



Hardshire Bulletin

Burglaries in Hope Leave Citizens Concerned

A series of daring burglaries has left the peaceful town of Hope reeling, as residents wonder if the recent wave of thefts is the work of a local band of criminals or something more sinister lurking in the shadows. Over the past fortnight, at least six homes and two prominent businesses have been targeted by unknown thieves, who have stolen valuables, enchanted artifacts, and even rare heirlooms. Though the town's watchmen have stepped up patrols, the brazen nature of the crimes has many residents wondering how long their idyllic community can remain safe.

"I've lived in Hope my entire life, and I've never seen anything like this before," said Elira Goldleaf, a local seamstress whose shop was recently looted. "They took my enchanted silks! They are worth a fortune in the Blewford! And it wasn't just the silks; they broke into the vault and took my mother's family jewels. It's the first time I've felt truly afraid in my own home."

In the dead of night, thieves seem to move with uncanny precision, bypassing the town's modest security measures with an unsettling ease. The Town guard, led by Captain Dalketh, has yet to capture a single suspect. "It's as if they're ghosts," Guard Jensen admitted in a recent statement. "The thieves leave no trace, no footprints, no signs of forced entry. It's unlike anything I've seen in my twenty years as a watchman."

What is most disturbing is that no two burglaries have followed the same pattern. Some homes have been entered through small, concealed windows, while others were found to have their locks picked with great expertise. The thefts have ranged from mundane items like coins and household goods to far more valuable items, including enchanted gemstones and scrolls of ancient knowledge.

There have been growing whispers among the people of Hope that these burglaries are not the work of ordinary thieves, but something more malevolent, possibly tied to dark magic. "The thieves always seem to know where to look, where to strike," said Aeldrin Windwhisper, a local mage who has taken an interest in the case. "It's almost as though they can read the minds of the victims or are being guided by some unseen force."

Some believe the burglaries may be the work of a rogue band of sorcerers or cultists seeking magical relics to fuel their dark rituals. Others suggest the involvement of the notorious Blackcloak Syndicate, a shadowy network of thieves and assassins rumored to be operating in the region.

"Hope has always been a beacon of peace, but we've been hearing rumors of darker forces moving through the area," said Eamon Fairwell, a former tavern owner. "The citizens are scared, and that's no good for anyone."

Written by Lester Dreamwilt

Rangers on Edge

Local wildlife disappearances

Reports of lowered animal activity in the area of western Cunningham have been reported. This disappearance was noticed amount the crow, squirrel and racoon populations before spreading to other animals. "I ain't never seen nuffin like it! How am I supposed ta' make a livin' like dis?" a local put in a letter to their local sheriff. This ongoing situation will be investigated in case there is an outbreak or other issue impacting the wildlife. Donations from local towns have made up the difference in the food required in the local area to cover the losses.

Missing Sheep and Tender

Shepard and Flock Missing

A few weeks ago shepard local to southern Sterling has gone missing with his flock. After an extensive search he is presumed dead. An estate sale of his few belongings is being planned in the event no family members show up to claim his belongings.

Sleeping Sickness?

Possible Sleeping Sickness

Reports from across Armonia have come in over the past few days of a strange occurrence. People complaining of nightmares for a few days have fallen into a deep sleep that they can't wake from. Remedies of mundane, magical and alchemical natures have all been tried but nothing seems to break them of this slumber. Those afflicted are being monitored and taken care for by their local healers and doctors.



Harsh Winters Ahead

With the harvest already concluded and most of the town's resources stretched thin, residents are scrambling to prepare for what could be one of the harshest winters in decades. Snow is predicted to fall in heavy, swirling flurries, accompanied by bone-chilling winds that could make travel nearly impossible for weeks at a time. The surrounding forests, already beginning to show signs of frost, will likely become treacherous, leaving Hope isolated from the rest of Ancora for the duration of the storms.

The people of Hope are preparing their homes by supplying extra firewood, and ensuring canned goods are available for when the roads become impassable.

In the meantime, stay warm.

Written by Eisal Teon

State of the Art Luxury at the Stanmore Hotel!

You couldn't ask for more when you stay at the Stanmore hotel! The staff are available 24/7 to meet any of your needs, and the accommodations are simply wonderful. State of the art elevator systems mean no getting lost or accidentally wandering outside without meaning to! The hotel is staffed with state of the art automatons, so there is no need to pay them, and so the hotel is affordable as well as clean and luxurious.

