

# STRONGHOLD <sup>THE</sup> GAZETTE

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS!

by Miss Preena Glass

For our Storm Rider friends, here is a brief description of our most holiest of days so that you might better celebrate with us.

The purpose of Lurlinemas each year is to reflect and give thanks to all that you have been blessed with in the previous year with The Fasting. Just as Lurline so selflessly gave of herself to create Oz, we all choose a vice to renounce. For one week before Lurlinemas, we forsake this chosen transgression as an offering to the Great Fairy Lurline. The Time Keeper's Guild has announced that the Fasting will begin on the sundown of January the 2nd and end on the sundown of January the 9th, Lurlinemas Eve.

Once the sun has set on Lurlinemas Eve, the real fun begins! Communities gather together to tell stories, share food, and partake in the vices that they had been withholding. A newer tradition, brought over by Storm Riders, is to hang socks or stockings up. Anyone who wishes to give out treats to fellow countrymen can put them in the stockings before bed.

Before going to sleep, we place out a shoe or boot with an offering to the Krampus. The offering might vary from town to town or family to family, but many people include things such as candy, fruit, shiny stones, or a message. Sometimes the Krampus may come, other times he will not. If the Krampus chooses to take your offering, it is considered a blessing. If he leaves a token in exchange for the offering, it is considered an even greater blessing.

It is also the Krampus's duty to take away naughty children and put them in his sack. He takes these children to his castle to serve out the rest of their childhoods as his servants.

Lurlinemas Day is spent exchanging gifts, playing games, and eating treats. All those who would like to use the tavern to hang stockings or join us in other merriment are more than welcome.

You are cordially invited to Horizon Stronghold's

### CHARITY EYE BALL

to further community support for the victims of Ooglie attacks.

This glamorous ball will keep in the spirit of Lurlinemas by offering relief to those most in need. Win fun prizes at charity bingo! All funds gathered and donations received will go to the benefit of the most recent victims bereft of eyes by Ooglies attack and to further the Marshall and Deputies Fund for the protection of the town, created by Mayor Pfeffernusse Snickerdoodle. Please join us for an evening of food, prizes, drinks, and charity to benefit your community.

To be held on Lurlinemas at the Poppy.  
Reception begins at 7 pm | Charity Bingo begins at 8 pm  
See Mme. Feliciticia Snickerdoodle for more information on program.

#### Admission:

- Regular 2 bits, 1 bingo card, discounted drinks
- Doner 1 Emerald, 3 bingo cards, one free drink
- Patron 3 Emeralds, 5 bingo cards, free drinks, private table, public mention of participation at this level

Additional cards 1 bit each.

Additional drinks available at reception.

Thanks to our partners and fellow sponsors:  
The Wright Brothers, Preena Glass, & the Red Poppy Inn

### From The Mayor's Desk

Fair people of Horizon's Stronghold, I am honored to have been selected by you to serve as your new Mayor. Hearty congratulations are due to the newly elected Judge Death and Marshal Jeb. If this next year is anything like it began, there will be much work to be done and much achieved. As many of you know, on the evening of the election the leader of the Hell Runners was caught and tried for her crimes and the Valkyrie destroyed. Though there is no doubt that there was vengeance and anger in the hearts of many of the people gathered your new officials handled the situation thrust upon them with calm minds and proper justice was done. Our thanks are due to everyone who contributed to fighting back and restoring order during the Hell Runner menace. We can all feel a bit safer now and we hope that any remaining members of their group turn themselves in for rehabilitation into civilized society.

Winter is upon us, and while we have done much to learn from past incarnations of these new seasons, do not take them lightly. We don't know what other tricks winter has yet up its sleeve, so continue to be careful with your supplies and share any unusual happenings with a town official. Help keep your family safe and fed but make sure to check in on your neighbors as well; we are all the strength of our community.

