

GREENE COUNTY RECORD



A brief history of moonshine in Greene County. **B1**

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THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

HOPPING TOWARD NORMAL?



PHOTO COURTESY BRITTANY DUNN/NORTONSVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

Around 40 children participated in an Easter egg hunt at Nortonville Church of God Sunday afternoon. The eggs were scattered around the grounds and children took in the sunshine while searching for goodies after Easter Sunday services at the church. From left to right, Paisley Morris, Adelaide Dunn and Everly Dunn enjoyed the Easter egg hunt on Sunday.

Animal control officer speaks out

BY TERRY BEIGIE
Record Editor

There were several arrests for animals being inadequately cared for in 2020 and Greene County Animal Control Deputy Kaitlyn Schmitt hopes to see that trend end.

“Regardless of the type of animal you have and for whatever purpose, they need to be treated with dignity and respect,” Schmitt said. “I’ve always been passionate about animals. I got into (the job) by happenstance and I loved it.”

In 2020, there were several animal seizures including the dog Champ, who was severely emaci-

ated, and more than 100 different animals of various species taken from a homeowner in Dyke.

Schmitt has served in her role as animal control officer for three years and now splits her time between animal control and law enforcement.

“Working closely with the deputies is what led me down the path of law enforcement, as well,” she said. “Having the law enforcement side helps me be able to do a little bit more as before I had to rely on waiting for another deputy to help me with certain procedural (matters). It kind of expedites the process.”

Schmitt said one aspect she loves

about the job is just talking with the residents.

“I want the citizens reading to know that we are—more than anything, we’re here to help,” Schmitt said. “I’m not here just to take animals away or make lives difficult. I charge where and when I need to charge, but I like to give people chances to work with me so I can educate them.”

Additionally, Schmitt said her relationships with many nonprofits in the region can help those who may not be financially able to supply what the animal needs.

See **ANIMAL**, Page A3

Greene asks to be let out of RSA

RSA board votes no to the dissolution at April 1 meeting

BY TERRY BEIGIE
Record Editor

In a special meeting on Monday, April 5, the Greene County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a second resolution calling for the unanimous consent of Orange and Madison boards of supervisors to allow Greene to withdraw from the Rapidan Service Authority (RSA).

Monroe Supervisor Steve Bowman made the motion for approval and Midway Supervisor Marie Durrer seconded.

“I am definitely in support of this motion,” Bowman said. “It’s essentially the same thing we’ve been asking for almost six or eight months. And I just wanted to say that I know that the board of supervisors and the county administration have worked diligently to negotiate with Orange and Madison counties to secure and resolve Greene’s exit from RSA, which unfortunately has not been successful yet. Hopefully, this will be successful. But again, I’m rather skeptical.”

Durrer agreed. “It’s been very frustrating for all the board (members), but especially you and Mr. (Ron) Williams,” she said. “Maybe they’ve seen the light, let’s hope. I’m not betting on it, but I hope

so. I’m all for this resolution and we have nothing to lose by it. So, let’s send the second resolution and hope they’ll agree with it and let us out.”

At-Large Supervisor Dale Herring said he agreed with sending the resolution again.

“I do feel after everything that we’ve gone through this may be an exercise in futility,” Herring said. “But I feel like we should go ahead and pass the resolution and present it to the RSA board and to the Madison and Orange boards and hopefully get this issue resolved.”

Ruckersville Supervisor Davis Lamb said he noted the updated resolution appeared a bit “milder” than previous ones.

“I think it’s well-written,” Lamb said. “I think we just go forward here and try to get this done as quickly as possible. I mean we’re losing facility fees all the time.”

Chairman Bill Martin, Stanardsville, said he sees this resolution as a way to “respond positively to a request that had been made” by many at the RSA Board of Members meeting, including the chairs of both the Madison and Orange boards of supervisors, as well as a request from the RSA attorney.

