

No luck as search continues

BY Kellie Tolbert

The search for a missing 16-year-old Lubbock girl continued Sunday, and for the second straight day an army of volunteers found nothing significant.

The United Response Search and Rescue Team of Dallas continued its search for Joanna Kathryn Rogers with the help of about 200 volunteers.

Five teams searched until about noon, scouring the countryside about four miles farther than the area searched by 500 volunteers Saturday.

Volunteers have searched an area within about a 12-mile radius of her home.

Sheila Holland, assistant director of operations for the rescue team, said turnout was good for a Sunday.

Joe Juarez, who volunteered both days, said the search went well even though no clues turned up.

"I'm hoping we don't find her," Juarez said, "but if we do, it will be over and the family can get some closure."

Searchers offered their assistance after seeing a nationwide Amber Alert, and the Lubbock County Sheriff's office asked them to participate, Holland said.

The number of volunteers says a lot for the Lubbock community, said Sheriff's Sgt. Greg Parrott.

"We are very humbled by the community response to help out," he said. "The end of this search does not put us at the end of our investigation."

The Sheriff's Department is still pursuing viable information coming in on a daily basis.

"I feel that we are getting closer to resolving this disappearance," Parrott said.

He said the search team could be used again, depending on any new information that might be discovered.

Two organizations are offering rewards.

The Carole Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Foundation is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the safe return of Joanna. And, 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 suspects.

Joanna was last seen about midnight May 4 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.

The Amber Alert was issued May 6 by the Sheriff's Office. Joanna is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 125 pounds. She has long red hair and sometimes goes by the nickname "Jo."

A Web site, bringjohome.info, has been established with pictures and information in English and Spanish.

To report information about Joanna's whereabouts, call the Sheriff's Office at (806) 775-1601.

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