We have also seen an influx of the dark robed "cultists" about town and have learned that they are

Cont. page 5

## Hush Now to Blush Now

Sex & Relationship Advice Column form the experts

Dear Wiggles,

I find myself in a strange position. Recently someone has come to town who has captured my attention. He is dashing, attractive and very well mannered. I am afraid that my rough demeanor and the fact that I am a stormrider may put him off. Also as we are both men I do not how Oz society would react to my courtship of this person. I would greatly appreciate any advice.

Thank you, Out in Oz

Well, Out, I'll get the easy part of your question out of the way first: There's nothing wrong with a male-on-male pairing or any other combination. We believe that sex and romance are about more than your ability to generate offspring. We got all types here in Oz, and limiting yourself to just someone you could have a baby with would be limiting the playing field considerably.

The other part is a bit harder because it depends on the individual in question. Some people are only turned on by constructs or by people of the opposite gender, so you may be out of luck there, depending. There are as many different ways of approaching this as there are types of Immortals, but in almost all cases, I favor a direct approach. Present your feelings personally, perhaps with a gift to sweeten the deal. If he likes you back, there's no reason to dance around each other

when you could be getting on with honest

courting.

Note that intimate relations with a man are often quite different than those with a woman, but you can avoid most of the pitfalls just by paying attention to how your partner reacts.

Good Luck,

"Peanut Butter" Rogerry

Multiple partners. At one time. How does that work? Can anyone do it?

A Curious Inquirer

The exact specifics of such an undertaking are hardly fit to print in a reputable newspaper such as this. Suffice it to say that we are very \*very\* good at our profession and have done such a thing, dare I say? Multiple times. Yes, anyone can have a marvelous time with more than two partners, though perhaps work up to your desired number.. start with two and see where it leads before adding a third. If you wish to know more specifics, we have a great many classes you can choose from or simply select one of our delightful multiple partner options from our menu. We can teach you all you wish to know.. in comfort and privacy! I do not believe I need to say that we are very discreet. -Wiggles



## A Memory of Market

By Wendel Adel Gustoffsen

My family and I are taking our persimmons to market today. I love market day! The nice man at the toy table always lets my sister and me play with his slinkies and toy swords. He says we help him sell things. It is around mid-afternoon when we leave for home. Markets used to be in the morning, before the bad people came. Now we can't leave until they are gone each day, and we must absolutely be home by the witching hour.

Father is mad. The roads are muddy, and the wagon keeps getting stuck. But I think the mud is fun. I throw some mud at my sister. The dark chunks stick to her for a moment before falling away, leaving big brown stains on her clothes.

Father is mad at me now.

It's getting dark. Father is trying to fix the wagon. He says the Askle broke? Axle? He's not mad anymore. He told me he loves me. Mother says we should leave the card behind. Father says our family would go broke if we leave our livelihood behind.

We're running. Father and mother say we need to get to shelter. If you're inside, you're safe. Mostly. I'm not sacred though. My father is tall, and he will protect us. He is brave and smart and heroic. We're running toward a farmer's barn. We're almost there. My mother yanks open the door and pushes my sister in. My father turns to face the darkness. My mother rushes me in, and I am the only one facing back as the Bad One appears in the darkness. A gnarled finger touches my father on his arm. My father collapses to his knees. My mother and sister turn and see him. "Noooo..." my mother wails and runs outside into the darkness to get my father.

My father reaches for the earth beneath his feet and shoves it into his mouth. My mother crashes into him and grabs his hands, trying to pull him towards the barn, but he won't budge. He puts her fingers in his mouth and bites them off. My mother barely has time to scream before the Bad One touches her as well. They both begin to claw at the dirt, the rocks, and each other, greedily consuming anything that they push into their mouths. My father soon has blood streaming from his mouth, teeth jagged and broken from the rocks. My sister and I watch, unable to move, as our parents' stomachs begin to distend. Finally, as dawn approaches, their insides burst open, and the earth and rocks spill out onto the ground. Mother and father, tangled in each other, grotesque piles of earth, blood and bile.