“We may be missing an

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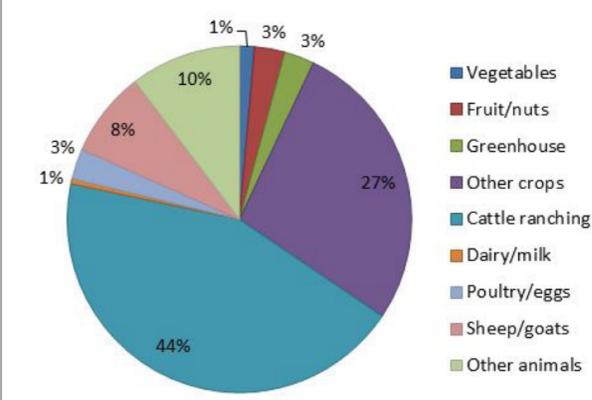
What grows in Greene? Ag. census gives insights

BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI
Staff Writer

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are 214 farms in Greene County. With 28,518 acres of farmland, the largest majority is in beef and hay, but a variety of other crops and livestock are grown in this historically rural county.

According to Sarah Sharpe, extension agent for agriculture and natural resources for Greene’s Cooperative Extension office, the USDA’s Agricultural Census is conducted once every five years to look at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. This data is then used by federal, state and local governments to make informed decisions about farm policies and programs designed to serve farmers and rural communities. The 2017 census data at the county level first became available in spring 2019 and can be accessed at www.nass.usda.gov/publications/AgCensus/2017.

North American Industry Classification



According to the North American Industry Classification System—the standard used by federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments—the breakdown of Greene’s 214 farms is as follows: three are in vegetable or melon farming; six are doing fruit and tree nut farming; six are greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production; 58 are other crops; 92

are cattle ranching and farming; three are cattle feedlots; one is dairy cattle and milk production; six are poultry and egg production; 17 are sheep and goat farming; and 22 are other animal production.

In terms of income, 25% of farm sales in the county are from crops and 76% are sales of livestock, poultry and animal products.

“I’m still kind of learning how



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI/GREENE COUNTY RECORD

Hawk Hollow Greenhouse and Farm is a weekly staple at the Greene County Farmers Market, offering seasonal fruits and vegetables as well as plant starters, chicken and duck eggs, baked goods and local honey. Many area farmers diversify by growing both crops and livestock.

the USDA compiles their statistics, but ... they always encourage farmers to respond to surveys,” said Michael Wallace, director of communications for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. “The Census of Agriculture really gets a true

snapshot at that moment of time of what they’re producing, what they’re growing, what type of livestock and things of that nature.”

Farms growing crops

There are 157 farms in

See **GROWS**, Page A6



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Baseball, boys soccer and softball head to Region 3B semis. B1

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THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

“Fly High JJ”

Community remembers Joshua Johnson

BY TERRY BEIGIE
AND KATHLEEN BORRELLI
Greene County Record

Greene County lost a son, a brother, a nephew, a grandson, a student, an athlete and an all-around good kid last Monday when Joshua Johnson, 16, died suddenly while on a fishing trip with his family in North Carolina. On Thursday, June 10, hundreds gathered at the dragon on William Monroe’s Martin Mooney Field to remember the guy who always had them laughing, who always had a smile on his face and who loved others.

“Friends have said to me, ‘I don’t know what to say,’ and I just say hug your babies because you never know,” said Sabrina Johnson, Joshua’s stepmom. “I think he would want everyone to come together and be happy. If you had a bad day, he made you laugh, he did.”

Johnson’s sense of humor and easy-going attitude were noted by many who knew him.

“He was always happy and made everyone around him smile, no matter how he felt,” said Daelan Powell-Jackson, who was with him the night before. “Josh was my best friend, the best thing to ever happen to me. No matter what, he was always by my side, my right-hand man. He had the sweetest soul ever. He deserved the world and this is the most painful thing I’ve ever had to go through. My brother, no matter what, he will live on with me through anything. I loved him with everything in me and it pains me just to have to write this. I’m so sorry that everyone has to go through this; he was a legend and will be remembered



PHOTO BY TERRY BEIGIE/GREENE COUNTY RECORD

Above, Cory Wingfield and Garrett Ensor say prayers in remembrance of Joshua Johnson at the June 10 memorial to honor the 16-year-old who passed away on vacation with his family last week. Alyssa Galaz and Johnell Webb (sitting) find it hard to hold back tears remembering their good friend. Below (photo courtesy Johnson family), Joshua, far right, sits with his brother Camden and his sister Dallas on a beach lifeguard chair.

by us all.”

