claiming politicians, nobles, and even city watchmen are part of a culture of corruption. Passage City Governor Roland Stanfield commented to say, “Corruption is a constant in any large city. What has changed is

the growing voice of the people who support our great modern nation. We must listen to those voices, because opportunities to truly improve society are rare.”. {cont. pg. 4}.

GANGWAR IN CLOUDWOODS

Rumours of gangs other than the Cloudwood Brigands vying for control of the Cloudwoods seem to have become truth after a couple of unconscious members of the Kell Guild were unceremoniously dropped at the nearest city guard post. Some unknown adventurers witnessed in the Cloudwoods the kidnapping of a young lady by the Kell Guild. They sprang into action, defeating the kidnappers.

After interrogation the city watch concluded the lady was the bride to be of the Cloudwood Brigands leader. The abduction was meant to force the Brigands in surrendering control in parts of the Cloudwood. The City Watch and the Cloudwood Rangers have started an investigation at the gang influence and smuggling operations in the Cloudwoods. {cont. pg 11}

HOTEL AURUM CHANGES NAME

Melania d’Ghallanda has announced it will change the name of Hotel Aurum to the Golden Dragon Hotel. This name is more in line with the Ghallanda franchise and will not be confused with the exclusive fraternal order of the Aurum.

As a promotional activity for the visitors to the K.A.T.E., a device in the shape of a golden dragon was spotted to fly from the top of the building site to the Golden Dragon Inn. The dragon device had a Ghallanda promotional banner on its tail flying a daring route. {cont. pg 7}

THE WEEK IN NEWS

MURDER. Docker union treasurer found dead on the streets in Bosum Strand. {more on pg. 3}

MAYHEM. Burglar at Heward Sechim’s Alkahest & Etchings pushed into production vessel by 10-year old, identification of body impossible {more on pg. 5}

MUSIC. Rock Rackus has lost a rap battle to a halfling challenger. Mika d’Ghallanda still thinks he’s the greatest musician and performer alive, winning was just lucky. {more on pg 9}.

MARRIAGE. Gale congratulates Goodson on wedding in Cloudwoods. Goodson in league with Gale? {more on, pg 10}.

MISFORTUNE. Half-naked man found almost stung to death near the bee hives of Vilina Kendig. Has nature gone mad or just the man found near the bee hives? {more on pg. 7}

MONSTERS. Monstrous spiders spotted near Owl’s Perch. Sightings more frequent since start of Barrakas. {more on pg. 10}.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Big smuggling operation foiled. A Lhazaar captain was arrested for smuggling in a joint effort between the coastguard, the battalion and the R.E.A. {pg. 5}.

House Orien proposes 3 copper per juncture fee for the new subrail tunnel system. Poorer Passageans worry that they won’t be able to afford the new transport system. {pg. 8}.

First lightning rail through the Mournland planned in Vult by House Orien. {pg 7}

Unrest in fugitive camp in the Cloudwoods. Refugees want to return to their dwellings in the Nettles! Free meals by Seagull, the warforged cook, do make leaving more difficult. {pg. 6}.

Huge Boldrei’s Feast celebration announced in the Nettles. Soapbox race accompanies festivities. {pg. 5}.

Perfect summer weather for vineyards. Best Bluevine year of the decade expected. {pg. 10}.

Pemberton Industries will reveal the B.E.A.R. project to investors at the K.A.T.E.. {pg. 12}.

Hanse Randall will built a lighthouse-like structure outside of Vathirond. It will attract monsters coming out of the Mournland, so they won’t attack the city. {pg. 10}.