

Local deputies assist with search for missing woman

Special to the Times-Courier
Gilmer County Sheriff's Department

Gilmer County Sheriff Stacy Nicholson sent 18 deputies and detectives to Blairsville, Friday, Aug. 14, to assist in the search for Kristi Cornwell. Cornwell was reported missing last Tuesday, August 11.

It is believed that Cornwell was abducted while taking a walk at approximately 9 p.m. in her rural neighborhood in Union County.

"Due to the nature of this case, the search and investigative efforts involved are tremendous and are very taxing on a small agency, very much like ours in Gilmer County," said Nicholson. "Giving mutual aid is the only way we can handle

these types of cases. We've sure received our fair share of help in the past."

The Gilmer deputies joined law enforcement officers from Union County, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, Georgia State Probation, Towns County, Hall County, Cobb County and many others.

A smaller group of four returned Saturday, Aug. 15, to assist in the search.

Investigators have very little to go on at this point, but they are looking for two vehicles in conjunction with the case; a white large Chevrolet Suburban-type vehicle and a small tan or beige Toyota-type car.

Cornwell is a former probation officer.

Council — from 1A

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Better Hometown director Candy Day told council members the new welcome center was nearing completion with the painting having been completed.

Code enforcement officer Don Schneider reported that Pritchett Technologies on Sailor's Drive was in violation of the agreement they had with the city concerning the zoning change from general commercial to light industrial.

He cited the fences installed as buffers did not meet standards and there

had been five police reports of the business working outside of the agreed upon hours. Schneider said he was met in a hostile manner when he went to discuss this with the Pritchetts.

He also said Josh Pritchett had met with him (Schneider) and Ellijay Mayor Al Hoyle to discuss waiting about planting the prescribed leyland cypress trees until fall in order that they might stand a better chance at survival. The code enforcement officer said the city was trying to work with Pritchett on that point.

Ellijay Police Chief Larry

Callahan reported officers in his department answered 565 calls in July which resulted in 105 arrests and 299 warnings. He also told council members the department had been registered for a new program that would alert citizens to missing children and adults. A full story on that program appears on the front page of this edition of the Times-Courier.

Callahan also told council members about a "law book" for school kids that the department would have a hand in instead of selling calendars.

Ellijay Fire Chief Sam West reported city firefighters responded to 15 motor vehicle accidents, four auto-

matic aid calls, one fire alarm, three situations to assist emergency medical services, two mutual aid calls, one natural gas leak, one smoke investigation, one service call and eight landing zones for the month of July.

Hoyle presided over the meeting which was attended by mayor pro tem David Westmoreland, council members Barclay, Caudell, Katie Lancy and Al Fuller, and city clerk Gay Crescenti.

The Ellijay City Council meets on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the council chamber of Ellijay City Hall.

Their next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 21.

Tool — from 1A

regarding the location of the missing person.

Callahan said, "A child goes missing every 40 seconds every day. Everybody has heard of an "Amber Alert." Those are for children who have been kidnapped. Under this program, anybody who goes missing will have access to the same types of data bases and location technology."

The chief continued, "This program pulls up real time satellite imagery of a five mile radius of where a child or adult might be in the first few minutes after they go missing. It shows lakes, rivers and other structures that may pose a danger to someone who is lost or missing.

"It also automatically dials 1,000 phone numbers per minute to listed numbers within that five mile radius and the call is identified as being from the Ellijay Police Department. It will inform those who hear the message to be on the lookout for the

missing person, what type of clothes the person was wearing — all of the pertinent information. If a person sees the Ellijay Police Department pop up in their phone caller identification system, they should listen to the message. The call is not from a solicitor," said the chief.

Those who have unlisted numbers and cell phones who would like to participate in the calling network can request being added to the list by contacting ACIM at www.achildsmissing.org.

Since the founding of ACIM in 1997, the organization has been credited with more than 545 safe assisted recoveries.

Callahan concluded, "In my 20 years in law enforcement, this is one of the best services to come along. It really works."

The program has been endorsed state investigative bodies, including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, sheriff's associations across the nation, and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Commission — from 1A

was out of order in the county's finances. Jennings has been conducting audits of counties, cities and other government agencies for over 20 years.

The county plans to lease an additional ambulance. Increasingly, Gilmer has had to call on neighboring counties to respond to emergency calls when all of Gilmer's ambulance

units were in use. The additional unit will be active during the heaviest call times and is expected to decrease response times and enhance citizens' safety.

Commissioners reappointed Joe Waldrip to the Gilmer County Kids Cottage Commission.

The BOC's next meeting will be August 27.

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"CASH FOR CLUNKERS" INSURANCE REQUIREMENT"


Vehicles Must be Insured Continuously for Year Preceding Trade-in

August 10, 2009, Duluth, Ga., — State Farm*, the nation's largest auto insurer, is reminding those considering taking advantage of the Federal Government's Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS, or "Cash for Clunkers") of the insurance requirement for participation. On Wednesday, the U.S. Senate reached an agreement to extend the program until Labor Day. According to the federal program's requirements, **"Trade-in vehicles must be registered and insured continuously for the full year preceding the trade-in."** Those qualified vehicle owners with State Farm insurance should contact their State Farm agents to obtain the needed paperwork to present to auto dealers.

The insurance requirement in the "Cash for Clunkers" program should be just one small reminder of the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of coverage for your vehicle. Uninsured motorists are a risk to all drivers and contribute to higher auto insurance premiums. For many consumers, collision and comprehensive auto insurance help them recover quickly from the unexpected consequences of an accident. Despite current economic conditions, not having adequate coverage is taking a risk too great to ignore.

For more information about the importance of maintaining adequate vehicle insurance coverage and the insurance requirement for the federal rebate program, please contact State Farm Public Affairs, 770-418-5009. For more information on the "Cash for Clunkers" program, please visit <http://www.CARS.gov>.

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Candra S. Warren, Agent
127 S. Main Street
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Bus: 706-276-4010
candra.warren.cg71@statefarm.com

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