



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.

CAULDRON CRAFT FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

You may be forgiven for not knowing that it was happening, but during the Flood Festival, Cauldron also held it's first Craft Festival. Of course, the two were never meant to clash.

"Who would have known that the rains would come early this year?" said the delighted Carbo Steelnuts, organizer of the event and a popular gnome about town. "We're not complaining though. The crowds have been enormous for it and business has been good."

The Craft Festival is the brainchild of the Mayor's office, intended to showcase Cauldron as a city to do business with, hopefully attracting wealth from nearby Sasserine. Carbo Steelnuts testifies to its success.

"We've had people come from all over, even the free city! We were able to display and sell many traditional items, not a few of them magical. Artificers from all over the locality have worked hard in trying to keep things ticking over and I have to take my hat off to Cryston Pike, who was the main organizer of the event. Without her diplomatic skills, many of the stalls would not have opened."

We caught up with Cryston Pike in the Drunken Morkoth and asked her if this event would be a regular occurrence.

"I don't see why not. Business was good so the merchants couldn't complain. I will continue networking with my links to establish a secure future

for the event. Wealth is on the increase and we have many customers wanting to dispose of their income. I hope we can help them as much as possible." The next Craft Festival is scheduled for the summer.



Carbo Steelnuts at the  
Cauldron Craft Festival

# Cauldron Echo

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WORD ON  
THE  
STREET

- Bluecrater Academy are looking to recruit members for its Magical Threats Agency. Anyone interested should visit the academy on Magma Avenue.
- The Drunken Morkoth Inn has ended its buy-one-get-one free promotion. Watch this space for future offers.

FLOODING OF CAULDRON  
HALTED!!!

The Flood Festival ended in jubilation last night—not because of the traditional Fey Dance—but because the unexpected impending flood has been avoided, thanks to the Salty Crack Pack. Lord Vhalantru had this to say at his residence this morning:

"This fine group of adventurers appear to be Cauldron's saviours. I will be putting a proposal to the nobles of the city to offer them suitable recognition." But Lord Vhalantru would not say what this might be when he was asked.

The flooding occurred as a result of heavier than expected rains and the fact that Cauldron's clergies had not invested in suitable magics to keep the rising lake at bay. As reported in a previous edition

of the Echo, the high priest of St Cuthbert, Sarcem Delasharn, was set to obtain the magics required to keep the city safe. However, it has emerged that Sarcem Delasharn was assassinated during a recent raid on The Lucky Monkey, which led to deaths of many innocent victims.

The Salty Crack Pack were enlisted by Jenya Urikas, de-facto high priestess of St Cuthbert, to recover the wands and it is they who discovered the culprit was none other than the infamous Triel Eldurast, murderer of three town guards a few years ago. After a quick foray into her hideout, she and her cronies were killed and the wands

recovered. The rest, as they say, is history. Jenya Urikas praised her champions.

"We have a lot to be thankful for. Many lives have been saved and this is due to the dedication of this fine group. As a result, we are commissioning a sculptor to begin work on a monument in their honour, to stand over our entrance way." Well deserved says the Cauldron Echo.



An  
impression of the villain, Triel Eldurast

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THE PASSING OF A SAINT

It is with regret that we report on the death of a great ambassador for the city of Cauldron.

Sarcem Delasharn, late High Priest of St Cuthbert, succumbed to a violent death during a recent raid on The Lucky Monkey by Triel Eldurast,

as she tried to wrest from him the wands needed to avert the flooding of Cauldron. Messages have been pouring in from all areas of the city praising a man that was seen as the embodiment of the spirit of our citizens.

"He was a great man." com-

mented Asfelkir Hranleurt, High Priest of Kord. "He had the respect of all the clergies and of all the people. He will be sorely missed."

Similar messages were made by other priests, except of Wee-Jas who were not available for comment.

**STORMBLADES HUMILIATED?**

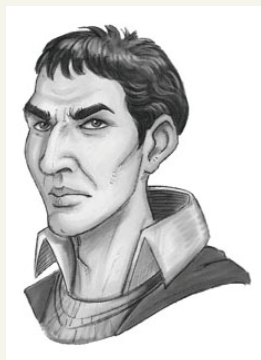
It wasn't too long ago when the Stormblades were a name to be respected and feared. Now it seems they have fallen on hard times. Take up of their services is at an all time low and this led to their recent declaration that they would save the city of Cauldron from flooding by obtaining the missing wands needed to do it. Of course, this paper has already told the story of the Salty Crack Pack succeeding

in this quest. So now we are asking: Where are the Stormblades and have they been humiliated? We spoke with some members of the public for their views.

Gory Furler is a carpenter who frequents the Tipped Tankard and had this story to tell. "I saw the Stormblades face up to these Salty blokes but they got as good as they gave. Seemed really put out by it and all!"

