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FEATURED

## Family searching for woman missing since July

By Haley Jones [hjones@thelancasternews.com](mailto:hjones@thelancasternews.com)

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Have you seen this woman? Ruth Ann Jenkins, 77, has been missing since last July. A Kershaw native, she was last seen in Pineville, S.C., where she lived with her son.

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A Kershaw man is looking for his sister, who has been missing since last summer.

Ruth Ann Jenkins, 77, has been missing since July 16, 2022. She was last seen in the 1800 block of Highway 45 in Pineville, S.C., wearing a gray shirt, jeans, black-rimmed glasses and two necklaces, one with a cross pendant, according to a missing person's flyer.

While Pineville is about 100 miles from the city of Lancaster, near St. Stevenson, she has family here in the Pleasant Hill area.

Jenkins' brother, Albert J. Jackson of Kershaw, said there have already been search parties looking for Jenkins, with another planned for Feb. 1.



“We’ve got some detectives, and my niece (Shirley Mickles) is down there,” Jackson said. “My niece called me yesterday and said the first of February they’re going to do a big search.

“They’ve done a search. She gone missing on that Saturday (July 16), and Sunday they had people down there, and they had helicopters and dogs and four-wheelers, everything,” he said. “From then on, we ain’t getting nothing.”

Mickles said the Feb. 1 search will only include law enforcement officers, but she hopes with the thinning foliage due to winter, it will be easier to search the dense woods for any evidence.

Mickles has also been working with Officer Sessions at the Berkeley Sheriff’s Office and said Sessions has been helpful in answering the families’ questions and identifying leads.

Jackson said that Jenkins, formerly Ruth Ann Jackson before she married, is well known in the Kershaw area, because she was raised there.

Jackson said his sister suffers from dementia, but she was still coherent and capable the last time he spoke with her, before she went missing. He said the last time she was in this area was in June for her nephew’s wedding.

Jenkins was a schoolteacher in Pineville for 20 years. She lived with her husband in Pineville until he died. She has four sons, one of whom died in a car accident. Her youngest son, Trey Jenkins, lives with her in Pineville, but was out of town the day she went missing, according to Mickles.

Her neighbors reported she was looking for a small dog or a vehicle she left her car keys in, when she left her house on foot.

Jenkins, who is Black, is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, and weighs 125 pounds. Her hair is black and her eyes are brown. She has no cell phone or identification on her.

According to a missing person's flyer, Jenkins may be seen walking at a slow pace with her head down and her hands locked together behind her back.

"All I know is when they called us on that Saturday. They said she had been at home; someone said she has been to the Walmart," Jackson said. "She came back and then someone said she left, and we hear too many different stories."

Jackson said Jenkins attended two churches in her town.

"The preachers down there know her real good; she always was in church on Sunday," Jackson said.

"She been gone this long, so we just want to get some kind of closure," Jackson said. "Even if she's passed away, or if she's still (alive), everybody's praying. We got a lot of people praying for Ruth Ann, they are praying we find her. I hope so, too."

"If anybody knows any little thing, just anything they've seen or somewhere, please let us know," Mickles said. "Some people think the little things are not important, but they are."

If you have had any contact with Ruth Ann Jenkins or have any information regarding her whereabouts, please call the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office at 843-719-4412.

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