

The Library Basement That Shouldn't Exist

Construction crews renovating the downtown public library claim they discovered a staircase that does not appear on any building plans.

"It goes down farther than it should," said one worker. "We measured it. The building doesn't have that much foundation."

The entrance has since been sealed off.

Unofficially, one crew member claims the lower level contained shelves... already filled with books.

None of the titles matched anything in the library system.

Children Report "Man in the Playground Who Doesn't Move"

Parents in the West Gate neighborhood are concerned after multiple children described the same figure at Riverside Park.

"He just stands there," said one child. "He watches but doesn't blink."

No adults have confirmed the sighting, and no cameras show anything unusual.

Police suggest "imaginative play."

Kids disagree.

Strange Green Fog Rolls Through Downtown at Dawn

Early risers reported a low-hanging green fog drifting through Main Street just before sunrise Tuesday morning. "It wasn't like normal fog," said jogger Melissa Crane. "It stayed low, like it didn't want to touch the buildings."

The mist dissipated within minutes, leaving behind a strong scent of fresh-cut grass and something faintly metallic.

City officials blamed "seasonal pollen concentration," but several witnesses claim small plants began sprouting through cracks in the pavement within hours.

Local gardeners are calling it "impossible growth."

Local Church Bell Rings Without Sound

Residents near St. Bartholomew's Church reported seeing the bell tower moving early Sunday morning.

"It was swinging like crazy," said one witness. "But there was no sound." Church officials confirmed no one accessed the tower and that the bell rope was still tied off.

A faint vibration was reportedly felt in nearby buildings, though no noise was recorded.

Delivery Driver Reports "Second Route" That Pays in Cash

A local delivery driver claims his GPS rerouted him late Friday night to a street that "isn't there during the day."

The driver reports completing three deliveries to unfamiliar houses, each occupant paying in old bills and refusing receipts.

"When I checked my app later, none of the deliveries existed," he said.

Despite that, he found \$87 in his pocket—exact change for the missing orders.

Food Truck Serves Customers Who Aren't There

The popular late-night truck **Grill & Thrill** reports taking orders from customers that don't appear on camera.

Owner Luis Martinez says it's happened four times this month.

"I hear the order, I cook it, I set it out... and it's gone," he said. "Money's always there though."

Security footage shows food disappearing—but no one taking it.

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"Possum Man" Trend Confirmed to Be Viral Hoax—Mostly

After months of sightings, officials now say many "Possum Man" encounters were part of a coordinated social media trend. However, police admit at least two incidents do not match known participants. "We're closing most of these cases," said Commissioner Taggart, "but not all." One officer reportedly refused to finish his statement after reviewing body cam footage.

Phone Booth Removed—Does Not Return

In a surprising development, the Old Market District payphone—previously known for its 11:11 p.m. calls—has been completely removed. Unlike previous attempts, it has not reappeared. City workers confirm the booth was dismantled and transported off-site. No further incidents have been reported. Some residents say that's worse.

Ashmere House Activity Returns—Now With Open Doors

The infamous Ashmere Victorian—previously known for its "Waltzing Wake" phenomenon—has escalated. This time, neighbors report the front door opening and closing repeatedly between 9:00 and 10:00 PM. No music was heard. Just footsteps. And once—laughter. The house remains unoccupied. Officially.

Mysterious Knocking Reported in Apartment Walls Citywide

Residents across multiple neighborhoods report hearing three knocks, followed by a pause... then two more. The pattern has been consistent. 3... pause... 2. No source has been identified. Some tenants claim the sound moves between walls. Others say it answers when knocked back.

Blue Lights Seen Beneath Lake Dimond

Late-night fishermen claim to have seen glowing blue lights moving beneath the surface of Lake Dimond. "It wasn't reflections," said one witness. "It was moving against the current." Wildlife officials attribute the sightings to fish activity. Witnesses insist the lights were too large—and too coordinated.

Local Athlete Claims "Something Keeps Resetting My Morning"

A Gate City runner training for a marathon claims he experienced the same morning three times in a row. "The same people, same cars, same dog barking at the same second," he said. On the third repetition, he altered his route—and the pattern stopped. Officials declined to comment.

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Silver Coins Found Scattered Across Train Tracks

Rail workers discovered dozens of old silver coins placed along a stretch of track near the rail yard. None showed signs of weathering. All dated prior to 1960. By the next morning, the coins were gone. No one reported collecting them

I Think They Missed One By DeeDee Robertson

Per Norse Mythology, it is believed by many that the frost giants, or Jotun, were eliminated by Odin and other deities of the pantheon. Well, it appears that they missed one, but not to worry, we took care of it for them.

In April, I accompanied some members of Monoc Securities to infiltrate and clear out a bunker that was inhabited by members of the Fenrir gang. Starting out, it seemed fairly on script to most movies and shows and we were making decent headway into the area. However, that all changed when the final stage of the fight came around. The gang's boss transformed into a massive frost giant, at least 8 feet tall. Jormun, Frank, and Eir reacted like this was a normal Tuesday for them and went to work knocking ice chunks off of this thing. Jeb and Vic used their abilities to greatly assist. Helping as much as they could was myself, Detective Blackwood and his wolf bullets, and Jarvis. I was unable to remain in close quarters for long because I wanted to be sure I could tell the story. From what I was told, everyone gave it their all and took down the giant with one final epic attack. Although none were left without injury, everyone was able to get the medical attention they needed to begin their recovery. Based on the celebration and cheering, the Monoc's team all received pretty big combat bonuses from their boss.