"It's their aristocratic background that gets up my nose." said Arun Bowyer, proprietor of 'On Target'. "Just because they've got money they think it guarantees them success. Well it don't! And who's that Todd bloke anyway? Just some orphan weren't he? Why should he gain any respect without earning it first?"

It seems the Stormblades have some housekeeping to do.



**Todd Vanderboren, Stormblade.**

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**NIGHTCRAWLERS BEWARE!**

A recent spate of disappearances amongst those who practice their trade during Cauldron's dark nights is becoming a cause for concern.

A young madam going by the name of Bad Bertha was willing to speak to us and had this to say. "It's getting so that it's hard to make a living. My girls aren't safe anymore. There used to be

respect between us and the client but now it seems someone is taking the piss!" Madam Big Bertha's is not the only business that's suffering. Inns and guesthouses are too due to cleaners and other late workers who have not made it home after work.

Captain Skellerang was unavailable for comment when we approached the offices of

the Watch, but we obtained the following statement from his personal assistant, Griff.

"We do what we can. We post guards but guards find nothing. Them only scum anyway so no matter."

So much for diplomacy from the office of the Watch. We have forwarded this to the mayor for a response and will keep you informed.

**CITIZENS DIVIDED ON RISING TAXES**

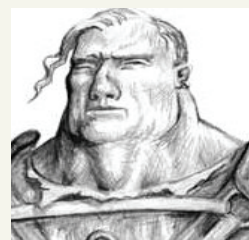
We've all been feeling it. The pinch is beginning to hit as the new high taxes take hold and people are holding onto what little money they have. Businesses have been the first to be affected. Inns and taverns are reporting a 10% drop in sales compared to last years Flood Festival and the theatres have been play-

ing to empty seats as people decide to stay at home.

It's not all doom and gloom though. Lord Vhalantru has assured us that new businesses will soon be arriving, subsidised by the taxes. We have also seen an increase in strength of our militia as more of our half-orc friends

join the ranks.

"Soon we will be a city to rival Sasserine" Lord Vhalantru said during his speech at the Cusp of Sunrise last night. Let's hope he's right. This paper has learned of dark talk in some segments. Not all of Cauldron's citizens are happy.



**An angry citizen yesterday**

**WHO'S THAT GIRL?**

If you've been wandering the shores of Crater Lake and whilst passing the Lake Grove, noticed a strange dark elf making herself at home amongst the trees, don't be alarmed! Her name is Shensen Tesseril and she is new to Cauldron.

The Cauldron Echo decided to interview our latest citizen and found out some unusual facts. Shensen is a drow elf, although she assures us she does not follow the wicked religions of her race. She was also present during the battle which saw the

murder of Sarcem Delasharn and her evidence enabled the Salty Crack Pack to locate those responsible. So what else is there to know about this pretty elf? We asked her if there was a special someone in her life.

"Well, not really. I'd like there to be but I don't think he's interested." No matter how hard we pressed, Shensen did not tell us who this might be. However, she is known to frequent the Drunken Morkoth so if you do too, you never know your luck. It may just be you.



**Shensen Tesseril of the Grove**

**MERCHANT INVESTIGATED FOR STRANGE ACTIVITIES**

In a leaked report to the Cauldron Echo, it has emerged that Maavu Arlinal, a rich and once popular merchant, is being investigated for suspected strange activities at his warehouses. It is not clear whether the merchant is cooperating, but this is just the latest in what seems to be an ongoing exchange between Maavu and the authorities.

Maavu Arlinal has been vocal in his protests against the tax rises in Cauldron, citing that Lord Vhalantru is even pocketing some of the money himself. This has made the merchant's popularity drop in many quarters, as businesses detach from any dealings with him.

It is hoped by city officials that investigations into his

properties will give them the evidence they need to prosecute. However, the Cauldron Echo could not uncover what Maavu Arlinal is being suspected of or what is being looked for in his warehouses. Although, it did emerge that Maavu has made several recent trips to Redgorge, usually under the cover of darkness. Is this a crime though?

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**COMPLAINTS RISE ON NEW RECRUITS**

This paper has reported on the success of creating a diverse workforce within the militia of Cauldron. It seems though that the public are not happy. Complaints are up, although Captain Terseon Skellerang was quick denounce them as a knee jerk reaction from the populace.

"The people are uncomfortable in being helped by types

who are difficult to relate to. We hope that with time people will integrate more closely and these barriers will disappear."

However, for most it doesn't end there. Complaints have included incidences of assault, false arrest and manhandling, although Captain Skellerang was quick to dismiss this.

"I have not been made aware of any such claims. The last thing this city needs is false rumours started in a local rag!"

Maybe what the captain needs is a lesson in speaking with the press. We'll keep an eye on this one.



**Captain Terseon Skellerang dismisses "false" claims**