



**Trail goes cold on missing  
Mississippi man, investigators  
seek public's help**



**Daily Leader Staff**

**By**

the author

[Email](#)

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Lincoln County deputies are asking for the public's help in tracking down a missing man no one has seen since last summer.

Lincoln County Sheriff Steve Rushing said the trail has gone cold in the search for 35-year-old Jon Paul Estes, a traveling construction worker from Bogue Chitto last seen June 2. Estes' truck was found abandoned near his old home on Wallace Drive shortly after Rushing's investigators had contacted him by phone for questioning in connection to a

domestic violence charge, but neither law enforcement nor Estes' family has heard from him since.

“At this point, we don't know why he hasn't turned up,” Rushing said. “Originally, during the case we felt like he was trying to avoid talking to us, but at this point none of the other family members are saying they've had any contact with him. We're considering him a missing person.”

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Rushing said Estes' ex-wife, Cynthia Estes, filed domestic assault charges against him around two weeks before the abandoned truck was found without any signs of foul play.

Court records show the couple was divorced in October last year. The sheriff said the criminal case has since been “resolved” — no indictment against Estes has been issued, and there's no reason for him to fear arrest for the charge.

“We don't know the reason at this point why he hasn't had contact with his family,” Rushing said. “His family just wants to hear from him, or know if something has happened to him. We just need some kind of answers for the family.”

Estes was first reported missing by his father, Carl Estes, a minister in Tupelo. Estes has ties to Post Falls, Idaho, a Rocky Mountain town in northwestern Idaho not far from Spokane, Washington. A Jan. 10 story in the Coeur d'Alene/Post Falls Press about Estes' disappearance states he was born in nearby Kellogg, Idaho, and lived in Post Falls from 1993 to 2003, graduating from Post Falls High School.

The story says Carl Estes was a minister at several churches in the area, while his mother was a nurse. Rushing confirmed the family was involved in missions work in northwest Idaho.

Estes was working as a superintendent at Birdsong Construction in Quitman, Arkansas, according to his Facebook page. Rushing said Estes' job required him to travel to job sites around the country.

“Jon is an extremely hard worker,” said Carl Estes. “He had a good job, a very likable person, very outgoing. He loves his children and he loves us.”

Rushing said the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation is assisting in the hunt for Estes.

Anyone with information about Estes' whereabouts is asked to call Terry James with Gulf Coast Investigations at 813-993-2242, Carl Estes at 601-551-9116 or Melissa Estes at 662-321-0308.

Gulf Coast Investigations is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to Estes' discovery.

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1-10-2019 The logo for the Coeur d'Alene/Post Falls Press. It features a stylized green and yellow mountain range on the left, followed by the text "Coeur d'Alene/Post Falls" in a blue sans-serif font, and the word "PRESS" in a larger, bold, blue sans-serif font below it.

The family of a former Post Falls man who was last seen on June 2, 2018, is seeking information on his whereabouts.

Jonathan "Jon" Paul Estes, 35, was last seen in Bogue Chitto, Miss., said Carl Estes, Jon's father.

Prior to going missing, Jon was in frequent communication with people in North Idaho, his father said.

There is a \$25,000 reward for information leading to finding Jon.

Jon is an industrial construction worker with an estranged wife, a 14-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son.

"We want people to know he's missing and to please help us find him," Carl said.

Jon's Dodge Ram was found in a wooded area near Bogue Chitto about a month after he went missing, Carl said. There were no signs of foul play.

Carl said the last time he spoke with his son — on June 1 — Jon sounded "broken."

Jon was born in Kellogg and lived in Post Falls from 1993 to 2003. He attended Post Falls High.

Carl was a pastor at multiple churches in the Inland Northwest, while Beverly Estes, Jon's mother, was a nurse at hospitals in Kellogg and Spokane.

Carl described his son as outgoing and likable.

"He's never met a stranger," Carl said.

The family visited North Idaho for elk hunting and summer vacations after they moved. Those with information are encouraged to call Terry James of Gulf Coast Investigations at 813-993-2242, Carl at 601-551-9116 or Melissa Estes, Jon's sister, at 662-321-0308. "As a family, we have been frantically searching for him along with friends, but feel we are at a dead end and need more assistance than we alone can provide," Melissa said in a Facebook message. "Our hope is to reunite him with his family or at least to ensure he is OK."

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Jonathan Estes

## Sister of missing man still holding on to hope



By [Daily Leader Staff](#)

Published 9:46 pm Friday, May 31, 2019

A year after a Bogue Chitto man's disappearance, his sister holds on to hope he'll be found. Jonathan Estes was last seen in person on June 1, 2018. Someone spoke to him the day after that. Then he vanished. Melissa Estes, who filed a missing person report, wants to know what happened to him.

"My brother didn't just disappear," she said.

When she reported him missing, he was already listed in the National Criminal Information Center because of charges filed by his ex-wife. The two had separated in April 2018 and things got heated when Estes delivered divorce papers to her May 31, 2018, his sister said.

Estes' truck was found in a field nearly two weeks after he went missing, but Lincoln County Sheriff Steve Rushing said investigators were able to determine that Estes left it there.

In October, a Lincoln County grand jury was unable to indict him charges related to domestic violence due to a lack of information. Law enforcement officers continued to pursue leads to find Estes, who was now considered a missing person.

Melissa Estes hopes someone might remember something that could aid investigators in the search.

"It's gonna be the smallest thing to help us find my brother," she said. "We just want my brother found. We just want him to come home."

Estes' ex-wife filed for a divorce in October 2018 and it was finalized in January, even with the defendant missing. It appears he hasn't contacted his children or anyone else since he disappeared.

"His children were everything to him, he would never just leave him," Melissa Estes said.

The case is still active, and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office along with the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation continues to search for a trail that could lead them to Estes. There's been no activity from Estes since he went missing. Without any new leads, investigators have been sifting through information already gathered, hoping for a break in the case, Rushing said.

Someone somewhere knows something.

"There's no indication of foul play, but we have every option open," Rushing said. "We've had several versions of different leads, but nothing's panned out.

Anyone with information about Estes' disappearance is asked to call Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at 601-833-5231 or CrimeStoppers at

601-823-0150-----

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