Also, be cautious walking around at night. There were a few loup garous that were being contained inside the bunker, but no bodies were discovered after the fight. Until we receive confirmation of safety, it is best to proceed with caution if you have to go out at night.

Keys to Success By DeeDee Robertson

Last month, I had the pleasure of interviewing a successful individual of Gate City and listening to some of their tips to have a fulfilling life. They have requested to remain anonymous.

The main comment they made was to remain neutral. Although helping one group will usually get you somewhere in life, if you are available to multiple people you will go much farther and have a lot fewer limitations that hold back your progress, talk to everyone that crosses your path. This person started lower on the totem pole, however, through hard work and perseverance they were able to be seen as equal among their peers. Though this did not come without issues. A regret that they have is losing touch with their children. Whether it was not being there to help them or keep them safe, or not keeping their best interest in heart, it is a regret that has plagued this individual for many years. A quote/comment that they would like to leave you with is this. "A significant and will-known philanthropist has entered the area."

Empty Lots Bloom Overnight — “Demeter Blesses You” Signs Appear Across Gate City

Vacant lots once considered eyesores are transforming into lush pockets of life across Gate City—seemingly overnight.

Over the past week, more than a dozen abandoned or unused plots have been reported as suddenly filled with rows of fruit trees, vegetable gardens, and flowering plants. Locations range from small fenced-in corners downtown to larger overgrown properties on the outskirts.

“It was dirt yesterday,” said local resident Carla Mendez, who lives near one of the lots on Wainfield Street. “This morning? Tomatoes, apple trees, even corn already halfway grown. You don’t plant that overnight.”

Even stranger, each site features a simple wooden sign posted at the edge of the lot. Burned or carved into the wood are the same words:

“Demeter Blesses You.”

No one has claimed responsibility.

City officials initially believed the gardens to be part of a guerrilla community project, but inspections revealed no signs of recent planting—no disturbed soil, no irrigation systems, and no footprints leading in or out.

Despite concerns, the produce appears safe.

Volunteers and local shelters have already begun harvesting and distributing the fruits and vegetables to those in need. Early reports indicate the food is not only fresh but unusually flavorful.

“It’s the best apple I’ve ever had,” said one shelter worker. “Like... it tastes the way apples smell.” Still, not everyone is eager to partake.

Some residents report feeling uneasy near the lots, describing a sense of being watched or “judged.” One visitor claimed the branches of a nearby tree shifted slightly as they picked fruit—despite no wind.

Others have noticed that while the gardens thrive, surrounding weeds and invasive plants have withered completely, leaving sharp, unnatural boundaries between cultivated growth and untouched land.

Local religious groups have begun leaving offerings—bread, honey, and flowers—at several of the sites.

City Commissioner Taggert issued a cautious statement:

“We encourage residents to exercise common sense. If you’re taking food from an unknown source, understand that we do not yet know how these lots were established. That said... if someone is trying to make sure people don’t go hungry, we’re not going to stand in the way without cause.”

As of now, more lots continue to appear.

And with each one, the same message stands quietly at the edge:

No one in Gate City will go hungry.

Demeter Blesses You.

Backpack Cats Linked to String of “Missing Cash” Incidents Across Gate City

Residents across Gate City are reporting a strange new trend—and this one has whiskers. Over the past two weeks, multiple witnesses have spotted cats wearing tiny backpacks moving through neighborhoods, alleyways, and even storefronts. At first, the sightings were dismissed as novelty or social media antics.

Then the money started disappearing.

“I had my tip jar out for maybe ten minutes,” said café worker Jordan Pike. “Next thing I know, this gray cat hops up, dips its head into the jar, and walks off. I thought it was cute—until I counted the cash.”

Security footage from several local businesses appears to show the same pattern: small groups of cats, each outfitted with miniature packs, entering briefly before leaving with noticeably fuller bags.

“They’re coordinated,” said one shop owner who asked to remain anonymous. “One distracts, one grabs, one watches the door. I’m not saying they’re trained, but... I’m not not saying that either.” Descriptions of the backpacks vary—some appear handmade, others more uniform—but most are snug-fitting and secured with straps around the chest. A few witnesses claim the packs emit a faint jingling sound when the cats move.

Animal control has issued a statement urging residents not to approach or attempt to capture the animals.

“We are aware of the reports,” the statement reads. “However, we have not confirmed any organized activity involving animals and theft.”

That hasn’t stopped speculation.

Some residents believe the cats belong to a coordinated prank group or viral trend. Others suggest something more deliberate—possibly even supernatural.

“It’s not just random,” said local alley caretaker “Mama Jean.” “Cats don’t work like that unless they’re choosing to. And those packs? Someone made those for a reason.”

Adding to the mystery, several people who reported stolen money later found small, unrelated items left behind—buttons, bottle caps, bits of ribbon—placed neatly where the cash had been. No one has reported harm from the encounters, but business owners are beginning to take precautions, keeping cash secured and doors closed when possible.

Still, sightings continue to increase.

And if you happen to see a cat trotting down the street with a tiny backpack slung over its shoulders—

You may want to check your pockets.

GATE CITY GOOSEBUMPS 🐾

By H. Stensvard

CATS. BACKPACKS. CASH.



IF YOU SEE A CAT WITH A BACKPACK,
CONSIDER IT A HONOR.
(AND CHECK YOUR POCKETS.)



REPORT SIGHTINGS (BUT DON'T EXPECT
A RESPONSE) TO THE GATE CITY GOOSEBUMPS
TIP LINE: 555-GOOSE (46673)

