

## ► Search/‘More to pursue’

### FROM PAGE 1B

east of the Robb farm. And police are uncertain whether the evidence gathered on the more than 100 acres of property owned by Robb and several relatives relates to the women's disappearance.

### Past searches

Officials previously searched this area for bodies in 1990 in a different case. But none were found then, and Whitson said search dogs on Saturday may have picked up scents from that case. Francis Robb Sr. pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree murder in the disappearances of three Springfield residents. The remains of those victims never have been found.

Robb's brother, John Robb, lives adjacent to Robb and did not seem happy about the daylong search.

"They guaranteed me they had some real good evidence on those three women's bodies," John Robb said.

Also, the body of a 50-year-old man, not involved with the women's case, was thought to be on the property.

Investigators could not say where he was from. "I don't think we ever had specific information, only that he might be there," Whitson said.

Investigators dug extensively near two trash heaps on both Robb brothers' land. They unearthed a 30-gallon water heater on John's side of the fence. But they took nothing, he said.

"If they found something, that's fine, but if they didn't, they shouldn't leave the impression that they did," he said.

Whitson maintains: "There are some items we have in our possession, the nature of which I won't disclose ... I can't even confirm what those items are at this point — that needs to be analyzed before we know what they are."

They may be sent to Jefferson City or to the FBI headquarters laboratory in Quantico, Va.

And "(they) may be from another situation totally unrelated to either investigation," Whitson said.

The search began before 5 a.m. and lasted almost 15 hours, involving investigators from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, FBI, Springfield Police Department and Webster County Sheriff's Department.

Regardless of what they found — or didn't find — "there is still information that leads us to believe there may be credibility to what has been told to us," Whitson added.

"There is more information we intend to pursue."

Clipped By:



makelley69

Sun, Oct 6, 2019