

Nov 21, 2017

Family members of a woman who has been missing for almost two years now say they just want closure. Wayne Hereford looks at the case of Deborah Evans Bell. Fulton Police and the Itawamba County Sheriff's Department have been searching for answers to what happened to Deborah Evans Bell. She disappeared some time before or around early February of 2016. Police say they have had a few tips but none of them turned out to be any good. It's still an active case but Police Chief Mitch Nabors says they have quote "nothing substantial." Friends and family members say that Deborah Evans Bell was 57-years old when she disappeared she was a friendly person they say who was well-known and well-loved. "Deborah is very vocal and a big part of the community. You know her presence in the community. She would make sure that she was a very big part of this community." "She was just a beautiful person. It's hard you know. I know it's hard on the ones who knew her a long time because it's hard on me." Hard, they say, because Bell has not been seen nor heard from since the morning of February the 8th 2016 when she was reported missing by her husband. The police chief at the time said they had tracked every lead without success. "We haven't been told anything significant about the case. Just when it was first an ongoing case that some of the law officials said there were some things that they were investigating but nothing concrete." But friends and family are refusing to forget about Deborah's case even starting a move on social media with the title #stomp4debo. Debo was her nicknames. "About Debo, everybody called her Debo Stompout for Debo and not to forget her and about the case and hopefully the officials won't and continue to investigate and it not to go into a cold case file." Now I did speak with Fulton Police Chief Mitch Nabors who said the case is definitely still active and they are continuing to search for answers. They urge anyone with information about the Deborah Evans Bell case to contact their local authorities

<http://www.wtva.com/>

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Deborah Evans-Bell is a U.S. Military Veteran who was reported missing from Fulton, Mississippi on February 8th, 2016. Deborah Evans-Bell was reported missing by her husband when she supposedly left her home for a doctor's appointment and never returned. She was known to use several different VA medical facilities, including the Memphis VA Medical Center, the Tupelo VA Clinic and the Plantersville Family Clinic. It is unknown which facility she may have had her appointment at. Deborah Evans-Bell did not drive a vehicle and was known to catch rides with family and friends or use a local transit company. The Fulton Police Chief, Reggie Johnson, has announced that Deborah Evans-Bell may have been missing weeks before she was reported missing on February 8th, 2016. According to Reggie Johnson, nobody has seen Deborah Evans-Bell since January 1st, 2016. Deborah Evans-Bell is 58 years old as of the date she went missing in January / February 2016 (DOB 8/29/1957). Deborah Evans-Bell is described as a black female standing 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighing approximately 180 pounds. Deborah Evans-Bell has a medium complexion, black hair and brown eyes. Deborah Evans-Bell was last seen wearing a white shirt, blue jeans, and possibly a 2 toned purple and

gray jacket. If you have any information about the whereabouts of Deborah Evans-Bell, contact the Fulton Police Department at 662-862-3441.

<http://www.missingveterans.com/2016/deborah-evans-bell/>

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Deborah Evans-Bell(Photo: Special to The Clarion-Ledger)

FULTON, Miss. — Fulton Police Chief Reggie Johnson says a woman reported missing earlier this month may have been missing much longer than that.

Johnson tells WCBI-TV that nobody has seen Deborah Evans-Bell since New Year's Day. She was reported missing Feb. 8.

Johnson says investigators don't have any suspects or leads.

Family, friends and area residents searched for Bell on Saturday, fanning out into the woods on four-wheelers and on foot.

Neighbor Gregory Green says Evans-Bell was very active in church and had been attending every Sunday.

The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation and the Itawamba Sheriff's Department are helping police investigate the case

Clarion Ledger.

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The search continues for a Fulton woman who has been missing since the beginning of February, or possibly earlier.

Officials with the Fulton Police Department are still hunting the whereabouts of Deborah Evans-Bell, who was reported missing by her husband on Feb. 8. Bell is in her mid-50s and a resident of East Hill Street.

Bell allegedly left home for a doctor's appointment but never returned. A military veteran, Bell frequented several VA medical facilities, including the Memphis VA Medical Center, the Tupelo VA Clinic and the Plantersville Family Clinic. Bell doesn't drive, police officials say, and would often catch rides with friends or family, or utilize an area transit company, when she needed to travel.

Authorities don't know which clinic Bell was supposed to visit on the day she went missing, but she never arrived at any of the clinics she frequents.

On Saturday, residents of the area surrounding East Hill Street gathered for a community-wide meeting to discuss Bell's disappearance and search the area for any possible clues. Fulton Police Chief Reggie Johnson, who attended the event, said there's a feeling of helplessness among Bell's family and friends.

