

Wednesday, July 28, 2021



Midweek Review

The Rogersville



Kinzer, Maples visit victory lane

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EquuSearch comes up empty; Candus and Don lash out

BY JIM BELLER
STAFF WRITER

ROGERSVILLE – “I think one or two people know exactly what has happened to her and they need to come forward,” said Dave Rader of the missing Summer Wells.

Rader’s EquuSearch Midwest unit was in Tennessee this past weekend, contributing its expertise and resources to the search for the five-year-old girl reported missing from her Beech Creek home June 15.

“We got a lot accomplished (Saturday),” the EquuSearch Midwest Chapter Director said in an online interview Sunday.

“We didn’t find the objective that we were looking for, which was little Summer. But I’ll tell you what:

we gave it everything we could possibly give and we’re still not done,” Rader said.

Speaking with retired New York Police Department Detectives Ron Duty and Bill Cannon on Duty’s Youtube channel, Rader said he will confer with Tim Miller, who founded EquuSearch in 2020 after his own 16-year-old daughter, Laura Miller, was abducted and murdered in Galveston County, Texas in 1984. Her body wasn’t located until 17 months later.

“There still may be some things that we, me and Tim, can put our heads together and figure something out. But this isn’t the last for me to come down to Tennessee to look for this little girl,” said Rader, who called Sunday a “get-away day,” a travel day for the volunteers

to return to their respective homes for their respective work weeks.

“I stayed behind just to kind of think about some things and just kind of go over in my mind what could we possibly have missed and is there anything that we missed. There’s a lot of land down here. The real estate is just unbelievable as we’ve touched on before. It’s like looking for a needle in a haystack,” he said.

“You’re trying to do the best that you can with the information that you have. And again, I think one or two people know exactly what has happened to her and they need to come forward,” Rader said.

“It’s a process of elimination. You take the information, you digest it,

SEE WELLS, PAGE 2A



TBI PHOTO (ADJUSTED TO CORRECT ORIENTATION)

What happened to Summer Wells? The investigation continues for the missing 5-year-old Hawkins County girl.

“We’re not done yet”



Church Hill Rescue Squad Captain Tim Coup



Hawkins Co. Rescue Squad Lieutenant Corey Young



Hawkins Co. E911 Director Lynn Campbell

PHOTOS BY ALLISON F. GOLEY

Rescue Squads give Public Safety Committee members update on Summer Wells case

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Though the large-scale search efforts have been scaled back in the search for missing 5-year-old Summer Wells, many emergency response representatives told the Commission’s Public Safety Committee that they are “not done yet” with the case.

Wells went missing from the Beech Creek community of Hawkins County on June 15. A large-scale search lasted 13 days, and the investigation has already been underway for

nearly six weeks.

Though all representatives noted that the priority is on bringing Wells home safely, this routine monthly committee meeting provided a place for responders to update commissioners on the case and how their agencies will be affected financially.

“If I knew more, I would tell you”

“As far as my agency goes, we know no more than we did on day 13 when we scaled back operations, other than the fact that she is missing,” Captain Tim Coup of the Church Hill Rescue Squad, told the commit-

tee on July 21. “We are assisting local, state and federal resources and agencies with whatever they may need.”

He added, “If I had the information and I was at liberty to tell you, I would tell you today. If I knew where she was, she would have been back on June 15.”

He explained that his agency is regularly questioned for updates.

“I have updated the media outlets locally, all the way to Nashville and all the way to

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PHOTOS BY ALLISON F. GOLEY

EMA Director Jamie Miller told the Public Safety Committee that the Motorola equipment necessary for the emergency communications system replacement has been ordered

Emergency radio delays spark heated comments

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Once again, the failing emergency communications equipment in Hawkins County was the topic of a recent heated exchange at the July 21 Public Safety Committee meeting.

As members of local emergency response agencies gave reports to the Committee, Commissioner Dawson Fields became increasingly angry when responders mentioned the radio communication issues they encountered during the 13-day search for missing 5-year-old Summer Wells.

Both Fields and Commissioner Mike Herrell told responders that they were tired of the Commission being blamed for these issues, stating that the commission had already recommended that the current failing system be “band-aided” until a permanent solution could be found.

EMA Director Jamie Miller explained that the replacement analog system has been ordered. Pursuing grant funding and product shipping delays brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic

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Hope Church gives \$50k to Surgoinsville for fire tanker

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a \$50,000 donation from Hope Church, the town of Surgoinsville will now have a fire tanker that can carry roughly 1,700 gallons of water or more.

The decision to donate this money came after the church was presented with a state-mandated flow requirement for the water sprinklers inside its sanctuary.

The church, which is located on Highway 11-W near the West Main Street intersection in Surgoinsville, is currently connected to the Rogersville water system,



REVIEW FILE PHOTO

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 2A

Hope Community Church is located on Highway 11-W near the West Main Street intersection in Surgoinsville

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