

MAYOR ANNOUNCES NEW FIRE CHIEF

Controversial fire chief Blaze Bernhardt has been relieved of his post having failed to attend his duties for over a week.

Bernhardt hasn't been seen since he alleged that Tinderbox's recent spate of fires were a result of arson rather than happenstance.

"The Town Council, like most of the citizens of Tinderbox, have lost faith in Bernhardt's ability to fulfill his position," said Mayor Mumf. "We are pleased to announce that the post will now be filled by Blitz Haben, and we have every confidence in his ability to lead our town's only true firefighting service."

Haben is a familiar name about town, having been a successful bandit in the past raiding the road to Flint.

He was arrested several months ago but pardoned when Mayor Mumf recently requisitioned the Tinderbox jailhouse.

"I was a bit reluctant to take on this firefighting gig," Blitz told Times reporters. "After all, I've never worked in the public sector before; my background is purely criminal. But Mayor Mumf assures me that politics is pretty closely related, and I've yet to find fault in that reasoning." But Blitz will have a difficult time regaining the confidence of townsfolk, many of whom have begun funding private firefighting services to protect their assets."



Newly appointed Fire Chief Blitz Haben will be pointing a fire hose at the citizens of Tinderbox instead of a crossbow



KARNAJ THE BLOODY'S NURSERY

"Drop your tiny pillager off with me and I'll show him how to raze a village with only a sippy cup and a wet wipe"

- Kos Karnaaj Kares

HIDE AND SEEK CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS

The annual Hide and Seek Championship is being held this week in Tinderbox. Professional players from throughout the world have descended on our town in the hopes of winning a thousand gold coins and the coveted Shady Trophy.

"Hide and Seek is more than a game," said Championship hopeful Slinky Pete. "It's a way of life. Take last year's winner. She didn't even turn up to collect the trophy; nobody's seen her since. That's a tough act to beat."

Championship organisers want to remind Tinderbox residents not to worry if they see strange people lurking in the shadows and darting around hidden back alleys for the next week or two.

"If you see a hooded figure disappearing around a dark corner, rest assured it is probably just one of our contestants," said event spokesman Phineas Featherfoot. "That is, if you manage to spot them at all!"

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Disclaimer- Enter at own risk, leave money on the counter, do not feed the plants



PYROMANCY UNIVERSITY ASSETS TO BE FROZEN

Tax collector and renowned ice mage Ilyanna Frost has threatened to freeze the assets of the Pyromancer University if they do not open their books for her to study.

"These secretive flame-fondlers have a record of concealing their activities and it is time they were audited," she coolly announced at a Town meeting. "Their experiments are dangerous and a threat to the public at large. The tax office demands transparency in this matter."

But newly appointed dean of Pyro U. Ignatio Diabolus responded furiously to Frost's demands, saying, "This is one more vicious attack on our institution from a corrupt town administration. Our University has been nothing but cooperative in regard to Tinderbox's troubles. Look at the water-wagons we have recently sold at discount prices to the town's fire brigades! What more proof do we need to show that we are no threat to anyone?"

Gloria Ignes, captain for one such new fire brigade, was reserved in her support for Pyro U.

"These flying machines are certainly a godsend for managing the bigger infernos, and we were offered them at an incredibly reasonable price," she said. "But we bought them from the previous dean, so can't speak on Mr Diabolus. Isn't he Rufus Follycull's nephew or something?"

EDITORIAL

Tinderbox residents might be tempted to think the worst of our troubles are behind us. After all, even the University of Pyromancers has erected a sign proudly declaring it is now at four days since a major incident. The sheer number of new fire brigades means we are theoretically defended now more than ever. And recent changes in various important leadership positions are intended to clear out dead wood.

But the Tinderbox Times is not so optimistic. This lull is but a respite while pressure builds. We may be four days without incident, but we suspect the next incident will be four times worse.



THE WEEKLY FATES

Today's soothsayer is Quintillius the Younger, who says, "The entrails of this rooster augur that no volcanoes are likely to erupt locally. As for the bird, the omens say it would be best served in a creamy garlic sauce alongside fried scalloped potatoes and some asparagus. Buy my latest book for all the best sacrificial recipes!"

PYROMANCER UNIVERSITY

LIGHT FIRE UNDER YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS WITH A SCROLL FROM PYRO-U

ARE YOU A BRIGHT SPARK WHO CAN HANDLE THE HEAT?

INTAKE IS NOW OPEN FOR NEW APPRENTICES, APPLY VIA SMOKE SIGNAL OR WITH IGNATIO DIABOLUS AT THE UNI

BRING 3 YEARS COURSE FEES TO ENSURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON AN INTERVIEW AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

MID-AIR COLLISION AT ORPHANAGE BRAWL



Self appointed Protector of the People Frith Goldmane has formed another rebel fire brigade dedicated to saving Tinderbox's less fortunate

Violence erupted between rival fire brigades at a fire at Giant's Shoe Orphanage, resulting in the spectacular collision of two flying water-wagons.

"I'd left some cookies baking too long," said "Aunt" Agatha Perrywinkle, headmistress of the orphanage. "There was quite a bit of smoke, but nothing was aflame. Didn't stop those idiots turning up and fighting over it, though."

According to eyewitnesses, two firefighting teams arrived simultaneously and started to argue over who should deal with it.

"It was clearly our fire to deal with," asserted self-styled protector of the people Frith Goldmane. "My crew has a sworn duty to protect the poor and needy of Tinderbox. The Orphanage is obviously our responsibility. We were forced to defend ourselves when Dampshot's mercenaries threw grappling hooks into the rotors of our water-wagon."

But Goldmane's account is contested by her opponent, Glint Dampshot. "The law quite clearly states that a fire on an uninsured property can be claimed by the first fire brigade to attend the scene, and that brigade was mine. We have a right to defend our claim and exercised it when Goldmane's rabble tried to block access to the nearby well. Very unprofessional!"

Despite the enthusiasm of the row, there were no major injuries, and the flying craft have since been repaired.

"No charges are being pressed in this matter," Watch Captain Val Candor said in a public statement. "But I do think it is important to consider the children who witnessed the altercation. This was an important lesson in civic responsibility and business strategy and they were lucky to see the free market in action first-hand. I wish my own kids could've seen it."

PERSONALS

Lute player needed for Frith Goldmane band. Must supply own lute and uniform.

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I, Lady Sybil Mumf, do enthusiastically endorse Alabaster's Miracle Ointment. I encourage all who care about the wellbeing of their family to purchase this remarkable product. No home should be without it.

Be it known that on this day I, Harbold Half-Elven, do formally renounce all claims to humanity and wish to be known simply as Harbold Elven.