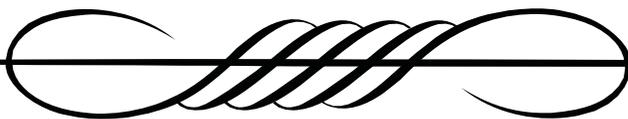
The farmer's wife finds us in the morning. She says she's taking us to see a man about our memories. She says she can never relieve us from the pain of their deaths, but she will do everything she can to help us honor their memory...

## Quadling Country Rebuilds

By Paige Turner

With the undead threat seemingly concluded, the Quadlings are slowly beginning to return to their abandoned towns and cities to rebuild. Reconstruction has been going slowly, however, due to Oz's second Winter season there have been difficulties in acquiring needed materials and supplies. Additionally, food is quickly becoming an issue for the Quadlings. Some of the abandoned food stores were damaged by the undead or the harsh cold snaps.

Member's of Scarecrow's Army who had previously been stationed at the barricades between Quadling Country and Munchkinland have begun accompanying caravans of supplies into Quadling Country. Those who are interested in donating supplies to assist the people of Quadling Country, or volunteering to help with the caravans or construction should contact a member of the Scarecrow Army's Communications Division.



Looking for general labor,  
and paying well.



Contact Roman Blake or Leroy Devereaux

# STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

## Town Meeting of Horizon's Stronghold November 15, 146

By Phiboc Threx, LW & MOA

The Town meeting began with Marshall Thomas Silver calling the collective to order and announce that he was relinquishing the office of marshall. Ms. Glass, taking the podium with gentility and care, addressed the assembly with a celebratory tone. She proceeded, with much care and precision, explain the voting rights and regulations of Horizon's Stronghold.

Following this explanation, the floor was opened for the three candidates, Miss Rosalyn Silver, Mr. Pfeffernusse Snickerdoodle, and Mr. Howard Invento to have representatives read their speeches. As Mr. Invento was missing, he had no one to read a speech. Judge Silver selected Dr. Sebastian LeCroix for her speech. He spoke from the heart on her abilities and impressions and how her deepest wants were for the betterment of everyone, how she would not compromise for the sake of expediency. He also took time to list what experience she had in the Emerald City.

For his speech, Mr. Snickerdoodle selected his sister, Ms. Snickerdoodle. Her speech was one of action and connection with the community. She did not cite wholly his resume, but rather chose to impress upon those gathered the list of troubles that they and Mr. Pfeffernusse had in common, and those which would drive him to better serve their needs, in her words.

At the conclusion of the speeches, Ms. Glass opened the floor to a general discussion, a question and answer round for the candidates. Mr. Wright was first, asking if the the mayoral candidates would carry on the tradition of submitting a column to the paper in order to inform the public. Ms. Silver lauded the need for transparency and information among the public. Mr. Snickerdoodle agreed concretely to producing a column, and cited how he contributed in the past.

Next was the shrewd and discerning Ms. Nightshade, who asked after the troubling economy in Horizon's Stronghold and how each candidate planned to stimulate more growth. Mr. Pfeffernusse cited the recent economic strengths already seeding in this town: the Stone Lodge Market, Wiggles, and the Poppy. He stated how he planned to encourage these flourishing businesses and to decrease the isolation of

Horizon's Stronghold. Ms. Silver answered, after joking that she was more politician than businessman, that the fortunes of Horizon's Stronghold were in becoming supplier to Azkadellia's Forces and the Scarecrow Army - creating an outfitting economy tied to these militaries.

Bandit asked what the candidates thought of the former mayor, Mr. Inventor. Ms. Silver was quick to sing his praises, calling his weapon-making a great skill and his inventions quite useful with crops. Mr. Snickerdoodle addressed Mr. Invento's character, stating that though he was clever with his designs and inventions, he was a little troubling, but ultimately his uniqueness was worth keeping around.

Ever the defender of difference and uniqueness, Dr. LeCroix mentioned how the true melting pot of Oz was represented in Horizon's Stronghold. He asked of the candidates, how would they mitigate this diversity? Mr. Snickerdoodle was firm and exact, citing the idea to create a council not just of guilds, but of a multitude deserving of the diversity of opinions and walks of life in this town. He sought to celebrate the unique perspectives gathered. Ms. Silver mentioned her Stormrider parents, how she learned to care for many different people despite their level of vote, of the dignity deserved by all, and her charity work in the Emerald City. She even stated that she was quite successful on her diplomatic mission to the Mungaboos, no doubt experiences she would use in this small village.

