

## New Services Added to Fall Rotary Blood Screening

The Braxton County Rotary Club, in conjunction with WVU Medicine's Braxton County Memorial Hospital has announced the dates for their Fall blood screening. The low-cost testing will again be expanded to more than the typical one-day event. The event will follow much the same format as their past two screenings to comply with COVID restrictions and reduce wait times. Plus... this year two new services will be available. Participants can have a basic panel of 35 popular blood tests for the low price of \$35. In addition, several tests can be added for a very nominal price: TSH (Thyroid) \$10, PSA (Men only) \$20, Seasonal Flu Shot \$20, Hemoglobin and A1c \$15. For the first time patients will be able to add a Vitiam D screening for just \$25. Vitamin D is essential to good bone health. Its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and neuroprotective properties support immune health, muscle function and brain cell activity. This low price represents a 75% savings over the normal cost which is not normally covered by Medicare, Medicaid or most insurances. In addition to the regular flu shot organizers will also be offering a Fluad High Dose Flu

vaccine for patients over 65 years of age. It is suggested that those eligible, discuss the difference between this and the regular flu shot with their physician. COVID vaccinations will not be administered in conjunction with the blood screening. All participants will have to pre-register and be assigned a time to have their blood drawn. Typically, this results in extremely short wait times. Up to 2 immediate family members (i.e., husband and wife) can be scheduled at the same time. This year the event will take place on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to Saturday October 15 as well as the same three days following the Saturday event. Those who find the weekdays more convenient will have their blood drawn at BCHM's old Community Health Center location between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 AM. Participants may choose from Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, October 12th, 13th, or 14th as well as October 19th, 20th, or 21st. The Saturday event will be from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Time slots need to be pre-arranged and are assigned on a first come first serve basis. Participants taking advantage

of the weed-day blood screening will have their blood drawn in the small building in front of the hospital near the main entrance. Just look for the signs. The Saturday event will be held in the former Community Health Center facility in the southern most portion of the BCMH building through the end entrance. Again, please follow the signs. When patients register, they will be assigned a time and are asked not to arrive more than five minutes before their scheduled appointment. Times will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis, so participants are encouraged to register early. A special portal is available to reserve a time slot at: <https://rotaryscreen.as.me/schedule.php> Scheduling by mail is still available. Once the application is processed the patient will be advised by telephone exactly what time has been assigned to them. Patients may also call the Citizens' News office at 304-765-5193 to register and receive a time, or the BCMH Lab at 304-364-1035. Payment can be mailed or paid at the door. Face covering will be required at all locations. Patients are reminded to fast for at least 12 hours prior to testing for accurate results.

## Sutton Beautification Project Termed Huge Success

On Monday, September 19, a gathering of several groups took place in the Town of Sutton to acknowledge and recognize efforts put forth for a beautification project at the Town's community garden. Suzanne McGown, a WVU Extension Master Gardner and member of Judy's Garden Club, Appalachian District, has been working this year with Sutton Elementary School students on the beautification project. The Sutton Community Development Council had established a community garden located at the Sutton Branch of the City National Bank and several groups dedicated their time and resources

to help develop space. The Town of Sutton, Mayors Office was represented by Robin Smith at Monday's event. Bank official, Lisa Conant was present along with City Council member, Beth Atkins. Each student was presented a certificate for their hard work. Judy's Garden Club members were also among the groups present. City National Bank has provided a community garden spot which includes garden containers, a picnic area and resting benches. The bank also provided access to water which made a huge difference in the maintenance of the project. With coordination from Suzanne McGowan, students planted

vegetables, herbs and flowers. The plants for this project were donated by Martha Cochran and Melissa Dennison. An extra shout out to two students, Laura Puckett and Kearney Maxwell, Girl Scouts members, who dedicated their time by watering and doing a bake sale to raise money for berry plants and bushes to continue this community project next year. A big thank you to Allie Rhodes, 4H Member for her efforts this summer by watering and maintaining the gardens. "We all look forward to continuing this project in the future. Thanks to all who made this project possible," said a Judy's Garden Club spokesperson.



## County to Receive Grant for New Ladder Truck

The County Commission received good news at their latest meeting last Friday, September 16. John Hoffman, County OES Director told the Commission that the Sutton Volunteer Fire Department, who made the application for the FEMA Firefighter Assistance Grant on behalf of the County, had received preliminary notification that the grant in the amount of \$1.1 million had been approved. That grant, which only requires a \$50,000 local match, will be used to purchase a new ladder truck for the county. Hoffman said that official word from federal representatives should be forthcoming. He added, that in the meantime the county Fire Chiefs would be looking for a suitable apparatus. Hoffman also requested permission to hire Philip B. Grubb as a full-time EMT/driver for the Ambulance Service. Grubb will be paid \$13.50 per hour with full county benefits and serve a 90-day probationary period. That request was approved on a motion by Larry Clifton. Hoffman also verbally discussed the 9-1-1, EMS monthly activity report and told the Commission-

ers that a hard copy of the information would be emailed later that day. Gary Beamer addressed the Commission concerning the Town of Sutton's use of the Courthouse Square for the Sutton Fall Festival on October 1. After explaining his intentions, Melvin Gum made a motion to approve the request. A motion introduced by Larry Clifton approved the short form settlements for the following as presented by the Fiduciary Supervisor: Rose Ann Dennison, Lawrence B. Dodge, Mabel J. Hall, Walkeria Joy Hudkins, Roy C. Huffman, Iva Lee Jackson, William Jackson, Barbara B. Lake, Minnie Jean Nottingham, James Earney Rollyson, Don Silbaugh, Lester C. Singleton, Rodney Allen Teters, Dana C. Wilson, Kenneth Lee Wine, and Eula D. Young. The Commission also approved the correction of erroneous assessment for Keith Criehtfield and Virgie Sands Escrow. A single purchase order was approved. The Sheriff's Tax Office will purchase a laser printer from Software Systems Inc. at a cost of \$749. Larry Clifton's motion

authorized the County Clerk's list of poll workers for the upcoming General Election. Melvin Gum made a motion to approve a resolution for the county to participate in the WV County Records Management and Preservation Grant Program. Following a brief discussion, the Commission set October 21 at 10:00 a.m. as the time and date for a hearing in the Halman Nettles estate. The Commission renewed their contract with Johnson Controls for fire alarm maintenance and testing. With two separate motions the Commission accepted the resignation of of Ronald Burroughs from the Braxton Cuntly Recreational Development Authority and to advertise for interested individuals who may wish to fill the position. The final acts of the brief session were to approve the county and EMS bills for payment and the minutes of the Commission's September 2 meeting. The next regular meeting of the Braxton County Commission will be on October 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

