

Wednesday, June 30, 2021



Midweek Review

The Rogersville



Fourth of July in Rogersville

SEE PAGE 1B

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Massive search still underway for Summer Wells

BY LINDA THURSTON
EDITOR

Five-year-old Summer Wells is still missing two weeks after she left her home in the Beech Creek area.

According to a news release from the Church Hill Rescue Squad, over 120 agencies from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia are assisting in the search.

Over 3,000 acres have been searched, but the rugged mountain terrain continues to hamper search efforts.

"The terrain and conditions have exhausted crews both mentally and physically," the release reports. Since June 15 there have been 1,150 searchers on the ground

who have logged 13,800 in the effort to find Summer.

"At this time, we are scaling back search operations," the Church Hill information states. "Search efforts will continue on a more specialized team basis as needed and directed from local, state, and federal agencies. Just because we may not be seen as such a large presence in and throughout the area, rest assured that we have not quit and won't quit until we find Summer Wells."

On Saturday, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was searching for a pickup truck that had been seen in the area around the time Summer disappeared.

The truck is described as a 1998-2000 maroon or red Toyota Tacoma. It is reported to have a full-bed ladder rack and white

buckets in the truck bed.

"We want to stress that this individual is not a suspect, but is a potential witness who may have heard or seen something that may help us in our search for Summer," TBI said in a statement on Saturday afternoon.

"Tomorrow we expect a large group of responders to be on site at the search," Hawkins County Emergency Management Agency Director Jamie Miller said Monday. "Please say a special prayer for this mission. This has been a long and exhausting mission for our responders. I am proud of each responder that has assisted and the community that has been supporting them."

According to a report from the Hawkins

County Rescue Squad, "The support that search crews have received from community, Hawkins County, area region, State of Tennessee, and neighboring/other states has been unbelievable and very much appreciated by everyone involved. Many agencies outside of the area have said they have never seen anything like the support that has been received during this incident."

Summer has blonde hair, blue eyes, stands 3'0", and weighs approximately 40 pounds. She was reportedly last seen wearing grey pants and a pink shirt and may have been barefoot.

Anyone with information about Summer Wells is asked to contact the TBI at 1-800-TBI-FIND or the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office at 423-272-7121.



String Break

'Let Freedom Ring' at Fourth of July events

BY LINDA THURSTON
EDITOR

In the recent course of events, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, there have been few opportunities for public celebrations, or even family gatherings, so it's appropriate that this year's Fourth of July celebration has the theme of "Let Freedom Ring!"

As vaccinations have greatly reduced the danger of COVID-19, we can freely celebrate our freedom.

Holiday events begin with a Cruise-In in downtown Rogersville on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be live entertainment and inflatables for kids, and businesses will stay open late.

On Saturday, the "Let Freedom Ring" parade begins at 11 a.m., proceeding from East Rogersville Baptist Church westbound to Armstrong Road. For more information on marching in the parade, see information inside today's edition of the Rogersville Review.

At 9:30 p.m. the famous Rogersville fireworks show will be held at Rogersville City Park. Spectators are invited to bring a picnic dinner (no alcohol allowed) and although leashed pets are allowed, please be aware that most animals are terrorized by fireworks.

On Monday, July 5, the Monday Music



Traci Cochran

SEE JULY, PAGE 2A



REVIEW FILE PHOTO

Current Alderman Steven McClain has filed a lawsuit against the town of Mount Carmel alleging that he was wrongfully terminated from his position as mechanic for the Public Works department. The incident occurred before McClain was serving as alderman.

Mount Carmel BMA declines settlement in lawsuit involving current alderman

BY ALLISON F. GOLEY
STAFF WRITER

At their June 24 meeting, the Mount Carmel Board of Mayor and Aldermen was presented with a settlement offer in a lawsuit involving Steven McClain against the town.

The lawsuit stems from an incident that took place back in 2017 when McClain was employed in the Public Works department as a mechanic and was not yet serving as Alderman.

After only minimal discussion during the meeting, the board declined to approve the \$20,000 settlement offer, so the case will proceed to trial.

Alleged unjust termination

The lawsuit stems from an incident that took place in 2017 and alleges that McClain was terminated unjustly.

According to the lawsuit McClain filed through his attorney Daniel Boyd, McClain was employed as both a Public Works employee as well as the Public Works mechanic.

Published news reports from 2015 note that McClain was hired in May of 2014 at \$16 per hour and was to split his time between Public Works and working as

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 2A

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