Finally, Blaze asked the final question. He stated that those in Horizon's Stronghold are quite reactive to the threats here, such as the Ooglies and the Hell Runners, and other such threats. Will the candidates become proactive towards these threats and how? Ms. Silver stated in agreement that the gathered community were afraid and adjusting to these new threats after the Great Spell fell. But, she stated her path of pacifism. She stated that there should always be a complete understanding of a situation before action is taken, and that killing something outright would not be a path she would condone until there was understanding. Mr. Snickerdoodle responded by stating that while we much understand the nature of the matter, we must empower the marshall and his deputies with the power to scout out and hunt down and determine threats.

He gave his plans for supporting the law as well as the community to prevent these threats with resources the of physical, social, and legal sort.

Finally, Ms. Glass called an end to the proceedings and the votes began. When all were counted, the final numbers had Pfeffernusse Snickerdoodle as winner. The Judge was publicly voted to be Miss Death, and the new Marshall elected was Jebediah Collins. They now seek to create in Horizon's Stronghold a community secure, lawful, and of strong economic establishment. May they be successful and may these lands and all in it be prosperous

### An Invitation

By Father Mulch

Hello to all! We here in Daylight would like to extend our invitation to anyone who is in need of food or a warm place to come stay with us. All are welcome through the Winter, or longer if desired. We have sufficient food stores from the Daylight farms surrounding our lovely township, and the Daylight Church is willing to provide temporary shelter. Those who wish to settle more permanently are welcome to speak with me about constructing new housing in our residential area. As always, we would also like to invite anyone interested in learning more about the Unnamed God to our Sunday afternoon services. Together, we will prosper through this Winter season.

Space reserved  
for  
Judge Death  
of  
Horizon's  
Stronghold

Space reserved  
for  
Marshal Collins  
of  
Horizon's  
Stronghold

# STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

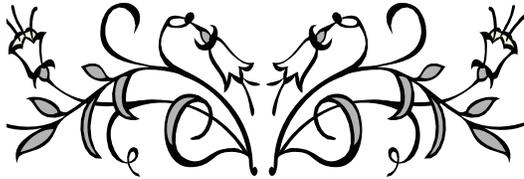
GENTRRHMOUNTAINS  
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 IILVIRMNTNTROLLH  
 KLLLETWRRISEPOEST  
 MILHAIIOOAHERRDIWH  
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 ADAEDUATKYSIOFT  
 GGNHETWRLCARCCRR  
 OAMARKETAWRCIAU  
 NNWSWRRALCODNW  
 KNIGHTDRABREBUDC  
 HTIARWOGALLIVBE

**THE STONE MARKET  
 OPEN NOON TO TWO,  
 SATURDAY  
 SPACE AVAILABLE.**

Contact Roman Blake  
 or Leroy Devereaux

- |              |            |           |         |
|--------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| ARCHERS      | DWARF      | LORDS     | SPELL   |
| ARMOR        | ELF        | MAGIC     | SWORD   |
| ARROWS       | EVIL       | MARKET    | THRONE  |
| AXE          | FAERIES    | MINOTAUR  | TROLL   |
| BAR          | GOBLET     | MOUNTAINS | UNICORN |
| BLACKSMITH   | GOLD COINS | PALACE    | VILLAGE |
| BOW          | GOOD       | POTION    | WAGON   |
| COURT        | HEADSMAN   | PRINCESS  | WAND    |
| CRYSTAL BALL | KING       | SHIELD    | WIZARD  |
| DRAGON       | KNIGHT     | SILVER    | WRAITH  |

Reprint wall full and correct



## Winter Fun Word Search Game

Find the hidden words associated with winter.

