

“Paws, paint and persistence: JoAnn Mills and Copper”

By: Kate Stephenson, Monro County Community College

<https://mcccagora.com/2026/02/09/paws-paint-and-persistence-joann-mills-and-copper/>

Judge’s comments: “Great descriptive lede, and nice job getting right into what the story is about - JoAnn and Copper and who they are – right away in the second graph.

Good job handling the sensitive topic of her anxiety attack – you led into it, and out of it, gracefully as a writer.

Good variety of sources who give all perspectives of the story.

This story could be elevated with data about how many service animals are currently assisting students and/or professors/campus community members? How long has the college allowed this?”