Turn down service offered nightly, breakfast in bed, and anything you need to get your work done brought directly to you. Why would you ever want to leave such a place!

Written by Rena Grande

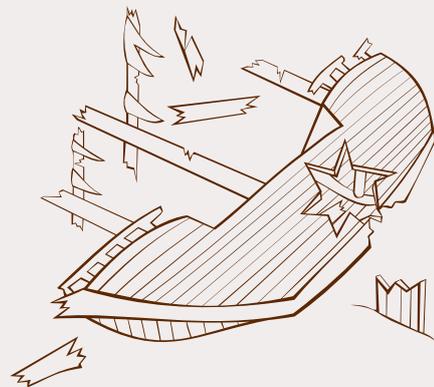
Ships Sunk in the Southern Seas

Four separate vessels have been sunk in the seas at the southernmost tip of Armonia in one short month. The vessels appear to be heavily damaged and no crew seems to be left to speak of. The vessels carry no valuable cargo, and no reason has been concluded for why the ships are being targeted at all. Is this the work of a sea monster? The Hurricane Queen? The Master of Tides themselves? No one is quite certain, but we do know the seas are rougher than ever.

A dockmaster from Oakheart had this to say

"The Seas down this way are always a little treacherous, but they have been extra gnarly lately. We wonder what's out there, but until one of those crewmates turns up it'll stay a mystery."

Written by Eisal Teon



Missing Hunter

A local trapper has been reported missing after not returning from his regular trip. Karlin Prezzes is a 50 year old human with grey and black hair, a 6ft build, and a large tattoo of a wolf on his chest.

He has been missing since October 13th, and has not returned to family or friends. If you hear from him please contact the local sheriff's office.

Written by Aeri Meadows

Sunflower Scholarship

Flowering Possibilities

Are you a bright mind with big dreams, but burdened by lack of coin? The Sunflower Scholarship is here to help you grow.

Founded with the belief that knowledge should never wither for want of gold, this program offers full support to academically gifted Armonian citizens of humble means.

What we offer:

- Tuition, books, and boarding, free of charge
- Guidance from esteemed tutors and mentors
- A path toward the studies you choose - from alchemy to astronomy, history to healing and more.

Who may apply?

Any Armonian of low income who can show both aptitude and dedication in their chosen field of study.

Your dreams deserve sunlight. Let them blossom. Apply today by sending a letter to the Silver Stag Inn addressed to 'Sunflower'.



Classifieds

Come One, Come All!

To the second annual Winter Solstice Party in South MacDonnell! Come to the easternmost point of Armonia and stay warm and bright with the Meadowlark family as we celebrate through the night and see in the new dawn at the end of the long dark!

A short ritual service will be held in the hush before the dawn. Punch and Pie!

Winter Cloak Drive

Collecting winter coats and cloaks for those in need at the Silver Stag Inn

Winter Lodging Available

5 copper per month

The Silver Stag Inn

The Undead Kelpie Inn

The Pickled Dragon Tavern

The Squeaky Mouse Cabins

Bardic Circle

Open to all musicians

November 20

Hope Centre Square

Hot Fire and Hot Tea will be provided at no charge

Retirement Announcement

Associate Publisher Nagle Whitmoor hereby retires from the Fordshire Bulletin team after 40 years.

We wish Nagle all the best and hope he enjoys a peaceful retirement.

Missed Connections

Doug 4 Doug

Doug. We met fleeing from an undead horde.

You hit my leg so I would run slower. I survived, and have been thinking about the sight of you running off ever since. I cannot live without you. My wrath burns as strong as my desire and my new wounds. I don't want revenge. I want you, Doug.

Yours,

-Doug

My soulful raven. I apologize for missing our date. Something came up and I have had to stay on the move. I think I may be in over my head. I just hope this missive reaches the Bulletin intact. I will try and write more soon. -Regretfully, River Redsky

She smelled like a summer breeze in fall, but she looked like she would never look my way. If you are an ogri woman who was at town square Monday past, please consider your beauty while taking walks about town.

Sincerely, Soft Secutor

Sales & Services

Exploratory Psychology

Do you know an extraplanar creature with an identity crisis? A mysterious creature whose mind is as much an enigma to itself as to others? Are *you* facing mental distress due to adventuring? Grandmaster Mentalist Ruaria Dwineplith is accepting new clients of all sorts, and is especially interested in helping those whose situations fall outside the Hymiran norm.