SDQGISIPBAHNEMWONS  
 WSEUQUTFVMIAAVHSGV  
 KTZJWSWSFZQGTTQNDI  
 SEQSZLCKIPWJYSIAJC  
 SRYLUXJARGBQGI V GEE  
 CWRLFMUTEVDEKCN GSR  
 SCAEYXEIPECSKAVOTI  
 DSUBEP RNLVDBMIBBAN  
 ETWHFGLGAELCIGOOK  
 LSLGALLRCYHSTOPTCS  
 SEYIONAAECKSTLUURX  
 BLEEOGLKSELSEWDZEE  
 OCMLXALSEARGNVNUVR  
 BITSPLLVHSJVSYRDOA  
 SCXEPEOITSORFKCAJO  
 RICUDCNEXJSHJKHTCR  
 SIESKROSNOWBOARDS  
 GBYEAKVVDRAZZILBOS  
 VNYCSNOWMOBILESLLS  
 GBMGKQJMSYADILOHNL  
 QQPCSNOWBALLSJI AJE

- BLIZZARD
- BOBSLEDS
- BOOTS
- CARNIVALS
- FIREPLACES
- FLAKES
- HATS
- HOCKEY
- HOLIDAYS
- ICEPALACE
- ICERINK
- ICICLES
- JACKFROST
- MITTENS
- OVERCOATS
- SCARVES
- SKIING
- SLEDS
- SLEIGHBELLS
- SKATING
- SNOWBALLS
- SNOWBOARDS
- SNOWMEN
- SNOWMOBILES
- TOBOGGANS
- TUQUES

To my people,

I have watched over Horizon's Stronghold for going on 6 years and every moment has been an honor. Y'all have been a family to me, hell, some of you are my family. I loved being the marshal of our town and I will always remember it fondly. But my heart only has room for one true love and that's Miss Preena Glass.

I've never fancied myself as anything but an active lawman but truth is, I'm gettin' old and I think it's time I started settling down. I aint dead and buried, I just got a family to look out for. I'll always be here when you need me; you can find me down at the Red Poppy.

This aint no goodbye, just a new beginning.

Former Marshal, Thomas Silver

**THE  
 WRIGHT INVENTION**

**FOR YOUR  
 APPARATUS  
 &  
 FUEL  
 NEEDS**

# STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

## From The Mayor's Desk from page 1

associated with the gaping embodiment of Famine. This creature with its enormous maw has been spotted accompanied by an assortment of less enormous maws and cultists and has made a dire pronouncement to our town. We expect its return in force, so remember to stick together and keep safe, especially at night. Rumors had been going around that the "cultists" had been vanishing when exposed to light, but we know this to be false, as they've been both indoors and seen during the day. It is my personal theory that the times that they have vanished in the light the local illumination was merely coincidental. Instead I believe that their sudden disappearance has been because they had wandered into the Poppy or Wiggles, where food and drink are plentiful, and anathematic to their existence. Should you have knowledge to support or refute my theory, please seek me out.

Finally, I would wish you all a Merry Lurlenemas. Please come and participate in the Lurlenemas festivities about town and dinner at the Red Poppy generously hosted by Miss Glass. We hope you can stay for the charity Eye Ball for further festivities and to help your local townsfolk. The Eye Ball is organized in the spirit of giving to aid those whose sight has been taken from them by Ooglies, and with your contributions we are hoping to provide the victims with mechanical or magical replacements and help our deputies prevent future tragedy.

Be safe and healthy, and have a happy new year.

## Private Eyes are Watching You

By George Aleister Wright



As feared, the Ogleies were out in force this past month, causing quite a stir among the townspeople. Some have reported that herds of 3, 5, 12, and even larger were sighted roaming the nearby forests and roads. It seems that the Ogleies have indeed moved from the outlying farms into the populated centers of Stronghold's Horizon.

Mr. Cropper Root, a victim of the Ogleies a month ago, was one of the first to sound the alarm. "Their right behind me!" Mr. Root exclaimed as he banged mercilessly upon the door to the Stone Inn. "They're coming for my other eye!" he barely whispered, as the blood stain over his bandaged eye spread wildly, the exertion from running having torn the scab that had formed where his eye had been.