"They just wanted to go walking around the community to see if they could find an article of clothing, or just anything that has to do with Deborah Bell," he said.

Bell was well-known around Fulton, even outside her neighborhood. She frequently walked the downtown courtsquare, visiting with local business owners and officials.

Although she was reported missing earlier this month, Johnson said many of those police have interviewed claim she hasn't been seen since early January.

"We've talked to dozens and dozens of friends and relatives, but we're just not coming up with anything," he said. "Nobody's seen her nor hair of her."

For the time being, police are still investigating Bell's disappearance as a missing persons case, not a crime.

"We've had no indication of foul play," Johnson said. "We're hoping and praying she's just gone off somewhere."

If that's the case, finding her may prove difficult. There's a fine line between a genuine disappearance and a perfectly-legal situation in which a person just wants to leave home and not be found. That makes seemingly obvious investigative techniques like checking phone records to see where calls are being made difficult legally.

"If you want to leave town, you're an adult and have every right to do so without Reggie Johnson digging through your phone records," he explained. "It's not against the law to up and leave one day."

The Fulton Police Department has subpoenaed to have Bell's phone records released. That order will have to come from a circuit court judge, which may take time.

For now, the search continues the old-fashioned way: through legwork, conversation and patience.

"It's a waiting game," Johnson said. "In the meantime, we're doing what we can to find her. It's like fitting a puzzle together; right now, we're getting the small pieces and putting them together."

Johnson's hoping someone will eventually come forward with new information that will lead to Bell.

"There may be someone out there right now who knows where she is and doesn't even know she's missing," he said. "We're looking for that break. We just haven't found it yet."

Anyone with information that could lead to Bell's whereabouts are asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Northeast Mississippi at 800-773-TIPS or the Fulton Police Department at 662-862-3441

[http://www.djournal.com/itawamba/news/itawamba-county/authorities-still-hunting-for-missing-fulton-woman/article\\_f42d5528-b6ab-5b98-a4fa-e65faefa4d0b.html](http://www.djournal.com/itawamba/news/itawamba-county/authorities-still-hunting-for-missing-fulton-woman/article_f42d5528-b6ab-5b98-a4fa-e65faefa4d0b.html)

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It's been 37 days since Deborah Bell was reported missing, and police have little new information as to where she may be.

Officials with the Fulton Police Department say new information concerning the whereabouts of the missing East Hill Street resident is scarce, despite local police having pounded the pavement for weeks.

"We are still running down leads, and we have information coming in from people in the community," said Fulton Police Chief Reggie Johnson. "We're following all of it, but it's just dead ends everywhere we go right now."

The most recent dead end: A search of Bell's phone records. Police were hoping subpoenaing those records would reveal whom she was calling and where she was calling from. But Johnson said a search of the records came up empty. She's made no calls since the day she went missing, he said.

"It's like she's fallen off the face of the earth," the police chief said.

Authorities have also subpoenaed Bell's financial records. They are still awaiting a judge's approval of that search.

Johnson said Bell's disappearance is still being treated as a missing person's case, not a crime. "We're still hopeful that she'll be found," he said. "Until we get information otherwise, she's still a missing person."

Bell was reported missing by her husband on Feb. 8. She allegedly left home for a doctor's appointment and never returned. A military veteran, Bell frequented several VA medical facilities, including the Memphis VA Medical Center, the Tupelo VA Clinic and the Plantersville Family Clinic. Bell doesn't drive, police officials say, and would often catch rides with friends or family, or utilize an area transit company, when she needed to travel.

Authorities don't know which clinic Bell was supposed to visit on the day she went missing, but she never arrived at any of the clinics she frequents.

There's a fine line between a genuine disappearance and a perfectly-legal situation in which a person just wants to leave home and not be found. When there's no evidence of a crime, missing person investigations grind to a halt easily.

Bell was well-known around Fulton, even outside her neighborhood. She frequently walked the downtown court square, visiting with local business owners and officials.

Although she was reported missing in early February, Johnson said many of those police have interviewed claim she hasn't been seen since early January.

[http://www.djournal.com/itawamba/news/itawamba-county/no-new-leads-in-missing-fulton-woman-s-case/article\\_5a6cd697-4c96-56bb-9d0a-09449f516c53.html](http://www.djournal.com/itawamba/news/itawamba-county/no-new-leads-in-missing-fulton-woman-s-case/article_5a6cd697-4c96-56bb-9d0a-09449f516c53.html)

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