Extra Edition!

The Cauldron Herald

Umber Hulk Smashes Cauldron

A creature the size of an elephant, with huge mandibles, compound eyes and a fiendish demeanor demolished several warehouses on Magma Avenue. Citizens assaulted the City Watch, or stood dumbfounded as the monster shook loose the stone foundations of Maavu's and Garlock's warehouses.

"It was terrible... the ground shook and split open. I didn't know where to run or how fast to get out of there' recounts Elisa Simmersbottom, a local washwoman. 'I mean, there I was, just going about my business, off to get a some fresh soap and a little something for me sweet tooth when this monster burst from the ground right next to me. Its maw was as large as a barn door filled with razor sharp teeth. And its claws where the size of shovels. I swear I wet my apron if ya know what I mean." "It gave me this evil, hungry look. I ran for me life I tells ya. Good thing too cause that monster got poor Marge Freller, who wasn't two paces behind me. Still, I'm glad it was her instead of me. It is her own fault in a way. I mean I warned her to lay off the fried juju fruit, didn't I?"

After the umber hulk struck Magma Avenue, it laid waste to much of the city's streets and buildings. "Thankfully both city hall and the barracks where spared from damage by that mindless monster" says Terseon Skellerang, captain of the guard.

Many bystanders reported a group of adventures came to the aid of the city. Amidst the catastrophe, 'Goewin's Chosen' rescued Kyria the seamstress and her child from certain death. "We owe a dept of gratitude to 'Goewin's Chosen' captain Skellerang admits grudgingly. "If it were not for their aid, I am certain there would have been an even greater loss of property and lives."

The extent of the damage only became apparent after much of the rubble was cleared. Shops will reopen in due time, but at this point an exact date or even time frame isn't known yet, since extensive repairs are needed. It would seem skilled architects and stonemasons are in short supply in Cauldron.

Street rumors tell that perhaps the umber hulk burrowed its way up into the city from the Underdark because its caverns were flooded this winter. There might be hundreds of such creatures down there, and if they discover how much food is available on the surface, they'll destroy Cauldron.

Locals claim that Maavu the caravan-master was keeping the umber hulk as a pet. "If you didn't pay the price he offered you, he'd feed you to the monster!" Who knows whether these stories are true or false?