Mr. Root, alas, was not the only victim in town. Mr. Guard, who had lost one of his eyes to Ogleies a season ago, suffered a mental breakdown, triggered by the return of the unworldly creatures. And still another, sat quietly in Hilde Hall, having lost both her eyes to the foul beasts.

Madame Snickerdoodle, harboring one of the victims, declared that something must be done. "We must all come together and help these poor souls. A charity ball to raise money for the victims...an Eye Ball!"

Please join us at the Red Poppy Tavern in January as we raise funds for the Ogleies victims at the Charity Eye Ball.

# WIGGLIES

## Casino and Brothel

Located inside Hilde Hall.

Amenities include full bar, snacks, private rooms, music.

Casino Hours:

Fri: 11:30 PM - Close

Sat: 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Sun: Closed for cleaning



Feeling lucky? Heavy pockets?

Take a chance and roll the dice!

You could be the next big winner at Wiggles!

Brothel Hours:

Always Open for Business

Are you In Need of Companionship?

Love? Lust? Romance?

Passion?

Satisfaction guaranteed! Be serviced with a smile!

Wiggles takes pride in the variety and skill of our capable and experienced courtesans to suit your needs and fill your every desire.

We host and cater full service Bachelor and Bachelorette parties! Walk ins welcome! Schedule yours today!

WRIGHT

PUBLISHING

IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD OZIAN

TO JOIN THE NEWSPAPER

FREELANCE AND STAFF JOB AVAILABLE

## TOWN MEETING: SATURDAY, 2:00 PM

Your elected officials will be available to discuss issues plaguing the town.

- Please remember the following rules in the open forum.
- Please do not fire your weapons during the town meeting, roofing is expensive.
- Please keep your Constructs and other devices under control for the duration of the meeting. We don't want a repeat of the Great Hypnotica incident.
- Anyone found excessively intoxicated will be removed by an officer and held until sober.

### Tax Collection after town meeting

## TAXES & YOU

By Lucrezion acting officially as Town Treasurer  
 By requirement of the Emerald City and in order to assure a community chest for the medicines, foods and other items that our town so greatly needs, TAX POLICY is in effect. Each resident of Horizon Stronghold shall pay THREE BITS every tax-season. In the interest of fairness, those not eligible for full votes will pay a reduced amount: TWO BITS for partial votes, ONE BIT for those who cannot vote.

To lighten the burden, the Treasury has agreed to accept certain goods at a reasonable discount from market value. At least ONE BIT per Person must be paid in cash, for we must have coin to send to the Emerald City. Overpayment may be logged as a CREDIT against future taxes, or may be spent to help pay the taxes of others.

## Holiday Weekend Happenings in Horizon Stronghold

For those of you joining us for this Town Meeting weekend, here is a composition of fun options and events happening.

### Friday

- 10ish Dinner at the Red Poppy Tavern (TBD)
- 11-close Wiggly's Casino Hours

### Saturday

(cinnamon rolls, fruit, and bacon)

- 12-2 Market at the Stone Lodge
- 1ish Lunch at the Red Poppy Tavern (grilled cheese and tomato soup)
- 2:00 Town Meeting
- 4-7 Wiggly's Casino Hours
- 7-9 Charity Eye-Ball at the Red Poppy Tavern
- 8ish Dinner at the Red Poppy Tavern (Lurlinemas dinner)
- 10-close Wiggly's Casino Hours

### Sunday

- 8-noon Breakfast at the Red Poppy Tavern (leftovers, free for everyone)



## MISS ALIA BRACHELIA VAN DER GOLD

IS HEREBY CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE COURT OF HIS MAJESTY



## THE SQUIRREL KING UT COPIA ESSE NUCIBUS



TO STAND TRIAL.  
 ACCUSED OF FOOD CRIMES  
 AGAINST THE  
 SQUIRREL NATION,  
 VIA HER PET, PRINCESS,  
 VIA THE BLACK MARKET,  
 VIA THE ORIGINAL THIEVES.