“He was always very upbeat, funny, he knew how to make people laugh and always put a smile on others’ faces—he definitely put a smile on my face all the time,” said Kenzie Eubanks. “He gave me the best memories of my life. He liked almost every single person in the world. He would always be there for you, no matter what, through thick and thin

See **JOHNSON**, Page A8



Supervisors deny SUP change for apartments

BY TERRY BEIGIE
Record Editor

The Greene County Board of Supervisors denied last week a request that would have allowed occupancy of apartments off Moore Road before the connector road to U.S. Route 29 was started.

In January 2019, the supervisors unanimously approved a Special Use Permit (SUP) for a project that includes 212 apartments, 10 buildings, a clubhouse, a pool, green space, a recreation room and fitness area to be built along Moore Road in Ruckersville. A condition on the SUP was that no occupancy permits were to be given out until a connector road between Moore Road and U.S. 29 was complete, per Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, which will terminate at the light in front of Lowe’s.

The development requested June 8 a change to the SUP that would allow for certificates of occupancy for up to the fourth multi-family residential building before having to construct the connector road. Denstock said the existence of Department of Defense fiber optic line within the path of a sewer line led to lengthy delays in the site work process, as well as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic that slowed decisions by VDOT.

See **SUP**, Page A5

Day reflects on 42 yrs caring for Greene’s children

BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI
Staff Writer

Debbie Day’s second-grade class at Ruckersville Elementary School spent a beautiful “Beach Day” outside June 2, playing games and celebrating the end of another successful year. Just three days before the beginning of her official retirement, Day’s party of preference was one that included her beloved students—a given after 42 years of service to the community’s kids.

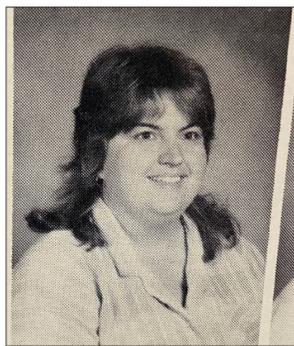
In 1979, 23 years old and freshly graduated from Longwood College, Day applied for the job as second-grade teacher with Greene County Primary School (now Nathanael Greene Primary)—then located where William Monroe Middle School is today. The elementary and middle schools were not yet built, and

Ruckersville Elementary was still 20 years in the future. The county population was around one-third of what it is today.

“I did my student teaching in Fairfax County and decided I did not want to teach in a big county like that—I was tired of it,” Day said. “No one had ever heard of Greene County and I just decided—I saw it in the paper. ... At the last minute I applied in Greene and I came down for the interview.”

Day’s dad was away on business, so she and her mom drove down from Northern Virginia to meet Greene County Public Schools’ administrators and take a tour of the county. On the way home, she told her mom she really liked it because she loved the country.

“And that night they called and offered me the job,” Day recalled. “They had a school board meeting that night and they called me at about eight



COURTESY PHOTO

Debbie Day’s yearbook picture from Greene County Primary School in spring 1989.

or nine. My dad didn’t even know I had taken the job for a week ... because that was before cell phones. So it was just pure luck, and then I fell in love with Greene.”

There were no apartments for rent in Greene County in



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI/GREENE COUNTY RECORD

Ruckersville second-grade teacher Debbie Day didn’t want a traditional retirement party. After 42 years of teaching, she could think of no better way to celebrate than by sharing a fun afternoon of games with her beloved students.

1979, so Day found an apartment in Charlottesville and later bought a house near Ruckersville.

For all but eight of the 42

years, Day has been at the helm of a second-grade classroom. When RES first opened, she

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Seventh-grade boys take 2nd in regional robotics meet. B1

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

Parade lights up Stanardsville

The holiday spirit was high as Greene County residents drove through the Chamber of Commerce's 2021 reverse Parade of Lights on Saturday.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., floats, displays and rescue vehicles were decked out holiday finery for the entertainment of children and adults alike on the Stanardsville school campus.

