

# Storey's passing is 'tremendous loss' for area

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Officials should have information about when and how Storey died once officials in Little Rock finish the autopsy, Stone said. Ruston police have now turned the investigation into Storey's death over to the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office, because her body was found in the unincorporated part of the parish, Rogers said.

Storey, 62, a former reporter with the *Ruston Daily Leader* who was writing for *Delta Style* magazine at the time of her disappearance, was last seen the morning of Feb. 7 at the Dollar Tree store in Ruston, according to a witness.

Police said she called her

brother, Ruston resident Bruce Storey, on her cell phone on the day she went missing, and no one had heard from her since. Storey indicated during that last cell phone conversation with her brother that she was on her way to interview a specific person for *Delta Style*. She also indicated she was having problems starting her car, but she wouldn't offer any other specific information, Bruce Storey said.

The person that Storey referred to as an interview subject for *Delta Style*, however, later told Bruce Storey that he knew nothing about any story she was writing, her brother said.

Authorities found Storey's purse and cell phone at the same

place they found her body, said Lt. Tim Parker, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

## The search

Sheriff's deputies also searched side roads and back roads in the parish, in addition to area hotels, motels and abandoned houses. They also monitored her bank and credit card accounts, but those records provided no leads, Parker said.

Ruston police officers gave a detailed description of Storey's car and license tag number after she disappeared and asked members of the public to call their department in case anyone saw her or knew of her present whereabouts.

One witness reported seeing

Storey drive her car southbound in Dubach in an erratic, dangerous manner on the day she disappeared, Parker said.

Members of the Louisiana State Police Air Support Unit used a helicopter to search northern Lincoln Parish for Storey less than a week after she disappeared — but that search turned up nothing, said Mark Dennis, spokesman for the Louisiana State Police.

Clues indicated Storey was in Lincoln Parish, somewhere north of Interstate 20, Stone said two weeks ago.

Another witness, however, reported seeing Storey driving her car in downtown Ruston, south of I-20, less than a week

after she disappeared.

Yet another witness, who said that she knew Storey personally, reported seeing her at the Ruston Walmart, also less than a week after she disappeared. Police went to the store to look at surveillance camera footage to look for Storey, but results were inconclusive, Parker said.

The Walmart sighting might not have had any merit, but some of the other sightings were credible, Stone said.

"We want to corroborate some of those sightings. The way it looks now, probably some of those sightings were indeed her," Stone said.

Authorities will schedule a follow-up press conference when

autopsy results are available, Parker said.

The community has lost a very important person because of Storey's death, Stone said.

"She was a well-known and very well-respected lady in our community," Stone said.

*Daily Leader* publisher Rick Hohlt said Storey's passing is a tremendous loss.

"Mary Margaret's passing is a tremendous loss," Hohlt said. "Her love for this community was always apparent through the many stories and features she wrote about Lincoln Parish. Her kind, gentle heart touched many people in northeast Louisiana and she will be greatly missed."