

Body of missing writer found

Foul play not suspected

By Chris Butler
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Ruston police officers and Lincoln Parish Sheriff's deputies have located missing Ruston resident Mary Margaret Storey.

Unfortunately, the result of their two-and-a-half-week search was a tragic one.

A Lincoln Parish landowner called Ruston police Wednesday and reported seeing Storey's car on his property near Louisiana Highway 822 (north of Vienna). Authorities found Storey's car on pastureland that was about a mile into the landowner's prop-

erty — all behind a locked gate along the highway. Authorities found Storey's body 150 yards away from her car, said Ruston Police Chief Steve Rogers.



Storey

State police officers, and a Lincoln Parish sheriff's deputy who accompanied them, previously flew over the area where Storey was later found, but they saw nothing before, said Lincoln Parish Sheriff Mike Stone.

"There were a lot of trees covering the area, and that could have hidden the view from the air," Stone said, when asked why previous aerial searches didn't spot Storey's car.

Most searches to find Storey



Leader photo by CHRIS BUTLER

Lincoln Parish Sheriff Mike Stone, left, and Ruston Police Chief Steve Rogers held a press conference Wednesday announcing the body of missing writer Mary Margaret Storey had been found in Hilly.

would have been unsuccessful using conventional means, Rogers said.

"You would not have even seen this area (one mile from La. 822) from the road," Rog-

ers said.

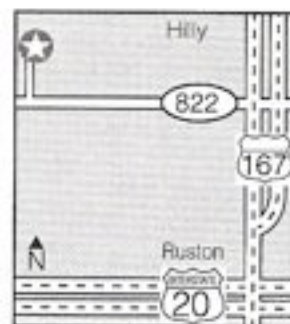
Additionally, the landowner rarely ever visited that part of his property, Rogers said.

"The landowner hadn't been on that part of that property, the very backside, in quite a while. It was a gated property. The gate was closed when we were there," Rogers said.

"The vehicle was in a precarious position. One wheel was in a slight ravine, but there was no other evidence other than it just being stuck."

Officials do not have information at this time about what caused Storey's death, but authorities have sent her body to Little Rock, Ark., for an autopsy. Rogers believes he and Stone will receive autopsy results within two-three days, Rogers said at a press conference Wednesday.

"It appeared she (Storey) got out of her vehicle from the position it was in. We will wait



Leader illustration by WILL AVERY

The body of Mary Margaret Storey was found off of La. Hwy. 822 in the Hilly area.

for the autopsy to see whether she fell, but there was nothing there to say it was foul play — but we can't rule that out," Rogers said.

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