Greene County Girl Scouts entertained the crowd with a holiday-themed dance number while Knight's Chapel and Gordonsville Chapel members recreated a Nativity scene.

Bill Fekishazy entertained parade-goers with rides in the Stanardsville barrel train before the start of the drive-thru parade, and various other county organizations lined up in displays that culminated in a sleigh holding Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The William Monroe Marching Dragons played tirelessly for hours to entertain visitors.

See additional photos from the event on page A7.



Above, Bill Fekishazy entertained children and adults alike by driving the barrel train around the parade site before opening up for traffic.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN MELLOTT/FOR THE GREENE COUNTY RECORD

RES highlights 2021 curriculum

BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI
Staff Writer

At the Oct. 13 school board meeting, Ruckersville Elementary School assistant principal Martina Carroll and instructional coach Courtney Thompson highlighted some of the newest curriculum developments at the school since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. New roles to address social-emotional needs and strategies for addressing pandemic-related learning loss were the highlight of the discussion, and many parents weighed in with their opinions during public comment.

"At Ruckersville Elementary, our pedagogical approach places the student at the center of learning," Thompson said. "In our classrooms, students work collaboratively to research, share, compare, question and analyze as they build foundational academic and social skills. Students are encouraged to form their own conclusions and connections while teachers facilitate the development of students' sense of responsibility for their own learning, promote the sharing of ideas and the development of critical thinking skills."

Throughout a typical school day, students participate in literacy, math, social studies, science, music, art, physical education, library time and STEM activities, combining core content with specials.

"Technology is also considered a core curriculum at Ruckersville and is systematically integrated into our daily instruction," Thompson continued.

With differentiated supports available for students, guided reading and math groups are also available to provide students with additional individualized instruction as well as providing an opportunity for hands-on learning while respecting COVID-19 mitigation strategies such as social distancing and masking.

"We have so many dedicated educators at RES that are engaging our students in active learning

See RES, Page A6

Teen Maker Market at Monroe Sat.

BY KATHLEEN BORRELLI
Staff Writer

Greene County Public Schools presents a new opportunity for students interested in developing their entrepreneurial skills this Saturday (Dec. 11) at William Monroe High School. Beginning at 9 a.m. in the school's cafeteria, the division's first-ever Teen Maker Market will feature homemade items from students in grades 8-12, with a portion of proceeds to be donated to the county animal shelter.

"Over the last couple of years we've done 'Lunch & Learn' events where kids are able to sign up, and a lot of times those are craft events," said WMHS Librarian Leah Talbert, who spearheaded the market idea. "Last year with COVID, we kind of switched gears and started doing 'Make & Take' kits where the kids would just pick up kits to take home and they're really popular, so that had me thinking it would be really cool to have a craft fair for our kids—especially once I learned how many of our kids actually already have their own little businesses."

According to Talbert, many of the middle and high school students who expressed interest in the event already had their own websites or Etsy shops and several were already selling through farmers markets during the summer months.

"My own daughter did some farmers markets this summer and I really saw all of the life skills that she got from doing it," Talbert said. "People skills and money and budgeting—all of those things. I just really wanted to offer this Teen Maker Market to our middle- and high-schoolers."



COURTESY PHOTO

Students in Kate Gozzard's Culinary Arts class prepare "magic reindeer food" to sell at this weekend's holiday market at William Monroe High School.

Talbert created a sign-up sheet and quickly assembled more than two dozen booths with a variety of handcrafted items. FCCLA and HOSA clubs from the Technical Education Center also signed up to run booths raising money for their clubs, and several students partnered up to create group booths.

"Co-presidents Eliah Dojack and Spencer Breeding agreed to sign (FCCLA) up for the Teen Maker Market," said Culinary Arts teacher

Kate Gozzard. "They are selling our Christmas cookie decorating kits, Reindeer Food and ranch dressing mix (very popular). We are very excited to be there and all of our proceeds will fund our students getting to the State Leadership Conference where (they) will compete."

In the past few weeks, Talbert has been helping the students prepare for the market.

See MARKET, Page A6