## Braxton Magistrate Report

Magistrate Beth Smith  
September 6: Julia H. Kwasnieski of Elkins, speeding, guilty plea, no proof of insurance, dismissed proof provided, fine/court costs assessed and paid.  
September 8: Charles L. Davis of Flatwoods, expired MVI, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Jason Scott Singleton of Burnsville, disorderly conduct, dismissed-deferred sentence, obstructing an officer, dismissed-deferred sentence, battery on officer, dismissed-deferred sentence, defendant successfully completed pre-trial diversion; Michael P. Greene of Sutton, possession of controlled substance, dismissed-deferred sentence, defendant successfully completed pre-trial diversion. Magistrate David Singleton  
September 14: Harry Jacob Hinkel, IV, of Gassaway, failure to register x2, warrant issued, bond set at \$10,000 cash or surety; Alyssa Marie Losh of Clarksburg, possession of meth, guilty plea, possession of controlled substance, dismissed per plea, conspiracy, dismissed per plea, fine/court costs assessed.  
September 15: William Ray Justice of Burnsville, driving revoked for DUI-3rd offense, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$10,000 cash or surety; Steven Howard Duffield of Ivydale, shoplifting, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 personal recognizance.  
September 16: Gregory M. Sears of Duck, cell phone violation, guilty plea, fine assessed and paid; Mackenzie Jo Wimer of Gassaway, possession of meth, guilty plea, 90 days of jail, suspended and placed on eight months unsupervised probation, fine/court costs assessed; Dustin Samuel Thompson of Exchange, no seatbelt, fine assessed and paid; Brandon R. Bonds of Wadestown, speeding, guilty plea, no proof of insurance, guilty plea, fines/court costs assessed; James R. Bocian of Fernandina, FL, speeding, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Matthew Ward Friend of Huntington, no seatbelt, no contest plea, fine assessed.  
September 17: Carrie Nicole Brown of Sutton, assault x2, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$600 cash or surety.  
September 19: Ronny

Lawrence Brady of Flatwoods, DUI, warrantless arrest, bond set at \$3000 cash, surety, or 10% to the court; Shandi Lee Tinney of Frametown, domestic battery, warrant issued, bond set \$1500 personal recognizance; Derek Wayne Rose of Little Birch, driving suspended-general, no contest plea, fine/court costs assessed; Austin Levi Johnson of Chapmanville, possession of controlled substance, guilty plea, shoplifting, guilty plea, fine/court costs assessed and paid.  
September 20: Lucas E. Jones of Gassaway, domestic battery, warrant issued, bond set \$1500 personal recognizance; James Denver Criner of Frametown, petit larceny, conspiracy, warrant issued, bond set at \$5000 personal recognizance; John William Moore of Duck, expired MVI, dismissed proof provided, no proof of insurance, dismissed proof provided; Keith Meadows of Rosedale, trespassing asked to leave, warrant issued, bond set at \$1500 cash or surety; Dusten Brice Stewart of Sutton, no proof of insurance, guilty plea, fine/court costs assessed.

## County Rt. 2, Copen Road, to Close September 6-30

The Weston District of the Division of Highways reminds motorists that Braxton County, Route 2 (Copen Road) will be closed daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6, and anticipated through Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. The affected area is 11 miles west of

the intersection of WV 5 (Gem Road). The work is necessary to perform slip repair. Motorists should plan ahead and allow additional time for their commute or choose an alternate route, if possible. Local traffic may travel WV 5 from Burnsville to-

wards Sand Fork, then South on County Route 44 and County Route 2 to Copen. Inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances could extend the completion date.





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# Obituaries

## James Edward “Butch” Michael

James Edward “Butch” Michael, 72, of Morgantown, passed away Saturday, September 17, 2022 at his home surrounded by his loving family from medical complications. Butch was born in Fairmont on August 13, 1950 to the late James Lee and Laura Collier Michael.

Butch had been employed as a truck driver and was a former coal miner. Butch had a variety of hobbies. He enjoyed woodworking, knife making, metal detecting and shine making. He always enjoyed working on his farm and lately had taken up the hobby of curing and smoking various Italian meats.

Butch is survived by his wife, Marilyn “Jaye” Steorts Michael, daughters, Billie Sue (Jerry) Vance of Morgantown, Jamie Lee (Kevin) Ellis of North Carolina and Jo Clair (Tim) Morgan of Fairmont; son, James “Paul” Michael (Jacoba) of Sutton; grandchildren, Clay Murray, Josi Murray, Allie Morgan, Myla Morgan, Carly Morgan, Delilah Michael and Sterling Michael; step-grandchildren, Jeremy Vance (Amber), Trey Vance (Ari), and Tori Vance: his former wife, Clara Anderson Michael of Morgantown; sister, Nora Lee (Mike) Simcoe of Morgantown; father-in-law, Rodney E. (Wanda) Steorts; and brother-in-law, Rodney E. (Judy) Steorts II.

In addition to his parents, Butch is preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Margaret Ellebrecht.

Friends may gather at McCulla Funeral Home 770 Fairmont Road on Friday, September 23, 2022 from 4pm until the 7pm funeral service with Sean Walters officiating. Interment will be at 11 am on Saturday at the Sutton Cemetery in Sutton, WV.

In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to the Snider United Methodist Church c/o Gloria Rowan 116 Hidden Valley Road Morgantown, WV 26501. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.McCulla.com](http://www.McCulla.com).

## Dr. Alfred Taylor “Al” Billips

Dr. Alfred Taylor “Al” Billips, 85 of Glenville, WV; departed this earthly life in the morning hours of Monday, September 12, 2022 at his residence with his loving wife and daughter by his side.

He was born June 7, 1937 in Harlan, KY; son of the late Alfred and Hazel McKnight Billips.

Al is a graduate of East Knoxville High School, class of 1955. He obtained his Master’s degree in divinity from Emory University and his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Georgia. Al worked for Glenville State University for many years as the Dean of Student Affairs, having retired in 1999 with 34 years’ experience.

Al is a very proud member of the Boy Scout of America, having been a Boy Scout leader for many years and a longtime member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Glenville. In his spare time, Al enjoyed fishing, gardening, spending time

with family and friends, and spoiling his grandchildren whenever possible.

On June 17, 1962 Al was united in marriage to Bennie Kay Murphy Billips, who survives at their Glenville home.

Surviving are 3 children, Patricia Kay Bash and husband Freddie of Glenville, Linda Yapundich and husband Robert of Hickory, NC; and Alan Billips and wife Debbie of Jeffersonville, KY; 4 grandchildren, Rachel Harper and husband Sam, Morgan, Kayee, and Nick Yapundich, and 4 great-grandchildren, Benjamin and Madelyn Harper and James and Luke Wagers.

Also surviving are a host of church family and many other wonderful family and friends.

Along with his parents, Al is preceded in death by his sister, Betty Jo Billips.

A graveside service was conducted at the Meadow Lane Cemetery, WV Hwy 5 West of Glenville at 11:00 AM; Friday, September 16, 2022 with Rev. Mike Ford officiating.

Following graveside services a meal was prepared in Al’s honor at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Main Street in Glenville. All were encouraged to come and share in food and fellowship.

Ellyson Mortuary, Inc., is honored to assist the family of Dr. Alfred Taylor “Al” Billips with arrangements.

