

PARTNER

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man remains detection canines dubbed "cadaver dogs" serve on the front lines soon after tragedy strikes.

"These dogs have an amazing power of scent," Throckmorton said. "The average dog has 220 million scent receptors in his nose. We have about five million. The average dog has such acute sensitive scenting ability that it can detect and identify smells that are so dilute that even the most sensitive tools can't detect them. They also have lateral vision than humans. Their ears can pick up sounds from a greater distance than humans."

Since it's not everyday that someone wakes up in the morning with a burning desire to train dogs, Throckmorton shared her story about how she was introduced to dog handling.

In October of 2009, 20-year-old Virginia Tech student Morgan Harrington disappeared after attending a rock concert at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Harrington was the daughter of Throckmorton's best friend.

"My best friend Gil Harrington called me while I was in Africa on business to say that her daughter was missing and possibly abducted," she said.

Harrington's purse,



Haley

containing her identification and cell phone (with batteries removed), was discovered in a parking lot at UVA's Lannigan Athletic Field following her disappearance.

State Police and surrounding law enforcement units organized a massive volunteer search in Charlottesville.

"I was there with the Harrington's for support, and after the first day asked to be part of the 'point last seen' search," Throckmorton said. "I became involved in K9 search and recovery and eventually search and rescue in 2010."

Throckmorton was assigned as a support person to one of the K9 handlers, a unit based in Roanoke, Va.

"It fascinated me to see how the dogs worked, how disciplined they were, and how very important the dog/handler team was to a missing person case," she said.

Harrington's remains were discovered by a farmer on Jan. 26, 2010, about 10 miles from the arena, in a remote area of the 742-acre Anchorage Farm more than one-and-a-half miles from road access.

"The case became my



Savanna

focus until her body was found 101 days later in a farmer's field just outside of Charlottesville," Throckmorton said.

When Throckmorton returned home, she called the K9 team's trainer to ask for help finding a dog, and joined the Virginia Canine Recovery Team (VCRT). A month later, Throckmorton and the dog trainer traveled to North Carolina where she chose the pick of the litter.

"My first puppy came home and together we started training as a team searching for human remains," she said.

Throckmorton has trained three dogs with her first dog being a Golden Retriever and second being Hungarian Vizsla. Her third dog is a flat coated boarder Collie and did live finds with certification for the recently deceased.

All Throckmorton's dogs have been nationally certified in multiple disciplines within their specialty.

"Dogs cost anywhere from the cost of an adoption from a pound to thousands of dollars. I have worked with both," she said. "Proper equipment, vet bills and upkeep add to their value. The training however runs in the tens of thousands for the life of a dog which makes them a very valuable partner."

Like law enforcement agents, these dogs have served their communities with tours of duty searching for clues related to stories that may have a tragic ending.

"Yes, my dogs and I have been deployed on many searches," Throckmorton said. "Most of them were recovery, being new or cold cases. We worked locally and also

out of state on private cases. The farthest away was Kansas. I also field supported on a search in Texas. The most haunting cases are those of missing children, many of them missing due to abduction and at times murder. We have also been called out to back-up the live search dogs in the event the search turns to a recovery."

Currently, Throckmorton has a new puppy that is training in historical remains. Like many dogs learning the ropes, Throckmorton said the puppy's biggest effort right now is obedience.

"All of my dogs are temperamentally sound, great around people," she said. "Having a well disciplined dogs makes the them fun to be around. They were not pets when they were working, but a working partner of the best kind!"

BROADBAND

Continued from A1

of future economic growth opportunities that would be created by enhancing technological infrastructure.

"We are not here to ask the county directly for money," he said. "One of the primary reasons we as citizens of Perquimans County love living here is due to our county's fiscally responsible spending. However, I believe that any money invested in longterm infrastructure such as broadband access and fiber optic transmission lines will return to us ten fold."

Saunders noted that Camden County recently secured a \$1.8 million grant to cover the county in wireless from the state line to Camden Point because of the efforts of the county commission, local residents, East Coast Communications and the Economic Development Council. Echoing Saunders' sentiment, Steve Lane of Inteliport said efforts are underway to pursue similar federal grants and investment.

Saunders said with similar cooperation from stakeholders and the community,

Perquimans too could expand broadband coverage.

"With the new I-87 coming soon, I believe we are going to be the new bedroom community for Virginia commuters that choose to reside here with us having such a low tax base and just over 20 miles from the state line," he said. "We need to prepare for this growth potential. So for now, we would only ask for the support of the commission in aiding us to bring this to fruition."

In other news, commissioners touted the virtues of attending College of the Albemarle because the school's new president Jack Bagwell was in the audience for the Jan. 6 meeting.

"I'm excited about what he brings to the table," Commission President Wallace Nelson said. "We appreciate your interest in our county."

