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The Marshstead Messenger

Hargrothan Dogs on Tight Leash

Reports from all over the combat zone concur that Hargrothan forces are highly organized - or at least - highly controlled. Color coded sashes worn by troops are used to indicate rank; with reds outranking yellows and yellows outranking greens. It has been a wonder to many how belligerent gnolls and other beasts have been so well trained, leading to speculation that the highest ranking officials must be fearsome indeed.

There is little to suggest that these terrifying military leaders are ever on Stradish soil however. It appears to be a common habit for Hargrothans to employ Stradish individuals as leaders in their military, either by mercenary contract or by kidnap and corruption. An example of this is Lord Yvonne Longshadow, who two months ago was turned undead and forced to lead an impeccably uniformed army to attack her own people. Lord Longshadow was successfully rescued and has now made a full recovery.

Similarly, paid contracted agents have apparently been problematic. Reports state that once-sashed individuals complained of being "fired" for insubordination. It seems that we can at least take pleasure in the frustration that tight Hargrothan controls have apparently caused among lawless and free spirited mercenary agents.

**AS A FRIENDLY REMINDER: PLEASE
REMEMBER THAT SOME OF OUR CITIZENS
ARE UNABLE TO READ. BE A GOOD
NEIGHBOR AND RELAY THESE AND
OTHER WRITINGS IF ASKED.**

A Disturbance in the Forest

Local animal lovers have been on high alert since late June, when dozens of sick and dying animals fled the forest, attacking everyone in a rabid frenzy. The Heros of the Vision quickly rose to the challenge of defending Barstow and dispatched the poor beasts which would otherwise have almost certainly spread infection and calamity.

It was later determined that the source of the disease was a mysterious acorn that had been consumed by one of the animals. The origin of the acorn is currently unknown, but the nature of it seems clear to many. According to Ausla, a local botanist, "there was just something wrong about it".

Local peacekeepers prepare for Mischief Night

While this popular holiday for pranks has never been celebrated with more enthusiasm than in the Western duchy, peacekeepers fear that with the increase of hostilities in the area Mischief Night might once again become dangerous as it has in times past. In addition, the number of individuals infected with lycanthropy continues to rise. Citizens are advised to use caution after dark and to take the long road in order to avoid confrontations.

News From the Front

It has been Dark times on the front lines, but more recently it sure has been looking like all our lives may be extended a bit longer! To that end we saw the arrival of the first of our new visitors to the front, and what a sight it was! It would seem though that the experience of fighting the undead might have scared the color out of them! All jokes aside, it was an amazing thing to see our newest citizens coming out to do their part, and you can tell everyone was happy to have them there. That being said, the line has moved back by another 50 feet in the last months time, and the attacks seem to be coming more frequently and with much more power. It was even reported that General Askulund, a werewolf of some significance to the Hargrothians, took the field, and though we put up quite the effort, we were unable to capture them.

In other sad news, please remember the following Baronial individuals in your thoughts this evening:

- Gorak - Permanently Dead
- Pilza - Captured
- Tarnin - Permanently Dead
- Wyrnham - Obliterated, no spirit to resurrect
- Manbaggert of the Eiken - Captured
- Repru of the Eiken - Permanently Dead
- Gronmun Acklund - Permanently Dead
- Zai Acklund - Permanently Dead
- Caku Ashtead - Captured
- Elle Cherem - Permanently Dead
- Cait Coayish - Permanently Dead
- Ellend Diarak - Captured
- Kendal Flite - Captured
- Ryan Itslo - Permanently Dead
- Jerrick Lebra - Permanently Dead
- Aro Malla - Permanently Dead
- Andric Nirno - Permanently Dead
- Orvert Santh - Captured
- Ecke Tassen-Slyt - Permanently Dead
- Tomwa Tommerson - Permanently Dead

Mysterious Rash of Resurrections Continue

Officials are asking for anyone with information on these murders to come forward. Little is known about the perpetrator, but one shocking detail that is known is that he or she appears to be draining the blood of the victims for some nefarious purpose. Some have taken to calling the unknown individual "The Painter" due to the rumor that a paintbrush was left at one of the crime scenes. More on this will be published as it becomes available.

Harvest Time

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

SCYTHE
 PUMPKIN
 FEAST
 CANDY
 REAP
 CIDER
 GOURD
 AUTUMN
 CROP

BIRDWATCHERS PREDICT AN EARLY WINTER

BIRDS AND HAVE BEEN FLOCKING IN AWAY IN DROVES, PRESUMABLY TO THEIR WINTER RETREATS ON A MUCH EARLIER SCHEDULE THAN USUAL. IT SEEMS THAT OTHER ANIMALS HAVE GROWN SCARCE AS WELL, LEADING MANY TO SPECULATE THAT WINTER WILL COME EARLY THIS YEAR.

Find Your Fortune

January - Watch where you fall asleep, there is no place like your house.

February - Be wary of those trying to get you to go outside, it is a dangerous month for you February.

March - Now is the time to go against the flow, your insights could save everyone.

April - Search for unexpected opportunities at night

May - Be wary of Augusts, they could just spell your Doom!

June - Keep an eye out for a special connection June, I see love in your future.

JULY - BE EXTRA CAREFUL AROUND NATURE THIS MONTH. MIND THE TREES!

August - Be the leader you wouldn't want to murder.

September - Luck is in your future, hair will bring you fortune.

OCTOBER - THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING AFRAID OF THE DARK. WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE.

NOVEMBER - I HAVE THREE WORDS FOR YOU: SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

December - An empty bowl is begging to be filled.

Personal Ads

Barstow, Marshstead - Glow Clouds must go! I been trying to get some good rest at night, but those damn Glow Clouds keep floating all around my farm! Someone needs to take care of these damn things and shoo em' away or all our towns ale is gonna be gone on account of me having to get drunk enough to sleep through the light show every night! See Harvind Bolter at the Brothers Bolter Brewery

Submissions Wanted: Are you interested in an exciting and fulfilling career in freelance journalism? Do you have what it takes to chase the story, ask the tough questions, and forgo compensation? Then do we have a job for you!
-Bria Wincroft, Editor

Barstow, Marshstead - SDM scout looking for companion for self and brothers. Sometimes we get into arguments about the best way to get into or out of the local cave systems, or what would be best for dinner. It would be nice to have someone around independant of thought to assist us in these manners as a helpful guide or tie breaker. Must have experience living with Dwarves. Interests should include Spelunking, Drinking, and Guiding others. Magicians need not apply. If interested see Eric the Dwarf at the Five Crowns Tavern for more info.

Barstow, Marshstead - Penna needed - I am conducting experiments on creating a lupoid bane, but I need an obscene amount of Penna to accomplish my goals. The Royal Celestial guild of Stradyn will be willing to purchase still active Penna of any remaining freshness for one gold each. See Guild Magistrate Edwin to take advantage of this opportunity