## John Stephen Baker

John Stephen Baker, 54, of Gassaway, West Virginia passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

John was born in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania on December 29, 1967 to the late Arthur William Baker and Dorothea Mildred Breuer Baker.

John was the youngest of eight children. He graduated from Wellsboro Senior High in 1986. Most recently, he was a professional driver who transported clients to their supervised visitations. Before that, John worked at Braxton County Memorial Hospital for 14 years in the Housekeeping Department. He took much pride in his work.

John was a Philadelphia Eagles superfan, enjoyed working with his model trains, and spent much time growing his coin collection. John was a fantastic uncle who loved all his nieces and nephews. Watching his nephew Adam Smith play football was one of the greatest joys of his life. Before he passed away, John also loved watching his great niece, Jane, and great nephews, Noah and Emmett, while their parents worked. His entire family will deeply miss making new memories with him.

John is survived by his brothers, William Baker and Arthur Robert Baker; sisters, Kathleen Talada, Brenda Badmone, Johanna Shelmire, Dorothea Shuster, and Alice Smith; nieces and nephews; and several great nieces and nephews. John lived with his sister Alice, her husband Stephen Smith, and her children Elyse Kopp, James Dwight Pierson, Shyloh Lusk, Hannah Mireles, and Adam Smith

for many years.

John was cremated and a gathering of family of friends will begin at 5:30 P.M. Friday, September 23, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway.

A Celebration of Life Service will be 6 P.M. Friday, September 23rd at the funeral home.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at [www.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway, WV.

## Anetta F. Marks

Anetta F. Marks, 67, of Gassaway, passed away on Friday, September 16, 2022 at Braxton County Memorial Hospital.

She was born in Sutton on September 26, 1954 to the late Arlie and Nellie Ruth Stump Rollyson.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Camden “Cam” Marks; brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Ruby Rollyson; and nephew, Jeffrey Rollyson.

Anetta graduated from high school and had a long wonderful work career. She was employed by SuperX/Revco for 20 years. She also worked the service desk at Wal-Mart. She also was a caregiver for others. She was a gardener who enjoyed cooking and baking. She loved collecting and carrying purses. She would often go yardsale-ing. She cared deeply for her dogs. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She will be missed.

She will be forever remembered by her sons, Anthony Marks (special friend, Amanda Daniels-Marks) of Victor, Lucas Marks (Betsy) of Gassaway, Jesse Marks (Kalle Bragg) of Gassaway; sister, Sarah Gibson (Rick) of Strange Creek; brother Dorsel Rollyson (Carol) of Gassaway; nine grandchildren; and special cousin, Sharon Dollison.

Anetta’s funeral will be 1 P.M. Thursday, September 22, 2022 at Roach Funeral Home, Gassaway. Burial will follow in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Gassaway.

Her visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to Braxton County Animal Shelter, 10 Animal Shelter Lane, Sutton, WV 26601.

Words of comfort and fond memories may be extended to the family at [www.roachfuneralhome.com](http://www.roachfuneralhome.com).

## Rosco “Hammerman” Stump

Rosco “Hammerman” Stump, 77, of Petersburg, WV, passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, in Oakland, MD.

Born October 19, 1944, in Normantown, WV, he was the son of the late Andy B. Stump and Nellie (Greenleaf) Stump. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Janette Marie (Cottrill) Stump; two brothers, Leonard and Ferris Stump; two sisters, Drusilla James and Helen Jenkins; and one great-grandson, Matthew VanMeter.

He was a truck driver for a trucking company.

Surviving are one

daughter, Patricia Lahman of Weirton, WV; five sisters, Bessie Heather, Burnsville, WV, Anna Mae Carpenter, Gassaway, WV, Odie Jenkins, Gassaway, Ruth Givins, Frametown, WV, and Rachel Pauline, North Carolina; three brothers, Charles Edward, Wilsey, WV, Russell Stump, Chapel, WV, and Henry Stump, Gassaway; as well as six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Rosco will be cremated and no services are planned at this time.

Newman Funeral Homes, P.A is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.

Condolences may be left for his family at [www.newmanfuneralhomes.com](http://www.newmanfuneralhomes.com).

## James Camden Hamner

James Camden Hamner, 79, of Sutton, passed away on Sunday, September 11, 2022 at Braxton Memorial Hospital, Gassaway.

He was born January 5, 1943 in Sutton, WV to the late Alvie Burl & Lula Pearl Blankenship Hamner. Also preceding him in death are his sisters, Margaret Frick, Irene Beamer, Joetta Groff, Annamae Wolfgang, Beatrice Allen, Catherine Wade, Mary Harper; brothers, Burton Hamner, Jack Hamner.

James was a farmer and loved to deer hunt and loved his dog.

He is survived by his sisters, Alice Williams of Gassaway, Peggy Hamner of Newville. He is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held 1:00 pm, Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at Greene-Robertson Funeral Home, Sutton with Pastor Eric Veltre officiating. Burial followed at Newville Cemetery, Newville, WV. Friends called 6 to 8 pm, Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at the funeral home.

Greene-Robertson Funeral Home is humbled to be serving the Hamner family.

Online condolences may be sent to: [greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com](http://greene-robertsonfuneralhome.com)

## Roylee Brady

Roylee Brady, 72, of Webster Springs passed away on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at CAMC Memorial Hospital in Charleston.

Born June 5, 1950 at home in Laurel Fork, he was the son of the late Calvin and Marelean (Cogar) Brady, Jr.

Roy was a mechanic and enjoyed working on and trading cars. He also enjoyed being in the woods, fishing, and hunting. He had a giving heart and always helped those in need. He would give his shirt off of his back to anyone that needed it. But, most of all, he loved his family. He was a very loving father and a wonderful grandfather.

Left to cherish his memory are his children: Christopher Brady, and Christine (husband, Jerry) Hamrick, all of Webster Springs; grandchildren: Shalton (wife, Lacy) Hamrick, Corey (wife, Lillian) Hamrick, and Tyler Hamrick; great-grandchildren: Damian, Tristan, Mason, and Kinsley Hamrick; siblings: Martha (husband, Benny) Rexroad, Olive Rexroad, Kathy Burr, and Mike (wife, Darlene) Brady; and a host of other relatives and friends to

mourn his passing.

Friends joined the family for a visitation 6-9pm, Thursday, September 15, 2022 at Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Webster Springs.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the funeral home to assist the family with final expenses.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.doddreedfh.com](http://www.doddreedfh.com)

Dodd & Reed Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Brady family.

## Fall Rummage Sale

The Burnsville United Methodist Charge will host a fall Rummage and Bake Sale Friday & Saturday, October 7 & 8. The sale will be open from 9 am til 5 pm each day.

Concessions and homemade baked goods will be sold from the basement of the Methodist Church.

We are accepting donations of new or gently used items that can be

brought to the church.

We ask that you make arrangements to bring them by when someone can receive them and take inside.

Come out and browse the tables that will be full of a variety of wares - books, cups, candles, clothes, dishes, pots, pans, shoes, tools, decorations, toys, and much more.

