

# The Midwinter Herald

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## Zale Fleet Attacks Defenceless Port Newland.

Port Newland, Midwinter's principle fishing port in the Narrow Sea was attacked three days ago by a fleet of ships from the Zalian Navy. The attack comes on the heels of a series of diplomatic arguments between or nations. Zale has laid claim to the waters around their capital, strangling the access to Port Newland to local fishermen.

In retaliation the fishermen began to net areas of the lake traditionally fished by the Zale fishing fleet. Both fishing fleets had come to blows in recent weeks and attempts to solve the problem by diplomatic means had all resulted in failure.

Things came to a head when the Zale navy sent a fleet of ships to sink the fishing fleet. The fishermen fled to the nearby Port Newland, where Zale trapped them in the harbour. Admiral Moztof, leader of the Zalian fleet, ordered the port authorities to surrender the fisherman to him, stating that they had invaded Zale's borders.

When Mayor Hawkstone refused to agree to Zale's terms, Admiral Moztof ordered his fleet to attack the port. In the ensuing battle, the fishing fleet was all but destroyed and only fierce defence from the town guard stopped the town from falling into Zale's hands. The Zale fleet withdrew from the harbour, but are still blockading the entrance to the lake.

In response, the High Council has deported the Zalian Ambassador and ordered Admiral Hockenden to equip the fleet for war. Lord Marshal Windstar is mobilizing the cities forces to head to Port Newland's aid and the Academical Society has been asked to supply able-bodied mages for the war effort.

## New Commader of the Auxilliaris Appointed.

Following the death of Morton Fallstar last month, the Marshal Windstar has appointed Jenna Kentwick the new Commander of the Auxilliaris. Miss Kentwick has been the commander of the successful 'White Horse Light Cavalry' free company for the last ten years and has fought against many of Midwinter's foes over the last thirty years and was a veteran of the Horde siege twenty years ago.

Miss Kentwick was unavailable for comment as she had already taken command of the forces heading south to Port Newland. The official ceremony of inauguration will take place when the current tensions have ceased.

## New Shrine Announced.

During her stay in the city, The Radiance will be blessing a new shrine to the Goddess Phaedra. The shrine is located in the Fairfield District and will be opened on New Year's Day.

## Recruiting Continues.

Recruiting is still ongoing at the Guild of Mercenaries and Freeblades. With the current tensions in the south and the need for more border guards in the east and west, the company pay rates have almost doubled in the last week.

## More Fires Break Out In Docklands.

A series of fires have broken out over the last two weeks destroying two dozen warehouses, residences and shops.

Justin Greycloak, captain of the King's Road watch house in the Shambles, said that investigations were ongoing but the Watch firmly believed that the fault lay with the various underground crime groups operating in the city.

## Two Days To Go.

Only two days to go until the New Year Sunsword games. Despite the current political climate things are still on course for one of the most successful games ever.

This years games will include jousting, the melee, archery, wrestling, chariot racing, horse racing as well as the more traditional Highland games.

The games will start at dawn on January 1<sup>st</sup> and continue for four days. Schedules are available at the stadium.

The Herald has heard several unconfirmed reports that the schedules for the joust and melee have been tampered to pitch particular individuals against each other.

Tournament organiser, Amos Cressmar, has denied the rumours. "All contests have been decided by drawing of lots," he told us, "Any talk of fixing is pure fantasy."

## Property Developer Buys City Block.

An unknown property developer Henri duValle has purchased an entire city block in the Walks for an undisclosed buyer from Pendaran. duValle said he was unable to disclose the names of his employer, just that their plans would bring added trade and security to the city.

## Flower Named New Guildmaster.

Pietr Flower, acting head of the Potter's Guild since the death of the old Guildmaster Abrus Bonazzo, has been named the new Guildmaster following internal elections last week. Flower begins his tenure on New Years day.

## Mason Murderer Used Magic Claim Watch.

Investigations into the death of Mason's Guildmaster Anatoli Felnikov have been preceding slowly due to lack of evidence, claim the Watch.

"All normal sources of investigation have drawn a blank," said Captain Franklin, "We have found no evidence for anyone being in the room other than Mr Felnikov himself. Guild Mages examined the scene but were unable to learn anything more about the perpetrator."

The Herald spoke to Menara Dakhran, the Guild Seeker who worked with the Watch, and asked for her opinion. "There was definitely magic involved," she said, "At the moment we don't know who used it, but we will find out soon."

This new murder has raised questions regarding the death of the Potter's Guildmaster and subsequent arrest of James Goodspear in november.

## Bodies Found in Sewers.

During routine construction work in the sewers beneath the Harbour District, the bodies of six humans were found. The bodies, showing signs of sword cuts and burns, had been got caught at the Sage Street sewer outflow .

Captain Naylor of the Bell End Watch House attributed the killings to gang rivalry. "There is a stiring in the City's underworld. We are not sure at the moment what is causing it but we will stop it," He told the Herald, "We are working closely with the King's Road station to identify the cause of the problem and deal with it."