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Story last updated at 12:51 a.m.
Friday, May 21, 2004

Missing teen's family seeks citizens' help
BY JOHN REYNOLDS
AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

The family of missing Lubbock teen Joanna Rogers is pleading with the community to take part in an organized search for her this weekend.

Searchers will comb a 10-mile radius around Joanna's home looking for signs of the teen, who has been missing since May 4.

Volunteers wishing to take part should gather at the Xtreme Village parking lot, 1201 84th St., at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

United Response Search and Rescue Team, a non-profit volunteer group from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, is sending about 10 members to Lubbock to coordinate the search.

Lubbock County sheriff's deputies will be on hand to advise searchers and brief them on how to react if they find possible evidence, Capt. Bill Drewell said.

"Before anyone steps out into an area being searched, they will receive information on how to approach evidence and to back out," said sheriff's Sgt. Greg Parrott.

Joanna's "case is our community's case," he said. "We need to do everything we can communitywide to find Joanna."

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A-J Photo / John Reynolds

Sherriff's Sgt Greg Parrott, left, and relatives of missing teenager Joanna Rogers ask Thursday for community help with a weekend search. Joanna's parents, Joe and Kathy Rogers, flank their daugthre-in-law, Daizy Duede.

Joanna was last seen about midnight May 3 after returning home from her job at Subway on 82nd Street and Akron Avenue. When her mother went to wake her up the next morning, she was gone.

An Amber Alert was issued May 6 by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. Joanna is

5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 125 pounds. She has long red hair.

The Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to Jo anna's safe return.

If Joanna's disappearance is deemed a crime, Gandy's Dairies has posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the suspects.

Bill Anderson, vice president of United Response Search and Rescue Team, said he learned of Joanna's disappearance from an article in a Fort Worth newspaper. He subsequently called the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office to offer his group's help.

Parrott said he was glad to accept help from the team, which has participated in high-profile searches in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. They group looked for 6-year-old Opal Jennings, who was kidnapped and murdered in 1999.

"We certainly welcome their expertise," Parrott said.

Joanna's sister-in-law, Daizy Duede, said the involvement of Anderson's group shows that people outside the Lubbock area are paying attention to Joanna's plight.

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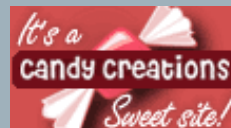
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