## CWVRC open show

The Central WV Riding Club will be holding its open show Saturday, September 24 at Holly Gray Park in Sutton.

The show starts at 5:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy the evening and cheer on your favorite rider.

## Veteran’s Day Parade

Central West Virginia Aging Services and C.A.R.E., Inc. is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Annual Veteran’s Day Parade and Reception this year.

We are currently looking for participants for the Annual Veteran’s

Day parade which will be held in Gassaway on Friday November 11th.

If you or your organization would be interested in participating, please contact Shelly by calling (304)765-3271 or e-mailing [sflint@frontier.com](mailto:sflint@frontier.com)

## Mountain Makers in the Park

Mountain Makers in the Park will be held on Friday, September 30, 12pm-7pm, & Saturday, October 1, 10am-6pm at the Nicholas County Veterans’ Memorial Park in Summersville.

Handmade crafts and

food vendors. Free Admission. Shop local and support local artists. Contact Mandi at 304-860-9739, [mandi@g2handwerker.com](mailto:mandi@g2handwerker.com) or Sally Stover at 304-872-3552, [veteransmemorialpark@frontier.com](http://veteransmemorialpark@frontier.com).

## Lanty and Della Facemire Family Reunion

Lanty and Della Facemire Family Reunion September 24th at 1:00 P.M. at the Flatwoods

Community Building. Friends and family welcome. Bring a covered dish.


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LEGAL NOTICES

Braxton Democrat-Central  
Thursday, September 22, 2022



**LETTERS OF INTEREST SOLICITED**  
Pursuant to H.B. 4630 passed on March 6, 2012, the Braxton County Commission is soliciting an individual who has a sincere interest in serving on the Braxton County Recreational Development Authority Board. Currently, a vacancy exists on

said Board for a term of five (5) years and "that no more than two (2) of these members represent any one magisterial district located within Braxton County." If interested for consideration, please submit a letter of interest detailing background information, and a brief summary of why applicant would like to

serve. Submit letter of Interest to the Braxton County Commission, Post Office Box 486, Sutton, West Virginia 26601. Letters of Interest must be postmarked, and/or received by 4:00 p.m., EST, September 30, 2022. EOE

9-20 9-27b

Burnsville Town Council holds August meeting

The Burnsville Town Council held a meeting on August 29. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Mayor, Paul Bragg. Members in Attendance: Steve Wine, Tom Crutchfield, Becky Jackson, Paul Bragg and Angela Morgan. Absent: John Verton and Kisha Verton.

Citizens in Attendance: Jill Cooper and Jake Glance.

Employees in Attendance: Matt Kesling.

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes and financials, seconded by Becky, motion carried.

Police Officer Report was submitted.

Under Communications from the Mayor, the following items were discussed: WV State Auditor, re: IRP/Public Utilities; WV State Auditor, re: Audit Procurement; WV State Treasurer, re: Video Lottery, Table Games & Greenbrier Games; WV Economic Development, re: LWCF Grants; Braxton Co. Sheriff, re: Property Taxes; WV State Treasurer, re: Statement of Account; Application from

Michael Morris; and Application from Nathan Lanham.

Steve made a motion to appoint Jill Cooper as Municipal Judge, seconded by Tom, motion carried. She was sworn in by the Mayor. The USDA Grant was approved for the mini dump truck at 75% of cost. Steve made a motion to adopt the USDA Assurance Agreement, USDA forms AD-1047, AD-1049 & 442-7, seconded by Becky, motion carried. Steve made a motion to open a bank account titled "Project Account" for the town's share of \$6400.00, seconded by Becky, motion carried. Steve made a motion to pay half of the cost of the sewer repair on Church St., seconded by Becky, motion carried with 3 yea's and one nay. Steve made a motion to purchase the property on N. Main St. where the lift station is from Clarence Taylor in the amount of \$2,000.00, seconded by Tom, motion carried.

Jake Glance from American Water ex-

plained what the process would entail if the town sold the utility. Steve made a motion to approve to Data Max as a collection agency for unpaid citations, seconded by Tom, motion carried. Steve made a motion to procure an Engineer for the purpose of the FEMA grant, seconded by Becky, motion carried. Steve made a motion to approve the purchase of bollards for the Veteran's Memorial, seconded by Tom, motion carried. Council set the date for Trick or Treat for October 29th and the Christmas Parade for December 10th. Steve made a motion to approve the purchase of a pallet of black top, seconded by Tom, motion carried. Applications that were received were reviewed with no action.

Becky made a motion to approve the payment of bills as submitted, seconded by Tom, motion carried.

Becky made a motion to adjourn at 7:54pm, meeting adjourned.

Middle school varsity soccer team had two wins, one loss

After losing to Webster in their first game last week, the Knights' soccer team won games against Phillip Barbour and Ravenswood later in the week. The junior varsity lost their only game.

Playing at Webster on Monday, Sept. 12, Braxton was shut out 5-0. In goal, Josh Anderson had three saves, and Blaine Hines had nine. Braxton's shots at goal came from Hines, Zack McQuain, and Joal Ransbottom.

Coach Lindsay Casto commented that the team, "learning from the loss, practiced hard on Tuesday." That practice obviously paid off. Wednesday the Braxton varsity squad outscored Phillip Barbour 4-2. Shots at goal came from Anderson, Cassidy Coyer, McQuain, Ransbottom, and Makenna Robinson. McQuain scored three of Braxton's goals, and Ransbottom added the fourth. Goalie Hines had 8 saves and Anderson 2.

The Knights' coach called a shout out to her mid defense "for working hard and keeping the ball on our side of the field." Honorable mention went to Robinson and Mallory Daniels. "They worked mid defense and never non-stop and did not slow down once during the game," the coach said.

The BCMS junior varsity lost 8-0 to Phillip Barbour's jv. Joseph McCallum had 10 saves In that game. Coach Casto praised her jv team for their efforts. "With a player short, they had no subs and had to play the full game. They showed dedication and hustle and did not stop until the very end," she said. Junior varsity player Madison Hawkins was taken out of the game because of an injury.

Last Saturday, the varsity team, along with Lloyd, Bella Rollyson, and Zoey McQuain won 3-2 over

Ravenswood in a home game. Scoring for the Knights were Hines, McQuain, and Lloyd. Shots at goal came from Coyer, Hines, McQuain, Ransbottom, Robinson, Lloyd, and Madison Singleton. At goal, Anderson had 11 saves. Hines had three.

In that win, the coach noted, "The offense worked together and assisted each other with their shots at goal. Shout out to the back D, which included Tanner Rader,

Kaylee Casto, Lance Henline, and Zoey McQuain for working together and holding strong against some powerful kicks that were created by the Ravenswood goalie. Honorable mention would be Cassidy Coyer for being put in any spot on the field and rolling with it."

Braxton will host Phillip Barbour Saturday. The varsity game is set to begin at 3 p.m., and the junior varsity game will follow.



Josh Anderson, goalie for the Knights, had eleven saves against Ravenswood.



Joal Ransbottom works the ball around a Ravenswood player.