Established on December 1960, College of The Albemarle became the first established institution of the North Carolina Community College System as chartered by the Community College Act of 1957. Two-hundred and forty-five Perquimans residents attended COA during the

2018/19 academic year and there were 374 people who enrolled in continuing education classes that could teach folks skills from cake decoration to welding.

Commissioners Nelson and Charles Woodward attended the school many years ago before pursuing pharmacy degrees. Nelson said the college has transformed many lives including his own.

"It's our local community college - first community college in the state," Nelson said.

In other matters, the county is seeking folks to serve as members of the community advisory committee. This committee advocates for long-term care residents to ensure that their rights are upheld.

Any interested citizens should contact the Regional Ombudsman's office at 252-426-5753. By participating and listening to residents in long-term care facilities, folks on this committee are advancing these people's voices and, hence, their rights.

In other matters, Cheryl Banks was hired Dec. 1 for Social Services; Christopher Prince was hired Jan. 1 as a custodian for the Maintenance Department;

Lisa Ambrose was hired Nov. 1 as a clerk and Katelyn Moody as seasonal tax lister for the Tax Department.

Also, Ed Muzzlin has moved to Colorado, so Chad Matthews was appointed to fill his seat with the Board of Trustees for the Bethel Fire Department.

Per the commission's Dec. 2 consent agenda, Zachary Crowe was hired as a part-time/full-time paramedic; Bethany Buttram was promoted to full-time shift supervisor; Madeline Lighthill was certified part-time/full-time advanced emergency medical technician.

Also, commission approved a 2-year extension for preliminary plat approval for the Mooring at Albemarle development.

Commissioners endorsed a resolution in support of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that gives women the right to vote.

Commissioners approved the Economic Improvement Council's block grant application.

Staff writer Miles Layton can be reached at mlayton@ncweeklies.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Third Annual Riverbash takes place between April 24 and April 26 in the Hertford Town Dock/Marina/Lawn area.

RIVERBASH

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Historic Hertford Inc. (HHI) will be hosting Dine, Drink & Dance, a ticketed event, for the big Saturday night party between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live music for the evening will be provided by the Ocean Breeze band from Hampton Roads.

Sunday April 26
 ■ Blessing of the Fleet — Boat Parade 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Hertford Bay

■ Kool Down Jazz Concert 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. town dock stage

A detailed schedule will be published in The Pe-

quimans Weekly closer to the festival's date.

For more information, contact Sharon Smith, Perquimans County Tourism Director, at 252-426-5675 or tourismdirector@visitperquimans.com

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 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
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 only Flat Screen TVs will be accepted
 NO Paint or mattresses accepted
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"We are visiting local high schools and recruiting new Junior Volunteers. So far we have had much success," she said.

Copeland praised the education she has received from the Perquimans School system. Also, she is currently dual-enrolled through the College of the Albemarle and will graduate in May with an associate's degree.

"I believe that the education that I have received at Perquimans County High School has been good," she said.

Driven to succeed, Copeland attended NC Gov-

ernor's School East in Raleigh, where she studied Natural Science this past summer. She is currently the Senior Class President, a student leader with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, co-president of Interact Club, and am helping with Special Olympics through Unified Champions. She plays volleyball and softball where her leadership has played a key role in our successes.

Though Copeland is still weighing her options for college, she was selected as a semi-finalist for both the Morehead-Cain Scholarship for UNC-Chapel Hill and the Park Scholarship for NC State.

"Both scholarships stand on pillars of scholarship,

leadership, and character," she said. "I am truly honored to have made it this far in those processes."

Copeland said based on her experiences in Raleigh, she advises her peers to take other avenues away from the classroom to learn more about the world.

"It is good to learn about

what life is like outside of our hometowns and to learn about how things work in our state and even our nation," she said. "I would highly recommend that high school students look for opportunities to pursue learning outside of the classroom and broaden their horizons."

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PERQUIMANS COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

Except for the Sheriff's Department, Dispatch Office and Emergency Medical Services, all County Offices in the Perquimans County Courthouse, Courthouse Annex, Social Services, Agricultural Extension Service, Perquimans County Library and the Perquimans County Recreation Department will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020, for observation of Martin Luther King's Birthday. The Water Department will be closed but emergencies may be reported to the Dispatch Office by calling 426-5751.

The Board of Commissioners Work Session that is normally scheduled for Monday, January 20th, has been changed to Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. due to the holiday.

Frank Heath
 County Manager

Town of Winfall Offices WILL BE CLOSED Monday, January 20, 2020

For observation of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

In case of an emergency, please call 426-5751

Snyder's Supermarket
 Belvidere, N.C.

Plan 1

2lb Ground Chuck	2pc Pork Tender Loin
3lb Ribeye Steak	3lb Whole Fryer
3lb Slow Beer	3lb Chicken Drums
3lb Pork Chops	3lb Chicken Wings
2lb Sausage Links	1lb Cheese

\$100.00

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