



Quarry Oaks
Golf Course
back open
after two years
of renovations.

LOCAL, A3



Sinner defeats
Alcaraz
for his first
Wimbledon
title.

SPORTS, B1

Monday, July 14, 2025

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LEE ENTERPRISES SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH OF ALLEGED KILLINGS



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN WAN, JOURNAL STAR

A forensic excavation is seen on May 23 in rural Fremont County near Thurman, Iowa, as crews search for evidence of an alleged killer's burial ground at the site.

Search for evidence continues after recent digs come up empty

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The investigation into a daughter's claims that her father killed and then buried bodies in wells on about 400 acres of farmland near Omaha suffered a setback after no additional wells were found during a recent forensic dig.

With crews — commissioned by a documentary production crew — still searching for the wells, forensic anthropologists haven't fully been able to test the veracity of Lucy Studey-McKiddy's claims that the rural hillside, located about 40 miles from Omaha, was used as a burial ground for her father's alleged victims.

The most recent dig lasted five full days in late May, with a reporter and photographer for Lee Enterprises Public Service Journalism Team on site.

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From left, landowner Sean Smith, Lucy Studey-McKiddy and University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate professor William Belcher look at an excavation on May 23 in rural Fremont County near Thurman, Iowa. Studey-McKiddy has long claimed that her father, Donald Studey, killed multiple people and buried them in this rural area near Omaha.

Search for flood victims on hold

More heavy rains
increases threat of
additional flooding

GABRIELA AOUN
Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas — More heavy rains Sunday in Texas paused a week-long search for victims of catastrophic flooding along the Guadalupe River and led to high-water rescues elsewhere as officials warned that the downpours could again cause waterways to surge.

It was the first time a new round of severe weather had paused the search since the July Fourth floods, which killed at least 129 people. Authorities believe more than 160 people may still be missing in Kerr County.

In Kerrville, where local officials have come under scrutiny about the warnings given to residents, authorities went door-to-door to some homes after midnight early Sunday to alert people that flooding was again possible. Authorities also pushed alerts to the phones of those in the area.

Ingram Fire Department officials ordered search crews to immediately evacuate the Guadalupe River corridor in Kerr County until further notice, warning the potential for a flash flood is high. Search-and-rescue efforts were expected to resume on Monday, depending on river flow, fire department spokesman Brian Lochte said.

"We're working with a few crews and airboats and SAR (search-and-rescue) boats just in case," Lochte said.

Gov. Greg Abbott said on X that the state was making rescues in San Saba, Lampasas and Schleicher counties and that evacuations were taking place in a handful of others.

The latest round of flooding damaged about 100 homes and knocked down untold lengths of cattle fencing, said Ashley Johnson, CEO of the Hill Country Community Action Association, a San Saba-based nonprofit.

"Anything you can imagine in a rural community was damaged," she said. "Our blessing is it was daylight and we knew it was coming."

With more rain on the way, county officials ordered everyone living in flood-prone areas near the San Saba River to evacuate. Johnson said people were being moved to the San Saba Civic Center, which has become a safe, high place for people to receive aid and shelter.

"Everyone is in some way personally affected by this," she said. "Everyone is just doing what they can to help their neighbors."

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FORECAST • A10

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