Mallory Daniels moves the ball out of Knight territory.

Summer and Fall Picnics

By: Jeanette Riffle

Several people have told me that they enjoy reading my stories of the good ole days. I was going through a tote bag of real old magazines and hard copy stories that I have written and kept. I got an idea of something to write about. Sometimes it is hard to come up with something every week and I was glad that my friend, Susie Cook, gave me some stories last week of her memories. Anyway, I have a lot of stories of the picnics we went on when I was growing up back in the 1940's and 50's. My dad was always doing things on the spur of the moment and he would have Mom get some things together for a cook out at the wide spot of Bear Fork where there was a picnic table with benches. The 4-H picnic area had a homemade grill and a barrel there for trash. There was wood and Dad took matches for a fire to cook what he called "Larp." Mom fried bacon until crisp and then removed it to a plate. She washed and peeled potatoes from our cellar, peeled and chopped one of our onions, and

fried those in the bacon grease in a big cast iron skillet. You scramble eggs through everything at the last when the rest gets done. Salt and pepper everything. We have had the same thing over in Ohio in Amish country and it was listed as German Fries on the menu. Theirs had chopped green peppers, mushrooms, and meat of your choice along with the potatoes and onions. They put melted cheese on top. I fix it like that here, sometimes. I also slice fry squash in mine.

Mom took newspapers to line the table and benches with, for us to have a clean surface to eat and to sit on. Dad always went to a country store and bought cookies, Kool Aid, paper plates and cups. Mom filled a picnic jug with Kool Aid before we left out. She took soap, wet wash clothes and a towel for us to wash up before and after we ate. That was a lot of work on her but everything tasted so good cooked over a wood fire and out in the fresh air like that. I remember a chocolate covered marshmallow cookie that Dad called "wagon wheels" and an

anise cookie with either white or pink icing. That was an enjoyable outing and not far from home. The weekend trips were to state parks like Holly River, WV

Wildlife Center and one time we went to Hellvisha, a town near Davis. Dad stopped at a cheese shop on the way home and got some Lindbergher, a German cheese that smells awful. My youngest bother was asleep in the back seat, leaning against me, and he smelled that cheese and woke up. He asked me what the name of that town was back there. I told him it was, "Hellvisha." He said, "It smells like it."

Mom got so tickled she forgot about being mad at Dad for bringing such a rotten smelling cheese in the car for us to have to smell on a hot summer day.

Until next time, everyone be safe. We aren't hearing of so many cases of those evil viruses now, but we hear of people falling and getting hurt. Please focus and walk slow. Be careful and always be looking for something to grab hold of. Take care and God bless!

Fun Fun Fun

Larry Knight

Folks the word is out Bobby Moore is having another shoot October 2/22 if it dont rain. To get to the location of the shoot a person has to cross a creek in a vehicle. Too much water and no shoot. This is hopefully not going to change. A shooter a brave shooter that is need only to bring along his or her favorite 22 rifle and the ammo that it likes the best and join in the fun. At 100 pm or near that time the gong will be sounded saying the time has come for the shooting to start. First a shooter has got to register for the event. Get a number then sit back and grin. Tell a good hunting story or two and everything is starting to fall into place.

Just recently I had a

party at my place. There were in attendance #1professor Mr Tommy Rollyson. #2professor Mr Bobby Moore and to round out the crew Mr David Fisher and of course my self. The party is what is known as a wood splitting party. The crew done an exellent job splitting the wood I might even let them soak up some of the heat from the wood this winter. My wood stove will put a person to sleep quickly on a cold winter day. Folks the time to collect firewood is now before cold weather sets in. Having too much firewood has never been a problem for me. When winter starts a person never knows when it will end. A bad winter has been predicted to come upon us so be prepared. There may be

Two Moths

By: Joseph J. Mazzella

My Mom would have been 85 years old this year if she had lived. She gave birth to me 3 weeks after her 30th birthday but passed away when she was only 55. It was heartbreaking losing her when I was only 25 years old. I felt like I had just started to grow up and get to know Mom as a real person and not just a mother. I had hoped for many years of loving friendship with her but it was not to be.

Now I am the same age that she was when

she died. Her grandchildren are all grown adults. Thirty years have passed but at times it still feels like yesterday that she was with us. I remember that I hated not having her here to watch her grandchildren grow up. I used to tell my daughter that her grandma was still watching over her from Heaven and perhaps her spirit was even catching a ride on a butterfly's wing to watch her up close. And it seems like every time I said it too a butterfly would float by us and circle around before flying away. Then

Stalnaker Reunion

The 74th Stalnaker Reunion was held on September 4 at the Corley Church Pavilion.

The family had a great day to visit with everyone. The rain held off until everyone was ready to leave. We had some wonderful food and nice gifts.

Those attending were Jim and Linda Wilson and Susie Perkins from Webster Springs, Mary Lynn Buckhannon, Cire and Semay Drew, Lauren Snider, Rayrne King, Adrianna Ankins, Ceaira and Oaklyn Pennington all from Sutton, Jim, Dottie, Lana, Addison and Jolene Burns from Heaters, Kay Clifton

and Don Wilhelm from Salem, Candy Wheeler from Mt. Clare., Jade and Geagia Aman, Jodi Burris and Astro Russel from Clarksburg, Keith and Beth Stalnaker from Knoxville, TN.

Thankful to be able to get together once again. A big thank you to Vickie Tonkins for helping us use the church pavilion. And thankful for the church members allowing us to use it.

We will be working on our 75th reunion next year. Mark your calendar and plan to join together once again. Every year our family gets smaller. God bless everyone until we meet again.

we would laugh and our hearts would be filled with love.

This year I noticed my Mom's birthday on the calendar. I still wrote it down every year even though I never forgot it. I wondered if I might see a butterfly that day to once again remind me that she was watching over me with love. It was still dark on her birthday as I leashed up my dogs for their morning walk. I flicked the porch light on and walked outside. As soon as my pups finished doing their business we walked back in. As I closed the door, however, two moths fluttered into the house and flew around my head. I smiled and thanked Mom for not even waiting until the sun was up to remind me that I was watched over and loved. I gently caught the two moths and released them back outside with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.

Always keep your heart and mind open to messages of love from above. God, the angels, and our passed loved ones all love us and are watching over us. And the reminders of their love are all around us. We just need to recognize them, even when they are a couple of moths.



# Knights shut out Spencer for first win of the season

In their home opener, the BCMS football squad defeated Spencer 38-0 last Thursday night. This was the Knights' first win of the season. Coach James King summarized reasons for the win. "Our defense played better this week, and our offense played much better. Another factor was Spencer's youth. They had a couple of chances to score but couldn't get the ball into the end zone," he said.

The coach noted that the game "started off with a bang." On Braxton's second play from scrimmage, Ryan Stalnaker scored on a 60-yard run. The conversion attempt failed, but his team led 6-0 two minutes into the game.

