

## Search yields no clues about missing trio

By TOM INMAN  
T&D City Editor

Authorities searched a wooded area near Wells Crossroads in rural Orangeburg County Sunday but found no clues in the case of two Dorchester County women and a young girl missing since April 3.

Orangeburg County Sheriff C.R. Smith Jr. said his department was asked last week to assist Dorchester authorities in the search for Linda McCord, 33, Sarah Boyd, 32, and Ms. Boyd's daughter Kimberly, 2½. The three left their homes in Harleyville April 3 to attend a gospel singing in Walterboro.

The trail led to Orangeburg County after the car in which the

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three were riding, owned by Mrs. McCord's husband, was found near Wells Crossroads April 5. Police discovered the vehicle was disabled.

"A freeze plug had blown out on the car and it had to have been running hot," Smith said. "Apparently, this was as far as it would go."

Dorchester County Sheriff Carl Knight said his department has been looking for leads for

the past three weeks. "We called for the search to satisfy the families," he said.

"We checked the area and didn't find one thing," Knight said.

The search covered a half-mile radius of the Wells Crossroads intersection and a portion of U.S. Highway 15 to Interstate 26. Authorities from both departments combed the wooded area.

"We think right now it may have been foul play because it looks like they would have called somebody with the car breaking down," Knight said. "But, we have no evidence of foul play."

Smith said Orangeburg County is not actively involved in the investigation. Authorities did, however, discover three fields with 65-70 marijuana plants during the search.

"We are following up on that and have a few suspects," he said. "If there is any evidence of foul play in Orangeburg County with these women, we will be directly involved."

Knight said in the meantime, the search continues. "To put it plainly, we are pulling for straws right now," he said.

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renee3685

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