Another big play for the Knights followed the opening touchdown. On



Braedan Godfrey keeps possession of the ball for the Eagles.

the ensuing kickoff, Aidan Pritt kicked the ball into the end zone putting Spencer on the 20-yard line to start their possession. On their first snap, the ball sailed over the quarterback's head and went into the end zone. Logan Pritt fell on the ball for the TD. Braxton

led 12-0.

The first play of the second quarter, Logan Payne added another touchdown, this one from 16 yards out. Coach King explained that Payne's touchdown was followed by "several mistakes by both teams which took up most of the second quarter." Just before halftime, the Knights scored again on Braeden Godfrey's 24-yard pass to Stalnaker. Remington



The Braxton County Middle School cheer leaders welcome the Knights to the field at the start of the game.

Huffman ran the ball for the 2-point conversion, and the Knights went into halftime up 26-0.

In third-quarter action, Hunter Short added six points to the Knights' score on a six-yard run. The rest of the third and most of the fourth quarter saw several changes

of possession with no results, but late in the game, Jackson Lewis put Braxton's lead to 38-0, the final score of the game, on a six-yard run.

Although happy with the win, Coach King pointed out that his players "are still making mistakes" and said, "We still

have a lot of work to do." The coach is looking toward the team's second home game, this one against Calhoun, tonight. He anticipates a tough match, especially since Calhoun defeated George Washington Middle School (of Putnam County).



Logan Payne looks for the seam to move the ball.



Hunter Short and Landon Hart bring down a spencer player.



Trevor Edgerton with the tackle for the Eagles. Photos courtesy of Janet Six.

# BCMS girls take second place in both their races last week

The Knights ran in two 3-K meets last week, and Braxton's girls finished second in both. Their first outing took them to the Big Ditch Invitational where Mackinzey Anderson led the Lady Knights. In Braxton's No Excuse Invitational Saturday, Leah Payne led the team.

Five of Braxton's girls placed in the top 15 in the Big Ditch race. Following Anderson, who finished the race at 13:20 for first place, Reece Carpenter finished fifth at 13:35, and Leah Payne had a close sixth at 13:38. Chelsea Payne came in 13th, and

Audrey Duckworth finished 15th. Payne's time was 14:45, and Duckworth's 15:18. This race included 58 girls.

Holden Lloyd paced the Braxton boys in the Big Ditch Race. Lloyd placed 10th with a time of 12:48.2. Ira Ransbottom finished 12th at 12:55.9, and Joal Ransbottom crossed the finish line at 13:02.4 for 13th. Then came Jamie Spurlock, 21st at 14:01.3; Raidyn Davis, 25th at 15:08.7; Noah Spaulding, 26th at 15:22.3, and Brody Davis, 37th at 12:43.6. Forty-eight boys ran in the race.

As with Tuesday's race,

the Lady Knights performed well at the No Excuses Braxton Invitational last Saturday with Payne leading the way. Payne, with a time of 15:13.3, finished second in the race. Once again, the Lady Knights had five runners in the top 15. Anderson placed 6th at 14:47.7, and Carpenter was eighth at 15:51.5. Chelsea Payne crossed the finish line at 17:06.9 for 13th, and Duckworth finished at

17:20.3 for 15th place. Emily Whitney finished 38th with a time of 21:44.7.

For the boys, who finished fifth as a team, Ira Ransbottom led the team. His time was 14:39.7. Next came Joal Ransbottom, 15th at 14:52.0 and Holden Lloyd, 18th at 15:12.6. Jamie Spurlock's time of 1:10. 4 gave him 28th, and Noah Spaulding finished 31st at 17:54.6.

Speaking about the

Braxton meet, Coach Robert Lloyd said, "With this being our home meet, you could tell that everyone was pushing hard to achieve their personal goals and to win as a team." He added, "Our kids take pride in training on our course. We have a hill they call "KILL HILL," which is definitely difficult. We heard middle schoolers saying that it was a great course, and we heard high schoolers saying that it was a difficult course. All in all, though, it went pretty well this past weekend. I would

like to thank all the parents that helped with concessions, trash, parking, etc. Without them, it would be hard to have a home meet for our kids."

Coach went on to observe, "This is pretty much our mid-season now. I have both girls and boys finally reaching their potential or recognizing their potential. It feels good to know that we have not yet peaked before championships arrive in October. We just need to keep striving to get better, and everything will fall into place."



BCMS Knights



BCMS Lady Knights



Reece Carpenter finished fifth at 13:35 at the Big Ditch Invitational.



Mackinzey Anderson led the Lady Knights with a time of 13:20 at the Big Ditch Invitational.



Ira Ransbottom finished the Big Ditch Invitational in 12th at 12:55.9



Holden Lloyd paced the Braxton boys in the Big Ditch Race with a time of 12:48.2.



Joal Ransbottom crossed the finish line at 13:02.4 for 13th.



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# BCMS volleyball team shows strong progress during week

Spencer defeated the Lady Knights in a volleyball match played a week ago. Braxton won the first set 25-17, but Spencer took the next two, 25-18 and 25-10. Knights' coach Leigh Copen commended Cadie Browning and Lillie Copen as the standout players of the week for "both showing that they have killer serves." She added, "Cadie served seven straight serves in a row, and Lillie served eight in a row. They of course could not do it without their teammates, but both girls were on fire!"

Addressing the problems, the team is apparently facing, Coach Copen explained how they are trying to improve. She said, "After some practices and talks, the girls and their coaches have decided to start each play with the attitude of Focus and Fix It. The girls have been told that each play moves differently, and they need to focus on things in that play and fix the problems that come with that play right then and there."

Tuesday night, Sept. 20, the Lady Knights faced George Washington and Midland Trail middle schools in a tri-match played at the high school.

The Knights first went up against George Washington Middle (of Putnam County). This was the second time this season they had faced GW. Although they lost again, Coach Leigh Copen said they did much better this time. "Even though the Knights lost both sets to GW Tuesday, the score was tight, and the playing was fierce," she said. The score of the first set was 21-25 and the second was 15-25.

Coach Copen noted that her team was obviously disappointed with the loss but said they did not let that disappointment "get them down." The coach commented, "They stepped up as a team and pulled out an extremely exciting win against Midland Trail. Both teams played great, but the first set went to the Knights 25-21." After the Knights had won the first set, Midland Trail came back to win the second 26-24 to put the game into a third set for the tie-breaker.

"To say it was the most nerve-wracking game I have ever seen would be an understatement," Coach Copen declared. "I have never been more proud of how my girls have Focused and Fixed the problem." The tie-breaker set went back and forth and lasted at least 20 minutes. The result was that the final score was over the 25 points it takes to win a set. The teams played to 32-30 for the final score.

The Braxton coach explained she could not pick an outstanding player for the games Tuesday night because "there were so many great things that happened." She said that Aubrey Hines "brought the team back by serving 14 points in a row, laying the smack down with a bunch of spikes and kills." Then she named "Lilly Copen with spikes, digs, and sets, Lyla Keener with sets, digs, and a positive leadership the girls needed when down, Adrianna Adkins leading the team In Aces last night and her killer serves, Nivaeh Flint and Cadie Browning digging, passing and being everywhere they were needed."

The coach continued with "And last but not



Lil Copen overhand passes the ball to a team mate during the game against George Washington.



Cadie Browning sets up to spike the ball back over the net for the Lady Knights.



Adrianna Adkins gets the ball over the net.



Brynne Davis passes the ball to another Lady Knight. Photos by Janet Six

least Brynne Davis playing her first ever varsity game as our Libero! She did a great job keeping the other team on their toes and subbing in where the team needed it most. Every player did

their jobs, and I am super proud of them." Monday, September 26, the Knights will travel to Ravenswood. They go to Clay Tuesday and to Midland Trail Thursday. All games start at 6 p.m.

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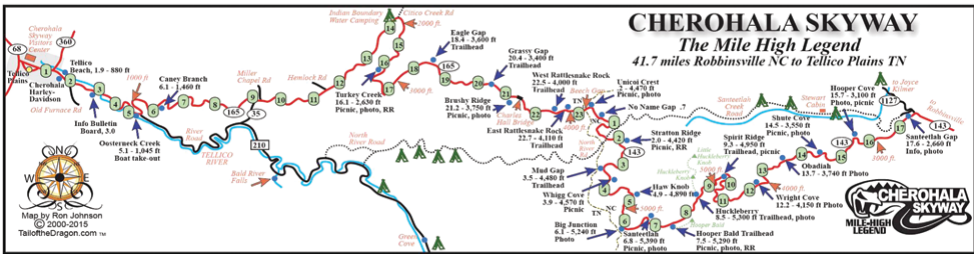
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# Why I Ride

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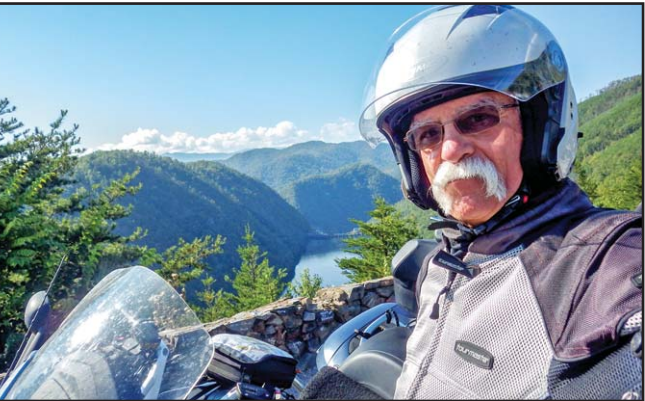


The Cherohala Skyway map.



Drone picture of the Cherohala Skyway's awesome scenery. Thank you to whoever took it.

## The Tail of the Dragon and the Cherohala Skyway-Must do rides



The views along the Tail of the Dragon are just beautiful.

The Tail of the Dragon begins at Deals Gap on the Tennessee/North Carolina border, in the eastern part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is respected by many as one of the world's leading motorcycling and sports car touring roads. The Dragon has been a set for a few movies. The first was Thunder Road, in 1958, starring Robert Mitchum. In 1993 Harrison Ford jumped from the Cheoah Dam near the Dragon in the movie The Fugitive. In

the 1999 movie Dreams, Annette Bening crashes her BMW off the Cheoah Dam, and Robert Downey Jr. chases Bening across the Calderwood Dam, which is visible from the Dragon. In 1971, the cult classic Two Lane Blacktop, starring James Taylor, Warren Oates, Laurie Bird, and Dennis Wilson, about a cross country trip turned race was also shot at the Dragon, at a time when the road was not much more than a desolate mountain crossing used mostly by

hunters, anglers, and lost tourists.

The Tail of the Dragon is a twisty, curvy, challenging road of 318 curves, hairpins, and double backs of varying degrees in just eleven miles of US 129. While the scenery is breathtaking, be advised that the Dragon IS NOT A ROAD TO SIGHTSEE!! In addition to the attention demanding road, you might have to deal with fallen trees and rocks, bears, turkeys, deer, wild boar, and of course, other riders and drivers. Use the pullouts along the ride to photograph and absorb the beauty of the place, as well as the experienced riders and drivers that use the road to show their stuff. You will briefly see some riders buzz by you at blinding speeds on their Ducatis and other sports bikes. Many of the curves are banked like a racetrack and some are way off camber, as well as some curves

Thursday, September 22, 2022, The Braxton Democrat-Central

decrease in radius as you go. The principal factor to remember is safety. People die and get hurt on the Dragon almost every year. Know your limitations and ability. The speed limit is mostly 30 MPH, except where it's not. The Dragon is not for the faint-hearted rider. They say it takes 30 minutes to ride the Dragon. Don't count on it. Several photography outfits will be set up along strategic spots on the road to take pictures of your ride. Get a couple of pictures. I guarantee you they will be some of the best pictures of you riding your bike you'll ever see. A couple of my pictures are here somewhere.

I have a few suggestions; Make the Dragon and Cherohala Skyway a 2-night trip. You travel to the area one day and hit the Dragon and Cherohala early the next. In addition, you can leave all your stuff in the hotel, including your passenger LOL! Then you get a good night's sleep after the rides, if you can, and move on the next day. There's plenty to do near the Dragon. It's close to the Fontana Dam, Pigeon Forge, TN (home of Dollywood, 'nuff said) and the Titanic Museum, Sevierville, home of the Smoky Mountain Knife Works, largest knife store in the U. S., and Gatlinburg, home of the Hollywood Star Cars Museum, the Salt and Pepper Shaker Museum, Ripley's Believe it or Not, and a great number of arts and crafts, restaurants, and shopping.

After the Dragon, head over to the Cherohala Skyway. Completed in 1996, the skyway winds up an over 5,400-foot mountains for eighteen miles in North Carolina and descends another 23 miles into deeply forested back country roads of Tennessee. The Skyway runs forty-three miles from Tellico Plans, TN, to Robbinsville, and crosses through the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forest. Heralded by the Discovery Channel as one of the top ten motorcycle rides in North America. A hidden gem. The clerk at the hotel I was staying turned me on to it, otherwise, I had never heard of it. A worthwhile ride. You will be able to enjoy the scenery so much more



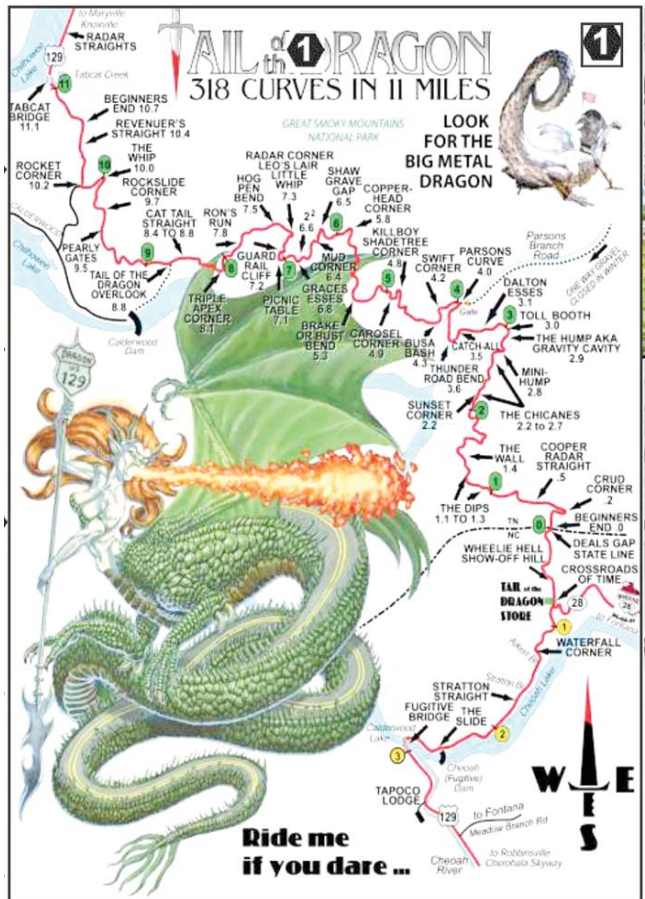
Don't look at the camera! Keep your eyes on the road!



The T-Shirt Shack, at the intersection of US 129 and NC 28. You are going to take a break here and get a commemorative T-shirt.



Pay attention to the warning signs. Ride safely.



Tail of the Dragon Map.

here than on the Dragon. Lots of scenic overlooks and waterfalls. Not big on facilities. Just a couple of restrooms along the way. Check your gas gauge, make sure you can make it all the way.

Whatever you decide to do, do it well, do it safely,

and do it now!

Peace. For more information go to: <https://www.facebook.com/tailofthedragon> <https://www.facebook.com/thecherohalaskyway> <https://tailofthedragon.com/> <https://cherohala.com/>

# On the Other Side of the Mountain

No need for a blanket anymore at night for the past week, instead two fans provide enough cooling for sleep comfort. Day temperatures in mid September are the highest for the whole season, registering 87 degrees regularly for several days in a row. Remind me of this period when I start complaining about freezing weather! We are used to working in hot weather, but preparing the hoop-house for winter lettuce seeding was a little extreme. There was no alternative, like doing it early in the morning or after sunset, because when it is cool, it is dark outside, due to the shorter day length. Greg did some loosening of the dirt with a broad-fork he made some years ago. This method loosens up the soil without tilling or disturbing soil microorganisms. Then we applied compost, which I turned in the old-fashioned way, with a shovel. Next we raked the beds smooth, then put the irrigation pipes back in place, along which I will seed the winter lettuce.

The irrigation pipes are made from half inch PVC pipes in which we drilled holes (we used an

eighth inch drill bit, but Greg thinks a smaller one would have been better- I think it works just fine- marital difference of opinion!). The three irrigation pipes, fitted for the size of the bed, are connected with pieces of remnants of hot water hoses, each one with shut-off valves on each end. I use endive, escarole and a green radicchio especially well suited for winter growth, Virtus from Johnny's. The endive and escarole will be ready for picking around

Thanksgiving and as it gets colder the growth slows down and eventually comes to a complete stop, but the plants stay crisp and healthy all winter long till March when they resume growth. From then on, all one can do, is try to get enough lettuce before it starts to bolt. Of course at this point, we will start the new season with summer lettuce.

Virtus, the radicchio, provides us with fresh greens for salad when the other ones are starting to bolt. By that time Virtus forms a compact, almost 10" high swirl. One head is so fully packed that I only raise about 15 plants or so to last us through the rest of early spring.

It is perfect as a cooked green too. You might wonder why I don't seed spinach or kale in our hoop-house. The aforementioned lettuces provide us with plenty of greens, which can be consumed preferably fresh, but also cooked. I always keep some kale in the freezer. I seed spinach and kale and some mixed greens in February to get us started with some new alternatives to our meals. I want to mention that winter lettuce is ready to be harvested by mid or late November, but from the time it forms small plants, I have to thin it out and I use the pulled or clipped small lettuce plants in our salad.

Helen also likes the Sun-Gold tomatoes. Instead of only eating them fresh and they are plentiful to the point that you can't keep up by simply eating them, she suggested that I try her recipe of adding olive oil, basil, garlic, salt and pepper to the tomatoes, then spreading the fruit on a cookie sheet, lined with parchment paper, to let it roast at 350-degree temperature till the liquid sort of cooks off. It can be eaten then, but knowing Helen

who is ever so innovative and does not like to waste food, she preserves it by vacuum packing the delicacy. I tried it today and what a treat it is, so flavorful, so sweet, so satisfying with just these few ingredients and little time involvement.

Fall clean up in the garden is important to get rid of diseased plant material, hoping to curb future infestations in the next growing season, also to get rid of insect eggs and hibernating nymphs and insects. For people living in rural areas, the easiest method to eliminate the pulled plants is to put them on a brush pile to burn. No pathogens will survive the heat of the fire. For city and town people I think it would be best to stuff the plant residue in plastic bags that are destined for the dump. I always recommend composting any plant based waste material, but in order to kill pathogens, the compost heap would have to generate a lot of heat. Composting is a complicated bio-chemical reaction where many factors play a role, like moisture, the carbon-nitrogen ratio, the pH value, aeration and temperature.

Composting in winter takes much longer. Once you choose a place for your compost bin, which can consist of posts, holding up woven wire or four pallets, tied together with some string, or a fancy compost bin, start adding leaves, kitchen scraps and weeds. Add grass clippings to provide nitrogen for the decomposing process. Chicken, cow, horse or goat manure are an even better nitrogen source. If you don't have access to these waste products sprinkle blood meal between layers.

Looked up at what temperatures various pathogens will call it quits. At 120 degrees water molds get killed, at 145 degrees (when upheld over a period of a few days) most plant pathogens, fungi, bacteria, viruses, slugs and centipedes are done in, at 160 degrees most plant pathogens and insects, at 180 degrees weed seeds and at 212 degrees anything that is heat resistant. Of course, a compost bin will never reach the boiling point, but one can sterilize dirt for starting seedlings indoors on a cookie sheet in the oven to get a clean "seed bed". It is recommended to stir the

compost, once it gets over 145 degrees.

Having all this information makes the whole thing look very complicated, but it needn't be so. I never measure the temperatures, I never stir the compost, mostly because of lack of time. When I need it, I dig around in it and decide if it looks like humus, nice and dark and crumbly and then I use it. Never add meat scraps, citrus peels, glossy paper and dog or cat feces to your bin I guess you could add fall cleanup debris from the garden to the compost. Maybe it won't be sterile, but unless you have a major problem with garden pests and diseases, it won't matter too much. However if you had any kind of blight or fungal disease on your tomatoes, I would not add the dead plants to be composted.

The harvest moon is over. I can't imagine people trying to harvest crops by the light of the moon. By the time it gets dark, I am ready for bed and should I be alert enough to watch some TV show, I usually can't tell the next morning what it was about because I dosed off somewhere during the action on the screen.






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